

Annual Report of the Congregation 2022



St Thomas
Lutheran Church

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ST THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN 2022

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Art Wahl
VICE PRESIDENT	Sandi Loso
SECRETARY	Nancy Graver
TREASURER	Kent Kujala
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Timothy Perry

CHURCH COUNCIL

SPECIAL ELECTION OF COUNCIL IN 2022. TERMS TBA.

Justine Brozek	Erika Kwan
Wendy Brozek	Sandi Loso
Salvadore Finazzo	David Patterson
Anna Gartner	Paula Riley
Nancy Graver	Art Wahl
Kent Kujala	Youth Rep. TBA

Pastor: Kari Rinas

Adm. Assistant: Lisa Perry

Booth Tech/Social Media Manager: Betty Ruck

Custodian: Jackie Noles

Director of Youth and Family Ministry: Open

Director of Hospitality and Property: Linda Landis

Director of Worship and Music: Karen Skrocki

Music/Property Assistant: Jeff Kline

Musicians: Bob Krzeczowski, Wendy Brozek

2022 PASTOR'S REPORT

St Thomas Family,

It was with great delight that I accepted the call to serve as your pastor this summer! We got straight to work when I arrived in September as we invested in building this new relationship as pastor and congregation. In those early weeks, we turned our attentions to the future of St Thomas and to the ministry that we share.

We celebrated my installation on November 5th and welcomed many local clergy to take part in the service. The island clergy provided the readings, my friend and seminary classmate led the prayers, and your former pastor and now Assistant to the Bishop, Sean Ewbank, graciously agreed to preach and officiate over the service. We highlighted our partnership with Mbulu in our offering and lifted up the many ways that God is calling us to serve one another in what I hope will be a long relationship for us!

First and foremost, I want to extend my deep appreciation for all of the ways that you welcomed me, and my family to Grosse Ile and the Downriver communities. Your love and care as we “settled in” allowed me to feel grounded in this new community and within this community of faith in particular. I am grateful for each one of you, and for all the ways that you have helped me and this congregation.

I know that much of the first half of 2022 was uncertain and challenging—and though there is still work to be done in mending some of the pain. I have watched how you have come together with joy and excitement for what the future holds, and it is to the future of St Thomas that we can now turn our energy.

After I arrived, I began connecting with our interfaith ministries on the island and participating in the gatherings of the other ELCA clergy in the Downriver region. I had the honor of preaching and the great joy of leading with my island colleagues at the island community Thanksgiving Eve service. We are looking forward to more ways that we will be able to come together in mission and ministry for the good of Grosse Ile.

Along with the staff and your Church Council, planning is underway for 2023 with events and ideas that will bring us together in fun and fellowship and share God’s love beyond our walls. Your excitement and participation in the life of St Thomas is essential to helping us grow and proclaim the gospel in our community.

It also happens that 2023 is our 60th anniversary year, which gives us even more reason to celebrate! We will be weaving our “Real People. Real Life. Real Faith” theme through the year, giving thanks for our heritage and for the ways in which God is calling us anew to serve our community.

I am grateful for our Council and our staff who have helped me navigate these early days of ministry with you. I give thanks for the hard work of our staff and volunteers who lead us in worship and lead us in providing hospitality to all who come to St Thomas.

I am thankful for each of you as we voyage together. You are important and an essential part of our community. It is your engagement with St Thomas that makes a difference in our life together. It is your excitement about our ministry that will help us to grow as you invite others to “come and see” what we are up to at St Thomas. It is your dedication and generosity to our congregation that will provide the resources of time, talents, and treasures that will expand the work we do to share God’s love in our community and beyond. It is by you telling the story of St Thomas that others will be interested to learn more.

It is my great joy to be called to serve as your pastor, and I look cannot wait to see what God will do with and among us next!

In Christ,

Rev. Kari J. Rinias

2022 COUNCIL REPORT

Members of St. Thomas Lutheran Church,

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as Council President since May 1st of this year. Prior to that date the congregation had suffered through some tumultuous times and issues, and as a result had been managed by the Synod for a short period of time. The congregation elected a new Council of 11 people at a specially-called congregational meeting on May 1, this Council is seated through the coming calendar year.

Since May our congregation has established stabilization, change and growth. We have experienced a constant increase in attendance at services, volunteering and giving. Council was thrilled to be able to, and have the congregation approve, call Pastor Kari Rinas to join us as our full-time pastor. We thank the Call Committee for their diligence and prayerful work on our behalf this summer throughout that process. Pr. Kari joined us for the first time the week of September 18th. She was installed as our Pastor on November 5th with a full service and Celebration.

Each council person has taken on an area of our congregation's life, working with a specific committee or task. For a complete list of who is working with what committee, or if you would to help with any committee area, please contact the office. Currently we have: Evangelism/Social Ministry active with volunteers reaching out to potential new members and establishing contact with homebound and physically limited members that may not be able to attend services. Our property group saw the completion of the capital improvement projects including cement walkway and our parking lot being redone. Various routine (and some not routine) items were also addressed including HVAC and flooring. Stewardship committee presented the congregation with a detailed summary of 2022 and a plan for 2023. We had encouraging pledge card responses and volunteer involvement this year. The Summer Market was a success again, as was the Holiday Market. We have a Sunday School program with a curriculum and volunteer teachers. Worship and Music had a few changes including welcoming Karen Skrocki as our Music Director. Technology saw improvements and maintenance to our projectors and audio quality. Organizationally, our Vice President of Council has taken on the role of working with staff as employee relations contact.

Further items of note...although not a committee (at this time), we were able to support the Mbulu Synod with over \$1500 this year in donations through Pr. Kari's installation offering and funds that had been set aside earlier by the congregation. We continue to work with ChristNet locally to help and support for our homeless population in the Downriver area. In anticipation of younger families joining us at services we have a dedicated nursery area and updated activity bags for families.

There is still a lot of work to do, and many ways we can demonstrate our Christian love in the community and among our congregation. The level of volunteering and involvement among the people of St. Thomas is very encouraging heading into 2023. Prayerfully consider how you may be able to join us in this work, and thank you to all the people (too many to try and list) that have stepped up and put time and energy into the reestablishment of our congregation and church in our community.

Please continue to pray for this congregation and the work God is calling us to do.

Art Wahl
Council President
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Grosse Ile

2022 STATISTICAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

Child members beginning of 2022	101
Accessions with parents	-
Accessions by baptism	-
	-
Child members confirmed	(1)
Other losses	(3)
Total losses	(4)
Child members end of 2022	97
Confirmed members beginning of 2022	390
Accessions by baptism	-
Accessions by confirmation	1
Other accessions	1
Total accessions	2
Losses by death	(1)
Other losses	(9)
Total losses	(10)
Confirmed members end of 2022	382

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY BY YEARS

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Conf.	58	184	229	308	320	322	356	378	392	394	391	389	390	382
Children	42	79	76	92	87	90	99	108	109	116	116	99	101	97
Total	100	263	305	400	407	412	455	486	501	510	507	488	491	479

Finances through the years - total financial giving (does not include PPP Loan)

		<u>Program Grant</u>	<u>Reg. Ben.</u>	<u>Other Benevolence</u>	<u>Good Sam</u>
1963	\$ 7,960	\$3,600	\$1,488		
1973	25,480	1,800	2,813		
1983	68,059		6,028	142	72
1993	154,352		15,200	377	1,083
2003	221,257		22,756	8,697	850
2008	213,860		20,312	2,527	1,084
2009	196,319		13,522	1,385	902
2011	227,341		15,000	2,832	1,688
2013	219,167	\$74,309 (Cap.)	10,000	6,507	1,816
2014	236,312	\$51,970 (Cap.)	12,123	4,252	1,190
2015	227,148	\$26,508 (Cap.)	14,004	3,050	1,116
2016	211,864		14,004	2,075	1,758
2017	204,746		7,224	2,625	1,077
2019	198,342	\$95,104 (Cap.)	4,996	1,650	1,010
2020	177,984	\$31,853 (Cap.)	2,920	200	162
2021	155,979	\$9,550 (Cap.)	2,496	0	455
2022	155,301	\$180 (Cap.)	2,496	0	313

Not included above: gifts given in kind, special giving such as memorial gifts, Christnet, or local outreach

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (average)

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Ave. Att.</u>
Jan.	78	110	138	107	75	117	154	116	117	84	88	0	45	1982-105
Feb.	81	115	114	98	88	127	129	121	115	94	93	29	53	1998-144
Mar.	94	128	130	107	76	116	139	134	136	83	84	39	47	2007-119
Apr.	102	151	152	109	93	150	140	130	142	103	0	61	47	2010-98
May	95	123	144	100	97	116	141	132	136	89	0	57	52	2011-116
Jun.	79	117	110	112	88	121	119	100	113	99	0	54	53	2013-129
Jul.	58	87	95	79	76	100	109	96	65	83	42	46	47	2016-117
Aug.	62	91	85	67	93	93	107	101	64	113	37	53	55	2017-103
Sep.	81	120	117	150	106	132	126	117	73	80	47	60	62	2019-85
Oct.	83	131	146	124	112	135	127	117	80	86	41	56	49	2020-58
Nov.	91	135	134	105	120	135	129	124	97	80	36	53	49	2021-57
Dec.	107	153	140	125	125	147	134	113	102	98	0	48	69	2022-52

2022 TREASURER'S REPORT

Year in Review – 2022

St Thomas was blessed to have received \$149,650 for ongoing ministries through the faithful and generous giving of our congregational members.

Our Capital Campaign has received \$136,687 to date. The Capital Campaign projects have been completed.

The mortgage principle was reduced by \$12,056. The remaining balance on the mortgage is \$190,348.

Submitted by: Kent Kujala

2022 CAPITAL FUNDS CAMPAIGN

Your Church Council has always prayerfully considered the overall needs of the church. We acknowledge that our building is aging and in need of repairs that go beyond the ongoing maintenance of our facilities. At a special meeting, called on April 24, 2019, the Council unanimously approved a recommendation to present to the entire congregation, per our Church Constitution, a proposal to begin a capital campaign to meet our facilities infrastructure needs.

On Sunday, May 19, 2019, the congregation by acclamation approved a capital funds campaign, "Taking Care of God's House," to raise \$150,000 over a period not to exceed three years. Work was to be completed by phases:

PHASE I

- Remove, repair, and paint steeple
- Repair leaking steeple roof
- Remount steeple with new supports
- Flash and shingle main roof
- Replace all three flat roofs

PHASE II

- Replace broken concrete and steps
- Add curbs to protect concrete walkway
- Mudjack/caulk concrete by handicap door
- Tuck point/repair brick wall by education wing entrance
- Update microphones to be FCC compliant

PHASE III

- Resurface asphalt parking lot

All phases of work have been completed. As we move forward in faith, may we continue to do God's work in Building to Serve.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

With God's Blessing,
Your St. Thomas Church Council

2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
420 · Loose Offering	\$ 645.24	\$ 625.00	\$ 750.00
425 · Special Services	659.00	1,400.00	1,000.00
435 · Miscellaneous Income	2,727.09	2,840.00	2,800.00
440 · Flowers	165.00		175.00
445 · Interest Income	768.06	550.00	1,000.00
460 · Building Use	685.00	150.00	685.00
408 · Evangelism	230.50		230.50
415 · Current	149,421.06	160,600.00	164,400.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 155,300.95</u>	<u>\$ 166,165.00</u>	<u>\$ 171,040.50</u>
Expense			
500 · Ministry of the Pastor			
501 · Salary-Pastor	\$ 37,377.10	\$ 52,680.00	\$ 40,713.30
505 · Social Security - Pastor	1,336.78	2,378.00	4,415.07
510 · Housing Equity	-	2,800.00	17,000.00
515 · Mileage Reimbursement	517.43	-	2,500.00
520 · Pension,Health, Life Ins.	8,653.05	14,148.00	16,195.57
521 · Pastor Business Expense-Cell	302.77	900.00	1,000.00
524 · Pastor Auto Allowance	340.27	-	-
545 · Continuing Ed/Pastor Expenses	170.13	-	1,250.00
550 · Housing Allowance	5,147.26	5,600.00	-
Total 500 · Ministry of the Pastor	<u>\$ 53,844.79</u>	<u>\$ 78,506.00</u>	<u>\$ 83,073.94</u>
600 · Church Buildings & Properties			
601 · Utilities - Church	\$ 10,706.92	\$ 7,750.00	\$ 11,000.00
605 · Phone/Internet/Web	2,535.71	2,179.00	2,535.71
610 · Property & Liability Ins.	4,334.67	4,305.00	4,334.67
625 · Repair & Maint. - Church	34,564.37	30,204.00	15,000.00
626 · Custodian	3,430.00	3,250.00	3,430.00
640 · Mortgage Interest - Church	7,239.57	7,620.00	7,239.57
641 · Mortgage Principal	12,056.43	11,676.00	12,056.43
Total 600 · Church Buildings & Properties	<u>\$ 74,867.67</u>	<u>\$ 66,984.00</u>	<u>\$ 55,596.38</u>
6560 · Payroll Expenses			
700 · Parish Administration			
701 · Clerical Wages & Benefits	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 17,215.00	\$ 15,600.00
705 · FICA Expense	3,999.87	4,903.00	3,999.87
710 · Postage,Printing & Stationery	2,817.27	2,509.00	2,817.27
715 · Financial Supplies & Bank Fees	1,647.93	2,144.00	1,647.93
720 · Repair & Maint Office Equipment	137.79		137.79
725 · Publicity	178.71	956.00	200.00
730 · Misc. Expenses	2,445.07	1,367.00	1,200.00
741 · Youth & Family Wages	-	3,900.00	-
743 · Sound Tech	350.00	375.00	350.00
744 · Hospitality Wages	4,600.00	5,200.00	5,200.00
Total 700 · Parish Administration	<u>\$ 31,776.64</u>	<u>\$ 38,569.00</u>	<u>\$ 31,152.86</u>
800 · Ministry of Worship			
801 · Benevolence - Synod	\$ 2,496.00	\$ 2,496.00	\$ 2,496.00
806 · Altar Supplies	194.74	536.00	194.74
815 · Subscriptions - Books	1,229.09	1,313.00	1,229.09
820 · Conferences - Seminar	150.00	150.00	150.00
825 · Fellowship	453.13	832.00	500.00
830 · Interfaith Council	250.00	200.00	250.00
835 · SunSchool/Nursery/ VBS	468.70	800.00	500.00
846 · Music Leadership Wages	8,084.00	7,772.00	12,540.00
848 · Fee for Substitute Pastor	3,943.81	750.00	1,500.00
850 · Evangelism	2,635.79	1,000.00	2,500.00
855 · Soc. Min. & Outreach	-	1,000.00	-
860 · Stewardship/Finance	281.17	285.00	300.00
865 · Youth Activities	-	250.00	-
870 · Worship & Music - Other	1,488.46	900.00	900.00
875 · Flowers Expense	352.26	487.00	350.00
Total 800 · Ministry of Worship	<u>\$ 22,027.15</u>	<u>\$ 18,771.00</u>	<u>\$ 23,409.83</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$ 182,516.25</u>	<u>\$ 202,830.00</u>	<u>\$ 193,233.01</u>
Net Income / (Loss)	<u>\$ (27,215.30)</u>	<u>\$ (36,665.00)</u>	<u>\$ (22,192.51)</u>

DECEMBER 2022 BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

100 - Current

101 - Maintenance Escrow	\$ 14,630.59
102 - Memorials	188.98
103 - Good Samaritan	1,768.57
104 - Aller Scholarship Fund	7,995.07
107 - Memorial Garden	9,257.66
124 - Mortgage Reserve	10,049.62
125 - Church Mission	5,585.46
140 - PSCU /Savings	1,900.89
100 - Current - Other	102,038.34

Total 100 - Current \$ 153,415.18

Total Checking/Savings \$ 153,415.18

Fixed Assets

111 - Land - 9393 Church Road	\$ 31,641.73
112 - Building - 9393 Church Road	95,704.87
115 - Building Expansion #1 - 1988	302,252.16
116 - Building Expansion #2 - 2001	1,087,503.78

Total Fixed Assets \$ 1,517,102.54

Other Assets

109 - Endowment - Hartig	\$ 22,200.00
130 - Deposits & Prepayments	710.26

Total Other Assets \$ 22,910.26

TOTAL ASSETS 1,693,427.98

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

205 - Withheld Federal Taxes	\$ 727.48
207 - Withheld Michigan Taxes	445.27
210 - Special Maintenance Escrow	15.00
215 - Memorials & Endowments	31,246.64
216 - Memorial Garden Prepay-Smolak	400.00
220 - Good Samaritan Fund	1,815.57
225 - Aller Scholarship Fund	7,948.07
240 - Mortgage Reserve Payable	10,049.62
245 - Fund Raising/Project Payable	2,223.96
260 - Deferred Revenue	1,300.00
265 - Miscellaneous Payables	5,033.53
267 - Market Donations 2021	2,839.26
269 - Market Donations 2022	627.50
270 - Alysa Offman Gift	1,855.00

Total Other Current Liabilities \$ 66,526.90

Long Term Liabilities

250 - Mortgage - Church \$ 190,347.59

Total Long Term Liabilities \$ 190,347.59

Total Liabilities \$ 256,874.49

Equity

3000 - Opening Bal Equity \$ 1,022,206.01

3900 - Retained Earnings 441,562.78

Net Income (27,215.30)

Total Equity 1,436,553.49

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 1,693,427.98

2022 DECEMBER PROFIT AND LOSS

	Jan - Dec 22	Budget	B/(W) Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
420 · Loose Offering	\$ 645.24	\$ 625.00	\$ 20.24
425 · Special Services	659.00	1,400.00	(741.00)
435 · Miscellaneous Income	2,727.09	2,840.00	(112.91)
440 · Flowers	165.00	-	165.00
445 · Interest Income	768.06	550.00	218.06
460 · Building Use			
463 · Other	\$ 685.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 535.00
Total 460 · Building Use	\$ 685.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 535.00
490 · Total Envelopes			
408 · Evangelism	\$ 230.50	\$ -	\$ 230.50
415 · Current	\$ 149,421.06	\$ 160,600.00	\$ (11,178.94)
Total 490 · Total Envelopes	<u>\$ 149,651.56</u>	<u>\$ 160,600.00</u>	<u>\$ (10,948.44)</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 155,300.95</u>	<u>\$ 166,165.00</u>	<u>\$ (10,864.05)</u>
Expense			
500 · Ministry of the Pastor			
501 · Salary-Pastor	\$ 37,377.10	\$ 52,680.00	\$ 15,302.90
505 · Social Security - Pastor	1,336.78	2,378.00	1,041.22
510 · Housing Equity	-	2,800.00	2,800.00
515 · Mileage Reimbursement	517.43	-	(517.43)
520 · Pension, Health, Life Ins.	8,653.05	14,148.00	5,494.95
521 · Pastor Business Expense-Cell	302.77	900.00	597.23
524 · Pastor Auto Allowance	340.27	-	(340.27)
545 · Continuing Ed/Pastor Expenses	170.13	-	(170.13)
550 · Housing Allowance	5,147.26	5,600.00	452.74
Total 500 · Ministry of the Pastor	<u>\$ 53,844.79</u>	<u>\$ 78,506.00</u>	<u>\$ 24,661.21</u>
600 · Church Buildings & Properties			
601 · Utilities - Church	\$ 10,706.92	\$ 7,750.00	\$ (2,956.92)
605 · Phone/Internet/Web	2,535.71	2,179.00	(356.71)
610 · Property & Liability Ins.	4,334.67	4,305.00	(29.67)
625 · Repair & Maint. - Church	34,564.37	30,204.00	(4,360.37)
626 · Custodian	3,430.00	3,250.00	(180.00)
640 · Mortgage Interest - Church	7,239.57	7,620.00	380.43
641 · Mortgage Principal	12,056.43	11,676.00	(380.43)
Total 600 · Church Buildings & Properties	<u>\$ 74,867.67</u>	<u>\$ 66,984.00</u>	<u>\$ (7,883.67)</u>
700 · Parish Administration			
701 · Clerical Wages & Benefits	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 17,215.00	\$ 1,615.00
705 · FICA Expense	3,999.87	4,903.00	903.13
710 · Postage, Printing & Stationery	2,817.27	2,509.00	(308.27)
715 · Financial Supplies & Bank Fees	1,647.93	2,144.00	496.07
720 · Repair & Maint Office Equipment	137.79	-	(137.79)
725 · Publicity	178.71	956.00	777.29
730 · Misc. Expenses	2,445.07	1,367.00	(1,078.07)
741 · Youth & Family Wages	-	3,900.00	3,900.00
743 · Sound Tech	350.00	375.00	25.00
744 · Hospitality Wages	4,600.00	5,200.00	600.00
Total 700 · Parish Administration	<u>\$ 31,776.64</u>	<u>\$ 38,569.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,792.36</u>
800 · Ministry of Worship			
801 · Benevolence - Synod	\$ 2,496.00	\$ 2,496.00	\$ -
806 · Altar Supplies	194.74	536.00	341.26
815 · Subscriptions - Books	1,229.09	1,313.00	83.91
820 · Conferences - Seminar	150.00	150.00	-
825 · Fellowship	453.13	832.00	378.87
830 · Interfaith Council	250.00	200.00	(50.00)
835 · SunSchool/Nursery/ VBS	468.70	800.00	331.30
846 · Music Leadership Wages	8,084.00	7,772.00	(312.00)
848 · Fee for Substitute Pastor	3,943.81	750.00	(3,193.81)
850 · Evangelism	2,635.79	1,000.00	(1,635.79)
855 · Soc. Min. & Outreach	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
860 · Stewardship/Finance	281.17	285.00	3.83
865 · Youth Activities	-	250.00	250.00
870 · Worship & Music - Other	1,488.46	900.00	(588.46)
875 · Flowers Expense	352.26	487.00	134.74
Total 800 · Ministry of Worship	<u>\$ 22,027.15</u>	<u>\$ 18,771.00</u>	<u>\$ (3,256.15)</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$ 182,516.25</u>	<u>\$ 202,830.00</u>	<u>\$ 20,313.75</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>\$ (27,215.30)</u>	<u>\$ (36,665.00)</u>	<u>\$ 9,449.70</u>

2022 LADIES' GROUP

The year 2022 saw the beginning of a return to activities for the women's groups that gather at St. Thomas Lutheran Church.

- The Ladies' Lunch Group continued monthly gatherings at Ramsey's Restaurant in Trenton on the second Wednesday of the month.
- Coffee hour was continued this year after Sunday worship services. The hours were hosted by various members or by our perennial hostess, **Linda Landis**.
- **Linda Landis continues to serve as Hospitality/Property Director.** We had a sizable number of special events this year beautifully organized by Linda. The events included a Chaplains' Farewell Luncheon, the annual Aller Scholarship Recognition Reception, Farewell Get-Together for Pastor Schafer and Pastor Alysa Offman, the SEMI Synod Retreat in October, Pastor Kari's Installation, and an enlarged Christmas Market in December. Additionally, thanks to Linda and several members, we have wonderful weekly coffee hours after Sunday worship.
- Prayer Shawls were given to a number of people this year. These shawls are blessed by the pastor and given by members of the Ladies group when possible.

2022 MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group of St. Thomas also continued its monthly lunches during 2022. Due to restaurant hours and staffing, the group continued meeting at Sully's BBQ every second Thursday of the month.

2022 PROPERTY REPORT

2022 Upgrades, Enhancements and Improvements:

- Parking lot resurfaced and outlined
- Sidewalk and steps replaced, hand railings resecured
- New coffee bar installed
- New tile flooring installed in educational wing
- Ring doorbell installed for security and safety
- Six roof attic vents installed
- Repairs to the sprinkler system
- Furnace repaired
- Trees pruned and branches burned
- Pastor's office tailored for our new installation
- 100 new holiday candles
- New Christmas trees

Taking this opportunity, I give great thanks to the many donors for support throughout the year. Your gracious funding, time, talents, and skills have truly made all of these accomplishments possible.

Gratefully Yours,

Linda L. Landis

2022 ST. THOMAS WELCA REPORT

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN AMERICA

WELCA purpose statement: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

The size of the WELCA Group has dwindled, but still continued on with traditional events aided by volunteers throughout the year. Tim Perry serves as the bookkeeper. Agnes Kujala collected money from book sales and quilts and gives it to Tim for deposit.

2022 Highlights

The Edward R. Aller Scholarship was established in 1992 by the WELCA group in honor of the 25th anniversary of Pastor Aller's ordination. Since that time 58 recipients have been awarded scholarships totaling \$29,000! This year's St. Thomas high school seniors were awarded \$500 each: **Lauren Hinzmann and Camden Finazzo**. Both recipients were distinguished in school, community, and church activities. The scholarships were provided by Marcia Aller and the Rev. Edward R. Aller Memorial Fund in combination with WELCA. Individuals generously donated \$920 to the fund this year.

The quilters remained active with a reduced force of about 6 workers for much of the year, but had occasional additional volunteers. A total of **72** quilts were donated in October to **Lutheran World Relief** - delivered by Kent Kujala and Dan Kujala. The quilters also set up a table at the Island Market during the summer and Christmas Market in December. The Quilters raised \$300.

- The Book Sale organized by **Agnes Kujala** had a healthy profit of \$77.75 with many books shared and exchanged.
- St. Thomas continues to be the local collection site for medical equipment and supplies for **World Medical Relief**. We receive many phone calls, donations and referrals from other churches and individuals.
- Finally, **Sandi Loso** continued to collect for the Sacred Heart Food Pantry. The poor economy and pandemic have resulted in greater need, but our collections have been steady.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday School and Nursery

- Regular Sunday School was held in person from January through December. Attendance was between 1 and 5 students per week. During the summer months, the curriculum was less structured and the children had fun learning some new skills from church members **Judith Danziger and Marcia Aller**.
- Many thanks to our teachers who volunteered their time and talents to educate our young people – **Wendy Brozek, Bob Dickason, Anna Gartner, Kathie Kline, Marge Noyce and Tim Perry**.
- In 2022 we used Group Publishing's *Dig In* and Cokesbury's *Celebrate Wonder* curriculum, which allow teachers to select lessons and activities each week to tailor them to their students.
- We reestablished a Nursery room to be used for parents with young children that may need a break during service.

Confirmation Class

The confirmation class for 2022 consisted of two students, but just one participated in the confirmation service. Upon the arrival of Pastor Rinas, numerous attempts were made to begin a new confirmation class, but even with an expanded age group to try to encompass students who might have missed training during the pandemic, no students signed up. Our focus is to build up the number of families with children attending and grow our classes.

Youth Outreach

- There was no Vacation Bible School this year due to the small amount of youth membership and volunteers.
- In place of VBS, we had a youth activities tent at the Summer Market. Students had fun making crafts, playing games, picking a prize from the treasure box and jumping in the blowup jump house. Thanks to **Kathie Kline, Tim and Lisa Perry and Wendy Brozek** for entertaining our youngest visitors to the Market.

Youth Director

- The Youth Director position had been put on hold due to lack of youth membership. Position duties are presently being performed by **Tim Perry** and **Wendy Brozek**.

Submitted by Wendy Brozek and Tim Perry

Adult Education

Bible study has been meeting once a week with fellowship, food (brought to share), and study of the bible. Current study is working our way through the growth of the early church in the book of Acts. When we complete our study of Acts, we plan to look at Paul's letters.

Submitted by Tamara Howes

INTERFAITH COUNCIL

This year the Interfaith Council canceled most activities except **ChristNet** and the Interfaith Thanksgiving service.

Due to safety concerns, ChristNet guests were housed in donated rooms at a motel. It was decided to have a local restaurant prepare the meals. The cost of these meals and breakfast supplies was just over **\$3000**. Each Island church gave \$250 for a total of **\$1250**. The remainder, just over **\$1900**, was covered by individual donations from members of St. Thomas. MANY THANKS go to our congregation for their caring and generosity.

In 2023, the Interfaith Council will be sponsoring a concert series capitalizing on the talents of members of the Island churches.

As of January 1, 2023, Northridge Church will become an independent congregation with its new name: **The Church of the Way**. It is committing to full participation in the Interfaith Council and all of its current and future activities.

Submitted by Jeff Kline

COMMUNITY MARKETS

Island Market

Council member **Justine Brozek** oversaw a major project of hosting the second year of the St. Thomas Farmers' Market for local vendors and businesses to sell their goods. Every fourth Friday of the month throughout the summer, vendors, volunteers and shoppers showed up at St. Thomas for fresh produce, crafts, and food. Our concession stand was run entirely by volunteers and donations from church members. Some changes that were made this year were adding a kid's area with crafts and games and moving the location of the market from the parking lot to the sidewalk. The change in locations was appreciated by both volunteers and vendors with there being more shade and a better walking path. We also changed the name of the event to the **St.Thomas Island Market** to better reflect our location and variety of vendors. Not only did this event benefit the vendors, but it gave St.Thomas the opportunity to reintroduce ourselves to the local community.

Submitted by Justine Brozek, Island Market Chairperson

Christmas Market

The **Second Annual Christmas Market** was a tremendous success. The hours of operation expanded to 10 am to 4 pm, the number of vendors was increased to **55**, a food booth and St. Thomas table with information about our church and services were added, and the customer turnout was impressive. Vendors were charged a \$20 fee, and **\$1,300** was raised for the **Good Samaritan** fund.

Submitted by Linda Landis, Christmas Market Chairperson



St. Thomas Lutheran Positioning Statement:

*St Thomas Lutheran Church is an inviting and caring environment
Nurtured by God's Love where individuals and families
Grow in faith to meet the challenges of life.*

St Thomas Mission:

*Our Mission is
To celebrate God's love through serving
Embrace it in our own lives
Reach out to our neighbors
And actively pass it on to new generations.*

*real people.
real life.
real faith.*