

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Storm Lake, Iowa

Parish Profile 2023



ABOUT US

OUR MISSION:

Together in Christ, we worship, pray, work, and serve.

We carry out Christ's mission of love and peace in our community through the active ministry of our lay and ordained members.



OUR CALL:

All Saints is seeking a half time Priest-in-Charge who will serve the parish and guide us in our various ministries and programs.

We seek an individual who will deliver sermons which will strengthen our understanding of God, and inspire us to act with faithful and committed hearts.

Our priest should have a strong commitment to pastoral care by ministering to members and nonmembers alike, especially the sick, needy and grieving.

We seek an individual of vision and empathy who will help us develop strategies of growth for our church by attracting new individuals and families.

We seek a priest who is committed to being active within the community of Storm Lake and the surrounding areas served by All Saints Church.

OUR LITURGY

All Saints holds Eucharistic services on three Sundays monthly at 10 AM, with music and using Rite II. Our lay ministry fills in on the fourth Sunday and as necessary.

A youth study and fellowship program has been held on Wednesday evenings.

Occasionally, during the summer (and also during Covid), we hold services in the beautiful 7-acre natural setting that surrounds our church.



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OUR MINISTRIES

All Saints focuses on ministries to the young members of our community. Children from over 20 countries are enrolled in the Storm Lake Schools with 80% of them on the Free or Reduced Lunch Program. Many come here with nothing, wanting to work and hoping for a better life and a good education for their children. Our ministry "Books and Briefs" works with the elementary school nurse and provides clothing, winter gear, personal hygiene products and books they can keep to enhance reading skills.

When we learned many elementary students suffer anxiety as the weekend approaches due to lack of food, we created "Tornado Packs". Funds were raised to feed 350 kindergartners and 4 year old Headstart students. Nonperishable food was put into bags at the church by volunteers. They were then delivered to the school for students to take home every weekend throughout the school year.

Upper Des Moines offers a yearly Adopt-A-Family program for Christmas. All Saints sponsors two large families and donates the items on their wish list.

We created an Advent Giving calendar for the congregation. A different nonperishable item or school supply is listed each day in December. Members provide the items, which are then taken to Upper Des Moines and the elementary school.

Another cherished ministry began 7 years ago when we were asked to provide a crib for an unwed pregnant teen. The relationship evolved into a permanent bond with mom and her medically challenged boy. All Saints has provided diapers, furniture and clothing over the years.





OUR HISTORY

All Saints was formed in 1954 by a group of Episcopalians living in Storm Lake. The group met initially in funeral homes, college meeting rooms, members' homes and other church chapels. Members became lay readers and conducted Morning Prayer. Eucharist was provided by priests from Carroll, Spencer and other churches. The group saw a need for a church structure and in 1956, with limited funds, acquired a World War II surplus Quonset hut from England. This humble building served All Saints for many years until 1986 when the present church was constructed on land in west Storm Lake, which was donated by a parishioner. The church was built with pledges from the congregation pursuant to a building fund drive and further financed with a low interest loan from the diocese. Many of the furnishings (pews, altar, etc.) for the church were obtained from other area Episcopal churches which had closed. Maple flooring from a former roller rink was used. To complete construction, a bell was donated for placement in the belfry. It is rung to commence worship services.

All Saints has always been a small congregation with average weekly attendance ranging from 25 to 7. Although small, the congregation has always performed above its weight in terms of community involvement and service and in its ministries (Tornado Packs, Habitat for Humanity and other charitable efforts.) All Saints is an area church with members from Cherokee, Sac and Buena Vista Counties. We have been served by part time priests, supply priests, deacons and even Lutheran Pastors throughout our history. Lay ministry has always been an important part of All Saints and continues today with an active ministry team.

OUR PROPERTIES

Our church structure, which was dedicated in 1987, is a Cape Cod style structure which sits in the middle of our naturescape on the southwest shore of Storm Lake.

The church building consists of a sanctuary capable of seating 100 persons, a large parish hall, a complete kitchen, parish offices, a childcare/kindergarten room, restrooms, sacristy and ample storage.





OUR LOCATION

The church is situated on some of the last undeveloped land (approximately 7 acres) around Storm Lake and is rich with wildlife. Beavers and waterfowl inhabit the creek locally known as Episcopal Creek. Deer roam freely, butterflies and other pollinators are abundant and birds fill the air with song. Maintaining the grounds and church building presents challenges, but is a labor of love which unites the congregation. We have used the church land for nature and star camps for area children. We see the potential for future use of the land for conservation and nature education.





OUR MEMBERS

As of the end of 2022, we had 37 members in our parish, as well as about 10 non-members who participate in worship services and/or activities on a regular basis. Members come primarily from Storm Lake, but also from other parts of Buena Vista County, as well as from neighboring Cherokee, Clay, and Sac counties. Approximately 15% of our membership consists of summer-only residents.

As of the end of 2022, just under 60% of our membership is 65 years of age and older. Core volunteer activities are strongest among the membership which is over 65 years of age. We have a good mixture of long-time and newer members.

Our membership has remained stable at between 31 and 37 members over the past five years. Sunday attendance, however, has trended somewhat lower, and is currently at 10 as of 2022. Most recently our Sunday attendance has rebounded somewhat.

OUR STAFF

- seeking half time Priest-in-Charge
- part-time music director/pianist
- part-time cleaning staff
- volunteers staff the office as needed

OUR VESTRY

We have a seven person vestry, which currently includes one summer-only resident. Our Vestry typically meets monthly.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Our priest leads eucharist services, Bible studies, holiday services, services at a local retirement community on a rotating basis, and is an active member of the community's gospel fellowship of priests and ministers.

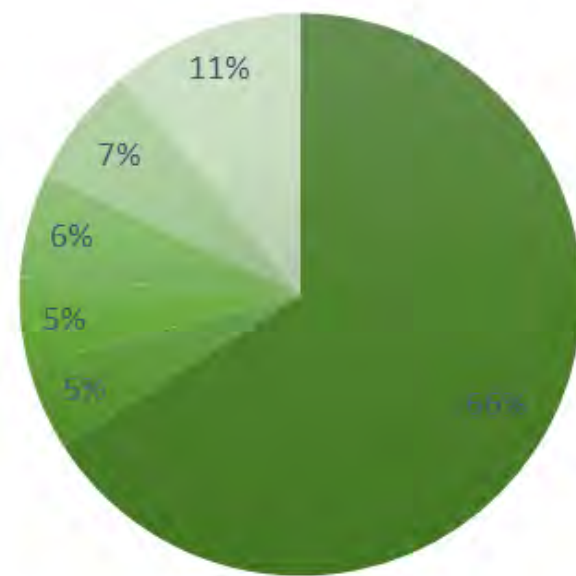
Lay members serve as lectors, acolytes, and chalice bearers, and coordinate the well-attended coffee hour which follows each mass, as well as occasional pot luck luncheons.



OUR FINANCES

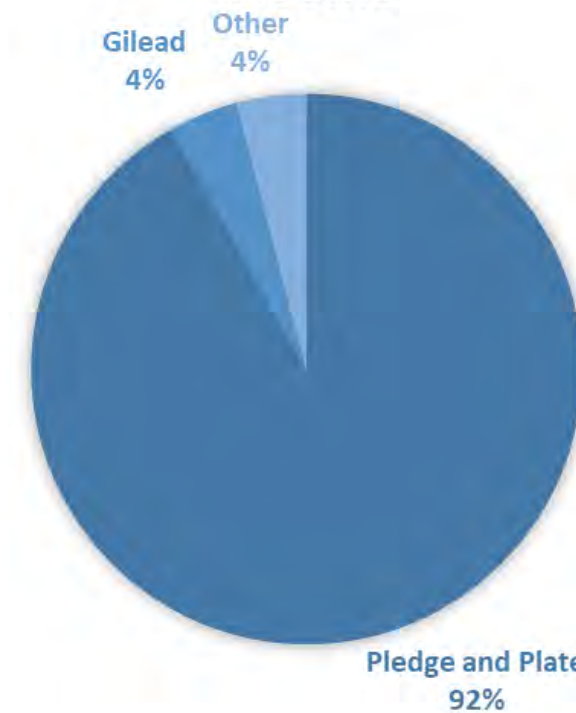
All Saints' is in a relatively solid financial position. It has no long term debt. The church building and grounds are debt free. Our 2022 financial report indicates income of \$50,000 and expenses of \$65,000 in the percentages as shown below. The majority of our income comes from member pledges and donations. We have been successful in meeting substantial capital expenses and other financial needs as they arise with capital fund drives and donations. As of January 1, 2023 we had \$100,000 in liquid assets as well as fixed assets in the church building and land, together conservatively valued at \$400,000.

Expenses



- Priest (Stipend, Pension, Health Insurance)
- Insurance
- Church Pianist
- Utilities
- Pledge to Diocese
- Miscellaneous

INCOME



- Pledge and Plate



OUR DIOCESE

All Saints is a member of the Diocese of Iowa. Bishop Betsey Monnot is the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa and has led the diocese since 2021. The Diocese is the geographic state of Iowa with 58 congregations, divided into 10 regional Mission Chapters, with over 6,068 members.

More information can be found at <http://www.iowaepiscopal.org/>.





OUR COMMUNITY

LOCATION: The city of Storm Lake is a welcoming, thriving, and diverse community of 13,000 located in western Iowa (68 miles east of Sioux City, 38 miles south of Spencer.) Situated on the shores of a 3,300 acre lake, it's known as "The City Beautiful." All Saints' church is located on Hwy #110 south, in an attractive natural setting surrounded by a creek, trees, lake and wildlife.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS: Tyson Fresh Meats, Buena Vista University, Storm Lake School District, Buena Vista Regional Medical Center.

SHOPPING: Storm Lake is a vibrant shopping center, boasting an array of local shops, restaurants, as well as national store chains.

EDUCATION: The Storm Lake Community School District (2,890 students) serves learners from around the world. It boasts of new and modern facilities with an emphasis on current and relevant teaching strategies. Also providing for the educational needs of the area are St. Mary's Catholic Schools (preschool-grade 12), Buena Vista University (undergraduate & graduate programs), and Iowa Central Community College.



OUR COMMUNITY

MEDICAL: The Buena Vista Regional Medical Center as well as the United Community Health Center comprise the heart of medical services. Local professionals include family physicians, surgeons, and area specialists.

RECREATION: There's always a lot to do around the lake – fishing, boating, swimming, water skiing, sunbathing, etc. King's Pointe Resort includes dining, lodging, an indoor/outdoor water park, campground, and rental cottages. The Lake Trail is open for those who hike & bike along with two golf courses. Other youth and adult recreation programs are offered throughout the year by the Community Education program.

EVENTS: Many seasonal and tourism-focused promotions keep Storm Lake on the move. Volunteers plan and execute much-anticipated events, including the 4th of July "Star Spangled Spectacular", live summer music in the parks, Wood, Wine & Blues Festival, Miracle on Lake Avenue, the annual triathlon, and Santa's Christmas Castle. The Multicultural Festival unites our town and celebrates the diversity of our community. The Witter Gallery generates interest in the fine arts with its gala productions and local artist displays. The seasonal Farmers' Market continues to grow as more local vendors and community members line up weekly to buy farm-fresh produce. Buena Vista University hosts an exceptional variety of speakers, wildlife displays, and cultural events.

CHURCHES: Spiritual needs are met at Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, Assembly of God, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic, Evangelical Free, SE Asian Community, Jehovah's Witness, LDS, and Buddhist worship centers, among others.





TO APPLY:

If you are interested in applying for the position of priest at All Saints Episcopal church, please contact the Rev. Cn. Meg Wagner, Canon to the Ordinary at (515) 277-6165 or by e-mail to mwagner@iowaepiscopal.org







St. Alban's Episcopal Church

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA

Our Mission

The mission of St. Alban's Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

St. Alban's pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel in word and in example, and promotes justice, peace and love.

St. Alban's carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members, lay and ordained.





Our Call

St. Alban's is seeking a part-time Priest-in-charge who can:

- Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church
- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church
- Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by circumstances
- Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life

And whose abilities include:

- Preaching – the capacity to inspire and connect people to God's word
- Pastoral care – the capacity to engage people empathetically and care for persons in times of need
- Strategic leadership – the capacity to cast a vision and lead the church toward realization for the vision





Welcoming

A friendly atmosphere prevails among members of our church

Concerned

Our members take part in many different mission projects both locally and worldwide



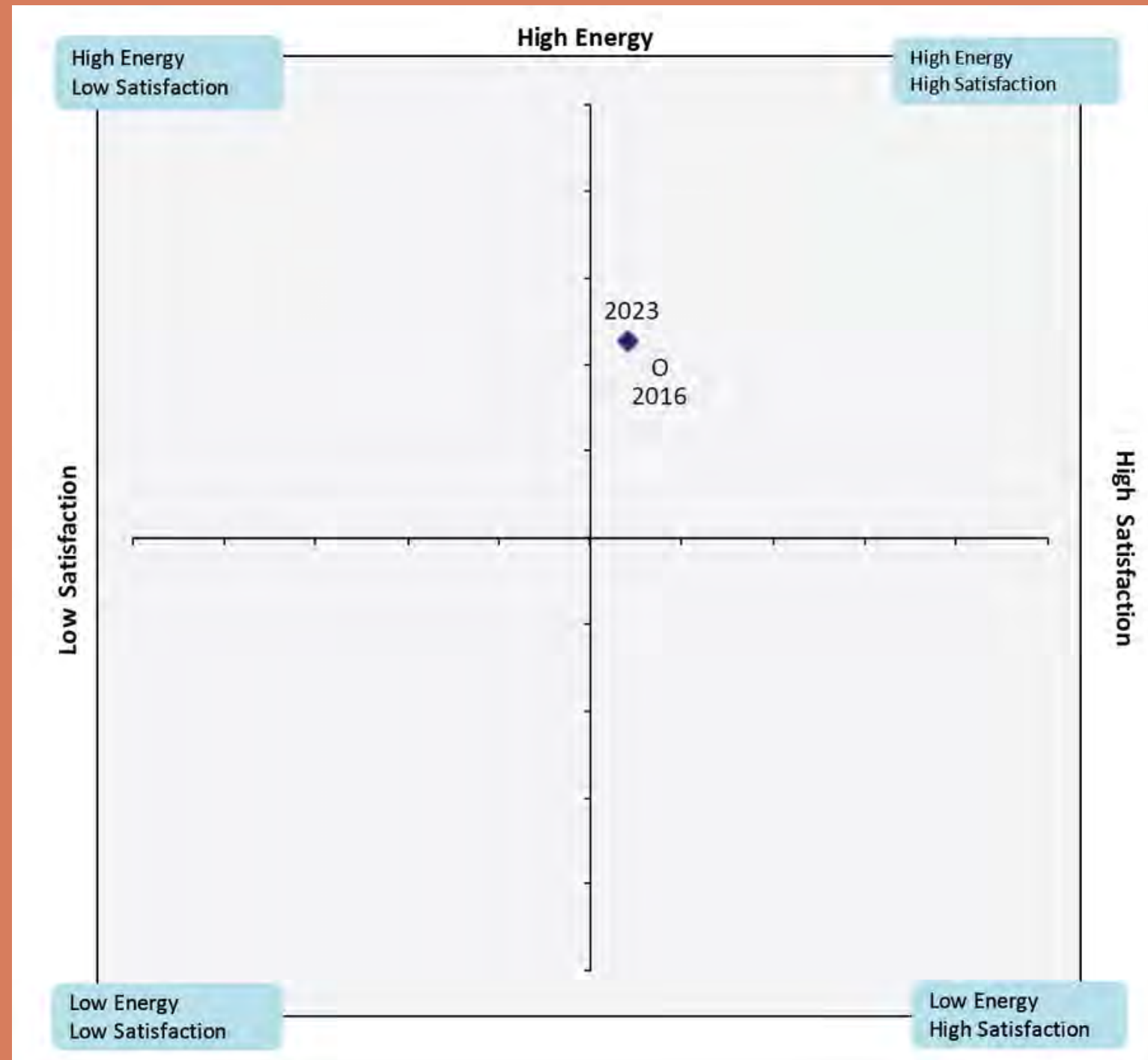
Connected

We share our church facilities with several outside groups

Spiritual

Our spiritual experiences often impact the way we look at life





From the Conversations Survey 04/02/2023, we are a high energy/high satisfaction community, repeating our 2016 position.



Liturgy

We offer one service on Sundays at 10:00 AM, with music and using Rite II. Pre-COVID we offered a service on Tuesday morning and Saturday evenings in the chapel, without music and using Rite I.

During the summer months, we have offered an additional service on Saturdays at 5:00 PM, without music and using Rite II.





During the summer, for nearly 35 years, we have held an outdoor service on the Queen II, a commercial tourist boat on Lake Okobojo and have held an outdoor service at a local state park.

We have special mid-week services to celebrate Holy Days and a special hunter's mass on St Hubertus Day.

We provide regular services at our local care centers and arrange communion for shut-ins.



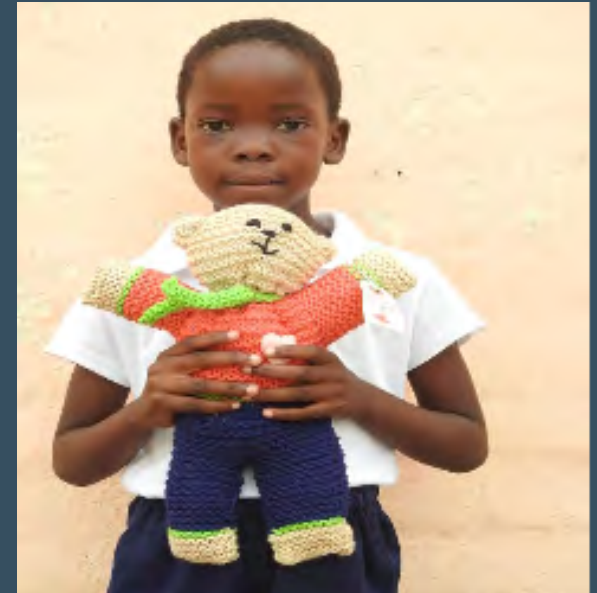
Our Ministries

We have Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. This was led by our priest. Our Lenten program is also led by our priest.

Other ministries provide support for local and other worldwide charities. We have dedicated members who have gone to Haiti to provide medical care. Other missions include comfort dolls through the Mother Bear project. We have supported Upper Des Moines Opportunity by providing food, preparing and serving dinners at the Community Table, and regular food donations.

We have a chapter of the Order of St. Luke (OSL) whose members have taken part in the Relay for Life.

We have had active Sunday School and Youth programs; both were led by lay members. They also support the Upper Des Moines Opportunity organization with food drives, Back to School supplies and Christmas gift giving.



Our History

The history of St. Alban's Episcopal Church begins in 1886, when seven women from Spirit Lake formed the Church of the Good Shepherd. The first church, built on the northeast corner of Hill Avenue and 16th Street in 1894, served the community for several years until it closed in 1914, due to dwindling participation.



In 1949, services resumed in the Spirit Lake Library and the nineteen-member congregation began planning for its own church which would be named St. Alban's, after England's first martyr. The group purchased a country schoolhouse and moved it to a parcel of land donated by members. They paneled the walls, and installed gifts from other churches (an altar, pews, and an organ). This building, which is still the church today, has been remodeled four times, including adding a parish hall for Sunday School classes, interior changes, new siding, and a new roof.

In 1958, the St. Alban's Mission hosted the 106th Diocesan convention and St Alban's was referred to as the "summer chapel" of the diocese. The entire building was moved to its present site in 1978, and Bishop Walter Righter consecrated it in 1979 with Father Roy Welke as priest. By 1985, St. Alban's was larger, stronger, and more viable than the other area Episcopal churches. Under Father Larry Gatrel, the closing of Grace Episcopal Church in 1986 brought active members from Estherville. In 1993, St. Stephen's in Spencer elected to join the congregation in Spirit Lake. St. Alban's gained loyal and energetic members together with many of their ecclesiastical treasures.

There are over 100 "in memoriam" gifts on the church property.



Our Properties



We have a handicapped-accessible church that is based on an old country schoolhouse. There is a large parish hall attached to the church with a full commercial kitchen, large community room, classrooms, restrooms, and youth area complete with games and activities sections.

We have a columbarium on the property for the ashes of loved ones and have held outdoor services at it. There is also a cross, laid out in bricks.

The land around the church includes a prairie garden area and a playground.

Several outside groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Weight Watchers, and a bridge group use our church facilities.

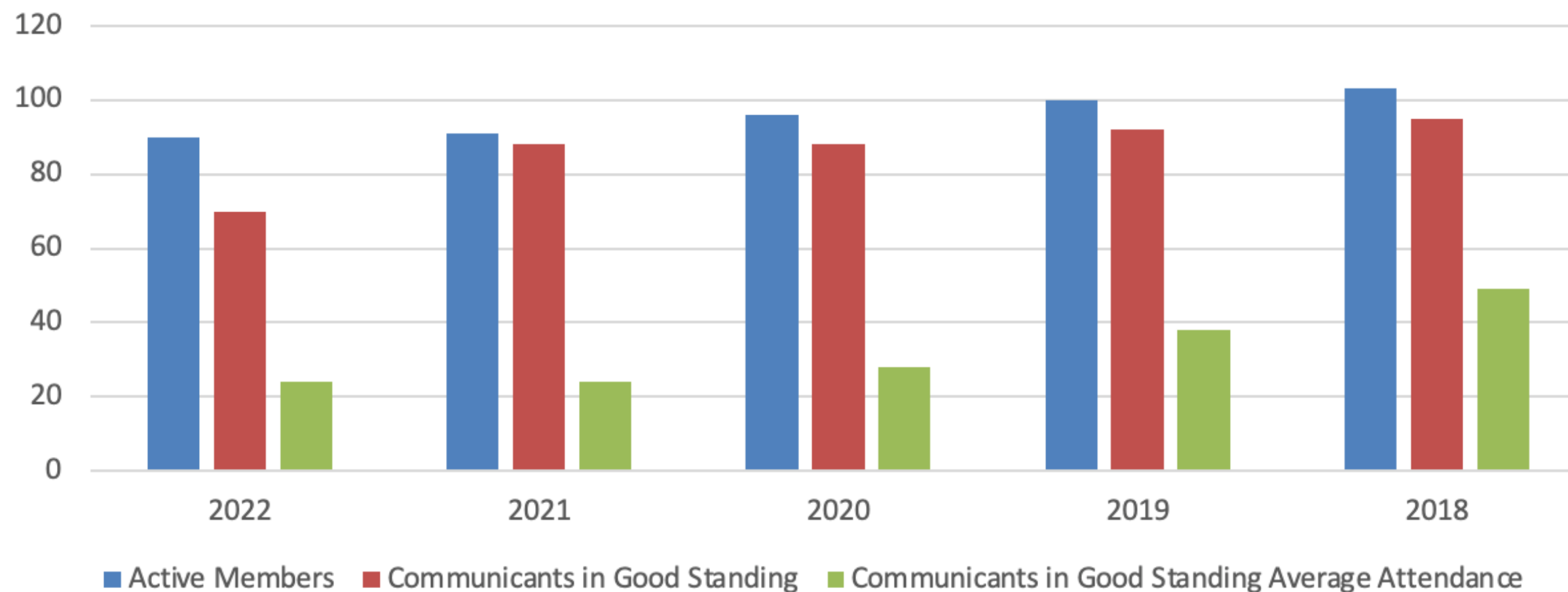


Our Membership

We currently have 90 members in our parish (2022). Local members are scattered over the area from Spirit Lake to Spencer. We also have many summer-only residents, who return to St. Alban's from areas of Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and California. 46% of our members live over 15 miles from the parish. We currently have an average Sunday attendance of 24 people (2022), which has remained steady. Over half our members have been attending for over 20 years; 85% have been attending for over 5 years. We are an older parish; 65% are over 65 years and 90% over 45 years.

(Distribution data source: 2016 Membership Survey)

St Alban's Membership



Staff

- Seeking Part-time Priest
- Part-time, salaried secretary/parish administrator
- Part-time music director
- Part-time cleaning staff

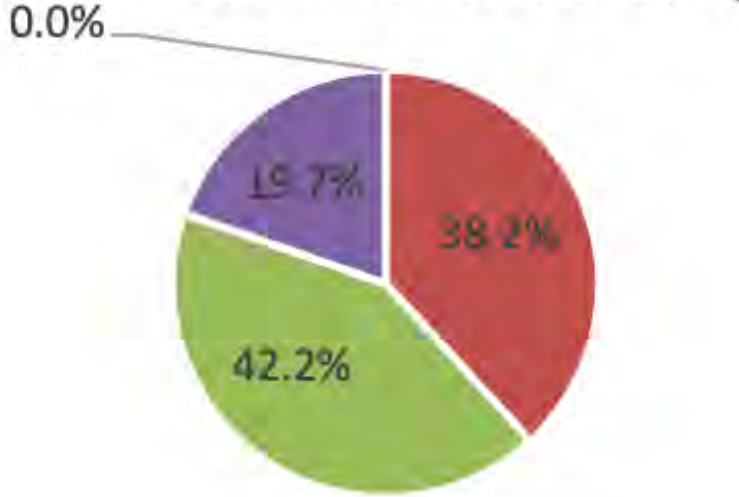
Leadership

- We have a 6 person vestry and have included "summer members" on the vestry.
- Our Priest leads bible studies and the Lenten program. Lay members assist during services as lectors, acolytes, chalice bearers.

Finances

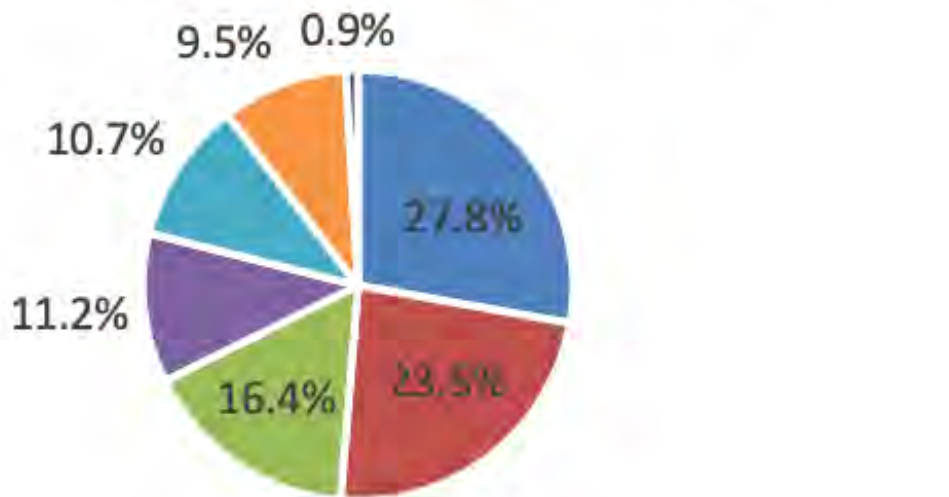
St. Alban's is financially sound and debt free. In 2014 we re-sided the church, completely funded by individual donations. We have built a \$30,000 building fund to handle contingencies. We have no deferred maintenance. For 2023, our Revenue is budgeted at \$99,600 and our Expenses at \$117,000. Per December 31, 2022 our balance sheet reflected long term investments of \$253,000, along with current liquid assets of \$42,000.

2023 Revenue Budget



- 2023 Operating Revenue Budget
- Pledge
- Plate
- Other

2023 Expense Budget



- Priest Expense
- Church Expenses
- Administration Staff
- Staffing Expense (Tax)
- Building Expense
- Music Expense
- Office and General Expense





Our Diocese

St. Alban's is a member of the Diocese of Iowa. Bishop Betsey Monnet is the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa and has led the diocese since 2021. The Diocese is the geographic state of Iowa with 58 congregations, divided into 10 regional Mission Chapters, with over 6,068 members. More information can be found at iowaepiscopal.org



Our community

St. Alban's Episcopal Church is located in Spirit Lake, Dickinson County, one of seven cities that comprise the Iowa Great Lakes. The area is often referred to simply as Okoboji.

The main attractions of the Okoboji area are the glacier-carved lakes. This beautiful chain of lakes extends from the Minnesota border southwest several miles and covers approximately 15,000 acres.

The Iowa Great Lakes include Iowa's largest natural lake, Spirit Lake and five interconnected lakes: West Okoboji, East Okoboji, Upper Gar, Lower Gar, and Minnewashta.



Spring-fed West Lake Okoboji is a beautiful shade of blue and 134 feet deep. It is the centerpiece of the five chain lakes, and the surrounding communities provide the backdrop for Okoboji's year-round playground.

The region is a popular destination for fishermen, both in summer and winter, as well as being one of Iowa's most popular vacation destinations.



There are many attractions during the summer, including sailing regattas, the Arnolds Park Amusement Park, the Okoboji Summer Theater, and several bible camps.



Our community, continued

There are also several year-round attractions, including the following:

- The Pearson Lakes Art Center has six galleries, performing arts space, and art classes
- The Dickinson County Nature Center is a center for environmental learning
- The Lakeside Lab provides science classes and research opportunities for university students, and offers Outreach Programs and provides services through the state universities
- Bedell Family YMCA.

There is also the fictitious University of Okoboji, created by three brothers in the early 1970s, which sponsors many summer activities as well as the Winter Games at the end of January.

There are several school districts in the area; local ones are Spirit Lake and Okoboji (which includes Okoboji, Milford, and Arnolds Park). The Iowa Lakes Community College has campuses in Spirit Lake and Spencer.

Our members live in both Dickinson and Clay counties, located in the northwest of Iowa. The following numbers are for 2021. Dickinson County has 17,851 residents, with 5,420 in Spirit Lake and 772 in Okoboji. Clay County, to the immediate south, has 16,440 residents with 11,356 in its largest city, Spencer.

The median household income for Dickinson County is \$60,975, for Spirit Lake, it is \$52,664, and for Okoboji, it is \$53,831. The median household income for Clay County is \$51,259, and for Spencer, it is \$45,224. The median home value in Dickinson County is \$194,300, for Spirit Lake the average sale price was \$287,096 (2022), and for Okoboji the average sale price was \$279,360 (2022). The median home value in Clay County is \$124,100, and for Spencer the average sale price was \$219,822 (2022). The cost of living is below average; Dickinson County is 90.0, Clay County is 76.7 (US average is 100).

Lakes Regional Healthcare operates a hospital in Spirit Lake. There is also Spencer Hospital with the Abben Cancer Center, which provides complete cancer treatment and care. There are several nursing home facilities in the Spirit Lake area.

There are several major employers in the area, including Polaris, Pure Fishing, Northwest Bank, Rosenboom Machine & Tool, and Northern Iowa Die Casting.



To apply:

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Our prayer of transition

O God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Guide us throughout this time of transition. Empower each of us to use our gifts, to share openly and honestly our thoughts, to respect the opinions of others, and to practice patience. Give us a vision for this church family, guide us by your Holy Spirit, and unite us in love to joyfully accomplish your mission, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

