



Our Redeemer

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

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Ministry Summary 2023



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Much has been accomplished in 2023 regarding on-going programming and in preparing for the future. Our task force on governance has put together a new constitution and by-laws that enshrine the congregation's goals: worship, youth, outreach, fellowship, discipleship. Elections were held to form our new Board of Directors with 7 members. These folks in governance will monitor our work toward fulfilling our goals and look to ways we can work toward the future God is leading us.

Our ministry action team leaders also total 7. These folks work in operation areas such as Music, Member Care, Worship, Administration, Discipleship, Fellowship and Outreach. It is our hope that by making tasks simpler that we can more easily find volunteers to help. Your Church staff continue to work hard to provide the support necessary for programs, events, and ministry. As we look forward, 2024 will most likely be a year full of transitions. Not only will we be moving into new governance and operational models, but we will need to adapt our ministries to the changing landscape of the neighborhoods in which we dwell. Let us not fear this time in which we live, but rather may we even more vigorously make known the good news of Jesus Christ.

Another step of faith was the calling of Director of Church Ministries, Becka Prestwich. I am so grateful for her zeal for youth and passion for the mission of the Church. Our membership is growing again, worship attendance has increased, and we had 13 baptisms this year compared to 8 in 2022. All of these are significant growth areas and are ways we see God at work among us.

I know that I am very excited about the possibilities for ministry that 2024 can bring. Dedication of the Blessing Box along side the upper parking lot will one way we can help support those who are hungry or thirsty. This Fall, Barbara Tuthill, Becka Prestwich, Delores and I attended the President's Equip Conference. The topic of the conference was "being a along-sider". How we are brought to be around so many different people during our days and how we can include God in these interactions. Think about ways you might do this in your life?

This past December, we had a Christmas Concert directed by Justin Hornsby. It was well attended but also had a number of visitors from our immediate community. As you read through the various reports, you can see that we have been mightily blessed with the people who serve the Lord and His Church in reaching out, connecting, and caring for others.

Many plans are coming together. But, in order to fully grasp onto all that the Lord has given for us to do, we need the help of everyone. If you can pray, pray. If you can serve, serve. God has certainly done mighty things for each of us. May we, be moved to serve along side our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. – Pastor Schwartz

CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Welton Chase, Jr.

Post COVID 19, this past year was marked by challenges, changes in our governance/staff, and a continued recovery from the pandemic that pulled many members away from the church.

While some of the challenges associated with the pandemic and evolving social norms made it hard to fellowship in person, WEBEX, FACEBOOK, UTUBE and other social medial platforms continued to augment our growing in person worship services. Each of these platforms along with a growing in person presence late in 2023 are enabling us to proclaim God's Word and share the scriptures to our fellow believers, those across our community and around the world. As we move into 2024, we hope to see more in person and "on-line" attendance. Our outreach to the community included some new ways to proclaim God's word through food (Shepard's Box) and displays (new church sign and manager scene) while continuing our existing past programs (as recorded throughout the following board reports).

In 2023 the Church Council took on the hard issues of governance, staffing and budgets to ensure we have the right oversight, staff and spending to support our church. Through the help of a governance task force and many iterations on how things will work, the council agreed to move ahead with a "board of directors" recommendation to the full church for a vote in November. The congregation granted approval and after many decades of "a church council" we will move to a new form of governance in 2024 with a strategic board of directors overseeing an operational governance structure led by the Pastor. During 2023, the Council also formed a committee and moved to the congregation a recommendation to bring on a new Director of Christian Ministry (DCM) to replace our departed Director of Christian Education (DCE). The congregation approved this recommendation, and we look forward to seeing our new DCM help us spread the word of God. Finally, we formulated and moved the ministry spending plan (MSP) budget to the church congregation. The MSP was approved and will ensure we remain solvent. These defining issues, governance, staffing and budget will help set conditions for our church to continue to spread God's word.

Throughout 2023, the church council, volunteers and our members continued to proclaim God's word, through prayer, programs, and service. Our in person and online attendance numbers continue to grow and we look forward to a new form of governance that will get more people involved, help the Pastor coordinate events, and get the Word of God out to those who are lost and need to hear the good news. I want to thank all of those who served on the Church Council for their faithful service to God, our members and one another. We are truly blessed -

To God be the Glory!

Blessings,

Welton Chase, Jr.

President, ORLC Church Council

DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MINISTRIES (DCM) – Becka Prestwich

Since my installation at the end of July, I have worked side by side with the boards of Education, Youth, and Outreach for various events and programs.

Sunday School attendance has been strong, and our teachers have done a wonderful job, starting at our joint Rally Day and Shoebox Servant Event. Our Pre-K-5th graders have learned about the events in Genesis and part of Exodus, and our Confirmation Students have discussed many of the Bible's leaders and kings, as well as the character of God. We had a wonderful Christmas Program, which could not have been accomplished without the help of our amazing teachers and several fantastic volunteers coordinating, sorting costumes, and making props.

Together with the Board of Outreach, we hosted our 2023 Trunk or Treat—and thanks to the help of many volunteers—we were able to welcome, feed, and encourage so many folks in our community and congregation alike.

Our high school youth group looked at themes of God's patience in relationship with us in the stories of Martha and Peter. Our middle school youth group studied Scripture being one, continuous story that points us to Jesus in the form of Messianic Psalms. Both groups served their community for a service project at the Augusta Rescue Mission and caroling at Brookdale Senior Living. We got to work together in teams during our escape room outing, during which both our high school and middle teams were successful.

I look forward next year, the first full calendar year of ministry for me here, and to more faithful service to God's people and His kingdom with all of you as we all continue to root ourselves in the love of Christ (Eph. 3:17-18) and be salt and light (Matt. 5:13-14) to our community.

Thank you all for a wonderful welcome to Our Redeemer!



MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Justin Hornsby

2023 has been a great year for the music ministry at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

At the end of 2022, I set a goal that both service choir and bell choir would provide more anthems throughout the year. The Choir sang every other Sunday (sometimes three in a row and sometimes for both services!) and Bell choir rang once a month. It was nice to have the ensembles back in full swing.

We are steadily growing in membership. Thank you to all who have joined this past year and those who continue to use their musical gifts in the ensemble, your dedication is very appreciated!

Special services in 2023 featured various types of music ensembles such as trumpets for Easter and Pentecost, brass quintet for Reformation, and string quartet for Christmas Eve.

In October, preparations began for ORLC's Christmas Concert on December 13, 2023. Overall, I would say the concert was a success. There was a ton of music and variety on the program. The program lasted about an hour and 30 minutes. I plan to aim for just a solid hour if we get a chance to do it again in 2024!

Thank you everyone for making worship and music for worship meaningful for all at ORLC. Your gifts, time, and talent are truly a blessing.



TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REPORT – Karen Leibl

- **Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/orlcaugusta>)** – 4,754
 - Total of 522 “Likes”
- **Instagram Page (@ORLCAugusta)** – 119
 - Total of 134 “Followers”
- **Website (www.orlcaugusta.com)** – 4,585 people viewed the profile (Aug – Dec 2023)
 - Google Search – Mobile: 2,968 (65%)
 - Google Search – Desktop: 982 (21%)
 - Google Maps – Mobile: 490 (11%)
 - Google Maps – Desktop: 145 (3%)
- **YouTube Page (<https://www.youtube.com/ORLCAugusta>)**
 - 9,750 views
 - 183 subscribers (+3)
- **Twitter (<https://twitter.com/ORLCAugusta>)**
 - 19 followers (n/c)

Greetings to all!

As we reach the end of 2023 and begin 2024, I am looking back on this past year. There have been many changes to ORLC Tech! Rick Ruby has been the leading force behind many of these changes; to include the mobile tech desk he created as seen in the Fellowship Hall during Contemporary Services as well as any meetings or performances held there. He has also worked to install new cameras in both the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary and new mics in the Fellowship Hall. We also must thank Randall Zapata and his team of volunteers who ran new internet cable throughout the church buildings, ensuring that not only the staff’s computers, but also the live streaming, run as efficiently as possible, thus helping to “future-proof” our internet needs.

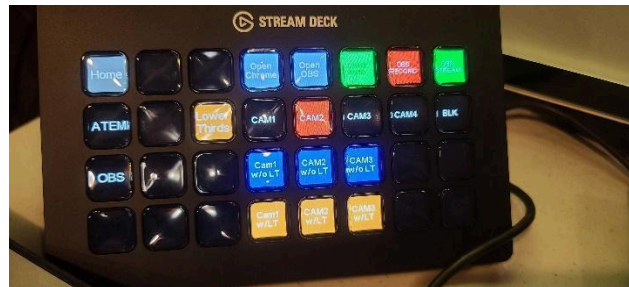
A recent purchase was new microphone stands for the Sanctuary to assist with the guest musicians for the Christmas services. These stands, however, proved to be “instrumental” (if you’ll pardon the pun) in ensuring the guest musicians and soloists for the Christmas Concert on Dec 13th were able to be heard in person and in the recording. We were very thankful that they had arrived prior to the concert because they really saved the evening!

Looking ahead, I will continue to work to make our digital footprint as large and accessible as possible. I will also be working with Rick to obtain more microphones and/or microphone accessories to replace any which are malfunctioning and also adding a drop mic to the stage in the Fellowship Hall. During the Reformation Day & Christmas program skits, it became evident that a centralized mic dropped from above the center stage area was essential. This will help when we have our littlest, more timid speakers, on stage so they can be heard.

Here's to a Blessed New Year!

Blessings to all!

Karen Leibl



SUMMARY OF 2023 COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council continued to meet monthly via WebEx. The 2022 Financial Review was conducted and submitted. A review of the Council minutes was conducted and submitted. At the January meeting the Council approved a proposal to move forward with establishing a transition team to write proposed operational SOPs for a governance model and set timelines to continue the work done by the Task Force. Security updates were approved. A fire drill was planned and held during Sunday services. Council approved the proposal to move forward with calling a Commissioned Minister. The Council discussed and approved excess 2022-year end funds. A new sign was ordered and installed using funds. Other funds were also put towards paying down the mortgage, Trustees special projects and the Call process including moving expenses. The Council approved the purchase of additional reconditioned handbells and new microphones. In September the Council approved the SOPs and timeline for a change to governance model. Also approved was the formation of a nominating committee to set the Board of Directors slate. This approved motion was brought forward to the Congregation at a special meeting. The proposed 2024 Ministry Spending Plan (MSP) was approved by the Council and presented to members at the November meeting for approval.



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH – Carmin Tardiff, (Temporary Chair)

The position of Board Chairman remained vacant for 2023. 2nd Vice President, Carmen Tardiff, acted as temporary chair. In spite of not having a designated leader, this board was very busy in 2023.

- In July of 2023, ORLC installed our new Director of Church Ministries (DCM), Becka Prestwich.
- During the August 6 Rally Day, 69 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child were filled.
- Trunk or Treat, held October 29, was a success. Many treat bags, hot dogs and candy treats were given out to members of the community. The students at A. Brian Merry Elementary were invited to attend.
- The Board handled the selecting, ordering and set-up of an outdoor manger scene.
- The plexiglass in our outdoor sign was replaced. The sign was painted, power-washed and the shrubbery was replaced. LED lighting was added.
- The electronic equipment inventory for our Digital Outreach was updated.
- A pictorial directory of our IT equipment was created by Allan Tardiff and Karen Leibl.
- A Blessing Box has been constructed and set up on the church grounds. The dedication date will be determined by Pastor Schwartz.
- The Diaper and Wipes Drive for Augusta Care Pregnancy was held in May. Lots of diapers and wipes were received in our lobby.
- The Belize Mission Trip was held in July. The Team gave their report in September. Many questions were asked by the congregation and the team was very knowledgeable. Plans are being made for next year's trip.
- The Soldier Outreach Program for Fort Eisenhower soldiers and their families is being coordinated by Jana Sandarg and Pastor Schneider.
- Becka and Jana attended the Christian Release Time Training for A. Brian Merry Elementary School.
- Becka contacted the Augusta Press, an online newspaper regarding advertising. It was decided that we would sign up for a 3-month advertisement.
- On Reformation Sunday Christmas bags for about 20 of our shut-ins were packed by members of the congregation. Christmas cards for each shut-in were signed by members.
- We have had many visitors and now we are looking at having Greeters stationed at the downstairs doors of the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carmen Tardiff

2023 BELIEZE MISSIONS REPORT – Ken Kutlik

Belize Mission Trip 2023 – ORLC sent mission teams to Belize in 2016 – 2019. In **July 2023**, our 8 team members joined 8 from a Kansas City LCMS church and traveled to Seine Bight and Georgetown, on the southeastern Belize Coast. The Belize Mission Society, an LCMS partner and our trip organizer, has been welcoming US mission teams to the Seine Bight area for almost 20 years. In the small village of Georgetown, we conducted VBS for about 100 children and fed them lunch as part of a startup, year around feeding program for 20+ school students. In the afternoons, we were in Seine Bight for activities with the children there, Bible studies and the next day's lunch preparation. In Seine Bight, BMS and LCMS have built a church and activity center. Four LCMS full time, resident missionaries are currently serving in Belize and conduct services there and other districts in Belize.

We continue to maintain caring contact with our San Jose Village friends that we made on our earlier trips, asking God to watch over, provide, and comfort all the people, according to His will. Again, prior to Christmas 2023, we sent funds to purchase smoked hams for everyone to have their traditional, or special, Belizean Christmas meal. Pastor Mike and the members would like us to come back, and this remains one option for 2024.

There are many people in Belize that need to hear of God's love and salvation. Please prayerfully consider joining our mission team and that, God willing, we will be able to return to Belize in 2024.

Ken Kutlik



QUILTER'S REPORT – Ruth Reynolds

The ORLC Quilters continue to meet on Tuesday mornings in room 309 with 12-20 women present. Besides providing support and care to each other, the Quilters keep busy making items for the community and around the world.

This year the quilters donated 314 items (215 of them were quilts) to various agencies and persons as follows:

- 🚚 119 quilts to Lutheran World Relief
- 🚚 91 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief
- 🚚 26 quilts to Cumbee Center in Aiken
 - 15 adult
 - 11 children
- 🚚 14 quilts to Safe Homes of Augusta
 - 8 ladies
 - 6 children
- 🚚 8 quilts to Family Promise of Augusta
 - 6 adult
 - 2 children
- 🚚 13 quilts to babies baptized
- 🚚 10 quilts to the Columbia County Fire Department
- 🚚 8 Prayer shawls given to the sick and/or shut-ins

Also, 25 quilts were sold.

In November, the Quilters held a Craft Fair. Tables were purchased by 16 crafters. Total proceeds were \$1802. A donation of \$1000 was sent to Family Promise of Augusta “to empower homeless and low-income families to achieve sustainable independence through community response”. Barbara Baalman won the hand-stitched quilt.

God continues to provide people to share their talents and time along with material to complete many projects. Thank you ORLC for your support of our projects.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Tracy Zielke

In 2023, we continued our effort to bring the message of Jesus to our members and to the community. Our emphasis, as in previous years, was education, outreach, and family involvement

Sunday School

In 2023, we offered in person Sunday School classes for everyone ages 3 years and up. We also sent lesson resources to parents by email for Elementary students.

Adult Bible Classes

For 2023, Men's Breakfast Bible Study met online and in person. The Wednesday morning Bible study, and the Ladies AM Bible Study On Thursdays all meet in person.

Other Ministries

In the Spring, the Board of Education and Board of Fellowship hosted a Family BBQ event. We had a devotional, a BBQ meal, and a Bible Trivia contest. This was well received. In the summer Board of Education hosted VBS. We were able to make use of previous years materials and unique baking items for crafts. In the fall, we volunteered with Trunk-or-Treat. Unfortunately, Rebecca's Garden of Hope program remains on hold because of post COVID school policies. We do continue to supply the "Little Library" book lending library near our playground. At the close of 2023, volunteers hosted a Children's Christmas Program.

Conclusions

This year we continued to meet in person for the most part. But we recognize that technology has become a part of our ministry planning. We also recognize that our youth have been an increasing part of our volunteer involvement. We are thankful that God has blessed us with the resources and involvement of volunteers to bring the message of Jesus in our educational classes and in our outreach endeavors.

BOARD OF YOUTH – Janet Niehoff

The Board of Youth limped along through the first half of 2023 while the search committee looked for a Director of Christian Education (DCE) replacement. Leslie and Joe Wright, Caleb Bowers, Chaplain Schneider and Janet and Dean Niehoff served our middle and high school youth once a month from January through June. Each group met once a month for a meal, fellowship, and bible study from 12:00 - 2:30 pm. The school year concluded with an outing to Lake Thurmond at Clarks Hill for food and fun. The groups did not meet formally in July or August, but we did have a “meet ‘n greet” with our new Director of Christian Ministries (DCM) upon her arrival in July.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and church members who helped and continue to help prepare meals for each meeting - you are the best!

During the time we were without a DCE we did see a drop in participation in the youth meetings, though we did have a main core of people who regularly participated each month. With the call of our new DCM we knew all we had to do was persevere until the end of July and we would be good - we could do this!

DCM, Becka Prestwich, came on board after graduation at the end of July. She was good to her word by jumping right in - meeting with our youth, and planning for the future. She has a heart for youth and has a lot of great ideas about how to energize young people that she is hoping to implement. She also got the Youth Board back on a monthly virtual meeting schedule to help her navigate the first few months in her new job.

While formulating the changes she wanted to make in the New Year, Becka maintained the same meeting days and times for our groups from September through December. The youth group “rally” day in September started with an outing to Mastermind Escape Games Augusta - 21 youth and adults attended. Becka headed up Trunk-or-Treat at the end of October - 8 youth ran candy and helped with the inflatables. The next day was the youth Reformation play developed by Debbie Fisher for the Sunday School hour - 6 youth participated. In November the youth went to the Augusta Rescue Mission to serve those in need. We are hoping that the rescue mission can become a regular spot that the youth can serve in our community. In December the Youth Board sent Christmas greetings to our college students which included cookies, advent devotions and gift cards and the youth groups went caroling to Brookdale Assisted Living - the largest group of carolers we’ve had in years! The Christmas cheer was greatly appreciated by the residents of Brookdale.

Becka believes that relationships are important for all youth and believes those relationships are strengthened if youth meet weekly. At the end of December, she met with parents to get their input for the best day and time for the youth to meet. She and her team even came up with the great idea to refurbish the old downstairs nursery to use as a “waiting room” for parents and siblings - a place for working, reading, or playing. She is also willing to develop carpools for parents if there is interest.

Beginning in January 2024 the middle and high school groups began to meet each Sunday night from 5:30 - 7:30 pm, except for church or school holidays. The groups will have separate bible studies that will rotate each week between a youth leader and Becka, so that all youth get her attention during the month. New for 2024 are the four family nights that have been added to the schedule from January to May. Some of the family events may include a game or movie night. Check the church website, E-Blasts, Facebook, and church calendar for any upcoming dates.

With the new governance beginning to be put into place, Becka wants to gather together a new youth ministry team. She has begun to reach out to members, so if she speaks to you, prayerfully consider her request. Or if you have a heart for young people, please reach out to Becka who will gladly put you to work!



BOARD OF ELDERS - Andrew Reynolds, Chairman Board of Elders / Dean Niehoff, Board of Elders Administrative Lead

For most of the year the position of Chair of the Board of Elders was vacant. Much appreciation goes out to Pastor Schwartz, Welton Chase and Frank Lee for providing leadership and running the monthly board meetings when there was not a chair. The situation was resolved about mid-year when it was decided to split the responsibilities of the Chair amongst three Elders. Butch Bohannon agreed to take on the role of board secretary and produce the meeting minutes. Andrew Reynolds agreed to take the role of Chairman of the Board but to delegate the majority of the administrative responsibilities to Dean Niehoff, keeping the responsibility of representing the Elders on Church Council. In addition to not having a Chairman of the Board of Elders, the board operated with three less members than our church bylaws specified as a minimum to effectively cover our care zone population.

Regardless of the shortcomings, the Board of Elders stayed busy year-round, doing our best to cover all the areas assigned. The Elders help pastor in divine service by ensuring all the individual positions are filled at the beginning of each service and that everyone knows what their roles during the service are. They also assisted with the distribution of Communion. They open and close the church before and after services, serve at baptisms of care zone members and serve at the funerals of their care zone members. Each Elder has a care zone and hopefully you have gotten to know your Elder over the year(s). Unfortunately, because of the shortage of Elders mentioned earlier there was additional strain put on the Board to keep the degree of contact we would have liked to maintain. If you feel that the degree of contact was not what you would have liked to have seen in the past year, you have an opportunity in the new year to join the Member Care Team, that is open to all members, not just to the Elders as in the past. The Elders also served their home bound members communion when asked. In July we hosted a pancake breakfast with close to 150 in attendance. A big thank you to the Elders and non-Elders who assisted in making it a successful event. The Elders also developed training modules and conducted training for both the assisting Elders and the ushers for the new Communion procedures. Robert Holland led acolyte training this year at which nearly 30 confirmands attended, so a big thank you to Robert and all the acolytes.

Once again, Our Redeemer Church has demonstrated the love of Christ through its Elder Aid Fund program. The congregation generously contributed to the fund a total of \$9,127, which was used to assist those in need of financial help. We used the fund to donate \$5,000 to charitable organizations such as the Downtown Cooperative Church Ministry (DCCM), the Garden City Rescue Mission, and the Christ Community Health Center. We also provided \$1,000 in support for relief after the Maui Wildfire. Finally, \$5,259 was used to assist those who requested financial support for things like utilities, food, rent, etc. A special thank you to George Walls for his selfless dedication to administering this task.

Before I end this letter, I would like to thank every Elder that served this past year at Our Redeemer. The time that you put into being an Elder was and is greatly appreciated. As our church moves to the new governance system starting in January, the Board of Elders will transition away and be replaced by the new teams that will be overseeing the different areas of

responsibility of the current Board of Elders. Some of the current Elders will still be involved in care zones and some will still be involved with communion assistance. If you have been an Elder before or have always wanted to help in some way, ask you to talk with pastor about the possibility of serving Our Redeemer in a care zone, communion assistant or in any way you feel you can use the gifts the Lord has given you for the benefit of His church.

I leave you with my verse that I have chosen for the past few years to try and live by. Colossians 3:12 reads Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness and Patience.

God Bless,

Andrew Reynolds, Chairman Board of Elders / Dean Niehoff, Board of Elders Administrative Lead



BOARD OF TRUSTEES – 2023 Annual Review and Outlook for 2024 - Jim Lovekamp

2023 REVIEW

The Trustee's normal budgeted activities in 2023 returned to routine board activities of managing contracts (Church Administrator, janitorial service, equipment R&M, insurance, utilities, lawn care, & etc.) and allowing individual members of the board and other members of the congregation to complete "self-performed" miscellaneous maintenance and repairs of the ORLC facilities.

As a follow up action from recent discussions on potential use of the Fellowship Hall building as a private Christian school, a sprinkler system study was completed. This included development of a Conceptual Design and construction estimate. A planning estimate of \$250,000 was established for a Fellowship Hall sprinkler system.

A significant allocation of non-budget funds from the Brandel Estate was authorized by the Council to the Trustees special Projects" account.

Major repairs and/or activities completed included:

- Support of expanded and enhanced internet and video production of Church Services
 - Completed procurement and installation of upgraded internet services. Upgrades included new high speed WiFi nodes and installation of fiber optic cable and high-speed components.
 - Completed procurement and installation of video equipment to allow streaming of Contemporary Services from the Fellowship Hall.
- Lighting Upgrades – completed procurement and installation of new replacement exterior LED wall sconces on both the North and South sides of the Administration Wing.
- Procurement/Installation of replacement HVAC units – Replaced one of the original primary HVAC units for the Fellowship Hall. This is expected to be a continuing problem until all units are replaced. Budgeted Contingency Account funds and other existing undedicated funds are being utilized.
- Church Insurance Policy Review – as a result of proposed significant increases to insured property values, a comprehensive review and solicitation of additional insurance proposals was performed, resulting in contracting with a new insurance provider and a fixed price 3 year contract.
- SPECIAL PROJECTS
 - Security Upgrades – Installed a remote door unlock mechanism on the main upper-level entrance to the Church lobby.
 - Church Sign Upgrade – purchased and installed new sign panels, repainted sign frames and installed new landscaping at base of sign.

- o Elevator Issues – recent operational issues with our elevator and meetings with our elevator maintenance contractor identified several major issues: 1) a new mandatory requirement for installation of a safety door interlock system by 1/01/2025; 2) Our elevator is no longer being manufactured and it's control system has been declared obsolete, meaning control boards ,etc. will soon no longer be available. Recommendations from the contractor are to do a major elevator system upgrade to resolve both issues. This recommendation and other potential actions are currently being evaluated.

OUTLOOK for 2024

With the recent Congregational and District approval of ORLC's new Constitution and By-Laws, the roles and responsibilities of this Board will begin evolving into the new Operations organization structure. The vision is we will continue to look for opportunities to minimize operating costs of the ORLC facilities and existing service contracts. This includes continuing to maximize reliance on "self-performing" as many tasks as time and talents allow. Volunteers with any special skills, interests and/or a willingness to share their time/talents are always welcomed and encouraged to get involved. One of this board's primary functions has been to maintain the church facility in a manner which best facilitates and supports the on-going and planned missions and activities of ORLC, all of our church groups and organizations, and the effective use of our facilities by other organizations and the local community.

In 2024, specific potential new projects and areas for involvement, contingent upon available funds and restrictions, include:

- Complete a conceptual design and budgetary costs of a sprinkler system in the Fellowship Hall building.
- Develop plans for implementing remaining Special Renovation Projects, including Plan for upgrade/modernization of church elevator; Repurposing of old classrooms in the lower level Admin wing; Renovation of Luther Inn kitchen; Replacement/upgrade of church landscaping.



BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP – Barbara Tuthill

"Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." Galatians 1:10 NIV

Meeting people where they are, providing what they need, and planning opportunities for us to come together as members of the Body of Christ, are the focus areas of Fellowship.

The Fellowship Committee has enjoyed many blessings and opportunities for service in 2023. We began with 6 members and at the end of 2023, have 9 members. All members are volunteers, who tirelessly give their time and talents.

In 2023, we saw the reinstatement of Senior Ministry Events, the growth of the Meals Ministry Program (to include both Starbucks and Olive Garden), and the continuance of the Funeral and Shut in Meals Program, using internet tools such as Meal Train. We have coordinated with other Committees for the overall success of their events. We have completed all requests for service that were presented to us and have done so with joy in our hearts.

Listed herein are the events supported throughout 2023. We look forward to a full list for 2024, and look forward to adding new members, such as yourself, to our committee.

With God's Blessings to All,
Barbara Tuthill

2023 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1/29/2023	Servant Fair #1 - Provided coffee, snacks, etc.
2/4/2023	Council Work Session - Provided beverages, light breakfast, light lunch, etc.
2/5/2023	Servant Fair #2 - Provided coffee, snacks, etc.
2/22/2023	Ash Wednesday Evening Meal - Served 104
3/5/2023	New Member Reception
3/18/2023	Spring Cleaning Day - Focus on Kitchen and FH
4/9/2023	Easter Bags for Shut Ins
4/9/2023	Easter Potluck Breakfast - over 200 served
4/17/2023	Olive Garden Donations began
4/22/2023	Funeral - Mengle
4/22/2023	Spring BBQ
4/29/2023	Funeral - Durrell
5/4/2023	Senior Ministry Event - Marsha Maurer
5/6/2023	Funeral - Trest
6/4/2023	Ochner Military Presentation Reception
6/11/2023	Confirmation Reception

6/11/23 - 6/15/23	VBS - Plan, Serve and Cleanup (5 meals)
7/2/2023	Town Hall Meeting with Snacks
7/9/2023	Town Hall Meeting with Snacks
7/11/2023	Town Hall Meeting with Snacks
7/30/2023	Elders Pancake Breakfast and Welcome Event for DCM - Fellowship Gift Card Blessing Box
8/6/2023	Sunday School Rally Day - Snacks and Beverages
8/10/2023	Senior Ministry Event - Welton Chase
8/13/2023	Handbell Concert - Fellowship provided the Reception snacks/drinks
9/3/2023	Belize Mission Trip Presentation - Fellowship snacks
10/1/2023	Congregation Voters Meeting - Fellowship Bakers
10/19/2023	Senior Ministry Event - Lunch at Hildebrandt's
10/28/2023	Trunk or Treat - Fellowship in charge of Food and Fellowship Hall Decorations
10/29/2023	Reformation - Stuffing of Shut In Christmas Bags and Cards - Fellowship snacks and beverages
11/17/2023	Funeral - Missey
11/20/2023	Thanksgiving Baskets for 3 families
11/29/2023	Advent I - Soup, Salad and Dessert Luncheon
12/6/2023	Advent II - Soup, Salad and Dessert Luncheon
12/10/2023	Children's Christmas Program - Fellowship provided Jesus' Birthday Cake
12/13/2023	Advent III - Soup, Salad, and Dessert Luncheon
12/20/2023	Advent IV - Soup, Salad, and Dessert Luncheon

Meetings	2nd Sunday of every month, 12:15 in ORLC Library
Senior Ministry	3 Events - 5/4, 8/10, 10/19
Meals Ministry	Monday pickups at Olive Garden Monday, Wednesday, Friday pickups at Starbucks

2024 Events (planning stage)

1/7/2024	Installation of Board of Directors
1/28/2024	President Rockey Visit
2/14/2024	Ash Wednesday - Fundraiser Meal to support Victor Franklin Scholarship
3/17/2024	Saint Patrick's Day Potluck
3/31/2024	Easter with Congregation Easter Breakfast
4/20/2024	Spring BBQ

FINANCIAL SECRETARY – Ken Kutlik

The following is a comparison of 2023 financial Faith Promises (pledges) vs. giving toward pledges for years 2019-2022:

- 2023 pledges(68) = \$348,254 vs. Given toward pledged = \$376,435
- 2022 pledges(53) = \$305,116 vs. Given toward pledges = \$324,428
- 2021 pledges(50) = \$263,442 vs. Given toward pledges = \$277,497
- 2020 pledges(72) = \$294,104 vs. Given toward pledges = \$335,894
- 2019 pledges(69) = \$309,878 vs. Given toward pledges = \$327,790

Electronic Donations – There are two ways to donate via computer or smart phone apps. Clicking the **PayPal** link on our website (orlcaugusta.com) or scanning the **QR code** printed in the weekly worship folder or the What's Going On insert, opens the PayPal ORLC donation link. Give these apps a try.

Online Banking donations - Almost all banks now have **online banking and BillPay** options. Several ORLC members are using this feature to make donations. With online BillPay you can easily make one-time or recurrent donations, controlling the donation date and starting, stopping, or changing them with just a few clicks of your mouse.

ORLC saw a huge increase in donations via these alternate giving methods during the pandemic, and still receives a significant percentage of our donations this way.

For help setting up and using online banking or electronic donations, call the church office or contact ORLC's Financial Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Kutlik



TREASURER'S REPORT – Diane Holland

2023 Ministry Spending Plan (MSP)	\$652,594	
2023 Monthly MSP income needed (avg)	\$53,382	
2023 Income received	\$605,900	monthly avg. \$50,492
2023 Expenses	\$563,880	monthly avg. \$46,990
2023 Income vs. expenses	+\$42,020	
Mortgage balance (Education wing)	\$215,293	

Even though contributions were \$47,694 below the MSP, we ended the year with a surplus of \$50,180 due to our expenses being below the contributions. This includes \$8160 overage in the Health Reimbursement account. We hired DCM Becka Prestwick in the middle of July, therefore the budgeted expenses for a DCE/DCM for the beginning of the year of \$65,000 were not spent.

Looking ahead to the new year:

2024 Ministry Spending Plan (MSP)	\$672,086
2024 Monthly MSP income needed (avg)	\$56,007

Respectfully,

Diane Holland, Treasurer



What is a Church Treasurer?

Involved with the financial activities of the church.

