



UNITED

THE BODY OF CHRIST

— 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12 —

United Free Lutheran 2022 Annual Meeting

November 20, 2022

2022 Pastor Annual Report

From the By-Laws. II.2.b: The report of the Pastor concerning the spiritual conditions of the congregation, ministerial acts performed, and recommendations by the Board of Deacons.

Spiritual Conditions of the Congregation:

It seems COVID may have made it more acceptable to avoid gathering with brothers and sisters around God's Word, but we must recognize the "communion of saints" as we confess in the Apostle's Creed. The "communion of saints" isn't the Lord's Supper, but rather the recognition that we are a community united by the Holy Spirit in one Body (Ephesians 4). Therefore, I and the deacons will continue to encourage those who can make it to church to come, to receive the Word with their brothers and sisters, both to be encouraged and held accountable.

- Reached out to 21 families whom we hadn't seen in a while, telling them we miss them, and inviting them back.

Highlights:

- Art of Parenting Series: 6 couples attended 3+ sessions of the 8 total sessions

Membership: Transfers out/peaceful release: 5 family units

Ministerial Acts Performed:

Baptisms

- Bentley Ray Gerald Berg, March 6
- Amos David Niemela, March 13
- Irene Anna Green, April 2
- Hudson Lee Waage, June 12
- Soren Mikkel Anderson, September 24

Funerals/Memorial Services (Burial, if I did it)

- Albin Green, January 6 (January 6)
- Delores Wiskow, February 1
- Anice Marcine Brown, July 23

Confirmations (May 1):

- Andrew Glad
- Kayle Vacura

Recommendations from Board of Deacons:

Wedding booklet for those seeking to be married at United has been updated, and now is on the website. We recommend that you take a look at it.

In Christ,
Pastor David Niemela

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2021

Matt led us in scripture and prayer as Pastor David was home sick with COVID.

Brian read Pastor David's pastoral report. Brian called on Murray to give the 2020 annual meeting minutes. Motion was made by Steve Sovde to accept 2020 minutes. Gene seconded; motion carried.

Donnie gave his treasurer's report. Doug made a motion to accept treasurers report, Randy seconded; motion carried.

Angie gave her WMF report.

Joni gave her Christian Ed report.

Lynn gave her Kids' Club report.

Shania gave her music committee report and youth group report.

Jenny gave her Thanksgiving Dinner report.

Matt gave his cemetery report.

Brian thanked everyone for their reports. Sharon thanked all those who mowed cemeteries.

There was no old business or new business.

Brian called on Steve for election of officers.

Chuck strand was elected as a council member at large. Brandon Waage was elected for a deacon's position.

Motion was made by Mike Kirkeide to accept election of officers. Jamie Sikorski seconded; motion carried.

Brian thanked all those that served the church.

Lyle Mattson made a motion to adjourn. Steve seconded; motion carried.

Murray Jacobson

Secretary

United Free Lutheran Annual Treasurer's Report

Year Ending 10/31/22

Income:

Balance	11/1/2021	\$14,485.78
Regular Offering		\$113,339.31
Trans. from Cemetery Fund (Mowing)		\$400.00
Trans. from Cemetery Fund (Flag Poles & Cemetery Boxes)		\$3,668.74
Memorial (General Fund)		\$1,380.00
Received for Flag Poles		\$1,670.00
Received from Thrivent		\$817.00
Special Offering – AFLC (General Fund)		\$8,100.00
– AFLC (World Missions – Xmas Offering-Brazil)		\$1,528.20
– Ukraine		\$2,925.00
– Greenbush Foodshelf & Backpack		\$694.00
– Military Biblesticks		\$665.00
– Galilee Bible Camp (\$500 – WMF)		\$1,865.00
<i>Total Funds Available</i>		\$151,538.03

Expenses:

Salaries	\$46,710.70
City of Greenbush W/S/G	\$1,952.39
Electricity	\$4,118.91
Culligan & Softner Salt	\$474.00

Telephone	\$2,320.53
Office Supplies, Postage, Copy Machine . . .	\$3,772.22
AFLC Bulletins	\$350.27
Heat (propane – prepaid \$4,180)	\$9,976.89
Building Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,472.07
Misc. Expense & Supplies	\$1,188.88
Property Insurance	\$4,696.00
Workmen’s Compensation Insurance	\$448.00
Roseau County Treasurer, Landfill tax	\$70.00
Music & Video License	\$425.44
Meetings, Material & Books	\$1,850.27
Snow Removal	\$1,287.50
Mowing	\$600.00
Cleaning Church	\$950.00
Website	\$241.21
Speakers – Underground Church	\$200.00
Grave Markers	\$175.00
Thanksgiving Meal	\$882.42
Sound System	\$8,485.00
Cemetery Boxes	\$1,479.04
Flag Poles	\$6,933.65
NW District Bible Camp	\$630.00
Mileage	\$1,617.00
Gbsh. Food Shelf & BGMR Backpack Program	\$700.00

VBS Supplies	\$259.98
Painting Parking Lot	\$853.75
Donations – AFLC	\$8,100.00
– AFLC (World Missions- Brazil)	\$1,528.00
– FLBC	\$1,500.00
– Lutheran Ambassador	\$500.00
– Our Daily Bread	\$600.00
– Ukraine	\$2,925.00
– Military Biblesticks	\$665.00
– Galilee Bible Camp (\$500 – WMF)	\$1,865.00
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$122,804.32</i>

Ending Balance (10/31/22) ***\$28,733.71***

Cemetery Fund \$2,997.66

Memorial Fund \$1,324.80

Scholarship Fund \$510.00

Don Christianson, Treasurer

United Free Lutheran Women's Missionary Federation

2022 Annual Report

Greetings from the WMF,

In 2022, we hosted a monthly Bible study titled, "Behold Our God," with focused on Psalms 90-100. The study's introduction states, "we are overwhelmed with His mighty power as Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth. We are humbled by His holiness and His plan of Salvation. We see His faithfulness in our lives and throughout all generations. God hears the cry of our hearts. He draws us to Himself and His presence changes us. It is the Almighty God who lovingly commands us to praise Him for our good and His glory."

We enjoyed the fellowship and Bible study this year. We had attendance of between 6-10 ladies, and encourage others to attend or to set up another Bible study time.

The WMF served in many capacities in 2022:

- Served the NW District Bible Conference in February,
- Provided potlucks,
- Donated quilts to many people, charities, and the Alaska Mission,
- Hosted the summer District WMF retreat at Galilee Bible Camp, (what a blessing those speakers are to us),
- Invited area women to our Ladies Christmas Party
- Cleaned the boys dorm at Galilee Bible Camp and helped cook one day during Bible Camp,
- Served lunch for funerals, VBS, and helped with the Thanksgiving Dinner.

Donations were given to various charities, such as the Northwest Region Pregnancy Center, NW Community Action for Reach out for Warmth, Kids' Club, and the monthly projects of the National WMF such as World Missions, Home Missions, General Fund, Christian Education, also Food Backpack program for school kids, and other areas. The WMF also purchases boxes of

cards for sympathy, birthday, and other. These are in the back of the overflow area and are for sale.

Elections were held for the 2023 year, and the officers are: Angie Truscinski, President, Arlene Jenson, Vice President, Sharon Christianson, Secretary, Paulette Nelson, Treasurer and Anna Mattson, Mission Secretary.

The Bible Study for 2023 is “The Women of Redemption,” written by Tami Demo and Michele Mobley. This study looks at the lives of various women from the Old Testament.

WMF meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 6:45 p.m. All ladies are welcome to participate in the Bible Study, which is followed by a short business meeting.

Angie Truscinski, President

United Free WMF Treasurer's Report 2021

Oct. 31, 2021

Beginning Balance November 1, 2021 \$3,932.58

Income:

WMF Dinners and Lunches \$2,966.00

Cards/Napkins \$73.00

Bible Study Books \$156.00

WMF Christmas Party \$293.00

Funerals \$1,650.00

Misc. Donations \$590.00

Quilts \$735.00

Memorials \$60.00

Donation to Scholarship Fund \$50.00

Total Income: ***\$10,505.58***

Expenses:

WMF to AFLC \$3,160.00

Supplies \$494.92

Border Bank (Scholarship Fund) \$1,350.00

North Region Pregnancy Care Center \$500.00

Lutheran Ambassador \$400.00

USPS (postage) \$145.50

NWCA (reach out for warmth) \$500.00

Country Market & Other Groceries \$271.13

Greenbush Food Shelf	\$293.00
District WMF	\$250.00
Galilee Bible Camp	\$1,000.00
Sharon Christianson (Quilt Batting)	\$114.61
Border Bank (Deposit Slips & Check Blanks)	\$100.70
Treasures Abounding (cards/napkins)	\$131.25

Total Expenses: **\$8,711.11**

Ending Balance: **\$1,794.47**

Scholarship Fund: \$3,423.39

Paulette Nelson, Treasurer

United Free Lutheran Christian Education Committee

Annual Report 2021-2022

Sunday School Sep-2021-May-2022

- We started with the 10 Commandments, and this was our first time using the revised version from Ambassador Publications.
- When Sunday School started in the fall of 2021, we gave the kids options about where they wanted the Sunday School offering to go. The kids chose The Miriam Home. With the offering from Sunday School and the special offering collected during the Christmas Program last year. the kids raised \$1528 that was sent to the Miriam Home.
- After our Christmas Program last year, Sunday School took a break and resumed on January 16th, 2022.
- Our last day of Sunday School for the year was May 9th, 2021.

VBS 2022

- We normally get a Team to come in and help us with VBS, this year there was more churches that wanted a team, and fewer teams, unfortunately we did not get a team.
- With some creative thinking we adjusted our normal VBD schedule of Sunday through Thursday to Friday through Sunday.
- In some ways we did miss having the Team, but in other ways this allowed a lot of us to really connect more with the kids.
- The attendance was 30-40 kids each day.
- We were blessed that we had people volunteer to fill in the gaps where we needed help.
- Friday night the kids began working on a project for their craft, and by Saturday they each had a painted coffee mug to bring and leave as a gift for a resident at the nursing home. We also sang our VBS songs for the residents.
- VBS ended Sunday morning with a program during the regular church service and the kids did a great job.

Sunday School Sep-2022-Present

- Sunday School started on September 9th, 2022, and we are continuing to work on the 10 Commandments.
- Pastor David has been attending some Sundays and has been teaching us all actions that go along with each commandment to help us remember the 10 commandments.
- We will have our Christmas program on December 12th, 2022, during the regular Church Service.

Sunday School Expenses:

- Our yearly expenses include the following:
 - Sunday School
 - Treat bags for the kids at Christmas
 - VBS
 - Decorations
 - Crafts
 - Snacks

Respectfully,

United Free Education

2022 Kids' Club Annual Report

Last spring, Kids Club ran nine weeks during the months of February and March. We followed along with the Sunday School and did a variety of Bible stories that went with the 10 Commandments. The students memorized Psalm 23, worked on the books of the New Testament, and songs that were scripture. The schedule each week includes games, snacks, Bible lessons, crafts/activities and music/memory.

Our fall program started the first of October for a 7-week session. The lessons this fall are from the New Testament starting with the birth of John the Baptist and now studying the life of Jesus. The schedule replicates the previous year's, and 31 students are registered. Kids' Club was opened up to anyone in the community, and flyers were sent home with all the elementary kids in Greenbush/Middle River. Seven new families have started attending — most of whom do not have a church family. We are praising God for the opportunity to get the Word of God into the hearts and homes of as many kids as He allows. We are thankful anytime we can share His Word with these kiddos and pray they continue to develop a relationship with Him as they grow older. Most days conclude with the song “Read Your Bible and Pray Everyday,” and then it says you'll grow, grow, grow. This is our wish for these kids as well as everyone in our church...that we daily spend time with the Lord and grow in grace and truth.

Serving in Christ,

Kids' Club Volunteers

Mission Statement: Our hearts' desire and prayer for Kids Club is that each child may be saved (Romans 10:1) and that they hide God's Word in their hearts (Psalm 119:11).

2022 Youth Ministry Report

The youth ministry at United became rather fluid this past year due to various circumstances. Last fall, the youth group was split into guys' and girls' studies in hopes of encouraging more openness and deeper study between the genders. The young men met with Cole Hamre, a community member who attends our church's men's group. Based on the comments received from Hamre and these youth, it sounds like the guys' study did achieve what was hoped for by the youth team.

The girls' study, led by Shania Waage and Jennifer Niemela, had one student. She stopped attending after Christmas, because she was not comfortable being the only student. Sharla Kilen willingly went "on call" when Jennifer stepped back for maternity needs, in case any other girls decided to start attending. None did.

In the spring, two of the youth men graduated. In effect, the remaining consistent youth chose to attend another AFLC youth group in not wanting to be the only student at United. Therefore, we do not have a youth group this year.

This, however, does not mean United is without a youth *ministry*. There are a few youths interested in attending the 2023 FLY Convention, so fundraising continues to help ensure those students get there.

The annual Underground Church event in October featured two men from a persecuted country, one sharing his testimony and the other serving as translator. Close to 100 area youth attended, as well as a few community members. We also had two youth attend FLY Beyond at the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, WI, this summer.

Looking ahead, our hope is to take a critical, prayerful analysis of our youth ministry and determine where we need to redirect the focus. Our concern is not in the idea that these youth are our future; it's for the salvation of their souls. There is a lot of really attractive deception that surrounds us. Are we discipling our youth with God's Truth? Are we equipping families for discipleship within the home? These are some of the questions to be answered.

Please pray with us that God's Spirit would lead, and that those who should respond would rise up to the call.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Niemela

Youth Team

2022 Community Thanksgiving Report

The 2021 Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner consisted of around 350 meals served through dine-in, pick-up, and delivery. Volunteers were largely made up of United's congregation members, along with a few area community members.

Deliveries: 70 meals; 34 households

Dine-in (reservation only): 30 meals

Pickup: ~ 250 meals

This meal received several thanks from recipients; some of which were tearful. It is through God alone that we are able to share His love in this way, for He provides all we have to give: food, supplies, time, and servers.

Our prayer is that our loving Father will prompt the right recipients to accept the invitation for the 2022 meal. Those planning the meal are preparing for 400 meals, since little food was leftover last year and some had to make emergency runs during serving time. We are also looking to improve our delivery meal system, including readiness and containers used.

This year's upcoming meal is available for pick-up, delivery, and dine-in is open to all without reservation. Orders can be placed ahead of time through the church website or by phone, though we have seen that many chose to simply show up — which we welcome!

Thank you in advance to those who have already signed-up to help share the love of Christ in this way with those who may have otherwise felt alone or forgotten. To God be the glory.

~ Jennifer Niemela, Thanksgiving Team

2022 United Free Lutheran Cemetery Committee Report

(Sexton Matthew Green, Rachel Green, Mike Kirkeide, Brandon Waage,
Heidi Witchurch)

We had a year of great improvements, to which there have been many compliments. This spring we installed flagpoles at Bethania, Old Bethania, and Pauli; and put display boxes up at all locations. Pictures below show the before and after of each cemetery. We also cleared the brush along the west line at Zion. THANK YOU to each one that helped and especially to those that help mow and upkeep our cemeteries. It doesn't go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated!

We also had three burials this year:

1. Albin Green – Pauli Cemetery
2. Glenn Iverson – Pauli Cemetery
3. Eunice Korzcak – Old Bethania Cemetery

Let me, or anyone else on the board, know if you have any ideas for improvements or would like to help.

Matthew Green, Sexton

Bethania:



Old Bethania:



Pauli:



Zion:



United Free Committee Leaders

Council Members at Large

Murray Jacobson (2022)
Brian Berg (2023)
Charles Strand (2024)

Deacons (Spiritual)

Brandon Waage (2022)
Matt Green (2023)
Lyle Mattson (2024)

Trustees

(Building, Material, etc.)

Robby Christianson (202-)
Dane Wiskow (202-)
Craig Christianson (2023)

Treasurer

Don Christianson
(indefinite)

Head Usher

Randy Dvergsten (2022)

Christian Education Committee

Trish Waage (202-)
Lynn Strand (202-)
Joni Wiskow (2023)

Music Committee

Robin Waage (2022)
Jody Kirkeide (2023)
Shania Waage (2024)

Librarian

Jennifer Niemela
(indefinite)

Memorial Fund Committee

Sharon Christianson
(indefinite)
Rachel Green
(indefinite)

Nominating Committee

Blair Berg (2022)
Steve Sovde (2022)

Auditing Committee

Roger Green (2022)
Gary Vacura (2022)