



FAITH AT WORK

JAMES 2:26

United Free Lutheran 2023 Annual Meeting

November 19, 2023

2023 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:

- **Need for Membership Class:** We have some non-member attendees, and so I will offer a new member class after the new year.
- **Visitation:** I'll be trying to visit the whole congregation to minister with prayer and Scripture. You'll be getting a call from me if you haven't already.
- **Biblical literacy and catechization:** I tested the confirmation classes at the past two confirmation years, (partway through the 2022-23 year, and at the beginning of the 2023 year). Here are the results:

Who is....	2022	2023
Adam and Eve	4/4	5/5
Moses	3/4	1/5
Abraham	0/4	0/5
David	1/4	3/5
Noah	4/4	3/5
Peter	0/4	1/5
Jesus	4/4	5/5
Paul	N/A	0/5

- **Write out the 10 Commandments:**
 - 2022: 7/10 average
 - 2023: 2/10 average

- **Write out the Apostles' Creed:**
 - 2022: 0/4; one student had 2 articles, one had one; I had the beginning phrase typed out for them: "I believe in God the Father Almighty..."
 - 2023: 0/5 (all blank). But I FORGOT to type the starting phrase for them: "I believe in God the Father Almighty..."
- **Write out the Lord's Prayer:**
 - 2022: 1/4 students wrote out the prayer (rest blank or wrong). I had starting phrase: "Our Father, who art in heaven..."
 - 2023: 1/5 students had 5/7 petitions. I forgot the beginning phrase: "Our Father who art in heaven..."
- **List the Old Testament books:**
 - 2022: N/A
 - 2023: all blank
- **List the New Testament books:**
 - 2022: N/A
 - 2023: one had 17 books
- **Membership transfer in/out:**
 - Terry & Cari Burkel transferred to Oiland, March 30
- **Ministerial Acts Performed**
 - Baptisms:
 - Annika Grace Schumann, March 18 (Rose Free Lutheran Church)
 - Funerals/Memorial Services (Burial, if I did it)
 - Victoria Ruby Waage, January 5 (June 28)
 - Gloria Jean Gustafson, March 10 (March 10)
 - Merton Harris Kirkeide, August 5 (August 5)
 - Stanley R. Melby, service by pastor Todd Erickson on October 17 (burial TBD)
 - Confirmations (April 30)
 - Maelee Christianson
 - Kylie Jo Snare
 - Sarah Pulk
 - Austin Przekwas
- **Deacons Recommendations**
 - **Baptismal vows:**
 - All members, whether parents or sponsors, will receive vows at a child's baptism. Non-member parents and sponsors we leave to pastor discretion.
 - **Youth Ministry:**
 - Raise Question: How can we regularly minister to post-confirmation youth?

NOVEMBER 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

November 20, 2022

President Brian Berg called the meeting to order. Pastor David opened with scripture and prayer. Brian read the Secretary's Report. Steve made a motion to accept the Minutes, Mike seconded the motion; MC. Pastor David gave his Pastoral Report. There was some discussion regarding Baptism. Donnie gave the Treasurer's Report. Craig made a motion to accept the Report, Mike seconded it; MC.

Angie gave the WMF Report

Joni gave the Christian Ed Report

Lynn gave the Kids Club Report

Jenny gave Youth Ministry Report

Jenny also gave the Thanksgiving Meal Report

Matt gave the Cemetary Report

Jody gave the Music Committee Report

Brian thanked all the People for their reports.

Old Business:

- Rachel & others commented on the Baptism discussion.
- Lynn brought up about a TV in the new Nursery.

New Business:

- We had election of officers. Trish made a motion to cease nominations, Roger seconded; MC.
- Lyle made a motion to take donations for the Aaron Schneider Family. Donnie seconded; MC.
- Pastor thanked everyone for the Congregation discussion.
- Donnie thanked people for the cemetery improvements.
- Discussion regarding church members.
- Steve made a motion to accept the Election results. Brian Waage seconded it; MC.
- Discussion was held about signs for our church location.
- Donnie asked if there would be anyone able to help with meals on wheels.
- Matt mentioned about the Church's 50 Anniversary this summer.
- Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lyle seconded the motion; MC. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Doug Green, acting Secretary

**United Free Lutheran
Annual Treasurer's Report
Year ending 10/31/23**

Income:

Balance	11/1/2022	\$ 28,733.71
Regular Offering		\$ 103,081.47
Trans. From Scholarship Fund		\$ 9,000.00
Received from WMF - Cleaning Carpet		\$ 500.00
- Cookbooks		\$ 3,000.00
Memorial(General Fund)		\$ 120.00
Received For Flag Poles		\$ 835.00
Received from Thrivent		\$ 1,597.00
Special Offering - AFLC(General Fund)		\$ 5,070.00
-North Region Pregnancy Care Center		\$ 2,037.00
-Special Meetings		\$ 925.00
-Greenbush Foodshelf & Backpack		\$ 1,500.00
-Military Biblesticks		\$ 665.00
-David Stanelle		\$ 485.00
-Jaci Schneider		\$ 1,230.00
- Galilee Bible Camp(\$500-WMF)		\$ 1,955.00
Total Funds Available		\$ 160,734.18

Expenses:

Salaries	\$ 48,193.44
City of Greenbush W/S/G	\$ 1,991.88
Electricity	\$ 5,534.86
Culligan & Softner Salt	\$ 644.00
Telephone	\$ 1,956.67
Office Supplies, Postage, Copy machine.....	\$ 3,596.46
AFLC Bulletins	\$ 413.37
Heat (Propane-Prepaid \$3180)	\$ 3,945.02
Building repairs & maintenance	\$ 2,228.65
Misc. Expense & Supplies	\$ 2,072.18
Property insurance	\$ 5,324.00
Workmen's Compensation Insurance.....	\$ 443.00
Roseau County Treasurer, Landfill tax	\$ 70.00
Music & Video License	\$ 1,032.50
Meetings, material & books	\$ 1,096.14
Snow Removal	\$ 1,472.50
Mowing	\$ 250.00
Cleaning Church.....	\$ 1,400.00
Website	\$ 1,099.61
Speakers	\$ 1,550.00
Chime Choir	\$ 673.55
Thanksgiving Meal	\$ 1,318.36
Tech System Upgrade	\$ 7,634.67
Fire Proof Vault	\$ 484.00
NW District Bible Camp	\$ 1,365.00
Mileage	\$ 1,040.00
Gbsh. Food Shelf & BGMR Backpack Program	\$ 750.00
VBS Supplies	\$ 1,620.33
Payroll Taxes	\$ 459.00
AFLC(Scholarships)	\$ 9,000.00
Cookbooks	\$ 12,205.92
Donations - AFLC	\$ 5,170.00
-North Region Preg.Care Center	\$ 2,787.00
-Ambassador Publications	\$ 1,060.00
-The Gideons	\$ 200.00
-Our Daily Bread	\$ 500.00
-Our Saviours(TRF)	\$ 500.00
-Galilee Bible Camp(\$500-WMF)	\$ 3,455.00
-David Stanelle	\$ 485.00
-Jaci Schneider	\$ 1,230.00
-Military Biblesticks	\$ 665.00
Total Expenses	\$ 136,917.11
Ending Balance (10/31/23)	\$ 23,817.07

Cemetery fund	\$5,575.15
Memorial fund	\$1,332.34
Scholarship Fund	\$510.00

Don Christianson, Treasurer

2023 WMF Annual Meeting Report

Greetings from the WMF.

In 2023 we hosted a monthly Bible Study on the Women of Redemption. We learned that God's perfect plan does not depend on our perfect obedience but on HIM. We looked at the Old Testament Women who lived imperfect lives and yet God's plans still prevailed.

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 other Bible study time.

The WMF served in many capacities in 2023. Potlucks continued in 2023, donated quilts to many people, charities and the Alaska Mission. Invited area women to our Ladies Christmas Party. We 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. Held 2 blood drives. Donations were given to various charities, such as the Northwest Region Pregnancy Center, NW Community Action for Reach out for Warmth, Kids Club, Bible Camp kitchen, Monthly project of the National WMF such as World Missions, Home Missions, General Fund, Christian Education, and other areas. The WMF has a scholarship fund set up for any of our congregation that goes to the Association Bible College and 2 of the young men attending received a scholarship. 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.

The WMF were involved in the 50th Anniversary Cookbook by gathering recipes and helping to type them up. We appreciate everyone's help in selling the cookbooks.

The officers for WMF in 2023 were: Angie Truscinski, President, Arlene Jenson VP, Sharon Christianson, Secretary, Paulette Nelson, Treasurer and Anna Mattson, Mission Secretary.

WMF meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:45pm. All ladies are welcome to attend and participate in the Bible Study and a followed by a short business meeting.

Angie Truscinski

President United Free WMF

United Free WMF

October 31, 2023

Balance November 1, 2022 \$1,794.47

Income:

WMF Dinners \$3,533.00

WMF Lunches \$ 642.00

Cards/Napkins \$ 53.00

Bible Study Books \$ 169.00

WMF Christmas Party \$ 443.00

Funerals \$1,517.00

Misc. Donations \$ 812.00

Quilts \$ 510.00

Scholarship Fund \$2,000.00

Cookbooks Sold \$3,485.00

Total Income \$14,958.47

Expenses:

WMF to AFLC \$3,000.00

Bible Study Books \$ 325.00

Supplies \$ 141.21

Border Bank (Scholarship Fund) \$2,600.00

Galilee Bible Camp (Kitchen Cupboards) \$ 500.00

United Free Church (Cookbooks) \$3,000.00

USPS (Postage) \$ 207.40

Greenbush Food Shelf \$ 443.00

NWCA (Reach Out for Warmth) \$ 500.00

United Free Church (Carpet Cleaning) \$ 500.00

District WMF (Offering) \$ 50.00

Treasures Abounding (Cards/Napkins) \$ 86.25

Corrine Mattson (10 Books) \$ 80.00

Border Bank (Check Blanks)	\$ 16.00
Total Expenses	\$11,448.86
Ending Balance October 31, 2023	\$ 3,509.61

Scholarship Fund \$2027.25

Paulette Nelson

Treasurer

United Free Lutheran Christian Education Committee

Sunday School & Vacation Bible School Annual Report 2022-2023

Sunday School Sep-2022-May-2023

- The Sunday School year started September 16th, 2022.
- We resumed our lessons on the Ten Commandments.
- After the Christmas Program on December 11th, 2022, Sunday School took a break and resumed on January 22nd, 2022.
- We finished the Ten Commandments and just started on the Apostles' Creed before ending Sunday School May 7th, 2023.

Vacation Bible School 2023

- We tried to get a Team, unfortunately we were not able to get one.
- VBS ran from Sunday, June 4th – Wednesday, June 7th.
- Our theme was *Twists & Turns* and it was fun to see the kids learn about Jesus through games. "Following Jesus Changes the Game". Our Theme verse was, "Make Your Ways Known to Me, Lord; Teach Me Your Paths." Psalm 25:4
- Our attendance for each day was 40-50+ kids and it was great to see kids from the community and other local churches in attendance.
- We were (again) blessed with volunteers to step up and help where needed.
- VBS ended Wednesday night with a program where the kids were able to show what they had learned through lessons and through songs.

Sunday School Sep-2023 to Present

- Sunday school resumed September 17th, 2023.
- This year will be lessons on the Apostles' Creed.
- We have an older group of kids than we have previously had, so we are trying to work more in learning the Books of the Bible and where to find them.
- We will have the Christmas Program December 10th, 2023, at 10am during the 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 Christian Education, Sunday School & Vacation Bible School

Kids Club Report 2023

The Kids Club started in 2023 on February 1 and ran through April 12. We had a program and light supper the last night. There were a total of 31 kids with about 12 being nonmembers. We studied the New Testament and the life of Jesus and his disciples. We memorized a total of nine verses - some with actions and some with music. We run kids club with different stations: music, lesson, games, snack, and craft.

This fall kids club started on October 4 and will run six weeks through November 8. Again we have a total of 31 kids registered with about 9 from other churches or unchurched families. We are studying the book of Acts with Answers in Genesis curriculum. We are encouraging kids/families to read through the book of Acts and memorize verses. We started an award system this fall and kids can earn points from: coming, bringing their Bibles (some didn't have/own a Bible so we have given out a number of Bibles to these families), reading Acts (or listening to it through the Bible.is app) and memorizing scripture verses. We eliminated craft time so we could use our resources to buy prizes for those who choose to earn points. We keep changing things in Kids Club to meet the needs of the kids and/or encourage them. There is a lot in the world that distracts or takes time away from the Lord. We need to help our kids find that balance and always put God first.

We are thankful for each child the Lord gives us and we earnestly pray that they will "be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" I Timothy 2:4. We want them to walk with Christ their whole life through.

Thankful for the opportunity to teach kids about Jesus, the Kids Club team,

Shania Waage
Madeline Waage
Kim Christianson
David Niemela
Lynn Strand

2023 Community Thanksgiving Report

The 2022 Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner consisted of around 370 meals served through dine-in, pick-up, and delivery (including workers' meals). Volunteers were largely made up of United's congregation members, along with a few area community members.

Deliveries: 72 meals; 26 households

Open Dine-in: 44 meals

Pickup: ~ 250 meals

This meal received several thanks from recipients, including some handwritten cards. 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.

Please be in prayer that our loving Father will prompt the right recipients to accept the invitation for the 2023 dinner. Those planning the dinner are preparing for 400 meals, which has been consistent with the numbers served the four previous years we have done this. One change this year is that no meat preferences will be taken to help keep operations simple and more efficient.

This year's upcoming meal is available for pick-up, delivery, and open dine-in. Orders can be placed ahead of time through the church website or by phone, and walk-ups are welcomed.

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, 2022 Thanksgiving Team

2023 United Free Lutheran Cemetery Committee Report

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

It was a relatively quiet year for the cemeteries, which isn't a bad thing. There were no major improvements and mowing was a little lighter this summer due to the drought, but the cemeteries were well cared for and looked beautiful. The work that those individuals do is so critical in keeping them up and unfortunately, we often take them for granted. I know I've heard compliments on the care of the cemeteries and have passed them on to the appropriate individuals, and so please, thank them when you think of it or have the chance.

We had five burials this year:

1. Carlyle Pederson – Pauli Cemetery
2. Victoria Waage – Zion Cemetery
3. Richard Hermanson – Pauli Cemetery
4. JoLayne Bjerk – Pauli Cemetery
5. Merton Kirkeide – Pauli Cemetery

Given there are some funds available now in the account, we're looking forward to our next improvements. There have been a couple ideas as to what we'd like to do, but if you have any ideas, please reach out to any one of us. Also, if anyone is ever wanting to help with mowing or maintenance, come talk to me. In closing, it's never too early to do pre-planning in reserving plots, funeral planning, etc. Let me know if you're in need of help or if there's any way we could assist you. Not saying you have to take action, but please have some of these discussions with your spouse and/or family.

Matthew Green, Sexton

United Free Committee Leaders

Council Members at Large

Brian Berg (2023)
Charles Strand (2024)
Doug Green (2025)

Deacons (Spiritual)

Matt Green (2023)
Lyle Mattson (2024)
Brandon Waage (2025)

Trustees

(Building, Material, etc.)
Craig Christianson (2023)
Dane Wiskow (2024)
Andy Pulk (2025)

Treasurer

Don Christianson
(replaced by Angie
Truscinski Nov. 1, 2023)

Head Usher

Randy Dvergsten (2023)

Christian Education Committee

Joni Wiskow (2023)
Trish Waage (2024)
Lynn Strand (2025)

Music Committee

Jody Kirkeide (2023)
Shania Waage (2024)
Kim Christianson (2025)

Librarian

Jennifer Niemela
(indefinite)

Memorial Fund Committee

Sharon Christianson
(indefinite)
Rachel Green
(indefinite)

Nominating Committee

Blair Berg (2023)
Mike Kirkeide (2023)

Auditing Committee

Roger Green (2023)
Gary Vacura (2023)