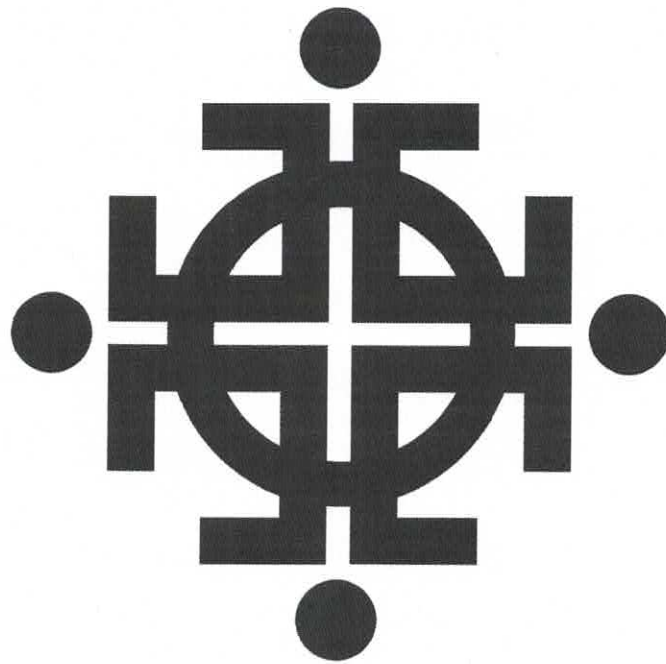


STONERIDGE
COVENANT
CHURCH



2023-2024
ANNUAL REPORT

STONERIDGE COVENANT CHURCH

811 DRESSEL ROAD, ALLISON PARK, PA 15101

412-486-7778 www.stoneridgeecc.org

STAFF

Rev. Jeff Kahl, pastor

Cherith Kahl, custodian

2023-2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Augie Fackler, chair

Dan Seel, vice chair

Laura Luksik, secretary

Teke Moore

Elaine Purcell

FINANCIAL OFFICERS

Sue Edwards, treasurer

Emma McCann, financial secretary

MEMBERS OF MINISTRY TEAMS

Sandi Bauerle, Ed Borgen, Lori Borgen, Joanne Crumb, Ken Edwards,
Angela Fackler, Augie Fackler, Autumn Gelormino, Sylvia Grubbs,
Steve Kaczynski, Cherith Kahl, Bea Kohler, Laura Luksik, Doug McCann,
Ellen McCann, Matt McCann, Mia Moore, Elaine Purcell, John Purcell, Dan Seel

OUR DENOMINATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Tammy Swanson-Draheim, President of the Evangelical Covenant Church

Garth McGrath, Superintendent of the Great Lakes Conference

STONERIDGE COVENANT CHURCH
VISION STATEMENT

We are a covenant community...

- **Fortified in the Gospel through worship and personal growth**
- **United as families through fellowship and care**
- **Visibly demonstrating the welcoming message of Christ to our neighbors.**

Three Basic Components (based on Dave Olsen's book *Finding Your Leadership Style*)

FORTIFIED IN THE GOSPEL – Focus on God (Spirituality)

UNITED IN FELLOWSHIP – Focus on Each Other (Chemistry)

VISIBLY DEMONSTRATING CHRIST'S MESSAGE – Focus on Neighborhood
(Strategy)

STONERIDGE COVENANT CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING – JULY 14, 2024
AGENDA

- I. Opening Scripture and Prayer (Augie Fackler)
- II. Presentation of Reports
 - a. Pastor and Leadership Team Chair (Jeff Kahl)
 - b. Outreach (Emma McCann)
 - c. Welcome (Angela Fackler)
 - d. Worship (Matt McCann)
 - e. Growth (Sunday School Teachers)
 - f. Financial (Sue Edwards and Emma McCann)
 - g. Property (Ken Edwards)
- III. Vision and Goals for FY 2024-2025 (Jeff Kahl)
- IV. Budget Proposal for FY 2024-2025 (Emma McCann, Sue Edwards, Augie Fackler)
- V. Election of New Leadership Team Members (Augie Fackler)
The Nominating Committee recommends two individuals to join the Leadership Team:
Bob Grubbs and Bea Kohler.
- VI. Thanks to Outgoing Leadership Team Members (Jeff Kahl)
We wish to recognize Teke Moore and Dan Seel for their faithful service as Leadership Team members for the past several years.
- VII. Closing Prayer and Dismissal (Volunteer)

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

REPORT FROM PASTOR AND CHAIR OF LEADERSHIP TEAM

From a leadership perspective, this past year we made a concerted effort to strengthen our ties with the denomination and build partnerships based on mutual benefit. We did this so that we could take more advantage of the resources our denomination has for “Strengthening Churches,” and also that we could help to ensure that the ECC continues to move in a healthy, Biblical direction. Here are some of the ways we did this:

- **Doug McCann** has been using his administrative gifts as the chair of the Great Lakes Conference executive committee. In this capacity, he has striven to conduct conference business with a great deal of transparency and integrity, and to assure that the larger denomination’s structure and processes are responsive to the priorities and needs of the local churches.
- **Pastor Jeff** serves on the conference Committee on Ministerial Standing, which assures that incoming pastors are theologically and ethically compatible with the ECC’s affirmations and standards, and that credentialed pastors receive the support and care they need for faithful ministry.
- **Matt McCann** and **Augie Fackler** were delegates to last year’s Gather 2023 (the denomination’s annual meeting), and **Laura Luksik** and **Pastor Jeff** were delegates to the Conference’s Annual Celebration this past April.
- This past year we invited **Rev. Peg Cichon** from the Great Lakes Conference to help lead our congregation through a process called “Find Your Why.” We were excited that **many congregation members** participated in discerning Stoneridge’s unique calling to this community and crafting a vision statement to reflect that. (See below for details).
- **Augie** and **Pastor Jeff** received a scholarship to participate in a “leadership coaching” program offered by the denomination. We meet virtually with a trained leadership coach named **Greg Ellis** who is challenging us with excellent feedback on how we can make our vision statement into a reality.

In the Finding Your Why process, the Leadership synthesized the many great ideas that the congregation shared, and we came up with the following vision statement:

We are a Covenant community...

- ***Fortified in the Gospel through worship and personal growth
(FOCUS ON GOD)***
- ***United as families through fellowship and care
(FOCUS ON EACH OTHER)***
- ***Visibly demonstrating the welcoming message of Christ to our neighbors.
(FOCUS ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD)***

We believe that our church is most passionate and devoted to the second point: uniting as families through fellowship and care. For the past several years, a genuine sense of unity and

camaraderie has developed among the people of the church. The after-church luncheons (and the summer pool parties) are highlights of our Sundays. There is a growing interest in small groups and in getting together outside of Sunday mornings worship. We come together to support congregation members and friends going through hard times—with visits, with meals, with prayer. Pastor Jeff certainly sees a marked improvement in the congregational dynamics from when he arrived here over seven years ago.

We are also strong and unified in the first point: Our commitment to Biblical preaching, the strong participation in children's and adult discipleship groups, and our desire to enjoy the presence of God in faithful experiences of worship. In conversations with individual members, Pastor Jeff can tell that we are all growing deeper in our knowledge and love of the Gospel. It is our hope to continue to improve our Sunday morning experiences, to recruit additional musicians and sound assistants, and to further develop our small group ministry to involve even more people.

It is in the third point (Demonstrating Christ's message to our neighbors) where we need increased unity and commitment. We certainly have tried several different programs to build connections and invite our neighbors to be our guests. Several have been excellent at drawing out people to the church, and occasionally these have led to further participation. But are we focusing on Christ's message, or on our programming? Are our efforts planting the seeds of faith and potentially drawing people in as companions and fellow worshipers?

This is where we hope to improve. We wish to leverage our love of fellowship and our commitment to growing in the Gospel by attempting a program called the Alpha Course. It is a midweek program designed for believers and seekers to meet together and have a real conversation—in an encouraging and safe environment—about life and faith. Our hope is to get as many congregation members involved in this program, which will begin this Fall and go through the Advent season. You will hear more details in the days and weeks to come, so pay attention to announcements in church and Pastor Jeff's weekly emails! We are excited about the opportunity that the Alpha Course can bring to Stoneridge!

Pastor Jeff would like to thank the entire congregation for their ongoing support of his ministry. It has truly been a blessing to serve alongside you as your pastor. We both are grateful to our wives and kids, whose love and support make it possible for us to serve with energy and integrity. Please keep us, and Stoneridge Church as a whole, in your prayers, for we can do nothing apart from the grace, truth, and power of God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—operating in and through all of us!

Respectfully,

Augie Fackler, Leadership Chair

Jeff Kahl, Pastor

OUTREACH TEAM REPORT

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The Outreach Team's goal is to make initial contact with the people within the wider "Network" of our community—both individuals and community groups—and to invite them to join us as "Guests" at various programs, events, and ultimately, in worship.

We continued our strategic partnerships with organizations like Shaler Library, Ryan's Wings, Ruby's Angels, and others. We were actively present at Shaler Library summer reading program, passing out free popcorn, providing chairs for parents to sit, making our sanctuary available occasionally, and just meeting the people. Pastor Jeff continues to provide pastoral care to Ryan's Wings—a nonprofit that assists those struggling with addiction as well as their families. This past year, Elaine Purcell built a new partnership with the Cheswick Rehab and Wellness Center. A group from our church led monthly activities with the residents, including music/worship, Holy Communion, games, and a visit with a therapy dog. The group included Elaine and John Purcell, Joanne and Mel Crumb, Steve Kaczynski, and Lori and Ed Borgen.

We partnered with Ruby's Angels to host their annual "Christmas Wonderland," and several of you helped to provide Christmas presents and other necessities for over one hundred underprivileged children in our community.

We continue to make Schogren Hall available for outside rentals. Doug McCann oversees this ministry and has done a great job making relational connections with the people who rent. This is a way to build a good rapport with our broader community.

We also hosted two outreach dinners: a Valentine's Day dinner on February 9 and a Mother's Day luncheon on May 11. The dinners included a nice mix of congregation members and guests. We thank Elaine Purcell and her new women's group for their vision and organization of these dinners. Our first "Pig Roast," led by Teke Moore, is coming up on July 27, and Elaine is planning a Veteran's Day-themed dinner in November.

Emma McCann continues to lead our Adventure Week ministry to the children of our church and community. Once again this year, we anticipate between 30 and 40 children in attendance. We intend to wrap up the week with another dinner open to all the children and their families, and we intend to start promoting our Fall events to the families who attend.

The Outreach Goal for this coming year is to host a special program called the *Alpha Course*. It is a weekly fellowship designed both for believers and seekers to come together and ask questions about life and faith. Please be in prayer that this program will draw in some folks who might be open to hearing the message of Christ!

Respectfully Submitted,

Emma McCann, Laura Luksik, Elaine Purcell, Pastor Jeff Kahl

Welcome Team Report 2024

Members of the Welcome Team are Bea Kohler, Dan Seel, Lori Borgen, Sandi Baurle, and Angela Fackler. It's been a quiet year for us! We welcomed a handful of guests and had some great conversations with them. Sadly, that didn't yield any new long-time visitors but we are always prayerful for the discernment of those seeking a new church home. Plans for this coming year are to get our flower boxes repainted and to restock our magnets that we keep to hand out to our guests. As always, I encourage every congregant of Stoneridge to say hello to a new face who comes through our doors. We have proven time and again the strength of our fellowship so let's continue to spread that blessing whenever we are able.

Pax vobiscum,
Angela Fackler

WORSHIP REPORT FOR YEAR 2023-2024

Our goal as a team this past year and every year is to serve God and the congregation by leading and facilitating worship of God. Many things go into that from the appearance of the sanctuary, to the music, to the broadcast that allows those members of our church family that can't be here to also participate. I want to start by thanking Ed Borgen for doing a great job of coordinating this group of talented people who lead us in praise each Sunday. Ed also picks the music every week, a task he does very well, in addition to playing guitar and other instruments. Thank you to Steve on drums/bass/backup guitar and the singers Sue and Emma. Emma also contributes by taking care of the sanctuary decor. I owe a lot of thanks to the Sound and Tech Team of Augie and Ken who serve the Praise Team and the congregation through helping me manage the technical aspects of the sound, broadcast, and projections for the service. My son has also started helping this year by checking and lighting the candles each week as well as by being the runner for the Sound and Tech Team.

We also owe a great deal of thanks and gratitude to Pastor Jeff for his direction and talents.

As always we continue to make adjustments to improve the worship experience and focus. Please come to me with any ideas, suggestions, or observations about worship. Finally as we head into this next fiscal year I ask that everyone keep our team in prayer and consider any ways in which God might be leading you to contribute your time and talents to helping us serve God and the congregation.

Yours in Christ
Matthew McCann

GROWTH TEAM REPORT ANNUAL MEETING—2024

FOR CHILDREN:

We had a regular attendance of 10 children ages 6-12.

We studied a catechism which we weekly recited in a question and answer format. For example, I would ask, "Who made you?" And the children would answer in unison, "God made me." Another example is, "Who can save us?" The answer is, "The Lord Jesus Christ is the only Savior."

Each week we sang the same song about the Twelve Disciples by CedarMont Kids with the goal of learning the names of Jesus's disciples. (Simon Peter, Andrew, James his brother John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, Simon, Judas, and Bartholomew.) Quiz the kids!

We studied names of Jesus like he is the Bread of Life, the Good Shepherd, the King of Kings, the Living Water, the Light of the World, the Lion of Judah, and the Lamb of God. We studied the Fall of man, Jesus's birth, the calling of the disciples and the teaching of "making fishers of men", the Feeding of the 5,000, Lazarus being raised from the dead, Jesus's death and resurrection, how the church began, prayer, baptism, communion, and what "church" means, i.e. the building we meet in and the body of Christ, the purpose of the church and repeatedly reviewing salvation.

Autumn Gelermino is a mom of two of the children in class, and she stayed and helped me with the crafts, snacks and games.

Over the Christmas season, Emma McCann directed the children in a little skit in front of the congregation using the alphabet as a guide to tell the Christmas story.

These children are a very special group, and I am blessed to teach them.

Cherith Kahl

Sunday School starts at 9:15 until 10:15. The children that attend are Cyrus, Patrick, Marta, Isla, Jaxon, Beau, Tom, Marian, Vinny, and Gia and occasionally we have newcomers. In this class the children are engaged in learning. The lessons have been focused on Jesus and his disciples along with the bible stories such as Adam and Eve. Every Sunday is enjoyable just to listen to the children talk and learn in faith. In this class they do religious crafts that tie in with our lesson of the day. Cherith is the teacher and I have been blessed to assist her by passing out the snacks or assisting the children with their crafts.

Autumn Gelormino

FOR TEENS:

Pastor Jeff led Mia Moore through Confirmation. We worked through an excellent book entitled *Hanging In There* by John Dickson, which explains the Gospel and the various doctrines of the Church in terms relatable to the real lives of teenagers. Mia also wrote her own statement of faith, which she presented in church on Sunday, May 19, and she was confirmed that day.

Some of the older children are already in their “double digits” (ten years old or older), so in the next year we will be prayerful about refocusing our investment in a youth ministry program.

Pastor Jeff

FOR ADULTS:

Cherith Kahl led a women’s small group that met in her home. Currently, they are working through a video curriculum that focuses on prioritizing and simplifying your life in light of the values of the Gospel.

Augie Fackler leads a traditional Sunday school class for adults. In the fall we embarked on our slow journey through the Lutheran Small Catechism. We’re between a third and half of the way through the content we expect to cover, having finished the Ten Commandments a few weeks ago and now being in the first part of the Apostle’s Creed. I’m cautiously optimistic we’ll finish covering the ground we want to cover next year, and anyone is welcome to join partway through - the structure won’t require having attended previous parts to get benefit from the rest.

Augie Fackler and Teke Moore have a vision for a young men’s group. We’re trying in fits and starts to get a men’s group off the ground. One meeting happened in February, and then scheduling has been difficult and keeps not happening. I’m hopeful we can try to get something going over the summer periodically and then continue the habit into the fall.

Pastor Jeff leads a mid-week Bible study. This past year, his study was based on his preaching through the books of Leviticus and 1 John. We reflected more deeply on the meaning of the text and its application for our lives.

Augie Fackler and Pastor Jeff

Respectfully,

The Sunday School and Small Group Leaders

PROPERTY REPORT FOR 2023-2024

This year was a good year for the properties committee as we didn't have any major building expenses. While we did have some furnace and air conditioner repairs they were minor. The hot water tank for the family room started leaking and had to be replaced. This year with continuation of the grass cutting program has been very successful. People has been stepping up to take a month of cutting and the outdoors has looked great. We have received compliments on how the church has looked to the public. In the coming year we will be exploring repairing/replacing the cupola as it has some deterioration problems. More will come next spring, Also we will be working on painting the fellowship hall. God continues to bless us with a good building and a great congregation to help maintain it.

Yours in Christ

Kenneth Edwards

Ministry Team Budget Proposals
For FY 2024-2025

CATEGORY	2024 Budget	2024 Actual thru first week of May	2025 Proposed
TOTALS	\$ 1,499	\$ (16,265)	\$ 2
Income	\$ 168,963	\$ 131,191	\$ 172,994
Expenses	\$ 167,464	\$ 147,456	\$ 172,992
INCOME	\$ 168,963	\$ 131,191	\$ 172,994
General Offerings	\$ 165,643	\$ 127,669	\$ 168,994
Hall Rental	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,750	\$ 3,000
Interest	\$ 270	\$ 1,771	\$ 1,000
Other Income	\$ 50	\$ -	
EXPENSES			
GROWTH TEAM	\$ 1,280	\$ 792	\$ 1,250
Adult Events	\$ 300	\$ 131	\$ 300
Children's Ministry	\$ 330	\$ 434	\$ 300
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 300	\$ 137	\$ 300
Teens - Youth	\$ 200	\$ 90	\$ 200
Young Adult Fellowship	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150
LEADERSHIP TEAM	\$ 10,939	\$ 9,582	\$ 11,983
ECC Support (2.25)	\$ 4,141	\$ 4,125	\$ 4,646
GLC Support (2.25)	\$ 5,798	\$ 5,342	\$ 6,337
Holy Spirit	\$ 500	\$ 55	\$ 500
meeting delegates add here	\$ 500	\$ 60	\$ 500
OUTREACH TEAM	\$ 750	\$ (153)	\$ 400
Adventure Week Expense	\$ 700	\$ 439	\$ 500
Adventure Week Offsets	\$ (500)	\$ (995)	\$ (500)
Outreach Dinners	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Dinners Offset	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Advertising (Not Social Media)	\$ 250	\$ 269	\$ 200
Outreach Event Expenses	\$ 300	\$ 135	\$ 200
Outreach Offsets	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$ 117,815	\$ 106,832	\$ 119,063
Auto Reimbursement	\$ 1,200	\$ 886	\$ 1,200
Book Reimbursement	\$ 120	\$ 107	\$ 120
Conference/Travel	\$ 300	\$ 193	\$ 300
Health Insurance	\$ 29,000	\$ 22,034	\$ 29,000
Housing Allowance	\$ 17,120	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Ministerium Dues	\$ 170	\$ -	\$ 170
Ministry Expense Reimb	\$ 600	\$ 542	\$ 600
Pastor Salary	\$ 59,150	\$ 41,270	\$ 45,007

Ministry Team Budget Proposals
For FY 2024-2025

Pension	\$ 9,915	\$ 6,621	\$ 7,426
Telephone Reimbursement	\$ 240	\$ 180	\$ 240
PROPERTY TEAM	\$ 33,050	\$ 28,002	\$ 36,821
Building/Equipment Maintenance	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,116	\$ 3,500
Building Upgrade Projects	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Cleaning Supplies	\$ 700	\$ 327	\$ 800
Custodian	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,167	\$ 5,175
Custodian FICA	\$ 200	\$ 319	\$ 396
Electric	\$ 5,600	\$ 6,234	\$ 7,000
Financial Services	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,352	\$ 1,250
Gas	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,123	\$ 2,000
Insurance	\$ 5,900	\$ 6,938	\$ 7,500
Landscape Maintenance	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 400
Loan Interest	\$ 600	\$ 488	\$ -
Office Equipment	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Office Supplies	\$ 700	\$ 851	\$ 1,000
Phone - Internet	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,725	\$ 3,000
Property Taxes	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,163	\$ -
Snow Plowing/Parking	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 500
Volunteer Fire Dept	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300
Water/Sewage/Garbage	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,201	\$ 2,000
WELCOME TEAM	\$ 780	\$ (143)	\$ 825
Magnets for Visitors	\$ -		\$ 45
Workday Meals	\$ 150	\$ 64	\$ 150
Thematic coloring books	\$ 30		\$ 30
Meals to Follow Outreach	\$ 600	\$ (207)	\$ 600
WORSHIP TEAM	\$ 2,850	\$ 2,544	\$ 2,650
Copyright Licensing Fees	\$ 1,500	\$ 829	\$ 1,250
Decoration Expense	\$ 400	\$ 29	\$ 400
Decoration Offsets	\$ (150)	\$ -	\$ (150)
Guest Preachers	\$ 450	\$ 300	\$ 450
Worship Equipment	\$ 600	\$ 1,386	\$ 600
Worship Supplies	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 100
TOTAL	\$ 167,464	\$ 147,456	\$ 172,992

STONERIDGE COVENANT CHURCH
THE "LIFE STEPS" OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

STEP ONE: NETWORK

The Network is the web of relationships that exist in the broader community of which Stoneridge Covenant Church is a part: families, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and social organizations who all hope for a flourishing community. Characteristics of this group may include:

- Persons not relationally connected with Stoneridge Church or any other church
- Persons in need of spiritual counsel, emotional support, or material assistance
- Local groups willing to partner with our church to enhance community life

It shall be the purpose of the **OUTREACH TEAM** to determine ways of targeting individuals and groups in the Network in order to lead them potentially to Step Two:

STEP TWO: GUESTS

Guests are individuals and families with whom Stoneridge Covenant Church has made an initial relational connection: they know where we are, they have met some of our leadership or membership, and they've experienced something of our life together. Characteristics include:

- They have attended a worship service and provided their contact information
- They have attended a church event
- They have enjoyed coffee or a meal with the pastor or other leaders

It shall be the purpose of the **WELCOME TEAM** to determine ways of assimilating such persons into the regular life of our fellowship and provide positive encouragement for them to progress to Step Three:

STEP THREE: COMPANIONS

Companions are individuals and families who habitually participate in Sunday worship and have demonstrated an investment in Stoneridge Church as their spiritual home. Characteristics include:

- They have committed to regular participation in Sunday morning worship
- They show habits of regular financial giving
- They are genuinely and relationally engaged with the congregation as a whole

It shall be the purpose of the **WORSHIP TEAM**, and potentially also a **CARE AND FELLOWSHIP TEAM**, to lovingly encourage these companions to deepen their spiritual commitment to Christ through the discipleship process in Step Four:

STEP FOUR: DISCIPLES

Disciples are those individuals who are committed to knowing and following Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and who commit to investing in those spiritual disciplines that enable them to grow in their knowledge and love of Christ. Characteristics include:

- A committed attendee of a small group or traditional Sunday School class
- Willing to engage in specific acts of service within the church
- Regularly practices spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, tithing.

The Pastor and the Leadership Team will be tasked with regularly identifying, encouraging, and mentoring specific disciples with the potential to move into Step Five:

STEP FIVE: PARTNERS

Partners are those individuals who have evidenced significant spiritual maturity to the extent that their Christian faith moves them beyond themselves to serve others in love as witnesses of Jesus Christ. Characteristics include:

- A regular commitment to serve in a specific area of passion/giftedness
- A willingness to serve on a Leadership or Ministry Team
- The desire to share their faith in the community in word and/or deed