

## 2023 SOTH January 22 in person and ZOOM Annual Meeting Agenda

Opening Prayer - Pr. Neu

Approval of minutes of January 23, 2022

Treasurer's Report - Steve

Proposed 2023 Budget - Steve

Vote on budget - Ernie

Pr. Neu's Time

Committee and Chairman's reports - Sent around by email prior to meeting

Election of Council Officers

President - Ernie Englehardt

Treasurer - Steve Rappold

Financial Secretary - John Sweeney

At - Large members - Ron Gustafson and Tom Koch

Secretary - Andrea Englehardt

New Business

Vote on the resolution proposing peace for a weary world - Tom

Announcements

Adjournment

## 2022 SOTH January 23 Annual Meeting Minutes

Pr. Neu opened with prayer. Attending were Ruth Schwinge, Joyce and John Sweeney, Laura Amell, Donald and Tom Koch, Emily and Steve Rappold, Andrea and Ernie Englehardt.

Tom moved and Steve seconded approval of the January 17, 2021 annual meeting minutes which were unanimously approved.

Steve presented the treasurer's report and the proposed budget. After a brief discussion, Tom moved it be accepted as presented, John seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Pr. Neu expanded upon his written report with uplifting comments about SOTH's ministry based upon his mother's reading of our reports. This gave encouragement to all.

There were no comments about the emailed reports except to especially recognize Laura Amell for her weekly facilitation of the worship services and other tasks which keep SOTH functioning.

Donald moved and Ruth seconded the proposed slate of council officers. They were unanimously elected as follows;

Ernie Englehardt, President  
Steve Rappold, Treasurer and Building Chairman  
John Sweeney, Financial Secretary  
Ron Gustafson, Member at Large  
Tom Koch, Member at Large and Worship Chairman  
Andrea Englehardt, Secretary

Under new business, Ruth brought up the issue of our aging congregation and driving at night and possibly changing Christmas Eve service to an earlier time. No decision was made but a commitment was made to find rides for those who want to attend an evening service but are uncomfortable driving at night.

Ernie reminded everyone that the next council meeting was Feb. 6 and zoom Bible study on the Gospel of Luke begins Feb. 16 from 5 to 6 pm.

Ron moved and Emily seconded a motion to adjourn. It unanimously passed.

Pr. Neu closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Englehardt, Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

Our total expenses during 2022 exceeded our income by over \$8,000. Our church is affected by the same inflation that affects all of us. Fuel oil costs, for example, were more than twice as much as the previous year. The following table shows income vs. expenses over the past three calendar years.

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Income</b>	33,651	27,020	33,738
<b>Expenses</b>	34,385	33,270	42,272
<b>Difference</b>	(734)	(6,250)	(8,534)

We do not expect that actual receipts will cover expenses going forward but we have assets in reserve that will cover any shortfall for some time to come.

## Shepherd of the Hills - 2023 Proposed Budget

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Proposed Budget
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Giving	25,000	31,843	32,000
Ukraine offering		1,850	
Interest income	30	26	50
Easter flower donations		20	
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>25,030</b>	<b>33,739</b>	<b>32,050</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Personnel</b>			
Accompanist	1,800	2,400	2,500
Worker's Comp	500	787	800
<b>Building</b>			
Cleaning	500	205	500
Electric	1,100	775	800
Exterior Maint		41	
Fuel Oil	2,000	3,722	4,000
Insurance	2,200	2,680	2,700
Interior Maint			
Mowing		510	550
Snow Removal	1,000	540	1,000
Telephone	700	756	750
Water & sewer	800	642	450
<b>Benevolence</b>			
Community	500		500
ELCA-NE Synod	2,500	3,280	3,200
Lutheran World Relief		500	
LWR-Ukraine		3,700	
Calumet	1,000		
<b>Worship</b>			
General	1,000	345	500
Supply Clergy	18,000	20,770	22,000
Supplies		30	200
<b>Office</b>			
Admin Support	100		100
Publicity	450	290	300
Bank fee		25	25
Internet		50	200
Postage	50		25
<b>Education</b>			
Conferences	200	225	300
Confirmation			
General			100
Misc	20		20

10 pct

**Total:                    34,420    42,273    41,520**

**Report of the Pastor in Charge  
The Rev. Frederick K. Neu  
January 22, 2023**

To be honest, I looked back at my report from last year and saw so many familiar sentiments that I thought about changing the date and sending it to Laura for distribution. This is fair warning, I am going to repeat myself for a third year in a row.

I write this report in the eleventh year of working with this congregation. It's hard to believe all that time has passed. I am grateful for our ministry together. It is a rewarding relationship for me and I hope for you, too. It truly rounds out my spiritual and professional life. I don't know how I would make it through my work at the hospital without this supportive, caring community of people. You help me stay grounded in my call to ministry. Thank you!

2022 was another pandemic influenced year. Back to normal in some ways, concerned about COVID in other ways. Many of our practices have returned. This Sunday exchanging the peace and common cup make their return with some caveats to stay safe for those who wish to make this step.

A blessing of this pandemic is that we learned we can do many things over Zoom without having to travel or brave winter weather. Folks at a distance have been able to stay involved through our hybrid services. Bible study and special get-togethers are also possible because of everyone's familiarity with Zoom. It gives us ways to stay community even when we are separated by miles in different communities.

We are a small group of folks, each with multiple jobs and responsibilities. I thank you all for the things you do. I would list everyone, but I know some people are happy to live outside of the bright light of recognition. So, please, from newspaper ads and Christmas trees, Council and tasks around the church, food shelf to bulletins and music and so much more, please accept my heartfelt thanks. This is what makes Shepherd of the Hills a special group of faithful people.

As I said last year, I look forward to being able to resume life, church life and family life, in some kind of "normal," familiar way this year without the fear of "catching Covid." Until that time, I pray God's blessings on each of us, our nation and the world for patience and perseverance and peace as we live through these days.

With gratitude to God and each of you in our work together,



The Rev. Frederick K. "Rick" Neu

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2022

January 22, 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

We continue to be blessed by the leadership of the Reverend Frederick (Rick) Neu in worship, Bible study, at council and congregational meetings and in most other facets of our ministry. We were very fortunate and are very appreciative of Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy, Rev. Derrick Fallon, and Rev. Laura Cadmus, all of whom were willing to lead us in worship this past year.

Our mission statement reads, "We are a Christian church in the Lutheran tradition welcoming all people, worshiping God with Spirit-led preaching, and seeking to serve the community around us." With this statement as our guide and despite Covid, SOTH has continued to serve the community. During our eighth annual 'Trees for Food' program, over 70 trees and piles of greens were given away. Ron Gustafson helped cut, load and unload three times and once again men from Capital Community Church helped cut one afternoon. Trees could be picked up outside the church for free and SOTH asked those who were able, to give a donation to the Montpelier Food Shelf in appreciation of receiving a free tree. Tom Koch wrote cards which were attached to the trees explaining the symbols of Christmas and included an invitation to worship with SOTH while Steve Rappold printed them onto cards including attractive designs.

Annual committee reports will go into detail about other activities and accomplishments.

As 2022 drew to a close, we had a very meaningful Christmas Eve service organized by Laura Amell despite a winter storm that left many without power the days leading to this important worship service. Special music was provided by Laura Amell, Julie Hutchison and Patrick Sweeney's children.

I want to thank Pr. Neu, the church council and the entire congregation, all of whom have worked to make 2022 another year of blessings for SOTH. Special thanks to Laura Amell who continues to be essential to our functioning by coordinating accompanists, printing the bulletins, emailing bulletins and notices, and so much more!

The church council is always appreciative of new ideas and opportunities to serve the larger community, and the willingness of members to take on responsibilities within our church family. The council hopes that you will attend the annual meeting on January 22, 2023 immediately following the worship service. Please come worship with us in person or via Zoom whenever you can!

May God bless you and your family and keep you safe in his embrace.

Ernie Englehardt, Chair

## OUR WORSHIP LIFE—2022

Covid continued to dictate much of our worship life during the past year. We waved at each other instead of shaking hands during the Peace; we received Communion for much of the year by eating and drinking from pre-filled, individual, disposable plastic vessels; and worship via ZOOM became standard practice, which enabled some people to worship from afar, but which certainly depersonalizes the worship experience. Near the end of the year, we did begin to receive Communion once again at the altar, but by standing in a “socially distant” line, receiving the host from Pastor, and then intincting from a cup held by an assistant.

We maintained a full schedule of worship, including all Sundays and special days such as Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Christmas. Pastor Neu has led us in worship twice, sometimes three times, a month and has directed the course of our worship throughout the year, and we are thankful to him for his service and fortunate that he is available to serve as he does. We are thankful for the faithful service of the other pastors who have led our worship: Pastors David Vanderlinde-Abernathy, Laura Cadmus, and Derrick Fallon. We also appreciate those who have led us musically, including Laura Amell, Lea Hatch, Matthew Nunnelly, and (at Christmas) the Hutchison & Sweeney clans!

Special thanks go to Laura Amell, who does so much behind the scenes—printing the bulletin each week, including selecting the hymns; arranging the schedule for musicians; sending messages to members and friends of the congregation relating not just to worship, but to many other matters; and so much more! Thank you, Laura!

Tom Koch

## **Property Report**

The building continues to meet our limited needs of several hours a week. We have had some interruption in cleaning and snow plowing services but thanks to several council members “beating the bushes” we now have both covered by new providers. Some minor plumbing issues have arisen and are being dealt with. Our well used mail box finally hit the ground but has been replaced. Thanks to several members who check the building several times a week to be sure all is ready for our Sunday service.



## RESOLUTION PROPOSING PEACE FOR A WEARY WORLD

WHEREAS, the tragic history of the world can be told with reference to the seizure of one nation or peoples' land by another nation or people; and

WHEREAS, the cost of those seizures over the centuries, in terms of both human loss and economic damage, is both immense and impossible to measure accurately; and

WHEREAS, Article 2 (4) of the United Nations Charter provides that "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state..." and

WHEREAS, aggressive action to compel the involuntary transfer of land from one nation to another continues to this day, as witness the actions of Russia against Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, an honest history of the establishment of national boundaries as they exist today will reveal that injustices were done, irrational boundaries were created, and involuntary transfers of land were imposed by one group upon another; and

WHEREAS, despite the imperfections in past actions that created national boundaries, it would be impossible to unscramble those imperfections at the present time without creating further injury of huge proportions; and

WHEREAS, (1) for that reason, it is appropriate to freeze all national boundaries as they now exist, and (2) as to the involuntary transfer of one nation's land to another nation, it is time to say "No more!" and

WHEREAS, it is right and just for the Church of Jesus Christ to lead in the call for peace;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NEW ENGLAND SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THAT:

(1) We recognize all national boundaries as they now exist as permanent, notwithstanding our recognition of many imperfections in the process of creating those boundaries; and

(2) We condemn all actions by any nation to effect the involuntary transfer of the land of another nation, and we say "No more!"; and

(3) Similarly, we call on the nations of the world to honor and enforce the provisions of Article 2 (4) of the United Nations Charter, to condemn all actions to seize lands of another, and to declare such actions to be a war crime; and

(4) We memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in Churchwide Assembly, to adopt a Resolution substantially identical to this Resolution, to advocate for its adoption by the Lutheran World Federation, the National and World Council of Churches, and the Congress of the United States of America.