



2024 Annual Report

**Light of Christ Lutheran Church
3976 County Line Road SE
Delano, MN 55328
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www.lightofchristlutheran.com**

2024 Annual Report



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January 26, 2025

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3976 County Line Road SE, Delano MN 55328

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CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEE ROSTER

January 28, 2024 to January 2025

CHURCH COUNCIL

(3-year terms)

Term expires Jan. 2025:
Mike Boyack (v. pres.)
Tim Current (treas.)
Natasha Werner (pres.)

Term expires Jan. 2026:
Laurie Brown (sec'y.)
Billie Chock
Jon Wissink

Term expires Jan. 2027:
Heidi Goldbeck
Luke Jeseritz
Lisa Krause

TREASURER:

Tim Current

COMMITTEES:

(Committees are 2-year terms, with exceptions noted.)

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM

Preschool - Grade 6

1st Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Council Rep: Mike Boyack
LaDonna Ekern (staff)

Term expires Jan. 2025:
Jennifer Clark
Susie Larison (3rd term)
Gracia Macks
Lori Prickett (3rd term)

Term expires Jan. 2026:
Brittany Hartnett
Ashley Jeseritz (2nd term)
Grace Nohner
Erin Olson

CALL COMMITTEE

Cheri Ashfeld
Mike Boyack
Billie Chock
Rhonda Current
Pat Czock (alternate)
Sophia Grant
Paul Ludwig
Erin Olson
Natasha Werner (alternate)

COLUMBARIUM

Council Rep: Lisa Krause
Ann Bassett—1/2025
Jinnelle Weis—1/2026
Tom Sebelien—1/2027

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM

Grades 7-12

3rd Monday, 7:30 pm

Council Rep: Natasha Werner
Kirsten Kelly (staff)

Term expires Jan. 2025:
Lesley Berscheid (3rd term)
Ken Chock
Adam Kopperud
Rachel Kopperud
Vicki Noetzelman
Jennifer Slipka

Term expires Jan. 2026:
Katie Horeis
Justin Lindall

COMMUNITY LIFE

2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm

Council Rep: Heidi Goldbeck

Term expires Jan. 2025:
Mary Allen (4th term)
Becca Finkelson
Rachel Halbersma
Amy Murphy
Heidi Wuergler

Term expires Jan. 2026:
Sivian Barfnecht
Jennifer Grant (7th term)
Kelly Harstad (5th term)
Melanie Paulson (5th term)
Abby Trettin (2nd term)
Theresa Wallace

AUDIT

Terms vary—1, 2, 3 year
Greg Ulberg 1/2025
Amy Murphy 1/2026
Lee Ashfeld 1/2027

ENDOWMENT

Terms vary—1, 2, 3 year
Brian Harstad 1/2025
Cheri Ashfeld 1/2026
Chris Meyers 1/2027

FINANCE

Council Rep: Tim Current
Term expires Jan. 2025:
Rob Geistfeld (2nd term)
Adam Wortz (2nd term)
Term expires Jan. 2026:
Fred Caslavka
Aaron DeMars
Nick Mullen
Tom Screeden

HEALING & WHOLENESS

1st Wednesday, 5:00 pm

Council Rep:

Term expires Jan. 2025:
Rachel Boyack
Sue Fink (2nd term)
Lona Jose (2nd term)
Elizabeth Kohlhof

Term expires Jan. 2026:
Lisa Spencer
Heidi Wuergler

LIBRARY

Term expires Jan. 2025:
Cheri Ashfeld

MISSION/EVANGELISM

1st Tuesday, 6:00pm

Council Rep: Jon Wissink

Term expires Jan. 2025:
Carrie Quamen

Term expires Jan. 2026:
Lona Jose (7th term)
Paul Nelson
Lisa Spencer
JoMarie Williamson (3rd term)

MUTUAL MINISTRY

(appointed by Pastor & President)

Kevin Jaunich
Paul Ludwig
Stacy VanCura
Jinnelle Weis

NOMINATING

(5 needed-1 yr. term, expires 1/25)

Steven Dickey
Derek Horeis
Lisa Spencer

PERSONNEL

Meets as needed (2nd Thurs.)

Term expires Jan. 2025:
JoMarie Williamson (3rd term)

Term expires Jan. 2026:
Beth Coulombe
Rhonda Current (3rd term)
Karen Gast
Vicki Noetzelman (3rd term)

FUNERAL COMMITTEE

Sivian Barfnecht
Rhonda Current
Jennifer Grant
Vicki Noetzelman
Holly Sprengeler
JoMarie Williamson

PROPERTY

2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm

Council Rep: Luke Jeseritz

Term expires Jan. 2025:
Greg Krause

Term expires Jan. 2026:
Steve Freese
Eric Hanson
Charlie Jose (3rd term)
Richie Lansing
David Motzko
Kirby Quamen
Bob Slipka (5th term)
Brad Wiyninger
Rick Zabel

STEWARDSHIP

2nd Monday, 6:30pm

Council Rep: Lisa Krause

Term expires Jan. 2025:
Pat Czock
Tim Johnson (3rd term)

Term expires Jan. 2026:
Kylee Amdor
Dave Wuergler

TECHNOLOGY

Term expires Jan. 2025:
Council Rep: Billie Chock
Ryan Green
Dave Kelly
Jeremiah Werner

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Meets Quarterly

Council Rep: Laurie Brown
Katie Kohler (staff)

Term expires Jan. 2025:
Jean Detwiler
Janine Holter
Maxine Johnson
Lindsay Lindall
Barb Russell

Term expires Jan. 2026:
Megan Wiyninger

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Ian Alviani
Tim Current
Brandt Dinger
Jon Holzer
Tim Johnson
Gary Prinsen

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

January 26, 2025

Welcome and Coming Together:

- Call to Order, Introductions and Opening Prayer
- Adopt Meeting Agenda

2024 Review:

- Adopt Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting
- Adopt Staff Reports
- Adopt Committee Reports
- 2024 Narrative Financial Report
- “Let Us Build a House” Capital Campaign update
- Celebrating our Accomplishments

Treasurer’s Report: Tim Current

- Adopt 2024 Financial Statements

2025 and Beyond

- Adopt 2025 General Fund Budget
- Nominations and Elections for 2025 Council and Committees
- Other Business

Closing:

- Prayer and Meeting Adjournment

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2024

Welcome and Coming Together:

- Call to Order, Introductions and Opening Prayer
- Adopt Meeting Agenda-Motion to adopt agenda as stated - 1st Laurie Brown, 2nd Jinnelle Weis-motion carries

2023 Review:

- Adopt Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting-Motion to approve 2023 Minutes 1st Katie Horeis, 2nd Carmen Hanson-motion carries
- Adopt Staff Reports-Motion to approve-1st Lisa Spencer, 2nd Tim Current-Motion carries
- Adopt Committee Reports-Motion to approve-1st Billie Chock, 2nd Paul Ludwig-Motion carries 2023 Narrative Financial Report

Treasurer's Report: Tim Current

- Adopt 2023 Financial Statements-1st Katie Horeis, 2nd Laurie Brown-Motion carries

2024 and Beyond

- Adopt 2024 Budget-Motion to adopt budget-1st Katie Horeis, 2nd Jennifer Grant-
- Motion to amend the education costs to \$40 per student with \$100 per family max with a fundraiser to raise shortfall in income-Motion denied by vote
- Propose an amendment to raise budget and 1 month fundraiser of voluntary contributions of \$33,000 by meeting participants and what is raised from remainder of congregation, increased Faith Sharing by 12.6% 1st Brad Spencer, 2nd-Dave Gast Motion passes-55 yes, 49 No
- Motion to adopt amended budget-76 yes, 11 no, amendment passes.
- Update on "Let Us Build a House" visioning and strategic plan
- Vote on capital campaign starting in April-Mike 1st, Derek 2nd, Motion approved 67 approve, 14 oppose
- Nominations and Elections for 2024 Council and Committees-motion for unanimous approval 1st Pastor Bruce, 2nd Jinnelle Weis
- Call Committee Report-Paul Ludwig
- Other Business-Pastor Bruce's last Sunday will be July 21, 2024

Closing:

- Prayer and Meeting Adjournment-Motion to adjourn 1st Pastor Bruce, 2nd Laurie Brown



We are truly grateful for the many accomplishments here at Light of Christ over the past year, especially as we navigated a time of transition. Your faith, resilience, and dedication have been a testament to God's work in our midst, and together, we've continued to grow stronger as a community.

Our **worship** participation continues to grow, both in-person and on-line.

Our **music ministry** continues to grow. One of the highlights of the year was the Lessons and Carols service in December.

We welcomed **30 new members** into our community of faith this year, with new visitors worshipping with us on many Sundays.

We navigated a **season of transition** after Pastor Bruce's retirement, partnering with two bridge pastors and several guest pastors.

We are excited to welcome **Pastor Tim Wheatley** to Light of Christ starting in January 2025. A special thanks goes to our **Call Committee** (Cheri Ashfeld, Mike Boyack, Billie Chock, Rhonda Current, Sophia Grant, Paul Ludwig, Erin Olson, Pat Czock, and Natasha Werner as alternates) for their dedication and patience throughout the process.

We had **2 summer youth trips**: 21 high school students and 6 adults went to Chicago on the mission trip, and 6 youth and 3 adults headed to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. It was a blessing to have these opportunities, and these trips continue to serve as a catalyst for growth for our youth and family ministry.

Our children, youth, and family ministry is thriving. On Wednesdays, we have about 80 children participating in our weekly Explorers, Voyagers, and Pathfinders program; and 65 seventh, eighth and ninth graders participating in our confirmation ministry. We had 6 new families join in 2024/2025.

We pledged \$194,000 to our **Capital Campaign**, enabling us to fund important repairs and updates, including work on the steeple, building security, new live stream cameras, and improvements to the parking lot.

In addition to all of this, there are many things that go unnoticed but are vital to our shared life. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to each of you in this congregation. **Thank you** for your generosity, prayers, and the countless ways you serve and support one another. Your commitment to this church and God's work is a true reflection of your faith, and we are deeply grateful for all that you do to make this community special.

Peace and joy,



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES (Preschool – Grade 6) ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by the Children & Family Ministry Team



As we reflect on 2024, it's clear this year was filled with growth, connection, and joyous moments within our Children & Family Ministry.

We started the year with a visit from the WAPO camp staff, who gave our Voyagers & Pathfinders a taste of the camp experience, sparking excitement and anticipation for future adventures. Then February into March our young people helped promote, gather, and pack food items for *Pack the Pew* food drive.

On March 17, 13 children received their first communion with an additional 3 waiting till October. April 14 saw us giving Bibles to 14 third graders. In April we also hosted an Earth Day family cleanup service project.

May was full of celebrations and farewells. Mother's Day was a heartwarming event, providing families the opportunity to surprise moms with roses, while supporting our CFM budget and school year registration scholarships. We ended May with an epic

end-of-year celebration, which doubled as an early farewell to Pastor Bruce, filled with skits, songs, and a hand-made quilt created from each child's cherished memory of him. We closed out the school year with an average participation of 81 children across our Explorers, Voyagers, and Pathfinders programs—almost double our numbers since 2022!

Summer included WAPO camp adventures with a total of 19 youth participating. With the support of the Endowment Committee, we purchased and dedicated a new rug for the prayer ground, enhancing our worship space for our youngest members. VBS, our last summer event, was a success with 45 children participating and over 32 youth and adult volunteers contributing their time and talents!

Rally Sunday in September was fun filled with various games and activities. Eight children began their Bible exploration by receiving a Story Bible. They also began their Global Barnyard initiative raising \$1,102 by end of October.



In November we were excited to host "Friends for a Cause," supporting families in our community, led by Ashlyn Wortz. We also looked forward to our annual Christmas program in December.

We are deeply grateful for the support of our congregation, volunteers, and families. Your dedication and generosity have allowed us to create a nurturing environment where our children can grow in faith and community!

Blessings, The Children & Family Ministry Committee

Gracia Macks, Lori Prickett, Erin Olson, Susie Larison, Jennifer Clark, Mike Boyack (Council Rep), Ashley Jeseritz; not pictured: LaDonna Ekern (Staff), Brittany Hartnett, Grace Nohner



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES (Preschool – Grade 6) ANNUAL REPORT
Submitted by LaDonna Ekern, Dir. of Children & Family Ministry

In May of 2021 I began an exciting new adventure ministry. I was called to be the Director of Children and Family Ministry at Light of Christ.

As I think back on the past 4 years and how the Children's Ministry Program has grown and emerged from a still in covid-mode outdoor Sunday school to a Wednesday afternoon/evening packed full of energy and eagerness to learn about God, I am in awe. These young people are amazing! They have been my inspiration. They are church, the body of Christ at its finest, and they give me hope for the future. I know beyond any doubt God is up-to something with these young people, as I will frequently hear on a Wednesday evening, "But I don't want to leave – can't we stay longer!"

And yet, there comes the time we need to leave. On May 15, I will leave my position as Director of Children's Ministry here at Light of Christ. I thank God for all of you and your support and encouragement through the last four years.

As you know, as a Pastor I went on "semi-retired" status at the end of 2020, but not the age or with the financial capability to fully retire. I'm finally of age! Yes, I plan to retire (at least until God in God's unique sense of humor calls me to another grand adventure)!

I have been blessed and thank God for an amazing staff to work with, an incredible CFM team to partner with, parents to be in awe of, and a congregation who supports and blesses children.

Thank you!
LaDonna Ekern

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES (Grades 7-12 & college-age) ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Kirsten Kelly, Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry (*in consultation with the Youth & Family Ministry Team*)

Youth & Family Ministry (YFM) Team Members: Lesley Berscheid, Ken Chock, Katie Horeis, Kirsten Kelly (staff), Adam & Rachel Kopperud, Justin Lindall, Vicki Noetzelman, Jennifer Slipka, and Natasha Werner (Council rep).

I am so grateful to have transitioned to full-time this year so that we can continue to look to the future and grow the YFM at Light of Christ! Thank you for your trust and partnership in this impactful and life-changing ministry. It has been a year of transition as we said goodbye to Pastor Bruce Kuenzel and waited to see what the future held. We are excited to have Pastor Tim Wheatley join us in January and be “full-strength” again as a staff! Here is a brief look into the YFM that took place in 2024:

- **NEW:** Started planning for our first ever 7th and 8th grade mission trip that'll take place June 2025!
- **NEW:** Switched to quarterly YFM Team meetings. We are so grateful for these dedicated volunteers that give their time to vision, plan, and implement the youth ministries each year!
- **NEW:** Worked with Jennifer Slipka to organize a BWCA trip for juniors and seniors. 6 youth and 3 adults attended (Ken Chock, Jennifer, & Ryan Tool) and plans are underway for a 2025 trip!
- **NEW:** Brought Trunk or Treat back (see photo)! A great fellowship/outreach event for all ages and a laid-back way for people to check out our church.
- **NEW:** Coordinated with the Healing and Wholeness Team to host the *Walk a Mile* event in conjunction with Confirmation (and all Wednesday afternoon kid's programs) on 10/2/24. We had over 100 people attend and stay for pizza afterwards! This event creates community and raises awareness for mental health.
- **NEW:** Worked with Katie Kohler to lead our first intentional Youth Worship on 8/25/24. Our goal for 2025 is to have these services quarterly.
- **NEW:** Since we weren't able to get to Wapo in the 2023-24 school year, we held a fun and successful 10th Grade “Getting Confirmed” overnight retreat at LOC on March 8-9, 2024 instead.
- **NEW:** Helped with pastoral care while we were in transition between pastors.
- **NEW:** Worked with Tim Johnson to host “Comfort and Calm – A Quiet Christmas Gathering” on 12/19/24 for anyone wanting to “slow down” at Christmas, have time for prayer and reflection.



- Had another life-changing HS mission trip in June 2024 with 27 participants+ to Chicago. We raised funds, purchased supplies, and set up 2 refugee apartments through Exodus World Services; served at Bernie's Book Bank, Project CURE, and A Just Harvest; built new relationships and grew in our faith and leadership!
- Monthly Parent Discussion Groups held through last school year - led by Pastor Bruce and Kirsten.
- Monthly Summer Youth Activity Nights for grades 7-12 (enhanced with 2 separate gathering times).
- Had a fun day of fellowship and rides with 14 youth and 2 adults at Valleyfair on 7/23/24!
- “Dinner and a Movie” HS Fellowship event on 2/25/24 (made

burrito bowls).

- Prepared and led the VBS opening/closing each day with Katie Kohler (skits, songs, theme, etc.).
- 11 Grad Care Packages assembled by the youth and mailed to the 2024 Grads in November.

(report continues on next page)

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES (Grades 7-12 & college-age) ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Kirsten Kelly, Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry (*in consultation with the Youth & Family Ministry Team*)

(continued from previous page)



- We were finally able to have an “All-Confirmation Retreat” again this fall at Camp Wapogasset! 42 youth (grades 7-9) and 5 adults attended on Nov. 1-3 and learned more about prayer (see photo).
- Worked with 4 HS youth again to coordinate the *Sleep Out for Homelessness* on November 9-10 to raise awareness and funds for homelessness.
- Continued with monthly Friday Night Lights events - a chance for youth to hang out, have fun, and play games at church!
- Led several “special” Sundays including

Camp Sunday, Grad Sunday, and Mission Trip Return Worship.

- Had a successful youth fundraiser on 3/17/24 and raised \$10,785 to help support the youth that went to Chicago and the BWCA in summer 2024!
- 65 Confirmation youth (grades 7-9) during the 2024-2025 school year. We welcome 6 new families this fall!
- Weekly activities for Confirmation youth include SLICE (pizza supper), games, worship & prayers, large group teaching time, small groups, special events, and service events (Feed My Starving Children, Delano Food Shelf, and Love INC, care packages, cards, tie blankets, etc.). Coordinated Confirmation on my own this fall.



- Amazing Guides and Jr. Guides (8 HS youth and 22 adults) that give so much each week for the Confirmation ministry to happen!
- 18 youth affirmed their baptism on 4/7/24 (see photo).
- 19 youth attended Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, WI over various weeks in summer 2024.
- 12 Tie Quilts made and gifted to the 2024 Grads on Grad Sunday (see photo); organized with the help of 2 HS youth.
- Many “administrative” tasks (lots of emails & communication, youth mes-

sages, newsletter articles, curating photos, staff meetings, budget, youth account, recommendation letters, etc.).

- Gave several Children’s Messages on Sundays throughout the year.
- Grew deeper through many relational connections... coffee and home visits, attended sporting events and grad parties, sent care packages, cards and messages, phone call check-ins, etc.



Youth and Family Ministry Goals for 2025:

1. Work closely with Katie Kohler on the possibility of adding a Wednesday night worship service.
2. Assist the new pastor (Tim Wheatley) as he transitions to Light of Christ. Help him get to know the youth and families through ministries where he can quickly become connected.
3. Plan and implement quarterly youth worship services – to develop youth leadership skills and help all to grow deeper in their faith!
4. Add Peer Ministry Training as a part of our summer trips so that youth can develop stronger leadership skills – among their peers, in our community, and within our congregation.

Thanks for your love, support, and partnership in 2024. We’re excited for another year of growth and adventure while walking with God in our faith!

-Kirsten Kelly, Youth & Family Ministry Director

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COLUMBARIUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Columbarium Board Members: Ann Bassett (secretary), Jinnelle Weis (president), Tom Sebelien (treasurer), Lisa Krause (council rep), and Pastor Tim Wheatley

Number of Niches Sold:

For 2024, 1 niche was sold for a total of 24 units or 25%.

Sources and uses of cash for 2024*:

Income for 2024 was \$3,800

Expenses for 2024 was \$2,553

Balance Sheet value of \$16,694

Construction Loan*:

Of the total expenses, \$1,555 was directed toward servicing the current liability of the columbarium. The remaining balance of the columbarium loan is \$58,836. (*YTD November 2024)

Treasure, Talent, Time Opportunity:

A new board member is needed for a 3-year term. The LOC office can provide a copy of roles and responsibilities that guide the semi-annual commitment.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Sebelien

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE

Members: Mary Allen, Sivian Barfnecht, Becca Finkelson, Heidi Goldbeck (Council Rep), Jennifer Grant (Chair), Rachel Halbersma, Kelly Harstad, Amy Murphy, Mel Paulson, Lisa Spencer, Abby Trettin, Heidi Wuerger

The Community Life Committee is responsible for planning social events for fellowship with our church community. In 2024 we helped with the Youth spaghetti dinner in March, new member pancake breakfast in spring & fall, summer picnic outside in June, quarterly birthday treat Sundays, Rally Sunday breakfast, Pastor Bruce's farewell celebration, Ringers & Singers dinner & Orchestra, December cookie exchange, and several Sisters of LOC events held throughout the year. The Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Grant



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Committee members: Brian Harstad, Cheri Ashfeld, Chris Meyers

The Light of Christ Endowment Committee oversees the Light of Christ Endowment Fund that was created in 2019. The committee has three members including Brian Harstad as Chair, Cheri Ashfeld as Secretary, and Chris Meyers, serving staggered terms. The Endowment Fund is an account separate from the church's operating and building capital funds, which is designed to accept and hold both current and future contributions and estate gifts for the purpose of making distributions for ministry.

Due to the favorable investment market results during the past year, the committee was able to again make ministry grants that totaled \$2000 during 2024. Grants were approved and distributed to the church sanctuary prayer rug for \$400, the Chicago youth mission project for \$500, the Estates of Delano resources needs of \$500 and the LOC sanctuary video upgrade fund for \$600. The committee developed new content for the church website to explain the Endowment Fund and provide links to additional information and content from the ELCA. We continue to look for opportunities to educate our church community on legacy giving opportunities and giving options to the Endowment Fund.

The committee monitors the Endowment Fund performance managed through the ELCA. The fund started the year with a balance of \$29,234, and through October, the fund balance has improved through fund earnings and market value gains to a current balance of \$30,663 after the \$2000 grant withdrawal.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Harstad

(continued on next page)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Light Of Christ Endowment Fund Summary **Stmt as of 12/31/23** *(continued from previous page)*

	Yr 2019	Yr 2020	Yr 2021	Yr 2022	Yr 2023	YTD	Life-to-Date
Beginning Balance	0	26,641	29,741	31,114	24,968	29,234	0
New Additions	25,000	0	0	0	670	0	25,670
Grant Withdrawals	0	0	-2,000	-2,000	0	-2,000	-6,000
Fund Earnings	485	993	1,021	1,047	1,088	842	5,476
Market Value Change	1,156	2,107	2,352	-5,193	2,508	2,587	5,517
Ending Balance	26,641	29,741	31,114	24,968	29,234	30,663	30,663

as of

<u>Grants Funded</u>			<u>Totals</u>	<u>%</u>
Youth Camp/Trips	1,000	500	1,500	50%
Youth Seniors	0	500	500	
Church Sanctuary Prayer Rug			400	
Livestream cameras project			600	
Nourishing Hope Program	500	150	650	25%
Kids Hope - Delano Schools		350	350	
Estates of Delano - community funding			500	
Justice Fund - Minneapolis	500		500	25%
ELCA Ukraine Relief		500	500	
Chicago mission trip - Exodus World Service			500	

Total Grants

2,000	2,000	0	2,000	6,000
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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee members: Tom Screeden, Nicholas Mullen, Aaron Demars, Fred Caslavka, Rob Geistfeld, Adam Wortz, Tim Current (Council Rep), and Pastor Bruce Kuenzel

The Finance Committee has been assisting the treasurer in the transition from a staff bookkeeper to an external bookkeeping service. This transition has changed many of the ways we did things, and required the development of new processes. These changes have been an improvement to our financial management and accountability.

Prior to this major transition we felt we were in a position to complete an audit. Unfortunately, the changes and required new process development has resulted in pushing out the audit.

The committee will be updating our documented procedures this year to reflect the changes.

The church's property, casualty, and liability insurance coverage continue to be a challenge for the church. Our costs have increased considerably for 2025 and the deductible amounts have also increased.

Respectfully submitted by Tim Current

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALING AND WHOLENESS COMMITTEE

2024 members: Sue Fink (chair), Lona Jose, Rachel Boyack, Lisa Spencer, Heidi Wuerger, Elizabeth Kohlhof

The Healing and Wholeness Ministry was created in 2019 in response to our Congregational MAP Survey with the purpose of leading our congregation to be a healing presence for one another and our community. Our goal has been to reflect Christ's love and care through bringing awareness, education, prayer and support to those in our congregation experiencing mental illness, loneliness, grief and brokenness. Our focus has been expanded toward the increasing concern for the mental well-being of youth.

Our ministry accomplishments for this past year include:

- Replaced the "Friendship Pad" with welcome cards, prayer request cards and caring card requests. As a congregation we are becoming more comfortable sharing prayer concerns.
- Held our 4th annual *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* event. Over 100 walkers attended! Collected donations of \$117 for NAMI. Coordinated the event with Children and Youth Ministries and our committee donated pizza dinner for all attendees.
- The O.W.L.S (Older Wiser Lutherans) group has been highly successful! Bible study is held weekly with 15-20 people. A monthly social activity is well attended by 20-25 people. We are growing friendships and genuinely care for one another.
- Caring Cards – Through November 5, Cheri Ashfeld has sent out 38 Caring Cards, including Valentine's Day cards to some snow birds! Other requests have been divided between illness and grief. It's so important to reach out in love and concern.
- Monthly Caring Corner articles are written by committee members and shared in the Delano Herald Journal. Topics included: Gratitude, Stress in Teens, Transition as Pastor Bruce was retiring, Disability and Pride month with focus on accepting diversity in God's children, Mental Load on Parents, Compassion Fatigue, Suicide prevention, the importance of friendship for mental health, facing the holidays with addiction and mental fragility.
- We are still operating on a generous 2020 campaign fund allotment and currently do not have a formal line item in the budget.
- Our plan for 2025 is to continue to educate and provide resources and support for those in our church and Delano communities:
 - Plan to start a "Wellness Tool Kit" in January and create a theme for the Caring Corner articles to provide more resources for healing and wellness.
 - Organize a May event (ex: 988 awareness, NAMI QPR or Mental Health First Aid) for LOC and the Delano community.
 - Propose a new welcome brochure to the church council and new pastor (draft ready).
 - Look into "wounded healers" - ways we can share our own life struggles to help others.



Respectfully submitted by Sue Fink

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The church library is a valuable resource for members of all ages and interests. Whether you need bible study materials, mental health support, children's books or adult fiction, the shelves are full of great titles. Feel free to donate appropriate books.

Respectfully submitted by Cheri Ashfeld, Library Committee



COMMITTEE REPORTS

MISSION AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Lona Jose (Chair), Carrie Quamen, JoMarie Williamson, Paul Nelson, Lisa Spencer, Jon Wissink (Council Rep)

Our Mission outreach calls us as Christ's disciples to extend compassion and serve those in need in our local and global community. Our Evangelism outreach is to current and potential members to help make LOC a welcoming church home. We also see how important it is to team with our other LOC committees.

Evangelism Activities:

Discover LOC New Partner/Member Sundays: 30 new LOC members were received this year (including baptisms). This committee was involved again as we have in the past welcoming our new LOC partners.

5th Sunday Contributions: Thanks to our generous LOC members for their monetary contributions of **\$17,570** total this year thus far (December is not yet collected and will be added to this number later)

- **March:** \$1870 Second Harvest
- **June:** \$700 for Karen Anderson
- **September:** \$15,000 for the Belize van
- **December:** LOC Birthday Ministries and residents' personal needs at the Delano Estates Nursing Home

Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf Support:

- **March Food Share Month:** We again did *Pack the Pews* and collected many items for the Delano food shelf (**669 lbs.**) as well as throughout the year. Many LOC members also donated individually.
- **LOC Member Volunteers:** Many LOC members volunteer at the food shelf during our months of March, June, December for families in need. Several LOC members including our LOC kids also volunteer their time throughout the year to help at the food shelf in other ways. JoMarie Williamson, LOC member, is one of the directors of the food shelf.
- **Food Rescue:** LOC members pick up donated food from Coborn's and Kwik Trip weekly and deliver to the food shelf, Delano Senior Center and other senior apartments in Delano.



Faith Storytelling: Mary Hess did a workshop on faith storytelling for LOC members which was very well received. The committee plans to reach out to other LOC members in 2025 to share her information and offer the opportunity to do more faith sharing.

Nourishing HOPE/Second Harvest Heartland Food Distribution: LOC volunteers have helped each month to box food in Rockford and distribute them at LOC in Delano. The number of boxes of this free food has consistently been 90 each month.



Kids Hope USA

LOC has 12 mentors and 9 prayer partners who are volunteering their services to selected Delano Elementary children. All is working very well with our school district and the children are benefitting from the mentors' compassion.

Gratitude Project:

This committee did a Gratitude Project for Delano Elementary staff for their teaming up on Kids Hope, one for staff at the Delano Estates Nursing Home, one for members of Our Father's Church in Rockford for their work with food distribution, and one for the LOC staff and Call Committee members.

Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) Support:

Birthday ministries, Christmas *Adopt a Family* and store volunteering continue to be ongoing efforts that LOC members do for Love INC. LOC also contributes funding annually to the organization.

Respectfully submitted by Lona Jose

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Committee members: Kevin Jaunich, Paul Ludwig, Stacy VanCura, Jinnelle Weis, Natasha Werner

This committee meets with the called staff (pastor) approximately once per quarter, or as needed, with the task of confidentially listening, encouraging and supporting.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Ludwig

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The committee members include: Rhonda Current, JoMarie Williamson, Beth Coulombe, Karen Gast, and Vicki Noetzelman. The committee met throughout the year to discuss and complete the following:

- Updated employee job descriptions prior to Pastor Bruce's retirement
- Updated the Employee Handbook with new law regarding paid time off
- Addressed the new MN Paid Family Leave Act requirement effective 2026
- Updated New Hire procedures with changes in the Finance Administrator role
- Updated background check protocol with retirement of Pastor Bruce
- Developed a non-employee accident/incident reporting form
- Documented core duties and references to assist those that have volunteered to provide Office Administration back-up in case of a prolonged absence.

Respectfully submitted by Rhonda Current

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Committee members: Bob Slipka, Charlie Jose, Greg Krause, Brad Wiyninger, Steve Freese, Kirby Quamen, Eric Hanson, Richie Lansing, Rick Zabel, Luke Jeseritz (Council Rep), Dave Motzko

There has been a lot of activity on the Property Board this past year. One new task that has been taken on is more involvement in day-to-day activities around the church. This includes small repairs, restocking restrooms, and other miscellaneous things that previously had been part of the former custodial duties. Many thanks to Charlie who has been the primary person checking in throughout the week and helping with these tasks. In addition, as many of you have noticed, our hail claim went into full construction mode this past fall. The entire building including the garage has received a new roof. There is some minor siding work that needs to be finished up, but the work is nearly complete. Also, in collaboration with the Capital Campaign Committee, the steeple has had some renovation work done to get things watertight, as well as interior water damage repairs taken care of. In addition to these projects and tasks, the following is a summary of other efforts completed this past year.

Tasks this past year:

- Winter 2024 snow contract for snow removal in parking lot and sidewalks
- Septic system servicing and maintenance
- Management of platforms for outdoor services
- Summer 2024 mowing contract for mowing property
- Weekly management of trash and recycling pickup
- Replacement of timer for building lights
- Hard piping downspouts near septic tanks
- Replacement of bulbs around the building and sanctuary
- Building sanitary line maintenance
- Eric is now our certified Water Operations Specialist for well water testing
- New contract for management of mice, wasps and other pests/insects
- Many other smaller tasks that are too numerous to call out individually

Thank you,
Light of Christ Property Board (Bob Slipka, chair)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

"No one has ever become poor by giving." – *Anne Frank*

The purpose of the Stewardship Committee is to help each of you as "Ministry Partners" align your Time, Talents, and Treasures with your spiritual growth, and to help you be active supporters of the ministry we all share here at Light of Christ.

Thriving is what it's all about! Thriving in our faith. Thriving in our community. Thriving as a church. And that best happens when we all have investment in our mission!

To that end, we have been finding new and easier ways to have you be able to participate in an active church life with a broad spectrum of choices. Whether you have only 1-2 hours to serve, want to do something virtually, or want to commit to a committee. Our purpose is to help you be a true **partner** in the ministry of Light of Christ. Our website is designed to help you seek out the ways in which you would like to serve in Light of Christ ministry. There you'll find our new Time and Talent form.

We are also presenting easier options for giving of your treasures. We have online giving opportunity on our <http://www.lightofchristlutheran.com> website that shows not only gifting to the General Fund, Building Fund, and Endowment Fund, but also youth activities, Fifth Sunday offerings, and special events as they arise. And we have resources through the ELCA that show how charitable giving can be most beneficial with tax laws.

In this year's theme, "Together We Thrive", we hope to create awareness for how using the gifts God has given you can best serve Christ by supporting His mission through our congregation, our community, and our global mission. A fantastic way to do so is by providing a pledge for regular giving.

Committee members are Tim Johnson, Pat Czock, Dave Wuergler, Kylee Amdor, and Council Rep, Lisa Krause.

1 Peter 4:10 *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." —*Winston Churchill*

Respectfully submitted by Tim Johnson



TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Ryan Green, Dave Kelly, Jeremiah Werner, Billie Chock (Council Rep)

The Technology Committee continued to support the technology needs of Light of Christ throughout 2024. The focus areas for the past year included:

- Equipment configuration improvements in the wiring closet to remove old hardware and simplify support of the current system.
- Ongoing review of current PC equipment and purchase facilitation for two staff PC upgrades. Also established initial recommendations for a PC replacement schedule to ensure PCs maintain support and are replaced at reasonable intervals.
- Ongoing support and administration of LOC's Microsoft 365 environment including the configuration of user accounts, SharePoint, and Teams site management.
- Creation and ongoing support for an expense system used by staff to streamline the process of working with LOC's bookkeeper. The system utilizes SharePoint, taking advantage of software already available to the LOC staff.
- Support for sanctuary camera additions and upgrades.
- Ongoing documentation on discussions about future technology needs including technology support for future facility improvements.

We will continue to support Light of Christ's technology needs and will look for additional ways to provide that support in 2025. Specifically, we will continue to work to build a technology plan that allows improved visibility and planning for technology-related needs.

If you have a technology background or an interest in technology or related efforts, we are always looking for additional members to join the Technology Committee. Reach out to any committee member for more information.

Respectfully submitted by Jeremiah Werner

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Members: *Laurie Brown (Council Rep), Jean Detwiler (Chair), Janine Holter, Maxine Johnson, Katie Anne Kohler (Staff), Lindsay Lindall, Barbara Russell, and Megan Wiyninger*

2024 has been a year of trying new things and a year of transition! Some highlights include:

- Worship Services
 - Starting January of 2024, we updated our worship time to 9:30. Overall, we saw an increase in attendance and received positive feedback!
 - Fall of 2024 we started experimenting with changing the announcements to the beginning of the service. We are still working out the best way to do this, but overall it seems like a good change!
 - I have continued trying to make Sunday morning music as vibrant as possible, with regular song leaders, including the choir on the Sundays they sing for us. We also added a bass player to our praise team! Shout out to Carmen! We are continuing to build praise team rep, and I am excited to introduce more songs in 2025.
 - Pastor Bruce's retirement service was a wonderful celebration that deserves mentioning!
- Technology
 - We now have two additional cameras! These should be up and running hopefully January of 2025.
 - We are getting quotes for a new soundboard and snake. Stay tuned for more info.

There is so much to celebrate at Light of Christ. It is truly a vibrant congregation, and I am so thankful for everyone who makes our Worship and Music program possible! A special thank you to the Worship and Music Committee for all their hard work this year!

Peace,
Katie Anne Kohler

ALTAR GUILD

In 2024, Altar Guild committee members supported weekly worship service through communion preparation, set up, and post service clean-up activities. Active Altar Guild members throughout the year included Beata Zerull, Cynthia Kuenzel, Janine Holter, Kylee Amdor, Lisa Hemmer, and Mary Ann McKay. Linda Rosaaen coordinated regular filling of the eternity, altar, and baptismal candles. Mary Ann McKay purchased bread and juice and ensured member awareness of key events and supply needs. Supplies including bread, wine, wafers, communion cups, oil and pre-filled communion cups were ordered through Amazon, local shops, and CM Almy. Kylee Amdor chaired the committee and coordinated the weekly sign-up for scheduling.

Respectfully submitted by Kylee Amdor

MINISTRY REPORTS

BIRTHDAY MINISTRY

Members: Ann Bassett, Beth Coulombe, Ginny Iverson, MaryAnn McKay, Vicki Noetzelman, Carrie Quamen, Terri Reuter, Crystal Stahlke, Jinnelle Weis

The Light of Christ Birthday Ministry works in collaboration with Love INC-Heartland and provides birthday party supplies and presents for children of neighbors in need who are referred to LOC from Love INC.

LOC is responsible for securing donations for birthday supplies including –

- Birthday gifts appropriate for boys and girls ages 10 and under
⇒ Suggested maximum cost per gift of \$20.00-30.00
- Gift bags, wrapping paper, bows, etc.
- Party supplies such as paper plates, napkins, cake mixes, frostings, balloons, candles, favors, etc.

In 2024, the Birthday Ministry provided birthday party supplies and presents for a total of 41 children. A birthday wish list form is completed by a Love INC representative, with assistance from the child's parent(s). Based on the form responses, Birthday Ministry volunteers shop for needed items and assemble "birthday bags" filled with supplies and gifts for children from the birthday inventory. Assembled bags are then picked up by a Love INC representative and delivered to the child's home.

Respectfully submitted by Terri Reuter



WOMEN OF LIGHT OF CHRIST—2024

Our purpose as Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Light of Christ: **As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society, and the world.**

Services 2024

Several quilts have been donated to a variety of organizations such as Delano Legacy, Delano Care Center, Village Harvest (contact person: Lona Jose), and LOC Youth service project for the homeless.

Quilters:

Amber Dawn Andrews
Ann Bassett
Oda Carlson
Cheryl Collins
Laurie Grimm
Ginny Iverson
Maxine Johnson
Lynda Pavlovich
Joan Zimmerman (moved)

Thank you and God's blessings!

Financial Report:

2024 beginning balance:	\$1321.64
3/12/2024 quilt batting (check #2308)	\$189.37
2024 year-end balance:	\$1132.27



Respectfully submitted by Ginny Iverson

YOUTH FUND
January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

LIGHT OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Youth Fund - Annual Report
January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
<u>YOUTH ACTIVITIES</u>	684.65			
Bank Fee (Checks/Deposit slips)			83.19	
DHS Grad Party			100.00	
Totals-Youth Activities		-	183.19	501.46
 <u>SLICE</u>	 1,476.24			
Deposits		2,678.00		
Monthly Miscellaneous Expenses			672.96	
Dave's Town Club-pizza orders			808.00	
Pizza Hut - pizza orders			1,112.57	
Online SLICE payments		1,310.00		
Friday Night Lights		30.00	54.28	
Pizza Expense			147.06	
Prepaid Payment		40.00		
Transfer balance to individual account			15.00	
Domino's Pizza-pizza orders			1,205.58	
Totals-SLICE		4,058.00	4,015.45	1,518.79
 <u>MT/Camp Scholarships</u>	 1,180.29			
Corporate Donations		2,225.00		
General Donation		500.00		
MT24 Scholarships			2,400.00	
Camp Wapogasset Scholarships			1,200.00	
Camp Scholarship Donations		300.00		
Lutheran Outdoors			100.00	
Camp Wapo Scholarships to Indiv Acct (6)			350.00	
Fundraiser Scholarships \$\$		2,400.00		
Equal Exchange - December		51.17		
Totals-MT/Camp Scholarship		5,476.17	4,050.00	2,606.46
 <u>MISSION TRIP</u>	 (109.33)			
Equal Exchange		785.16	1,119.32	
Service Learning Camps-MT24			3,402.00	
Postage-Fundraiser Mailing			66.00	
MT24 Donation		159.00		
BWCA Permit			110.00	
Spaghetti Dinner Tickets		1,825.00	454.28	
Lent Supper		583.00		
Auction Service			130.00	
Silent Auction		4,580.00		

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YOUTH FUND
January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

(continued from previous page)

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Dessert Auction		1,270.00		
Heads or Tails		176.00		
Wine & Beer Tasting		195.00	100.00	
MT Poster Board			60.00	
Service Learning Camps-MT24 Fee		4,200.00		
MT24 Chicago Pre-trip Expense			705.63	
BWCA Food			81.62	
Refugee Project		670.00		
Online Auction/Tickets		2,743.00		
Fundraiser Expense (beads)			14.96	
Immanuel Lutheran (MT24 lodging)			525.00	
Cash for MT24		35.18	1,470.00	
Distribution of Fundraiser funds to indiv			7,206.25	
MT24 Trip cost from individual accounts		8,400.00		
Refugee Project-Endowment Fund		500.00	796.01	
Chaperone-Expense Reimbursement			5,483.97	
Sandwich Project			137.49	
Miscellaneous Trip Expense			120.00	
North Country Canoe Outfitters			2,106.00	
BWCA Expense			476.29	
MT24 BWCA Trip from Individual Accts		2,773.92		
Fundraiser Scholarships \$\$			2,400.00	
Clear MT23 Belize negative balances			12.91	
Close senior balances		0.01		
7/8 MT25 Deposit			800.00	
MT24 BWCA Shirts/LOC			229.46	
Totals-Mission Trip		28,895.27	28,007.19	778.75

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YOUTH FUND
January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

(continued from previous page)

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
INDIVIDUAL				
<u>YOUTH FUND ACCOUNTS</u>	2,497.58			
MT23 Payments		695.71		
Online Payments-MT23/MT24		1,605.73		
MT24/BWCA Deposits		2,633.18	100.00	
Equao Exchange-individuals		268.92		
Lent Supper - Individuals		339.00		
Service Learning Camps MT24 (21)			4,200.00	
MT24 Scholarships (21@100, 6@50)		2,400.00		
SLICE balance to individual (Larson)		15.00		
Distribution of Fundraisier funds to indiv		7,206.25		
MT24 Trip cost from individual accounts			8,400.00	
Online Service Payment to Individuals		100.00		
Camp Wapogasset			230.00	
MT24 BWCA Payments		999.46		
BWCA Trip cost from Individual Accts			2,773.92	
Camp Wapo Scholarships to Indiv (6)		350.00		
Clear MT23 Belize negative balances (5)		12.91		
Close senior balances			0.01	
MT25 Deposit		100.00		
Totals-Ind. Youth Funds		16,726.16	15,703.93	3,519.81
 TOTALS	 <u>\$ 5,729.43</u>	 <u>\$ 55,155.60</u>	 <u>\$ 51,959.76</u>	 <u>\$ 8,925.27</u>

Cash Balance as of 12/31/24 \$ 8,925.27

Submitted by Vicki Noetzelman

P & L Budget vs. Actuals: FYTD

January - December 2024

	Total		
	Actual	Budget	over Budget
Income			
40010 Faith Sharing	568,492.23	564,000.00	4,492.23
41000 Interest Income	2,088.42	600.00	1,488.42
41100 Rent-Head Start	8,100.00	8,100.00	0.00
41200 Building Use Fees	1,925.00	4,100.00	-2,175.00
41250 Columbarium Management Fee	225.00		225.00
Total 41200 Building Use Fees	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 4,100.00	-\$ 1,950.00
41300 Sunday School	0.00	0.00	0.00
41400 Confirmation Registration	7,757.50	9,800.00	-2,042.50
41450 Christian Ed Registration	3,920.00	10,000.00	-6,080.00
41600 VBS Registration	1,370.00	2,500.00	-1,130.00
45000 Misc. Income	14.00	0.00	14.00
45005 Offset-Vanco	1,737.25	1,020.00	717.25
45007 Education 3Yrs-Grade6 Offset	115.00	0.00	115.00
45009 Education Grades 7-12 Offset	540.00	0.00	540.00
Total 45000 Misc. Income	\$ 2,406.25	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 1,386.25
Total Income	\$ 596,284.40	\$ 600,120.00	-\$ 3,835.60
Gross Profit	\$ 596,284.40	\$ 600,120.00	-\$ 3,835.60
Expenses			
60000 Staff			
60010 Mileage Reimbursement	1,107.29	1,000.00	107.29
60050 Staff Min. Pension Med.	19,703.18	34,410.00	-14,706.82
60100 Staff Min. Prof. Education	0.00	895.00	-895.00
60150 Staff Education	151.66	30.00	121.66
60250 Work Comp	2,965.22	2,253.00	712.22
60350 Staff Synod Assembly	898.26	350.00	548.26
60400 Salary & Wages	323,296.68	344,826.00	-21,529.32
60450 Staff Benefits	24,516.00	25,662.00	-1,146.00
60500 Staff-Other	12,011.11	15,500.00	-3,488.89
60600 Payroll Tax	17,649.37	16,618.00	1,031.37
60700 Bookkeeping Service	6,960.00	0.00	6,960.00
60750 Custodial Service	7,517.67	0.00	7,517.67
Total 60000 Staff	\$ 416,776.44	\$ 441,544.00	-\$ 24,767.56
61000 Building Operation			
61010 Custodial Supplies	1,516.00	1,900.00	-384.00
61050 Electric	5,975.72	7,098.00	-1,122.28
61100 Garbage	2,465.29	2,118.00	347.29
61150 Heat	4,059.61	7,000.00	-2,940.39
61200 Insurance	12,732.34	10,000.00	2,732.34
61250 Lawn Care	4,420.00	3,000.00	1,420.00
61350 Repair and Maintenance	13,499.90	14,000.00	-500.10
61400 Snow Plowing	1,750.00	3,750.00	-2,000.00
Total 61000 Building Operation	\$ 46,418.86	\$ 48,866.00	-\$ 2,447.14

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P & L Budget vs. Actuals: FYTD

January - December 2024

(continued from previous page)

62000 Mission			
62100 ELCA Mpls. Synod	56,557.18	55,360.00	1,197.18
62200 Love Inc.	5,656.91	5,535.00	121.91
Total 62000 Mission	\$ 62,214.09	\$ 60,895.00	\$ 1,319.09
63000 Office Expense	77.50	0.00	77.50
63010 Processing Fees-Vanco	4,692.54	3,900.00	792.54
63050 Computers & Furnishings	4,469.98	4,600.00	-130.02
63100 Equipment Maintenance	4,517.17	4,500.00	17.17
63150 Kitchen Supplies	885.55	700.00	185.55
63200 Office Supplies	1,437.84	2,125.00	-687.16
63250 Postage	1,386.79	1,400.00	-13.21
63300 Subscriptions	2,606.62	3,350.00	-743.38
63302 Payroll Processing Fee	730.00	1,043.00	-313.00
Total 63300 Subscriptions	\$ 3,336.62	\$ 4,393.00	-\$ 1,056.38
63350 Telephone/Internet	1,763.52	1,764.00	-0.48
63400 Web Site	1,042.97	900.00	142.97
Total 63000 Office Expense	\$ 23,610.48	\$ 24,282.00	-\$ 671.52
64000 Worship			
64010 Alter Supplies	2,165.93	1,900.00	265.93
64020 Technology	3,161.67	2,400.00	761.67
64100 Flowers/Decorating/Banners	482.97	500.00	-17.03
64150 Guest Speaker	1,032.00	800.00	232.00
64200 Offering Envelopes	498.62	243.00	255.62
64250 Organist/Pianist	200.00	750.00	-550.00
64300 Publications	1,578.06	1,050.00	528.06
64350 Worship Resources	263.26	150.00	113.26
Total 64000 Worship	\$ 9,382.51	\$ 7,793.00	\$ 1,589.51
65000 Music			
65010 Copyright License	1,549.29	1,235.00	314.29
65200 New Equipment and Sound	146.29	700.00	-553.71
65300 Vocal Music	216.69	200.00	16.69
65510 Musicians	800.00	800.00	0.00
Total 65000 Music	\$ 2,712.27	\$ 2,935.00	-\$ 222.73
66500 Education 3Yrs-Grade 6			
66501 Bibles	1,107.56	1,200.00	-92.44
66505 Christmas Program	74.49	314.00	-239.51
66510 Day Camp/VBS/OFS	1,203.04	1,425.00	-221.96
66515 Special Events/OFS	1,581.11	1,400.00	181.11
66520 Chris ED Curriculum	357.59	1,100.00	-742.41
66525 Chris ED Supplies	637.19	900.00	-262.81
66530 Chris Ed Mission Projects/OFS		50.00	-50.00
66535 Safe Sanctuary	211.40	450.00	-238.60
66550 Birth-Age 3 Ministry/Frolic	333.89	275.00	58.89
Total 66500 Education 3Yrs-Grade 6	\$ 5,506.27	\$ 7,114.00	-\$ 1,607.73

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P & L Budget vs. Actuals: FYTD

January - December 2024

(continued from previous page)

67000 Education Grades 7-12			
67010 7th-9th Grade Ministry	271.99	500.00	-228.01
67050 Chaperone Fees	200.00	400.00	-200.00
67100 Affirmation of Baptism/OFS	120.00	200.00	-80.00
67150 High School Ministry	426.26	500.00	-73.74
67200 Supplies and Materials	354.53	700.00	-345.47
67250 Individual Ministry	103.59	400.00	-296.41
67300 Large Events/OFS	770.05	700.00	70.05
67350 Safe Sanctuary	258.15	200.00	58.15
67400 Miscellaneous		50.00	-50.00
Total 67000 Education Grades 7-12	\$ 2,504.57	\$ 3,650.00	-\$ 1,145.43
68000 Mission/Hospitality/Invitationa			
68100 Invitational/Hospitality	366.58	600.00	-233.42
68300 Mission Team	465.00	440.00	25.00
Total 68000 Mission/Hospitality/Invitationa	\$ 831.58	\$ 1,040.00	-\$ 208.42
69000 Small Group Ministries			
69100 Adult Education		60.00	-60.00
69200 Sister of LOC		200.00	-200.00
Total 69000 Small Group Ministries	\$ 0.00	\$ 260.00	-\$ 260.00
70000 Stewardship			
70010 Fall Stewardship Program	601.99	450.00	151.99
Total 70000 Stewardship	\$ 601.99	\$ 450.00	\$ 151.99
71000 Community Life			
71050 Community Life-Other	1,363.72	1,050.00	313.72
Total 71000 Community Life	\$ 1,363.72	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 313.72
Uncategorized Expense	0.00		0.00
Total Expenses	\$ 571,922.78	\$ 599,879.00	-\$ 27,956.22
Net Operating Income	\$ 24,361.62	\$ 241.00	\$ 24,120.62

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2024

	<u>Total</u>		<u>Total</u>
ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Current Assets		Liabilities	
Bank Accounts		Current Liabilities	
10100 10100	108,089.94	Accounts Payable	
10110 Restricted Fund Balances		20000 Accounts Payable	4,477.76
10101 Restricted-Steeple and Roof Rpr	0.00	Total Accounts Payable	\$ 4,477.76
10105 Camp Scholarship Fund	100.00	Credit Cards	
10106 Capital Appeal Funds	78,484.57	20155 Coburn's Credit Card	0.00
10107 Banners Fund	147.91	20165 CorTrust Credit Card	0.00
10108 Bldg. Maint. Fund	4,044.22	20166 Youth Portion KK	0.00
10112 Gifts/Memorials Fund	45.57	K. Kelly - 7031	0.00
10114 Library Fund	629.48	K. Kohler - 3676	0.00
10115 Love INC Birthday Ministry Fund	812.37	L. Ekern - 4096	0.00
10123 Piano Fund	381.34	Office Manager - 2592	10,243.48
10126 Thrivent Choice Funds	446.00	T. Reuter - 6999	0.00
10129 Disaster Relief/Outreach	1,400.00	Total 20165 CorTrust Credit Card	\$ 10,243.48
10132 Healing and Wholeness Fund	4,345.87	Total Credit Cards	\$ 10,243.48
10133 Delano PS Social Worker Fund 2023	1,000.00	Other Current Liabilities	
10134 Endowment Fund	0.00	20200 LOC Youth Payables	0.00
10135 Kids Hope USA Designate Fund 2023	86.06	20210 Capital Inc/Exp	12,813.01
10137 Nourishing Hope Designated Fund	1,113.04	21000 Other Current Liabilities-Defer	0.00
10139 Worship Technology Fund	600.00	21010 Notes Payable-Thrivent Financial	0.00
10145 Funeral Fund	1,500.00	21050 Columbaria Construction Loan	58,650.31
10150 Moving Expenses	10,000.00	21100 SBA PPP	0.00
Total 10110 Restricted Fund Balances	\$ 105,136.43	21200 Capital Campaign Tithe Payable	11,772.41
10210 Capital Improvement	12,813.01	21305 -Mortgage-Thrivent	0.00
Total 10100 10100	\$ 226,039.38	24000 24000	0.00
10200 Mission Investment Fund-ELCA	79,685.56	24100 24100	0.00
10250 MIF Columbaria Construction Fund	0.00	24400 24400	0.00
10300 Columbarium-6159	16,313.29	24500 24500	0.20
10400 CorTrust 1965 WELCA	1,132.27	24600 24600	0.00
10500 CorTrust 4442	0.00	24700 24700	0.00
10900 In-Kind	144.17	8888 Stop Payment Check Clearing	0.00
15000 Youth - 7777	9,269.29	Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 83,235.93
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 332,583.96	Total Current Liabilities	\$ 97,957.17
Total Current Assets	\$ 332,583.96	Total Liabilities	\$ 97,957.17
Fixed Assets		Equity	
16000 Land and Buildings		30000 Opening Balance Equity	0.00
16010 Land	133,000.00	31500 Temp. Restricted Net Assets	10,000.00
16020 Building	4,944,000.00	32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	5,096,888.81
Total 16000 Land and Buildings	\$ 5,077,000.00	32500 Restricted Net Assets	135,145.34
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 5,077,000.00	33000 Unrealized Gains/Losses	2,295.82
Other Assets		Net Income	97,959.87
14125 Endowment Fund	30,663.05	Total Equity	\$ 5,342,289.84
Total Other Assets	\$ 30,663.05	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 5,440,247.01
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,440,247.01		

MEMBER STATISTICS

2024 Baptisms:

Jack Schnettler	01/14/24
Finnegan Brown	01/21/24
Charlie Lockrem	02/18/24
Nolan Lockrem	02/18/24
Gracelynn Ross	04/21/24
Wyatt Wray	04/27/24
Colt Peterson	05/19/24
Weston Anderson	06/23/24
Emma Lindgren	07/07/24
Briggs Weldon	10/13/24
Brooks Janike	12/29/24

2024 Deaths:

Ben Altenhofen	d. 04/06/24
Leonard Logsdon*	d. 06/03/24
Joanne Schladweiler*	d. 10/19/23
Ronald Schladweiler*	d. 10/22/23
Robert Tepper*	d. 08/27/24
Daniel Pehl*	d. 08/13/24
Kurtis Wasik*	d. 12/08/24

*indicates non-member funeral held here in 2024

2024 New Members:	30
Adult Members:	713
Baptized Children:	217
Total Membership:	930

New Members/Partners in 2024



Eric, Steph, Joey & Rose
Bitterman



Jackson & Cassidy
Gilman



Richie, Tyra, Halle
& Kiptyn Lansing



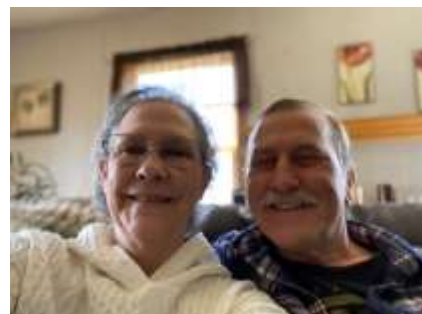
Justin, Lindsay, Nora & Sam
Lindall



KellyAnn, Charlie &
Nolan Lockrem



Andrew, Lynsey, Charlie, Grace
& Oliver Reiffenberger



Scott & Linda Rundle



2024 Annual Report

On the evening of Jesus' resurrection, as two of his followers were walking along the road that leads from the city of Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus "talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them." - Luke 24

Grace and peace to you, beloved of Christ Jesus.

This resurrection story is a favorite. We walk together as church, and Jesus draws near and walks with us. The labors of the day, the content of our discussions, the swirl of society and politics, the hopes and fears, these things shift, and yet, Jesus walks with us and is known once again as we gather together around the table.

What a year this has been. This report to the worshipping communities of the Minneapolis Area Synod is an opportunity to look back on 2024, and to look ahead at the year to come. Most of all, it is an opportunity to name and celebrate some of the ways the Holy Spirit continues to enliven God's church. We give thanks to you and your congregation for your partnership in this ministry we share.

On May 4, 2024, you elected me to serve as your Bishop. On August 1, 2024, I took office, and on September 21, 2024, I was installed during a festive and moving worship service at Central Lutheran Church. This election represents a significant threshold in our synod's life as we continue by the Spirit's leading along paths yet unknown. Thank you for your trust and your continued prayers. We are particularly grateful for the intentional work of the Bishop's Election Committee. My deep thanks to Bishop Ann Svenningsen for her 12 years of faithful leadership, and for her generosity of wisdom and spirit as I learn the ropes. As I have restructured parts of our synod's ministry team, we have had several staff transitions. Some have completed their service, over the summer and fall we welcomed a few new staff, and in 2025 we will welcome more. Thank you to our staff for their patience, perseverance, faithful ministry, and good courage during a long transition.

Stepping into this role, I am more mindful than ever that we are **Church Together: Learning Together, Listening Together, Serving Together, Worshipping Together**

(continued on next page)

A few highlights from 2024:

- 137 worshipping communities, including
 - ◊ 3 new starts congregational
 - ◊ 8 strategic ministries
- 3 congregations marked Holy Closures this year, honoring their years and ministry, and in closing, stewarded their assets by contributing to the Resurrection Fund.
- 11 languages spoken in worship
- 62 call processes in 55 congregations
- 8 ordinations of new pastors and deacons and
- 24 rostered ministers installed into new positions
- 34 people discerning a call to ministry and active in our candidacy process
- 305 pastors and deacons currently serving in our synod, and around 370 retired ministers
- 52 pastors and deacons serving in specialized ministries, including chaplains, educators, social ministry leaders, and missionaries
- 5 years of Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices cohorts supported by a grant from the Lilly Endowment's Thriving Congregations Initiative, with plans to apply for a scaling grant in 2025
- 17 congregations in the current cohort of Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices, and
- 13 in the first cohort (that's nearly 1/4 of our synod's congregations!)
- \$1.25 million grant received from the Lilly Endowment for Family Faith – a project accompanying parents and caretakers from the Synod's new and strategic ministries. Watch for more details coming soon!
- 800 people attended the Bishop Installation in person, including 220 clergy
- \$2,681,409 pledged in Mission Support, with 50% supporting MAS ministry and 50% for ELCA ministry
- 2 companion synod partnerships: Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) and the Leipzig District-Evangelical Lutheran Church in Saxony, Germany, including visits from Archbishop Musa Filibus (LCCN), Superintendent Sebastian Feydt and Pastor Cristoph Reichl (Leipzig)
- Synod staff supported leaders and congregations, convening, communicating, collaborating, and navigating conflicts
- Hosted many special events such as an Eco Faith Summit, Boundaries Workshop, Bishop's Theological Conference, Ministeriums, and Communicators Gatherings

What a gift to reflect on the amazing ways we were Church Together in 2024! We look forward to 2025 with the Conference Assemblies in February, Synod Assembly (May 2 - 3), and the ELCA Churchwide Assembly (July 28 - August 2). We walk together as church, trusting that Jesus continues to come near and walk with us. We are Church Together.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Bishop Jen Nagel