

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



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2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Cindi Brady called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. There were 38 members in attendance.

Pastor Beth lead the opening devotion—Dwelling in the Word. She read Luke 10:1-10 and shared the themes identified throughout 2022 by Ministry Teams and Council. She discussed Communal Meaning Making and asked the congregation to discuss the following question:

- What might God be saying to us about who we are in Christ?
- What might God be asking us to do in 2023?

The following observations were made by the congregation:

- The importance of reaching out to others; God is asking us to reach out to others
- We have more homeless people here in Phoenix than any other city. There is great need here; we can be compassionate to others here in our area.
- We are very lucky to be here but what do we do about others who are hungry?
- Peace is at a premium in our world; how do we share peace and make peace, not violence?
- We always have more questions than answers; what do we do and how do we get thru the questions and go into action? We have no answers but are trying to work thru this- this is our call.
- We need to work locally and address those issues that are presented to us at a local (Phoenix-area) level.

Pastor announced that a new Dwelling in the Word will be sent to the congregation

Pastor Beth lead the congregation in a prayer of Discernment.

The Year -End Financial Report was shown to the congregation on a slide:

- There were no questions.

Old Business: None

2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

New Business:

- Election of Church Council voting members. Two members were nominated for a 2 year term. They are Karl Flormoe and Pete Galindez. Helga Essert was nominated to a 1 year term. A motion was made to approved these individuals for Church Council. The motion passed.
- Cindi thanked Mary Burritt for her 4 years of service on Church Council.
- Steve Gallen and Cindi Brady's names were put forward. to attend the Grand Canyon Synod Assembly on June 8-10 in Tucson, AZ. A motion was made to approve these individuals to attend the synod assembly. The motion passed.
- Denny Rubenow and Eric Zettler were appointed to the Audit Committee.
- The Mission Spending Plan for 2023 was discussed, using Robert's Rules of Order. Mike Bartanen presented the plan. He noted that this is a spending plan not a budget. It is an aspiration and a journey for all of us. He reviewed to two stewardship letter that were sent to the congregation; it is necessary to increase Pastor Beth's hours to move our vision forward and to compensate Pastor for her role in leading the congregation. It was moved and seconded to approve the plan. The Mission Spending Plan was open for discussion. The following questions and comments were made:
 1. What happens in we don't meet the deficit? What will we do? The answer was that the Council will discuss this issue.
 2. How did the income and expenses for last year compare? (see Annual Report)
 3. Does Council periodically contact Edward Jones and review the holdings in the Opportunity Fund? Did the Opportunity Fund grow this year? Could we do better with different investments? Council felt that meeting with our Edward Jones representative several times per year was an excellent suggestion. The Opportunity Fund did not grow this year.
 4. Is there any funds in the new government Infrastructure bill that would help us?
 5. Pastor noted that there was a \$20,000 increase in stewardship this year!

2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

6. What percentage of our income is given to the Synod? It was \$12,000 last year.

7. What percentage of our members never responded to either stewardship letter?

The discussion ended and a vote was taken on the motion to approve the 2023 Mission Spending Plan. The voted was 35 yes votes (two were proxy votes) and 5 no votes. The motion passed.

Pastor lead us in a prayer and the meeting adjourned at 12:27pm.

The following officers were elected for the 2023 Council:

- President: Cindi Brady
- Vice President: Lou Hutchinson
- Secretary: Mike Bartanen
- Treasurer: Helga Essert

Respectfully submitted:



May Burritt
Secretary

2024 MEETING AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Opening Devotions
- Adopt Agenda
- Financial Report
- Ministry Reports
- Old Business
 - None
- New Business
 - Election of church council voting members
 - Lay people to represent NJLC at Synod Assembly scheduled June 13 - 15, 2024
 - Appoint two voting members to the Audit Committee
 - Adoption of the 2024 Budget
- Lord's Prayer & Adjournment

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

Category	2023 Mission Plan	2023 Actual
Envelope Off.	\$129,210	\$137,836
Loose Off.	\$1,000	\$1,484
Special Off.	\$0	\$25
CODA	\$165	\$240
Misc Income	\$1,750	\$0
Special Donations	\$0	\$3,761
AmazonSmile	\$75	\$34
Thrivent Choice	\$0	\$25
FFKidz		
Outreach	\$0	\$341
Memorials	\$0	\$225
Total Planned Income: \$132,210		Total Actual Income: \$143,971

END OF YEAR CHECKING BALANCES:

2023 Chase Checking Balance: \$ 12,290.00

2023 Food For Kidz Balance: \$8,002.66

2023 Edward Jones Balance: \$43,443.02

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

Category	2023 Mission Plan	2023 Actual
Synod Mission	\$13,200	\$13,228
Personnel		
• Pastor	\$61,426	\$60,718
◦ Salary	\$39,450	\$39,450
◦ SS Allow	\$3,017	\$3,017
◦ Car	\$1,500	\$1,501
◦ Con Ed	\$800	\$800
◦ Insurance	\$16,659	\$15,313
◦ Pulpit Sub	\$0	\$490
◦ Supplies	\$0	\$147
Communications Coordinator	\$13,250	\$13,140
◦ Salary	\$13,000	\$12,996
◦ Mileage	\$250	\$144
Music	\$4,840	\$6,038
◦ Salary	\$3,825	\$4,813
◦ Mileage	\$1,015	\$1,225
Property	\$38,123	\$35,646
• Rent	\$33,123	\$33,206
• Utilities	\$4,386	\$2,393
• Supplies	\$150	\$47
• Update	\$1,000	0
Comm. Support	\$4,750	\$2,917
• Advertising	\$4,500	\$2,722
• Equipment	\$0	\$120
• Software	\$250	\$75

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

Category	2023 Mission Plan	2023 Actual
Committees	\$3,599	\$1,962
• Social	\$379	\$187
• Christian Ed	\$100	\$67
• Worship	\$2,920	\$776
• FFKidz	\$0	\$0
• Stewardship	\$0	\$0
• Prayer	\$0	\$0
• Hospitality	\$150	\$0
• SewJourners	\$200	\$510
• Outreach	\$0	\$422
Administration	\$5,012	\$6,349
• Bank Fees	\$500	\$489
• W. Comp.	\$514	\$471
• Liability Ins.	\$880	\$880
• Conference	\$375	\$1,172
• Office	\$2,693	\$3,012
• Telephone	\$0	\$125
• FH Chamber	\$0	\$200
Total Planned Expenses: \$145,145		Total Actual Expenses: \$139,998

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED IN 2023

January

- Outreach - \$400
- Afghan refugee- \$40
- Audio equipment - \$658.94

February

- Food For Kidz - \$4,680
- Audio equipment - \$175
- Undesignated - \$3,100
- Afghan refugee - \$40

March

- Food For Kidz - \$1422.09
- NEVC (Casa) - \$1,365
- Afghan refugee- \$40

April

- Food For Kidz - \$1250.00
- NEVC (Casa) - \$30

May

- Food For Kidz- \$25 (Memorial for Don Corey)
- Afghan refugee- \$80

June

- Heat Respite - \$700
- Afghan Refugees - \$40

July

- Imagine East Mesa - \$195
- Afghan Refugee - \$40

August

- Memorial Erica Haeberer - \$100

September

- Memorial Larry Stiles - \$25
- Memorial Marilyn Olin - \$125
- Afghan Refugee -\$40

October

- Afghan Refugee-\$40

November

- Afghan Refugee-\$40
- Food Bank coin- Loose -\$136.50

December

- Sew Journers-\$500
- Flowers or Special project-\$200
- Food for Kidz- \$414.25

2024 MISSION & VISION PLAN PROPOSAL

2024 Vision: "Telling the Story"

God's Mission through New Journey Lutheran Church Prioritizes

- Sharing Faith
 - Meaningful Worship
 - Joyful Song
 - Relevant and Timely Prayer
 - Compassionate Care and relationship-building
- Serving Community
 - Quilts for recently housed neighbors
 - Feeding the hungry
 - Collaborating in ministry with other faith communities
 - Contributing time, resources, labor and imagination to our surrounding neighborhood
- Advocating for Peace and Justice in our World
 - Concentrating our attention and efforts for peace and justice
 - Putting our faith into the public square through advocacy efforts
 - Providing financial support for agencies and causes that work for social healing and peace
 - Affirming our openness and support of all people

2024 MISSION & VISION PLAN PROPOSAL

		2022	2023	2024 Proposed	
Mission	Synod	\$11,438	\$12,000	\$12,000	
	NELM	\$562	\$600		
	NEVC			\$500	
Personnel	Pastor	\$41,300	\$61,426	\$67,144	
	Salary	\$26,300	\$39,450	\$40,249	2% increase
	SS Allow	\$1,800	\$3,017	\$3,078	
	Car	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	
	Con Ed	\$700	\$800	\$510	
	Insurance	\$11,000	\$16,659	\$21,057	Health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement
	Substitute			\$500	
	Prof Dev			\$250	
	Comm C	\$12,000	\$13,250	\$13,000	
	Salary	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	
	Travel		\$250	\$0	
	Music	\$4,840	\$4,840	\$7,139	
	Salary	\$3,825	\$3,825	\$5,882	3.3% increase plus comp for 3 additional (74 total)
	Substitute			\$300	
	Travel	\$1,015	\$1,015	\$1,257	
	Bookkeeper				
	Salary			\$5,000	
Property		\$37,172	\$38,659	\$38,263	
	Rent	\$32,158	\$33,123	\$34,113	3% increase
	Utilities	\$3,864	\$4,386	\$3,000	
	Supplies	\$150	\$150	\$150	
	Update	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Comm		\$5,100	\$4,750	\$4,477	
	Advertising	\$3,955	\$4,500	\$3,374	
	Equipment			\$0	
	Internet	\$1,145	\$250	\$670	
	Software			\$0	
	Websites		\$0	\$433	

2024 MISSION & VISION PLAN PROPOSAL

Committee	\$2,819	\$3,599	\$2,939
Social	\$350	\$379	\$500
CE	\$100	\$100	\$250
Worship	\$2,119	\$2,920	\$1,869
Food for Kidz			\$0
Steward			
Prayer			
Hospitality	\$150		
Anniver			
Sewjourn	\$100	\$200	\$320

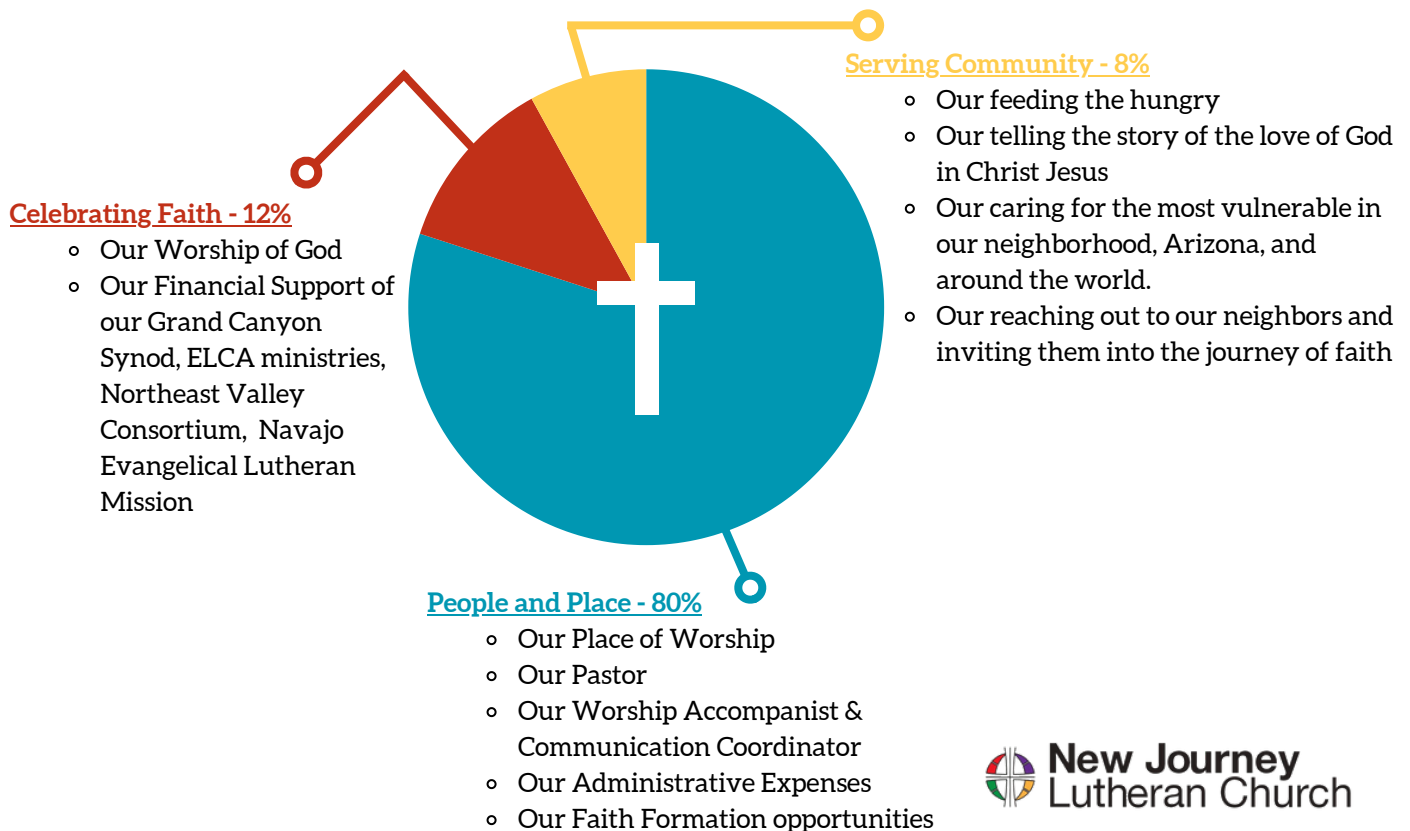
Currently \$8000 in account

Administration	\$3,691	\$5,012	\$5,039
Bank fees	\$550	\$550	\$600
W Comp	\$514	\$514	\$514
Liab	\$704	\$880	\$1,000
Conferen	\$375	\$375	\$800
Office	\$1,148	\$2,693	\$1,800
Telephone	\$400		\$125
Chamber			\$200

	\$118,922	\$145,145	\$155,501
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7.1% increase
2023 adopted budget

Our Spending Reflects God's Mission Through New Journey Lutheran Church



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL REPORT



Congregational Council Members: Cindi Brady, Lou Hutchinson, Mike Bartanen, Helga Essert, Pete Galindez, Karl Flormoe

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- Reviewed several policies such as: Financial Management Procedures, Gift Policy, Compassionate Guidelines
- Discussion on 5 Things That Face Small Congregations
- Rescinded our COVID policies
- Created a Stewardship Committee
- Filled 2 vacant Council seats for 2024

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

We each shared our thoughts about our first memories of money. Thru the stories we discovered that all of us grew up with not much money. But we placed value on the people in our lives. That was the real treasure of our lives. We found we had a commonality that binds us together in being human. We trusted each other enough to be very honest. What a gift we received from one another. Truly God was working thru each of us.

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

As of December 31, 2023, the membership of New Journey Lutheran Church was comprised of:

Confirmed Members*	64
Baptized, non-confirmed, members	25
Total number of members	89

**Includes year-round and seasonal members*

MEMBERSHIP

<i>Members received during 2023</i>	
By transfer	0
Through affirmation of faith	0
By baptism	0
Total members received during 2023	0
<i>Members removed during 2023</i>	
By transfer	1
By death	3
For other reasons	0
Total members removed during 2023	4

PASTOR REPORT



by Pastor Beth Gallen

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- One 2023 SMART goal was to engage and participate in Fountain Hills community events in the role of New Journey's pastor. I am grateful for the many opportunities to do this: 1) The Fountain Hills Community Expo, the Liberal Ladies, Food 4 Kidz Food Pack, preaching and presiding at the long-term care facility Morningstar throughout the year, Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Breakfast, & Stroll in the Glow.
- I was delighted to guide Madison Matteis (grandchild of Jo Martinson) through Holy Communion instruction. This was an unexpected opportunity that invites us as a community to support Madison's parents as they strive to keep the promises made at Madison's baptism: "you are entrusted with responsibilities...bring Madison to the word of God and the holy supper." It is our hope and intention that Madison will complete confirmation among our community.

PASTOR REPORT

- God has given me wonderful opportunities to exercise my call as an ordained minister in our larger ELCA church body: by volunteering at the Rostered Minister's Gathering in Phoenix this last July, volunteering at the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in September, serving on a Grand Canyon Synod team that developed part-time ministry guidelines for our congregations calling part-time rostered leaders, co-chairing the Northeast Valley Consortium and encouraging greater collaboration among congregations in the northeast valley, and participating as a panelist on an interfaith panel at Temple Bethel in Scottsdale.
- We passed an ambitious Mission Plan in 2023, increasing the pastor's call from half-time to three-quarter time. I am immensely grateful to God for the generosity and vision for the pastoral ministry of this congregation. Whether your giving level stayed the same, increased, or decreased, you contributed to our shared goal of adjusting the call to meet pastoral expectations. It looks like we will meet our ambitious goal! This change in call and compensation has made a tremendous impact in the way I structure my schedule, manage projects and expectations, balance the ministry needs and priorities with my personal life, and relieved me from the pressure of trying to accomplish all of what is expected of a called pastor. Your generosity has given me peace of mind. I get to serve and exercise my call with faithfulness, balance, and healthier boundaries. Thank you, dear people of New Journey Lutheran Church. We are church together.

PASTOR REPORT

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

Grief and loss visited our community this year. Over the course of the year, we have experienced the deaths of beloved members, family members, and friends, unexpected illness has descended, we feel the drain of care-taking, and the weight of global events like the war in Ukraine and Israel/Gaza has been heavy on our souls. In preparing this report, I looked over my 2023 calendar and it is filled with names of people in our community with whom I have met and reported feelings of grief and troubled spirits. Friends in Christ, pastoral care was a deep need this year and by the grace of God and the spirit of trust built between us, I have been invited into spaces to provide spiritual care at bedsides, in living rooms, over phone calls and zoom calls.

One person whom I visited after an unexpected death in their family, reported to me: "I tell people how you came straight over to us. It was so meaningful to me that you were with us and prayed with us. It's so important. Thank you."

Another person, who previously struggled to recognize God's presence in the world, shared this: "Despite all what's going on, I know Jesus is with me. We've had some heart to heart conversations, me and Jesus. I'm not afraid, because God's got me covered."

These are the words of people who are on the journey of faith and have come to experience the love of God made real in the community of New Journey Lutheran Church and through the spiritual care I get to offer as your called pastor. Thank you for inviting me in and sharing what's happening in your lives. I am honored to provide spiritual and pastoral care throughout your journey. What a gift it is to journey with you.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

by Susan Brahs

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- Established a social media calendar with weekly posts which has helped grow an online audience.
 - What's happening this week at New Journey
 - You're invited to hear the gospel
 - On this day in the church
 - Join our live stream
 - News shared from ELCA & GC Synod
- Created several NJLC marketing pieces:
 - ELCA Goal Poster
 - New Church Banner
 - FH Times Advertisements
 - Pub Theology tickets and handouts
 - Monthly eNews
 - Advent Postcards
 - T-Shirt designs

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

- Being a part of events throughout the year:
 - FH Volunteer Expo
 - NEVC Hope in a Troubled World Interfaith Prayer Service
 - Food4Kidz Packing Event
 - FH Connect Quarterly Breakfast
 - Rostered Ministers Gathering
 - WELCA Triennial Gathering
 - Pub Theology
 - Bishop's Fall Gathering
 - Grand Canyon Women's Convention
 - Stroll in the Glow
- Created a working draft copy of the Communications / Social media policy and procedures and Best Practices document.

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

One of my goals for this ministry has been to grow our presence in the community and be able to share our stories with others. It all came to fruition this past month with our Stroll in the Glow event. Earlier in the year the Council approved our marketing plan to join the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce. From there we've been able to be a part of their Chamber Connect Breakfasts, newsletter, website, and social media page.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

It was wonderful to work with different teams from our church to make this event possible. We had members who volunteered as greeters and welcomed those who walked by, an arts and crafts team who were the hit of the booth, we had a community prayer chain going for those in need of some extra support for the holidays, and information for the upcoming Advent season and the Food4Kidz event in February 2024. Pastor Beth did an incredible job drawing people in and inviting them to be a part of our church. When I was busy handing out candy canes and dog treats, I couldn't help but smile every time someone responded... "Yes, we've heard of you. You're the church that does that....".

And yes, we are. We are the church that does so many things to help our neighbors, communities, and those in need. With the help of everyone from New Journey, we have been able to do so much.



ALTAR GUILD REPORT



Team Members: Mary Burritt, Dorothy Schmidt, Nancy Ehlers and Jo Martinson

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- Setting up the altar for weekly services as well as special and seasonal services, including Advent and Lent
- Maintaining and changing the paraments according to the liturgical calendar
- Provide for communion supplies--bread, wafers, wine, grape juice and individual chalices
- Providing candles for the altar including All Saints and the Advent wreath; maintain baptismal font and Pascal candle
- And any other services that Pastor Beth may require

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

We worked well together and with Pastor Beth for the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, and course Easter Sunday. They were very moving and rewarding for us to be able to participate in them. And Dorothy created a beautiful altar covering for Advent from a donated paramount (thanks Gwen and Denny).

COFFEE HOUR REPORT



Team Members: Eric & Penny Zettler

2023 Ministry Highlights:

New Journey's Coffee Hour continues as a strong and meaningful part of our ministry lives. Well into our third year, we gather weekly so share life stories, encourage laughter or tears as well as prayers. The group formed as COVID shaped our lives in ways not previously dreamed. We are always open to new faces and it's a surprising way to get much better acquainted with others in our congregation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

A promotional poster for a 'Pub Theology' event. The title 'PUB THEOLOGY' is in large, bold, white letters, with the tagline 'different brews different views' below it. The event details are: 'TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH AT 4:30 - 6:00 PM' and 'AT PHIL'S FILLING STATION, 16852 PARKVIEW AVENUE, FOUNTAIN HILLS'. The main invitation reads: 'WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR... fellowship and conversation about one of the most critical issues of our time: Water: How should we address an increasingly scarce resource?'. A QR code is provided for more information. The event is presented by 'New Journey Lutheran Church', an 'Evangelical Lutheran Church in America' with the motto 'God's work. Our hands.' and a rainbow cross logo. The background features various drinks on a wooden table.

PUB THEOLOGY
different brews different views

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH AT 4:30 - 6:00 PM
AT PHIL'S FILLING STATION, 16852 PARKVIEW AVENUE, FOUNTAIN HILLS

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR...
fellowship and conversation about one of the most critical issues of our time:
Water: How should we address an increasingly scarce resource?

presented by **New Journey Lutheran Church**
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Team Members: Michael Bartanen, Roger Westland, Terry Steeden, Mary Burritt, Pastor Gallen, Denny Rubenow

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- Experimented with Pub Theology ministry to bring congregants and community members to consider current issues from a theological perspective.
- Offered a study about the historical, cultural and spiritual contexts of the bible held in conjunction with Lenten services.
- Finished a study to help understand the role of various ministries at New Journey and their connections to our spiritual and outreach activities.

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

The Pub Theology event in October brought together a variety of participants, some of whom have not been regular participants in recent education classes and events and others who were not members of the congregation. The response was positive, people enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the issue of water and interact with other people in an informal and fun environment. It was a chance to start the process of integrating christian education programming into the congregation's outreach activities.

FOOD 4 KIDZ REPORT



Team Members: Denny Rubenow, Kris Bartanen

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- 225 volunteers after a three-year hiatus
- 72,000 meals packed in two hours
- Meals were distributed locally and internationally

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

The Food for Kidz food pack resumed on March 2, 2023, after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID virus. Thanks to 225 volunteers, 72,000 meals were packed in two hours for hungry neighbors near and far. We had an overwhelming turnout, volunteers were eager to participate in the food pack.

The ecumenical activity was organized and financially supported by New Journey Lutheran Church. In addition, Church of the Ascension (Catholic), and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran (LCMC) provided major financial support. Many other groups and individuals helped provide financing and volunteers. These included the Northeast Valley Consortium (a network of ELCA congregations) Fountain Hills Presbyterian, Noon Kiwanis, Thrivent, Messinger Mortuary, and Safeway. Grants were written and received by Kris Bartanen.

FOOD 4 KIDZ REPORT

Several groups of volunteers supported New Journey Lutheran members: student runners and packers from The Inspiration Academy, Fountain Hills High School, International School of Arizona, and Girl Scout Troop 6445, as well as the Rural Metro Fire team which provided heavy lifting support.

The nutritious dehydrated meals, packed from nutritionally sustainable bulk ingredients, consisted of dried oatmeal mix with sugar, cinnamon and vitamin mix. This can be cooked with minimal supplies.

The meals were distributed by various groups that feed the hungry. Extended Hands Food Bank in Fountain Hills received 9600 meals. Additional meals were delivered to the Navajo Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, Arizona; Native American Connections and Grace in the City Outreach in Phoenix.

World locations to which food was sent included Ukraine, Haiti, and Honduras. One box of food provides 320 meals.

This was the first year for the following:

- Grants were written by Kris Bartanen and obtained for funding
- Thank you notes were created & mailed to 41 donors and 25 New Journey participants who were volunteer leaders
- Eleven years of materials were compiled and filed into a NJLC file box with hanging folders, including the creation of electronic files.
- A feedback form was sent to all Lead Volunteers and Church Council Members

This is the tenth year that New Journey Lutheran has led this food pack, providing 640,200 meals since it's inception.

PRAYER & CARD REPORT



Team Members: Pastor Beth Gallen, Deb Bigley, Crystalle Ebbinga, Nancy Johnson, Shirley Lundeen, Mary Mueller, Nancy McGarry, Jane Stoss, and Janice Tarnow,

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- Approximately 125 cards sent on behalf of New Journey Cards of JOY sent for birthdays, anniversary and other celebrations of joy! Cards of comfort, care, sympathy and support are sent for those impacted by those various needs
- The Prayer team receives prayers from Pastor Beth, NJLC members and the community. Prayers strips from Stroll and Glow were a wonderful new opportunity to reach out to meet the needs of our community this December!
- The Project Cookie Joy an excellent collaboration with Worship and Music as well as the entire congregation to deliver thanks, joy and offer prayer!

PRAYER & CARD REPORT

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

"Getting a hand written card brings hope, comfort and joy from our beloved New Journey friends in Christ"- Jo

"Prayers from our New Journey community have brought comfort in tremendous ways to our family in so many times of need." - a NJLC friend

"It has been a rich blessing in my life to pray for others and to receive your prayers for me as I have faced some health challenges" - Deb

"I felt your prayers as I recovered from my heart issues, it was as if I was hugged in prayer"- Mary

PROPERTY REPORT



Team Members: Lou Hutchinson

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- Floor cleaned
- Filters replaced
- AC cleaned and checked
- Fire extinguishers checked.
- Landscaping is cared for each month.

SEW JOURNERS REPORT



Team Members: Beulah Westland, Kris Bartanen, Carol Wilson, Karen Bowman, Nancy Rosenthal, Ardelle Dunn, Darla Hanford, Mary Shore, Dee Rubenow, Connie Schwartau, Marylou Steeden

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- It is always fun to see what one of the members has designed for a quilt top using small pieces of donated fabric.
- We enjoy seeing the quilts displayed on the chairs before they are donated.
- Packaging 48 quilts to be delivered to Native American Connection for people moving into apartments or 21 to Lutheran Social Services for their elderly clients.
- We finished 82 quilts.

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

It is gratifying to be part of a warm, welcoming group who have so much fun being of service to others. The winter visitors become part of the group as they walk in the door.

In donating the quilts, we feel we are showing God's presence in giving warmth and love to those who need it. Perhaps the colorful quilt is a bright spot in their lives.

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT

Team Members: Kris Bartanen, Deb Bigley, Brenda Galindez, Pr. Beth Gallen, Jane Stoss, Harry Vaughn, Sharon Vaugh, Beulah Westland, plus Liz Peterson, co-liaison for Lutheran Advocacy Ministry (LAMAz.org)

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- We fed the hungry: Through five projects (heat respite lunch packs, travel snacks for asylum seekers, 9/11 multi-faith food drive, “Clear the Lines” for Casa de la Misericordia, and ongoing support to Extended Hands Food Bank) as well as core volunteer support to Food for Kidz, we provided sustenance to persons near and far. Our advocacy efforts – joining the Bread for the World offering of letters and our “Fifth Sunday” letters in support of reauthorization of specific food provisions of the U.S. Farm Bill – aligned with the Grand Canyon Synod’s top priority of systemic hunger reform.
- We helped kids succeed: Through three projects (school supplies and uniforms for Imagine East Mesa students, the Angel Tree Christmas project for IEM, and the book drive for Living Water’s Vacation Bible School), we supported students to attend school and to gain personal reading materials. Welcoming students from Inspiration Academy to two summer lunch packs also broadened their understanding of community service.
- We supported neighbors nearby and around the world: Through seven projects (gathering furnishings and other household items for refugees supported through LSS-SW and persons rehoused through the Paiute Neighborhood Center, drafting compassionate care guidelines for responding to persons experiencing homelessness, the Casa support noted above, preparing God’s Work-Our Hands celebration bags along with gathering coats and jackets for refugees traveling to northern states, card-writing for immigrants detained over the December

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT

holidays, and “Project Cookie Joy” to thank public servants in Fountain Hills) we bolstered many lives. Our advocacy efforts – particularly in support of the Afghan Adjustment Act, Mesa’s “Off the Streets” program to provide additional shelter for persons experiencing homelessness, and U.S. disaster response and humanitarian aid – aligned with areas of high need at home and abroad.

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

“As I’ve listened this year around the edges of preparations for New Journey’s tenth anniversary of being chartered as an ELCA congregation, I have repeatedly been struck by members constancy to the vision of becoming a church that – rather than constructing a large facility and owning property – puts its resources into ministry to local, national, and world needs. When there is a call for food for Extended Hands or Casa, or for supplies for the kids at Imagine School, there are carloads ready to deliver. When there’s an evacuee apartment to be furnished, boxes of beautiful items and loads of furniture – a rocking chair, a dining set, a full bedroom, among other significant offerings – appear. There’s a quiet monthly gift continuing since 2021 to support Afghan evacuees, a quiet annual gift for heat respite lunches, and when ‘noisy offering’ is launched, the bread pans are joyfully full of coins. Is there worry about how we’ll stretch every next year? Of course. Could we extend our talented voices more audibly in the public square in support of systemic changes to address hunger, poverty, and other challenges to human thriving? Indeed. Not to be discounted, though, is New Journey’s constancy to mission through hope in action.” - Kris Bartanen

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Team Members: Julie Palko, Denny Rubenow, Marylou Steeden, and Pastor Beth Gallen

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- Newly formed Stewardship team as of September 2023. After the Financial Sustainability Group completed their tasks and purpose, the Congregation Council developed this team's purpose and tasks.
- The team developed a year-round Stewardship calendar to celebrate and encourage a year-round Stewardship plan with a particular focus on deepening our culture of generosity. We began by inviting members of the congregation to share "why they give to New Journey Lutheran Church worship.
- On November 12, New Journey's Stewardship Sunday, Nancy Rosenthal, shared why she and spouse, Bob give to New Journey Lutheran Church as an expression of Christian faith. Her words inspired and impressed upon our community the importance of giving to God through New Journey Lutheran Church.

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

The newly formed Stewardship team is focused on deepening New Journey Lutheran's culture of generosity by sharing impact stories in worship and in our monthly Stewardship column. We want to connect our faith and giving practices in ways that inspire our community to notice God's abundance all all around us.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The best example of how our ministry has made an impact is through the stories shared by Nancy Rosenthal on Stewardship Sunday. You can read her [words here](#) or watch her on our archived worship service by [clicking here](#). Nancy begins speaking at time stamp 45:32.

On Stewardship Sunday, the congregation was moved and touched by Nancy's words. It was evident by the sense of gratitude that filled those who were present in worship. When we can connect to one another, share what inspires us to give, God opens us and generosity is our natural response. The team is grateful for Nancy's witness and looks forward to inviting more members to share why they give to New Journey Lutheran Church.



WORSHIP & MUSIC REPORT

Team Members: Jamie Asmus, Cindi Brady, Nancy Rosenthal, Ron Schwartau, Mary Shore and Pastor Beth

2023 Ministry Highlights:

- Installation and Dedication of the Stained-Glass Art Piece in January. Made possible by the generosity of Hosea Harkness in loving memory of his wife, Lily.
- Palm/Passion Worship that invited the gifts and theatrical readings of the story of Christ's passion from the Gospel of Matthew by Terry Steeden, Maggie Orr, & Julie Palko.
- Welcoming Ron Schwartau and Mary Shore into worship and music planning sessions in the Spring—they offer tremendous insights for creating and curating meaningful worship services.
- Responding to lament and longing by one of our members on Pentecost Sunday. Our worshipping community paused worship to address questions of God's presence and agency in a troubled world.
- Welcoming Madison Mattheis to God's table and celebrating her first communion.

Average In-Person Worship Attendance

2022	2023
36	40

Average Online Worship Views

2022	2023
17	4

WORSHIP & MUSIC REPORT

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

"I am experiencing tremendous healing through our worship services." Deb Bigley shared with Pastor Beth after worship one day this spring. Meaningful and relevant worship services are critical for the people of God to receive the good news of Jesus, experience sabbath rest, and connect to the presence of God in the midst of our chaotic lives. Deb is experiencing a deep connection to the healing offered by God in our worship services. Of course, many people contribute to life-giving and faithful worship at New Journey Lutheran. From the worship and music team who regularly meets to select hymns to the many voices who read scripture and share gifts of music in worship, to the hands who set up and serve communion, light candles, operate the PowerPoint and streaming equipment, who collect offering, and manage our sound equipment and those make unexpected financial gifts to improve our online audio and visual worship experience—we are blessed by God with many gifted people who come together to curate meaningful worship. Worship that responds to the events in the world and the inner parts of our spiritual lives. For instance, on Pentecost Sunday this last May, one of our members was spiritually moved by our worship service to voice their lament and longing in worship: "When is God going to show up and do more?" this person wondered aloud. This is one of the most faithful questions we as people of faith ask, and our worship service provided the venue for this person to voice their lament in the safety and care of our community.

Worship at New Journey Lutheran Church is a place where healing takes place, spirits are renewed, questions are asked and grappled with, where we recognize that we are not God, and finally, where our burdens are shared with the One who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

WORSHIP & MUSIC REPORT



ARCHIVES REPORT

Team Members: Chuck Peterson & Mike Bartanen

2023 Ministry Highlights:

The ELCA provides guidelines for managing congregational records. In 2022 Roger Westland and Chuck Peterson reviewed one document in particular, 'Records Retention Schedule for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.' Records in the New Journey Archive file cabinet were compared with ELCA record retention suggestions. For 2024 the Archivist plans to consult and finalize the list of records to be retained. The ELCA suggests the church council approve a list. The list will be presented to the church council for approval.

Pastor and the Archivist met in June of 2023. The file cabinet archives contain paper records. Pastor and Mike Bartanen proposed that the Archives be expanded to store and catalog electronic documents, as well. It was suggested a new email address, archives@njlc-fh.org, be added to the New Journey Microsoft360 web site. Pastor and the Archives Council Liaison brought the suggestions to the council, where they were approved and implemented. Electronic records from church council meetings were sent to the archives by email beginning in the middle of the year. The process is working well. The Archivist expresses his gratitude to the council for supporting the changes and faithfully sending documents to the archive email.

The Archives database catalog program, Paper Tiger Database, resides on the Archives laptop computer. Backups of the database and laptop are done on a regular basis. Backups are saved on an external SSD drive, on the Archives laptop, and on Drop box

The Archivist proposes the following action items for 2024. Complete the list of records to retain in the Archives. Determine how long to retain different records. Have the church council approve the list. Gather remaining records on the list and store them in the archive. Add electronic file folders to the New Journey cloud service, Microsoft OneDrive. Move electronic records from the Microsoft360 email folder to OneDrive. Move electronic records from the paper file cabinet to OneDrive. Develop and implement a backup strategy for the New Journey archive's OneDrive electronic folders. Add OneDrive folder contents to the Paper Tiger Database.

NORTHEAST VALLEY CONSORTIUM REPORT

Team Members: Pr. Beth Gallen, NEVC Co-Chair and Kris Bartanen, NEVC Secretary, Ascension Lutheran Church (Paradise Valley), Christ the Lord Lutheran Church (Carefree), Living Water Lutheran Church (Scottsdale), New Covenant Lutheran Church (Scottsdale), and New Journey Lutheran Church (Fountain Hills). Communications Director Susan Brahs serves on the NEVC Communications Committee.

NJLC needs to appoint a second congregational representative to the NEVC Steering Committee.

2023 Ministry Highlights:

The Northeast Valley Consortium “collaborates in ministry for the sake of the Gospel” with particular effort to achieve positive impact larger than a single congregation could do on its own.

- The NEVC again hosted a successful discipleship workshop in collaboration with Luther Seminary. The April 2023 event featured Rev. Dwight Zscheile, Ph.D., on the topic of “Leading Faithful Innovation,” attended by 93 persons from across the consortium. An outcome for New Journey was the Christian Education Team’s hosting of a first, successful “Pub Theology” event in October.
- The major collaborative event for 2023 was the Lenten “Clear the Lines” fundraiser for Casa de la Misericordia y la Todas des Naciones in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. The five congregations raised \$7,810 for food, diapers, hygiene products, and utilities and provided 1936 pounds of food for the asylum shelter that houses approximately 120 persons, largely women and children.

NORTHEAST VALLEY CONSORTIUM REPORT

- The five congregations again collaborated in September on a God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday project, this year preparing "celebration bags" for Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest's programs: aging and disability services, child and family services, emergency services, and immigration and refugee services. 215 bags and \$180 in gift cards were joyfully received by LSS-SW for their clients.
- In October, NEVC members prepared two Grand Canyon Synod project grant proposals, one to support an April 2024 consortial workshop and one to fund an expanded heat respite lunch pack program, based on New Journey's successful model. We were able to withdraw the latter, given excellent news that the Ascension Lutheran Church Council voted on October 29 to fund the first-year of the expansion project (\$12,400 for 2600 lunches plus pallets of water and bulk electrolyte powder) to provide heat respite support to Grace Lutheran in Phoenix from June through September 2024.
- In November, the consortium adopted its first covenant document, providing an outline of governing structure, decision-making processes, and membership roles. We then moved ahead with discernment regarding future goals for the consortium. The churches are becoming more forthcoming about communicating about and opening events to consortial members, e.g., Food for Kidz (NJLC), VBS Book Drive (LWLC), Oktoberfest (ALC), Living Music Piano Concert (CTL), Blue Christmas (CTL), Healing Service (CTL/LWL). In addition to "pulpit exchanges" by pastors, we look forward to more members of our congregations getting to know one another through participation in projects and events as well as visits to worship services.

NORTHEAST VALLEY CONSORTIUM REPORT

Share a story about an impact or an outcome your ministry team, area, or group has made in the last year:

"This past May I had the opportunity to visit Casa de la Misericordia y de Todas las Naciones in Nogales, Mexico. This is a long-term migrant shelter, led by Sister Lika. It can hold about 120 people, where they are safe and cared for as they await legal entry into the U.S.

I drove down with Lou Hutchinson in his truck filled with food, clothing and other items, for the asylum families, collected by the churches in the Northeast Valley Consortium.

We met Rev. Adele and Larry in Tucson along with Pastor Matteo and Annette Chavez of San Juan Baptiste Lutheran Church in Tucson. Pastor Matteo rode with us and helped navigate the narrow and winding streets through Nogales, until we reached a hilltop where the Casa overlooks the city.

The walls and buildings are painted bright colors which makes it very welcoming to tired and weary asylum seekers. There are motel-like rooms for families, a very large basketball court and playground, and on a lower level, among shady trees, an outdoor baking oven and gathering area. There is also a large dining room and kitchen and space for meetings and worship. Each family shares weekly responsibilities for cooking, cleaning and childcare.

The Casa provides schooling for the children, medical care and legal assistance to help the families move through all the documents needed for entry into the U.S. Through all of this Sister Lika touches their lives with love and grace. Blessings abound in such a friendly, positive and loving place.

What a wonderful and rewarding experience to see 'Human Kindness Overflowing'." - Gratefully, Jane Stoss

NORTHEAST VALLEY CONSORTIUM REPORT



Soli Deo Gloria
"Glory to God Alone"