St. John's Lutheran Church

# 2025 Annual Report

***Living in God's grace, St. John's Lutheran Church is an inclusive community worshiping together, growing in faith, serving others, and living as witnesses of Jesus Christ.***

**ANNUAL MEETING**
**January 25, 2026**
**10:30 am**

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# 2025 Annual Meeting Agenda

## St. John's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Agenda

**Date: Sunday, January 25, 2026**

**Time: 10:30 am**

**Location:** St. John's Lutheran Church, Kasson, MN

**Mission Statement:** *Living in God's Grace, St. John's Lutheran Church is an inclusive community worshiping together, growing in faith, serving others, and living as witnesses of Jesus Christ.*

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1. Call to Order (Lacey Bauer)
2. Devotions, A Few Moments and Announcements (Pastor John)
3. Confirmation of Quorum (Katie Finne)
   - At minimum, 50 voting members must be in attendance
4. Approval of:
   a. Agenda
   b. Previous Annual Meeting Minutes
   c. 2025 Financial Report
   d. 2025 Written Reports
5. Get Down to Business
   a. 2026 Budget (Tim Tjosaas)
   b. Constitutional Bylaw Change
   c. Designated Memorials Decision
   d. Elections/Ballot (Lacey Bauer)
   e. Synod Assembly 2026 – Southeast Minnesota Synod Assembly
      i. Saturday, May 2 at the Mayo Clinic Event Center in Mankato
      ii. Invitation to attend
6. 150th Anniversary (Sharon Melquist and Renee Solberg)
7. Recognition of Outgoing Council Members
   - Dan Jensen
   - Erin Quam
   - Tim Tjosaas
8. Questions
9. Motion to Adjourn
10. Closing Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (Pastor Kirby Haugen)

# St John's Lutheran Church, Kasson MN

Annual Meeting Minutes: January 26th, 2025

1. Called to order by Michelle Coy at 11:00 a.m.

2. Devotions - Pastor Kristin

3. A minute (or more) with Pastor John

a) There are currently 16 staff personnel, and we welcome the new staff hired during 2024 and are fortunate to have reached a place of stability.
b) The Properties Commission has worked tirelessly over the past year on many projects, most notably the pneumatics system upgrade and the recent installation of LED lighting in the fellowship hall and kitchen area.
c) Stewardship: we are thankful to have a generous congregation that allows St Johns to remain debt free.
d) 150th Anniversary Celebration planning is well underway, thanks to the leadership of Sharon Melquist and many talented individual volunteers.
e) CKP: Risa Fellows has provided a reflection on almost 25 years of CKP programming. Fortunately, the ministry and programming for preschool children lives on at Just Like Home. The former CKP space is being redesigned for youth ministries and other community project needs.
f) Bible Study on Mondays is well attended.

4. Confirmation of Quorum - Number of voting members registered = 65. At minimum, 50 voting members must be in attendance

a) Confirmed by Council Secretary Jane Kirmse

5. Approval of:

a. 2025 agenda. Motion to approve 1. Sharon Melquist, 2. Gail Jensen. Motion carried.

2025 annual agenda approved

b. 2024 annual meeting minutes. Motion to approve 1. Gene Lushinsky, 2. Marge Albright. Motion carried. 2024 annual meeting minutes approved

c. 2024 financial reports. Motion to approve 1. Gail Jensen, 2. Jessica Paulson. Motion carried.

Financially, St Johns remains debt free with an income surplus of nearly $60,000, a full report has been provided with the agenda.

Pastor John relayed historical stewardship giving by the congregation over the past few years, as well as the 2024 challenge of $30,000. The Properties Commission has identified capital project needs of a new roof and parking lot. Projecting a campaign for these needs in 2026. Thank you to the congregation for their unwavering support.

Michelle Coy relayed the CKP funds of approximately $65,500 remain untouched in dedicated funds. CKP properties have been sold, repurposed and reallocated. The timeline for reallocation of CKP funds, intended

for reinitiation of programming, will be held for a period of up to 3 years, starting May 15, 2024, and distributed after 3 years as follows: 10% to the General Fund, 10% to WELCA, 10% to Youth and Family, and 70% to Properties.

2024 financial reports approved.

d. 2024 written reports. Motion to approve 1. Jan Hower, 2. Ron Albright. Motion carried.

2024 written reports approved

6. Get Down to Business

a. Elections/Ballot – Motion to pass the ballot unanimously. 1. Dave Aakre 2. Gail Jensen. Motion passed.

The following members have been voted in the 2025 election

Lacey Bauer- President

Jane Kirmse - Vice President

Katie Finne - Secretary

Tim Tjosaas - Treasurer

Ron Albright- 3yr member

Mike Arndt- 3yr member

Dan Jensen - 1yr member

Jessica Paulson- 3yr member

Ron Albright- 5yr Foundation member

Council to appoint open position: 1yr Nomination commission

Audit commission: Michelle Coy-3 yr term

Kiah Peterson-2 yr term

Jodie Tvedt-1 yr term

b. Synod Assembly 2025

Southeast Minnesota Synod Assembly for 2025 - May 30-31st held in Mankato, MN. Anyone interested in attending may call the office.

c. 2025 Budget – Motion to approve 1. Dan Ziebell, 2. Sharon Melquist. Motion carried.

Tim relayed the 2025 income was slightly decreased from 2024. New one-time expenses are listed on the report and monies have been set aside for these items. The biggest budget change is in personnel and compensation. We have budgeted for full personnel positions for the duration of 2025. Employee Retention Credit (ERC) is of unknown status as no additional information has been relayed. This has not been accounted for in the budget.

2025 budget approved.

7. Recognition of outgoing council members -

Thank you to Michelle Coy, Jodene Sorenson, Gene Lushinsky

Michelle recognized Sam Marsland, Dennis Foster, Gloria Gilbertson, Clark Johnson, and Lindsay Colwell for their collective contributions and support.

8. Roundtable Question and Answer:

- Tanya Young shared the reallocated CKP space is being utilized for Salvation Army, Red Cross, and Ready-Set-Go community ministries. Approximately 20% of Dodge County youth are supported by Ready-Set-Go programming.
- Sharon Melquist shared planning is underway for the 150th Anniversary event. History and memorial are working toward a display of confirmation classes. Special worship services planned for Spring and Fall. A photo directory is being created. Many volunteers are appreciated and may contact Sharon to volunteer.
- Gene Lushinsky shared support for a strong youth ministry in re-allocation of CKP space.
- A big thank you to the amazing pastoral support St Johns is fortunate to have.

9. Motion to Adjourn at 12:06 p.m. 1. Marge Albright 2. Jessica Paulson. Carried

10. Closing Devotions and Lord's Prayer- Pastor Deborah

2:23 PM
01/08/26
Cash Basis

# St John's Lutheran Church
## Balance Sheet
### As of December 31, 2025

| | Dec 31, 25 |
|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | |
| **Current Assets** | |
| **Checking/Savings** | |
| **10200 · Checking-General Fund** | 154,001.47 |
| **10400 · Dedicated Fund** | 157,774.70 |
| **105 · Thrivent Money Market Fund** | 157,901.88 |
| **11000 · Petty Cash- Office** | 48.50 |
| **Total Checking/Savings** | 469,726.55 |
| **Accounts Receivable** | |
| **12000 · Accounts Receivable** | |
| **12010 · A/R Creation Kids** | 9,912.33 |
| **Total 12000 · Accounts Receivable** | 9,912.33 |
| **Total Accounts Receivable** | 9,912.33 |
| **Total Current Assets** | 479,638.88 |
| **Fixed Assets** | |
| **15000 · Property** | |
| **15002 · Building & Contents** | 924,899.19 |
| **Total 15000 · Property** | 924,899.19 |
| **Total Fixed Assets** | 924,899.19 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS** | **1,404,538.07** |
| **LIABILITIES & EQUITY** | |
| **Liabilities** | |
| **Current Liabilities** | |
| **Accounts Payable** | |
| **20200 · Accounts Payable** | |
| **20299 · A/P-Misc.** | -83,804.20 |
| **20200 · Accounts Payable - Other** | -22,143.59 |
| **Total 20200 · Accounts Payable** | -105,947.79 |
| **Total Accounts Payable** | -105,947.79 |
| **Credit Cards** | |
| **Credit Card** | 15,638.15 |
| **Total Credit Cards** | 15,638.15 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Other Current Liabilities** | | |
| **21000 · Payroll Liabilities** | | |
| **Portico Benefits** | 1,281.11 | |
| **25000 · Fed. Income Tax Payable** | 511.00 | |
| **25100 · FICA Payable** | 1,088.64 | |
| **25200 · Medicare Payable** | 254.58 | |
| **25300 · MN State W/H Payable** | 323.00 | |
| **25500 · Minnesota FLI Liability** | 51.47 | |
| **Total 21000 · Payroll Liabilities** | 3,509.80 | |
| **Total Other Current Liabilities** | 3,509.80 | |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | -86,799.84 | |
| **Total Liabilities** | | -86,799.84 |
| **Equity** | | |
| **30010 · Unrestricted-Fund Balance** | | 684.45 |
| **32001 · Unrestricted Net Assets** | | 1,159,288.50 |
| **3900 · Retained Earnings** | | 123,310.02 |
| **Net Income** | | 208,054.94 |
| **Total Equity** | | 1,491,337.91 |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** | | **1,404,538.07** |

2:12 PM
01/08/26
Cash Basis

# St John's Lutheran Church
## Dedicated Income & Expense
### January through December 2025

| | Jan - Dec 25 |
|---|---|
| **Other Income/Expense** | |
| **Other Income** | |
| **91000 · Mission Support - Dedicated** | |
| **91500 · Churchwide - Dedicated** | |
| **91501 · Water Project - Dedicated** | 525.00 |
| **91500 · Churchwide - Dedicated - Other** | 390.00 |
| **Total 91500 · Churchwide - Dedicated** | 915.00 |
| **92000 · Local - Dedicated** | 2,174.29 |
| **Total 91000 · Mission Support - Dedicated** | 3,089.29 |
| **92600 · Memorials** | |
| **92610 · 92610-Designated Other** | 345.00 |
| **92611 · Undesignated Memorials** | 3,199.63 |
| **92699 · To be Designated by Family** | 1,811.05 |
| **Total 92600 · Memorials** | 5,355.68 |
| **93000 · Events** | |
| **93035 · Council Discretionary Fund** | 54,553.80 |
| **Total 93000 · Events** | 54,553.80 |
| **93210 · Building/Properties** | 16,469.84 |
| **93215 · Parking Lot Replacement** | 2,135.00 |
| **94000 · Administrative- Dedicated** | 0.00 |
| **95000 · CKP** | |
| **95001 · CKP Scholarships** | 4,154.00 |
| **95002 · CKP Reserve** | 27,754.44 |
| **Total 95000 · CKP** | 31,908.44 |
| **95500 · Media - Dedicated** | 3,232.12 |
| **96500 · 96500-M&O-Dedicated-Other** | |
| **96501 · M&O-Pastor's Discretion** | 1,830.00 |
| **96510 · M&O Dedicated Account** | 24,481.87 |
| **Total 96500 · 96500-M&O-Dedicated-Other** | 26,311.87 |
| **97500 · Worship & Music Dedicated** | |
| **97530 · W&M-Campership Fees** | 1,881.20 |
| **97540 · W & M Dedicated - Other** | 6,731.08 |
| **Total 97500 · Worship & Music Dedicated** | 8,612.28 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **98000 · Youth & Family Dedicated** | |
| **98040 · Y&F Sr Hi Youth Fund Rasi** | 1,298.01 |
| **98055 · Y&F-General** | 4,166.65 |
| **Total 98000 · Youth & Family Dedicated** | 5,464.66 |
| **99000 · Capital Reserve** | 641.72 |
| **99500 · Due From General** | 0.00 |
| **Total Other Income** | 157,774.70 |
| **Net Other Income** | 157,774.70 |
| **Net Income** | **157,774.70** |

# 2025 Annual Report – Pastor John Weisenburger

Know therefore that the Lord your God is faithful. God keeps his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. Deuteronomy 7:9

2026 is here! We are officially into our 150th Anniversary year of St. John's Lutheran Church as a congregation! Our 149th year of 2025 was a really good year, which leads us into our celebration of God's faithfulness! I am thankful for all the planning and work that went on in 2025 to prepare us for 2026. Sharon Melquist and Renee Solberg are the chairpersons who are leading the way for St. John's. I give thanks for their leadership and for all the people who have been working diligently to make our sesquicentennial year of celebration a year to remember!

As I look back on 2025, the high points for me this year were: Amazing traction from the 150th Anniversary Committee and all its sub-committees that will set the table for 2026; Powerful Lent/Holy Week/Easter and Advent/Christmas season worship; St. John's hosting the K-M Baccalaureate service; Great weeks of camp and VBS; St. John's trip to Tanzania and the formation of a Tanzanian Partnership Committee; Celebrating Lindsay Colwell's 10 years of ministry here at St. John's; Lutefisk (of course!); Hiring new staff member, Gavin Berg as the Worship and Music Director; Christmas Luncheon with the "Looney Lutherans"; Having a fun and dedicated church staff to work with through the year! One sad point was our loss of Pastor Deborah Lyanga to the congregation of Good Shepherd in Wells, MN after almost three years of service to St. John's. I am thankful for her ministry with us, especially the renewal of our Tanzanian partnership and the formation of the Sisters in Sanctuary.

I mentioned the hiring of Gavin Berg as a highlight for the year. It was a culmination of the work of Stewardship, Worship and Music and Personnel. Stewardship set out the goal in 2024 and the congregation positively responded! Worship and Music along with the Personnel Commission developed the position and its job description. Then, Personnel advertised and interviewed. It may have taken longer than planned, but the wait was worth it. Gavin is off and running and St. John's is experiencing the blessing. Gavin joins the rest of our staff in-- Receptionists/Ann Brenke, Debbie Martin & Cindy Cassem, Faith Formation Director/Lindsay Colwell, Youth Ministry Coordinator/Heather Hilgart, Faith Formation Assistant/Aubrey Quam, AV Techs/Reese Hiatt & Grace Moehnke, Website/Patty Foster, Organist/Gloria Gilbertson, Choir Director/Clark Johnson, Church Administrator/ Rayelle Haase, Maintenance/Mark Madsen & Thomas Klinkhammer, Pastor Kristen Schlauderaff and myself.

Financially, St. John's continues from a position of strength. We are debt-free with a balanced budget. St. John's members are generous and continue to fund the ministries and programs that make St. John's a great congregation! Council and the staff are very thankful for your continued generosity that has given us this financial strength. The stewardship campaign shows continuing growth in support. The Council has led the way to roll out a Capital Campaign in March to address our physical property needs of flat roof, organ, ADA bathrooms and parking lot, and also to include a gift to the Kasson-Mantorville community in celebration of our 150th Anniversary.

For all the people who give their time, energy and finances to making all the ministry of St. John's possible—Thank you for your commitment! I thank God for a very blessed 2025 and ask God for continued blessings as we move into 2026 and our 150th Anniversary year! We give thanks for God's faithfulness throughout the many generations!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor John Weisenburger

# 2025 Annual Report –Pastor Kristen Schlauderaff

I have begun to joke with people that I am easing into retirement, starting at quarter time, moving to half time and now at three quarter time. Many respond, “So how is that working for you?” Actually, for the time being it is working quite well.

With Pastor Deborah moving to a new call, I felt able to increase my time at St. John’s on a temporary basis. This has allowed me to cover the worship services we offer at Prairie Meadows and Fairview in Dodge Center on a regular basis. In addition, I am around and able to meet with WELCA circles more often. I have taken on a little more preaching on Sundays and Wednesdays and am here more often to support Wednesday school, confirmation and high school youth activities. Often, I am staying over on Wednesday night so I am ready to participate in Thursday activities without driving late at night. I am grateful to those who have offered to house me on those Wednesdays, especially Brad and Debbie Brodsho.

Laundry Love has been operating in Kasson at the Coin Laundry on Main Street since March of 2025. To date we have served 69 households, representing 212 people; 743 loads of laundry have been washed and dried at a cost of $1,482.75. Our funding was started with grants from Thrivent and the Lutefisk supper bake sale. Alison Whalen’s Third Grade class at KM Elementary motivated their fellow students and raised over $3000 last spring to strengthen our financial resources. See how the children can lead us!!! We continue to offer support to guests from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month. Free detergent and dryer sheets are available to those who wish to make use of that service.

My primary work continues to be visiting our members who are unable to attend worship in person for a variety of reasons. My goal has been to visit people once every four to six weeks. In addition, I make occasional hospital visits and take on other visits as determined with Pastor John.

During the course of 2025, my total activities include the following

- Home Visits - 170
- Hospital Visits - 8
- Baptisms - 2
- Funerals - 4
- Weddings - 1

I am incredibly grateful to be working with such a dedicated, supportive and faithful staff. The leadership of Pastor John is a gift to us all. Most of the congregation does not witness the work behind the scenes. I am a witness to amazing generosity, humor, grace and love. Thank you for this opportunity to serve with you.

Pastor Kristen Schlauderaff

# 2025 Annual Report - Director of Faith Formation-Lindsay Colwell

2025 was an incredibly busy year! I can't believe how it flew by! The most memorable milestone for me in 2025 was celebrating 10 years of ministry at St. John's! I am so grateful for all of the kind words shared at the celebration in April and for all of the well wishes from the congregation.
The past year was full of growth for our faith formation programming. I am very grateful for the solid presence of Heather Hilgart in her role as Youth Ministry Coordinator, as well as Aubrey Quam as our Faith Formation Assistant. It has been amazing working with the two of them as we plan and put into action programming that builds a strong faith for students and families. We have set up a nice rhythm of debriefing at the end of each season in order to build on what we have done and how to adjust as we move forward. I have added a middle school student intern (unpaid) to our team in order to continue to train the next faith formation assistant as students graduate. Faye Moehnke, one of our 7th graders, is currently serving in this position. As the new year begins, the personnel commission has also made it possible to add a second faith formation assistant. Colby Burnes, one of our 8th graders, will be starting in that position. As we continue in this way our congregation is building keychain leadership to encourage students as leaders.

I continue to explore ways to engage students and families in their faith through hands-on activities and events. We are still working on settling into our education hallway following the closing of CKP, but we are finding our rhythm as we make adjustments to spaces so that they will be the most conducive to student learning and faith growth. I am also incredibly grateful for all of our older students who put so much energy into sharing their faith and making our programming happen.

In 2025 I began a practice of regular devotion and continuing education reading daily. It has been a great practice to nurture my own faith and knowledge that helps me grow as a leader. I have stayed very busy in my responsibilities not only at St. John's, but in the ways that I serve the wider church. I continue in my position as the chair of the SE MN Synod Faith Formation Table, which supports and provides resources for professionals and volunteers throughout our synod who work with children, youth, and families. Since February 2025, I have also been serving as the board president for Sugar Creek, the camp we take students to every summer. This role, in particular, has provided me with many opportunities to grow my leadership skills and knowledge. I will also be attending the ELCA Youth Ministry Network conference in St. Louis at the end of January with colleagues from the synod to learn about a wide range of topics in children, youth, and family ministry.

2026 promises to hold more opportunities to walk along students, their families, and the congregation as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. John's! I am deeply grateful to continue to feel such a strong call from God to the ministry we do at St. John's and in the community. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our way in this celebration year to do God's work in the world!

Your sister in Christ,
Lindsay D. Colwell, M.A., M.Th.
Director of Faith Formation

**2025 Annual Report - Worship and Music Coordinator - Gavin Berg**

I am deeply grateful to have joined the St. John's staff in October 2025 as Worship and Music Coordinator. Stepping into this role during a particularly full season of the church year has been both energizing and meaningful.

My arrival coincided with preparations for several festival services, including Reformation Sunday and All Saints' Day, while also planning ahead for Advent and the Christmas season. This time has allowed me to become quickly immersed in the worship life of St. John's and to learn the rhythms, traditions, and musical strengths of the congregation.

In 2026, St. John's will celebrate its 150th Anniversary through a series of Legacy Sundays held throughout the year. These services will intentionally highlight and incorporate meaningful traditions from the congregation's history, honoring the past while celebrating God's faithfulness across generations. Some festival and legacy services will include former pastors of St. John's as guest preachers.

I am very excited to continue collaborating with Lindsay Colwell to further integrate music with children's and youth ministry. Together, we will be developing new opportunities for children and youth to participate in music and worship, nurturing their gifts and helping them find their place within the worshiping life of the congregation.

I am thankful for the warm welcome I have received and look forward to continuing this work alongside the staff and congregation of St. John's.

# 2025 Wednesday Worship

Our Wednesday worship continues to be a mainstay of our Wednesday evening youth programming. During the 2024-2025 program year our students were very active in worship, helping put on skits to bring scripture to life. We continue to work on making worship accessible to students and families on Wednesday evenings in a contemporary fashion.

We give thanks for the talents of Jim and Ann Trihey who retired from the worship band at the end of the 2024-2025 program year. In the fall of 2025, a decision was made to try something new by moving Wednesday worship to the Fellowship Hall to try out a camp style of worship. This camp style worship has been a big hit with students and families. We moved worship into the sanctuary during the season of Advent in order to make sure that our students are comfortable in both spaces. We will continue to rotate back and forth between spaces as we continue to try new things.

Summer Wednesday worship had very low attendance this past summer so was discontinued at the end of June. Our pastoral and program staff continue to look at options to fit the needs of our community during the summer.

Lindsay D. Colwell, M.A., M.Th.

Director of Faith Formation

# 2025 Statistics

### Membership Changes

| | |
|---|---|
| 2,695 | Membership January 1, 2025 |
| +4 | Members Received |
| +9 | Baptisms |
| 2,708 | Sub Total |
| -5 | Member Deaths |
| -5 | Members Released/Transferred |
| 2,698 | Membership as of December 31, 2024 |

### Acts of Ministry

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 | Member Funerals |
| 9 | Baptisms |
| 32 | Confirmations |
| 2 | Weddings |

### 2025 Statistics by Name

#### Baptisms

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ava Cimmiyotti | Bodie Sorensen | Connor Root |
| Kurtis Norton | Samson Norton | Zemira Norton |
| Maizey Ruehmann | Henry Anderson | Iylah Johnson |

#### New Members Received

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Charles Finley | Candace Finley | Craig Otterness | Ava Chesak |

#### Member Deaths

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Diane Wegner | Charlie Finley | Carol Tjosaas | Deb Smith |
| Phil Schuster | Bonnie Lien | | |

#### Members Transferred/Removed by Request

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Becky Knoepke | Kim Kiefer | Susan Peterson |
| Kollin Johnson | Hannah Mikkalson | |

#### Confirmands 2025

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Zachary Dean Avikainen | Charles Jacob Freerksen | Grady Jacob Duncanson |
| Asher Graham Hemann | Jared Joseph Giese | Ryder Blake More |
| Savannah Celeste Aakre | Audrey Kathryn Wegner | Callie Lynn Barnes |
| Brooklyn Mae Miller | Audrey Leigh Peterson | Brooklyn Marcella Koepke |
| Braxton Marcus Bauer | Easton Michael Dawley | Cooper Jay Moritz |
| Aidric James Huso | Ryker James Thompson | Keegan Michael Davidson |
| Flower Joy Reilly | Abree Mae Hilgart | Ava LaVay Eineichner |
| Maren Jaymes Hodgman | Sophie Elizabeth Schmidt | Anabelle Lynn Larsen |
| Kenzie Rose Van Beek | Abigail Lee Wirkus | Elliot Ann Wirkus |
| Ruby Carolyn Kellogg | Peyton Rose Gile | Hazel Marie Kamel |
| Malcolm Abraham Kamel | Omar William Kamel | |

#### Weddings 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| Joann Hines and Vince Meyer | Tyler Evenson and Syndey Zatz |

## Congregational Council Report – President's Perspective

**Living in God's grace St. John's Lutheran Church is an inclusive community worshiping together, growing in faith, serving others, and living as witnesses of Jesus Christ.**

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's,

As I reflect on this past year, I am truly thankful to have worked alongside each of you in faith and in community. I appreciate the support you have shown me as I continue to learn and grow in my role as council president. Your encouragement and patience have meant so much as I've learned how best to serve St. John's.

Each of you are an integral part of this church. Our church is blessed to have such dedicated and skilled members and staff. Together, we can accomplish anything we set our goals on. I am continually amazed by the many ways the members and friends of St. John's give their time and talents for the good of our congregation. There is constant evidence of support, faith, and growth among us. The work of volunteers and staff often goes unnoticed, so I want to sincerely thank you for all that you do to serve others and lead in faith.

As I look ahead, my goal for the coming year is to get to know more of you, be more available to listen to your thoughts, and work alongside you as we continue to serve together.

I look forward to serving you again as your council president in the year ahead. Thank you for the privilege of serving you, and for all that is still to come.

With peace,
**Lacey Bauer**
Church Council President

# 2025 Faith Formation Commission Annual Report

2025 was a year full of fun and learning! Our Faith Formation team is getting settled well and we have added a couple more middle school students to serve as Faith Formation Assistants as well!

**Children's/Lower Middle School Ministry (Preschool through 6th grade)**
During the remainder of the 2024-2025 program year (January-May) our students in preschool through 4th grade enjoyed lessons on the celebration of Epiphany and Jesus' baptism in January. As we moved forward in the second half of the program year our students did lessons on the 10 commandments, exploring the worship space, and the Lord's Prayer with lots of hands-on activities and games. During the season of Lent we used a study from Illustrated Ministry called Reflections on the Heart that explored how we share our gifts and abundance with others. Students joined the congregation in the fellowship hall on Palm Sunday for crafts and activities while enjoying breakfast. Our 3rd and 4th graders did work with their study bibles during the season of Lent to learn about how the bible is set up and how to use them. Students shared their musical gifts in worship on Palm Sunday as well. We finished the program year with our spring carnival and celebrating our yearly milestones in worship. We had 75 students for Sunday and Wednesday School for preschool through 4th grade.

Club 56 spent the winter studying the life of Jesus and doing lessons on their milestone–the Apostles' Creed. During Lent, our 5th and 6th graders did a Lenten study called Death to Life that resulted in lots of good conversation. They also did several service projects to continue the work that we have been doing to prepare them for confirmation. They also ended the year with fun at the spring carnival. We had 26 students between Sunday and Wednesday class for Club 56 in 2024-2025.

As we began the 2025-2026 program year, our students on Sundays and Wednesdays worked through lessons from the Old Testament, as well as worked very hard on a song for Christmas with Gavin Berg, our new Worship and Music Coordinator, which they sang in worship the first weekend of December. This year, rather than a traditional Christmas program, we had an interactive event called Breakfast in Bethlehem. This was a hugely successful event that was dreamed up and executed by our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Heather Hilgart. Many of our older students dressed up for this event and acted the parts of merchants in our Bethlehem marketplace. The entire fellowship hall was turned into a marketplace, and we even had live chickens! We currently have 100 students in Sunday and Wednesday school in preschool through 6th grade.

**Confirmation/Upper Middle School Ministry (7th and 8th grades)**
In the second half of our 2024-2025 program year our confirmation students began the year celebrating the season of Epiphany, hearing about options for camp, and taking part in a panel conversation with Danica Thornburg about LGBTQIA questions. We continued the year with a four week study called Faith in an Anxious World, which looks at depression and anxiety concerns, building our toolbox to handle these topics, and how our faith can be a help during this time. During Lent, our confirmation students met one on one with a mentor of their choosing, having open and honest conversations around a variety of faith topics. As we finished up the year,

students prepared for the end of confirmation event where we have table conversations around baptismal promises and how we can live them out. We had 52 students who took part in confirmation during the 2024-2025 program year.

As we began the 2025-2026 program year, our confirmation students spent the first couple of weeks getting to know each other and learning about expectations for the year. We also had an opportunity to have a great discussion with Pastor Mioche about the mission our congregation supports in Haiti. We then did a four week study called The 3 Big Questions that ties the questions of identity, purpose, and belonging to our faith. Students also did the annual Boo for Food service event to collect food for the local food shelf, and many of our confirmation students served as help during our Lutefisk supper. We had an excellent Advent silent auction again this year, raising close to $1000 with the imaginative trees that our small groups designed. We finished 2025 with some bible games and a service project to help wrap presents for the community with the Salvation Army. As 2026 begins we will begin studying our Small Catechisms in-depth with some visual projects to share what we are learning. We currently have 43 students enrolled in confirmation.

**High School Ministry (9th-12th grade)**
Our high school students who joined weekly youth group spent time in bible study with a study called New Year New Hope that was a word study. Students enjoyed lots of fun fellowship time and conversation. Many of our newly confirmed 9th grade students have joined weekly youth group as well this fall. They have also enjoyed lots of opportunities to ask questions and have discussions with our pastors. This fall they also had a week where they did yoga with Kelly Utesch, and have done a wide variety of service projects. They finished 2025 with a fun white elephant gift exchange game.

Our high school students continue to share their talents in serving the congregation through worship assisting, teaching younger students, and helping out at events. We are looking forward to gifting quilts to 21 of our high school seniors who will be graduating.

**Summer 2025**
Our summer started off very busy when we hosted the KM Community Baccalaureate worship on June 1. In June, Pastor John, Lindsay, and Aubrey went to Sugar Creek with 11 of our students for confirmation camp and jr. wranglers.

Vacation Bible School was held the week before the 4th of July and we tried out a 4 day program. We utilized the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry curriculum that is used at camp to give students a feel for what it is like to attend camp. Due to the timing of the week we only had about 40 students who attended, but when you include all of the middle school, high school, and adult volunteers we had nearly 60 people learning about God's love!

In late July, Heather and Lindsay took 8 high school students to Ocean Isle Beach, NC for a youth leadership trip. Time during the trip was spent visioning and planning for high school youth group, cooking, worshipping, and enjoying the beach. Students were in charge of leading a daily devotion and participated each day in strategic planning for high school ministry.

**Other items**
A huge thank you to the congregation of St. John's and the St. John's Foundation for all of the financial support. Also, a huge thank you to our students, families, and the congregation for the volunteer support and participation that make our programs so successful.

Our Faith Formation team is Lindsay Colwell, Director of Faith Formation; Heather Hilgart, Youth Ministry Coordinator; Aubrey Quam, Faith Formation Assistant; and Faye Moehnke, Faith Formation Intern. We will be adding Colby Burnes as another Faith Formation Assistant in the new year, in order to continue to train students in leadership to take over as student employees graduate.

Submitted by the Faith Formation Commission: Katie Hunt, Carrie Hruska, Ingvild Herfindahl, Melanie Leth Scripture, Erin Quam, Heather Hilgart, Patty Foster, Aubrey Quam, Abree Hilgart, and Lindsay Colwell

# 2025 Annual Report - Media Commission

As we continue to live into St John's Guiding Principles: *Living in God's grace St. John's Lutheran Church is an inclusive community worshiping together, growing in faith, serving others, and living as witnesses of Jesus Christ.* We have continued to attempt to improve our worshiping experience both inside the building and online.

We continue to provide volunteers to assist with the congregation's media needs for all events that occur in our building. This includes worship services, outdoor worship for special services, weddings, funerals, and special events such as the Christmas Luncheon as well as updating and installing new equipment and troubleshooting issues as they arise. Reese has been working with Grace Moehnke, training her as her replacement when she graduates next spring. We will be looking to fill Grace's position in the coming year.

We continue to look at our equipment needs to ensure we are able to provide the best quality of service to those worshiping in the building and on-line. To address drop out issues on some of our wireless mics we installed an antenna management system in the sanctuary which addressed an intermittent issue we had been having. We tried a wireless system to tap into people's hearing aids to assist with hearing in the sanctuary but found it to be ineffective.

This fall we started worshipping in the fellowship hall on Wednesday evenings. We set up and continue to utilize the portable sound system for this service.

We continue to update the computers that are throughout the building. Our goal as a commission is to attempt to replace two devices each year to keep our equipment up to date and functioning well to allow our staff to spend their time doing God's work not waiting for their computers to load. This year we only replaced one device but will continue to monitor each device.

As we plan for the future we will be planning for upgrades to our system as needed. As technology continues to change it is now reasonable to increase the size of the screen at the front of the sanctuary, we will be looking into this possibility in the coming year. Knowing how electronic equipment will eventually break, we are planning for future replacements. We will be looking at options for using our dedicated account to have a fund to replace some of the big equipment such as the mixing board and live stream computer both of which would cost around $5000 to replace when needed.

We could not continue to worship in our spaces the way we do without the many hours of volunteer work done by the committed members of the media commission and volunteers: Dennis Foster, Patty Foster, Michelle Coy, and myself. I want to thank each of them for all the ministry they support. We also rely heavily on our wonderful church staff who make our job easier.

Thank you for the opportunity to partner in ministry together, and as always if you are interested in learning about or helping with any of our media needs, reach out to one of us. **We would love to have more people to help!** Hoping God's blessing on all of you and I look forward to where our ministry will lead in this coming year.

Samuel Marsland

# 2025 Annual Report - Memorial/Interior Design Commission

We completed the confirmation picture display in the Fireside Room holding pictures from 1960-2026. Fred Asche built the Oak display complete with 20 panels. Each panel will hold 12 8x10 class pictures. The extra panels are in the back of the historic altar in the Fireside Room. There will be a file online with instructions for keeping the display current. The file is accessed by office personal. We will be completing a timeline history of the church complete with pictures which will be displayed at the front of the confirmation pictures using the extra panels, same display. We will install a metal sign on the wall outside the office to guide people to the Fireside room to see the display.

We donated $500 for new mirrors in the bathrooms and met with the Properties Commission regarding the design for the handicapped bathroom. They will complete the project.

We installed mirrors by the coat racks in the narthex.

We purchased and had solar roller shades installed in the dining room. We purchased the shades from Budget Blinds who installed September, 2024. The cost of the shades is $3,570.00 with a donation from Foundation of $2,700. There were 9 white linen shades purchased.

We hung a magnetic board on one of the pillars to display pictures, names of new members.

We completed the history display in the narthex area.

We keep the pictures current in the collage regarding staff and council members.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Roth

# 2025 Annual Report - Mission & Outreach Commission

This past year was a year of growth and change for the Mission and Outreach Commission. The commission continues to oversee the weekly globe offerings, missionary sponsorship, and serving Meals on Wheels. With the retirement of Karen Anderson, our sponsored missionary, the commission made the decision to shift our sponsorship to the Central Diocese in Tanzania. This change was very timely with our reconnection to our partner congregation in Shelui. Pastor John, Pastor Deborah, and a group from our congregation made a trip there this August to re-establish relationships with our partners there.

The commission is also working to be more visible to the congregation through physical donations to local groups and community needs, gathering supplies for things like activities for Fairview Nursing Home, Ready Set Learn, and WELCA doing day kits. When collections are being gathered for a month, at the end of collection the mission box is rolled into the sanctuary for the congregation to see the work that has been done. Regular temple talks to keep the congregation updated are also taking place.

During Advent, the Giving Tree was once again out to help collect funds for backpacks and shipping costs for our mission partners in Haiti, as well as towards the water project that we are supporting for our partners in Tanzania.

The commission also continues to support the work of many local service organizations like SEMCAC and the Salvation Army. Weekly dinners on Wednesday evenings are also supported by the commission.

We give thanks as a commission for the long tenure of Jackie Longendyke who finished a decade-long stint as chair of the commission this year. We also are thankful for the work of Judy Reitmeyer-Hunt and Pastor Deborah who have finished their time on the commission.

We are always looking for more members to join us in the important work of connecting with mission partners and providing for the needs of our community.

Submitted by the Mission and Outreach Commission
Michelle Coy, Tanya Young, Dan Ziebell, Sarah Gruska, Pastor John Weisenburger, and Lindsay Colwell

# Globe Offering Recipients 2025

12/9/25

| Date | Name | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| Dec 22- Jan 4 Christmas Day | Ronald McDonald House | 355.00 |
| Jan 5-18 | Food for Friends Backpack Ministry | 265.57 |
| Jan 19-Feb 1 | SEMCAC Food Shelf * | 145.00 |
| Feb 2-15 | Exchange Club Center For Family Unity | 252.63 |
| Feb 16-March 1 | Blue Star Mothers of America | 193.00 |
| Mar 2-15 | Fairview Activity Fund | 375.00 |
| Mar 16-29 | Lutheran World Relief | 340.75 |
| Mar 30- Apr 12 | Friends of Christ Haiti | 498.75 |
| Apr 13-26 Easter | SE MN Synod Assembly Offering* (5/30/25) | 280.15 |
| April 27-May 10 | A Place at the Table | 166.61 |
| May 11-24 | Lutheran Social Services of MN | 252.00 |
| May 25-June 7 | Gift of Life Transplant House | 253.00 |
| June 8-21 | Next Chapter Ministries | 97.00 |
| June 22-July 5 | Relay for Life* (8/1/25) | 107.00 |
| July 6-19 | Dodge County School Backpacks* Ready, Set, Learn | 224.00 |
| July 20-Aug 2 | Faith in Action | 144.00 |
| Aug 3-16 | Lutheran Disaster Response | 149.00 |
| Aug 17- Sept 13 | Lutheran Campus Ministries, Mankato & Winona | 130.09 |
| | | 130.09 |
| Sept. 14-27 | KM Schools – Student Support | 171.00 |
| Sept 28-Oct 11 | Women's Shelter and Support Center | 264.59 |
| Oct 12-25 | Jeremiah Program | 222.00 |
| Oct 26-Nov 8 | Salvation Army, Dodge County | 273.48 |
| Nov 9-22 | WELCA Thank Offering* (11/9/25) | 79.75 |
| Nov 23-Dec 6 Thanksgiving | Friends of Christ Haiti-Shipping for medical supplies | 400.00 |
| Dec 7-20 | Tanzanian Ministries | 347.01 |

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# 2025 Annual Report - Personnel Commission

As 2025 concludes, the Personnel Commission expresses deep appreciation for the dedication and expertise of St John's ministerial and support staff. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing our congregation's mission.

**Staffing Updates**

Thank you to our congregation's strong support, we welcomed the following staff members:

- Worship and Music Coordinator: Mr Gavin Berg
    - This job description was revised with thoughtful insight /input from Gloria and Clark. Mr Berg joined us in October.

- Website Maintenance: Ms Patty Foster
    - Upon the request of the Media Commission, this role position was updated to meet current needs.

- Pastoral Hybrid Intern: Ms Kirby Haugen
    - Made possible by Pastor John's collaboration with the ELC and Wartburg Seminary, an Intern Pastor arrangement was made possible. Intern Pastor Kirby Haugen will join St Johns in mid-January 2026.

We also recognize the valuable service of staff who departed in 2025:

- Pastor Deborah (September) Pastor Kristen temporarily increased FTE to 0.75 to ensure pastoral coverage
- Allie Eggler – social media assistant (March)
- Risa Fellows – secretary (January)

**Commission Initiatives:**

The commission has collaborated with the Media Commission to support AV coordinator and assistant transitions, ensuring continuous media support.

Supported Faith Formation Programming's succession planning through a mentor and assistant in training model.

Completed annual staff reviews in November and submitted 2026 budget recommendations to Finance.

**Acknowledgements:** Special thanks to Jakki Trihey, Katie Hunt, Gail Jensen, Pastor John Weisenburger, and Lacey Bauer for their outstanding service and contributions as Personnel Commission members. sub

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Kirmse, Council Vice President

# Property Commission 2025 Annual Report

January 5, 2026

Members of the Property Commission are: Daryl Melquist (Chair), Dallas Martin, Jon Knutson, Dan Paulsen, Dan Roth, Dan Jensen, Jeremy Wohlfiel, Mike Schneckloth and Dave Aakre (secretary). The Property Commission meets at least monthly on the first Tuesday night of the month.

The mission of the Property Commission is to ensure good stewardship of the church building and surrounding property on behalf of the congregation. We have a very large parcel of land which now is surrounded by houses, and we will continue to be good neighbors.
This year we continued to have significant volunteer involvement in mowing, cleanup, repairs and upgrades. St John's members have been generous and faithful with their support in the form of time, talent, and money. We are blessed to have committee members and church membership volunteers with a wide variety of skills.

It must be recognized that we have a large, wonderful facility that is aging (the original building was built in the mid 1960's, the office and north Sunday School wing areas were added in the early 1990's and the new Sanctuary roof, Parking lot resurface (and many patches since) and AC system was done in the early 2000's). We are going to continue to experience wear out and break downs of the older roofing and fascia, as well as HVAC systems (new boilers installed in 2011).

Mark Madson continues as our part-time custodian, and Tom Klinkhammer continues to do the daily (during the heating season) boiler system checks as well as working with Mark on some of the special, labor intensive, cleaning projects.

Major Repairs this year:

- Contracted MMC to upgrade the remaining pneumatic HVAC controls to electronic.
- Hired Fjerstad painting to prepare and paint the outdoor sign on the front of the church sanctuary
- Volunteers implemented additional LED Upgrades (kitchen hallway, north sanctuary hallway, and front entry).

Maintenance, Repairs and Upkeep:

- Improvements to the electrical systems for the electric stove used at Lutefisk time, added circuits for the sump pumps and added circuits in the north wing.
- Repairs of fascia panels caused by wind damage
    - Removal of the dead tree along the parking lot
    - Continued to work on mitigating the cause of the low water flow in the kitchen and main bathroom areas during large events.
- Managed lawn mower maintenance and volunteers doing the mowing (a very helpful, capable group of people volunteered)
- Managed snow removal contract. DeCooks will continue to do it this winter.
- Periodic boiler checks and maintenance procedures.
- Managed repairs to the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems.
- Managed inspection and repairs of the fire alarm and protection systems
- Provided lawn, shrub, and weed control around the church and extra lot, with much volunteer help.
- Other projects include: replacement of failing light bulbs inside and outside, checked emergency lighting, door repairs, and other minor repairs we could handle.

Future Major Projects include:

- Parking Lot Blacktop: The surface is deteriorating and will need to be replaced within the next 3 to 5 years. (The current best quote is $360,000 to redo the entire lot).
- Flat Roofs and Fascia: Roofing above the Narthex (5000 sq ft) , kitchen (2100 sq ft), office, fireside and choir room areas (7000 sq ft) will likely need replacement within 5 to 7 years (14,100 sq ft total). The fascia (~2400 sq ft) on the flat roof portions of the church (1992 vintage) are backed up by materials that are rotting away. The consequence is the fascia is coming loose in several places and there will be continued water intrusion. This work should be done concurrently with the flat roof work because it ties into the flat roof curbing. Shelter Construction (did our most recent roofing work) has come back to us (December 2024) with an estimate of what it would cost ($339,000) for them to properly redo the flat roofing and related facia. Leakage is especially apparent with the roof over the Narthex area. (Jeremy Wohlfeil has provided ballpark estimate of $340k.)
- Replace the carpet in the fellowship hall (3400 sq ft): Ballpark numbers (Estimate is over 5 years old) : Removal and disposal is 39 cents per sq ft. Carpet cost was between $1.50 to $2.50 per sq ft. Two foot square tile cost was $3.00 to $3.50 per sq ft. Installation was about 67 cents a sq foot (total of $15500 for the better 2x2 tiles).
- Add a better handicap accessible bathroom: Aaron Thompson (The Design Connection) has provided the design for a handicap bathroom located near the existing main bathrooms. Estimated cost is $20,000 to $50,000.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Aakre for the Property Commission

# Stewardship Commission - 2025 Report

The Stewardship Commission for 2025 is members Jen Hodgman, Al Flickinger, Dennis Foster, Jodie Tvedt and Pastor John. St. John's Stewardship campaign this past Fall of 2024 was entitled "Sustain Today-Celebrate Well-Prepare for Tomorrow" The campaign was scaled down compared with drives from the previous year. There was one challenge match that came from the Council and the Stewardship Commission to provide a match of $3600 if 20 new households made a first time commitment. Thank you to LaVonne Miller and Jodie Tvedt for their 'Temple Talks' during our stewardship drive.

The decision was made by the Council and the Stewardship Commission to do a smaller scope and ask for the 2025 Stewardship Drive. The reason behind this was the launching of a Capital Campaign in March of 2026 for the purpose of addressing some larger property needs. The Capital Campaign will look to raise funds for the flat roof, the organ, putting in an ADA bathroom and the parking lot. There will also be a gift to the Kasson-Mantorville community as a celebration of the 150th Anniversary. So, the Stewardship campaign focused mostly on what we call "continuing excellence", which is another way of talking about supporting our current staff with pay increases and professional development.

The response to the campaign, as of the end of the year, 94 households returned a commitment card. We had 11 households make commitments for the first time. There was $8478 of new income toward our 2026.

Over the last three years of stewardship appeals we have met many goals for giving that have allowed us to rebuild the office staff and the program staff. We have had goals for an expanded role for our visitation pastoral role, for a Youth Ministry Coordinator and a Worship and Music Coordinator. We have met these goals each of the years that the Stewardship Commission has asked the congregation for its support. This past stewardship drive in 2025 brought in $8478 of new giving commitments over last year. This will allow us to continue to support our staff and balance our budget. And, I am certain that the membership of St. John's will respond well to the Capital Campaign coming in March. St. John's is in a strong financial position with no debt and a balanced budget.

I am thankful for the work of the Stewardship Commission for their work on bringing our materials together. Also thanks to the Executive Committee, Staff and the Council in their input into the scope of the campaign for 2025. I am thankful for all those who participated and gave their financial commitments during this fall campaign. We give thanks to God for God's generosity and for the generosity of St. John's folks!

Submitted by Pastor John Weisenburger

**2025 Annual Report - Worship and Music Commission**

Throughout the past year, worship and music ministry remained a vital expression of the congregation's life together in Christ. Seasonal worship themes were intentionally developed and carried through both Sunday and Wednesday services, creating continuity, consistency, and a shared rhythm of prayer and praise. Collaboration between worship, music, and program staff continued to strengthen, supporting worship that was meaningful, Spirit-filled, and rooted in the liturgical life of the ELCA.

The congregation is richly gifted. Over 50 volunteer and guest musicians shared their talents throughout the year, offering their gifts in service to God and the community. The generosity and willingness of members to contribute their musical gifts continues to be a source of joy and gratitude.

- **Holden Evening Prayer servicing during Lent** Lenten evening prayer services were In In what has become a beloved tradition, Holden Evening Prayer was held weekly during Lent. Well attended and deeply meaningful, shaped by a wide range of contributors and volunteer worship leaders, and reflecting the congregation's strong desire for contemplative, prayer-centered worship during the season.

- **Good Friday Worship**
  The Good Friday service offered a significant moment of communal reflection on Christ's suffering and death, marked by strong collaboration between music and program staff and named by many congregants as a particularly powerful Holy Week experience.

- **Seasonal Worship Planning & Liturgical Continuity**
  Worship themes were intentionally aligned with the church year and carried consistently across Sunday and Wednesday services, deepening congregational engagement and understanding of the liturgical seasons while remaining rooted in Word and Sacrament.

- **Congregational & Guest Musicians**
  More than 50 guest and volunteer musicians participated in worship throughout the year, enriching worship through the breadth of talent within the congregation and reflecting a strong culture of shared ministry and generosity of gifts.

- **Readings & Carols (Advent)**
  The Lessons and Carols service thoughtfully wove scripture readings with congregational singing, featuring choir, handbells, organ, and guest musicians in a service that was both reverent and festive during the Advent season.

- **Christmas Eve Worship**
  Christmas Eve services welcomed over 650 attendees and were supported by thoughtful preparation and coordination, providing a sacred and joyful conclusion to Advent and welcoming of new year.

- **Worship Leadership & Looking Ahead** The hiring of the Worship and Music Coordinator strengthened the sustainability and long-term vision of the ministry, which continues into the new year with strong collaboration, faithful leadership, and a commitment to the overall mission of St. John's.

# Finance Commission
# St. John's Financial Year-End Finance Report for 2025

As I wrap up my third, and final, year in the Treasurer position, we experienced a slightly different year to start off in 2025 versus the first two years. We began the year a little slower however the congregation responded well to our first quarterly update and we entered the summer season at a positive $40,000 net income. As is typical, the offerings were up and down throughout the summer season and into the early. As we entered the last quarter of the year our net income had been reduced to around $30,000, however still a strong position to be in as we wound down the year. Finally, as hoped/expected, the month of December was very strong at 125% of our budgeted offerings to give us a solid ending to the year.

With these past three years we have had an amazing run of giving, support and understanding. We have been debt free now for over 18 months! We received the Employee Retention Credit of around $120,000 which has been set aside in case of another wind/hail claim for our roofs (with a deductible of $100,000) and as a reserve. We've had three years of positive net income which we have been able to utilize for the support and growth of our staff and ministries.

As I am writing this the Finance Committee has met and reviewed the numbers for December and Year-End, however, they have not been approved by the Church Council. There does not appear to be any issues or corrections to be made so I will share now how we ended for 2025. From the Finance Committee review we ended 2025 in a strong position with just over $50,000 in positive net income.

We will run through the final figures during the Budget/Finance Update in mid-January. However for those unable to attend that meeting here are some of the final figures: $551,344 in Total Offerings, $82,610 in Commission Incomes which includes the funds raised/used for the pneumatic controls, $4025 in Office Income and $17,038 in Miscellaneous. Our offerings came in at 88% of budget. Total income was $655,018 or 95.3% of budget. Budgeted total income was $687,200.

On the Expense side we had total expenses of $604,738. The largest portion of our expenses is in Personnel, and we had a total of $379,815 spent which was less than 78% of the budget. The rest of the expense categories were very much in line with expectations. The only major exception is Properties as the Church Council made the decision to finish off the pneumatic controls project for around $33,000. The only other area of note would be the additional monies sent to the Synod from the funds the Lutefisk Supper Committee provided. We gave an additional $8000 to the synod which put our benevolence amount there at $24,200.

All in all – another wonderful year here for our finances! Thank you all, again, for your generosity! This makes three years in a row of ending a year in a strong financial position and that is because of all of you! Thank you all for your generosity throughout 2025!

Tim Tjosaas, Treasurer, on behalf of the Finance Commission

# Attendance 2025

| Week Starting on Sunday | Wednesday In-Person | Sunday In-Person 1st/Only | Sunday In-Person 2nd | Special/ Other Worship | Totals | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| 1/5/2025 | 73 | 130 | | | 203 | |
| 1/12/2025 | 70 | 171 | | | 241 | |
| 1/19/2025 | 78 | 112 | | | 190 | |
| 1/26/2025 | 61 | 125 | | | 186 | |
| **TOTAL** | 282 | 538 | 0 | | 820 | |
| | | | | | | |
| 2/2/2025 | 75 | 152 | | | 227 | |
| 2/9/2025 | 76 | 182 | | | 258 | |
| 2/16/2025 | 0 | 99 | | | 99 | |
| 2/23/2025 | 76 | 160 | | | 236 | |
| **TOTAL** | 227 | 593 | 0 | 0 | 820 | |
| | | | | | | |
| 3/2/2025 | 104 | 157 | | | 261 | Ash Wed |
| 3/9/2025 | 95 | 107 | | | 202 | |
| 3/16/2025 | 75 | 142 | | | 217 | Guess - Wed |
| 3/23/2025 | 119 | 147 | | | 266 | |
| 3/30/2025 | 120 | 131 | | | 251 | |
| **TOTAL** | 513 | 684 | 0 | 0 | 1197 | |
| | | | | | | |
| 4/6/2025 | 121 | 178 | | Good Friday | 299 | |
| 4/13/2025 | 191 | 242 | | 164 | 597 | Maundy Thursday (Wednesday) |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4/20/2025 | 60 | | 469 | | | 529 | Easter Sunday |
| 4/27/2025 | 91 | | 140 | | | 231 | |
| **TOTAL** | 463 | | 1029 | 0 | 164 | 1656 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 5/4/2025 | | | 149 | | | 149 | |
| 5/11/2025 | 7 | | 146 | | | 153 | |
| 5/18/2025 | 8 | | 131 | | | 139 | |
| 05/25/2025 | | | 79 | | | 79 | |
| **TOTAL** | 15 | | 505 | 0 | 0 | 520 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 6/1/2025 | | | 109 | | 167 | 276 | Baccalaureate |
| 6/8/2025 | | | 112 | | | 112 | |
| 6/15/2025 | | | 90 | | | 90 | |
| 6/22/2025 | | | 94 | | | 94 | |
| 6/29/2025 | | | 100 | | | 100 | |
| **TOTAL** | 0 | | 505 | 0 | 167 | 672 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 7/6/2025 | | | 126 | | | 126 | |
| 7/13/2025 | | | 135 | | | 135 | |
| 7/20/2025 | | | 120 | | | 120 | |
| 7/27/2025 | | | 100 | | | 100 | |
| **TOTAL** | 0 | | 481 | 0 | 0 | 481 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 8/3/2025 | | | 110 | | | 110 | |
| 8/10/2025 | | | 73 | | | 73 | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8/17/2025 | | 71 | | | 71 | |
| 8/24/2025 | | 105 | | | 105 | |
| 8/31/2025 | | 75 | | | 75 | |
| **TOTAL** | 0 | 434 | 0 | 0 | 434 | |
| | | | | | | |
| 9/7/2025 | | 125 | | | 125 | |
| 9/14/2025 | 80 | 178 | | | 258 | |
| 9/21/2025 | 68 | 135 | | 366 | 569 | Confirmation |
| 9/28/2025 | 90 | 131 | | | 221 | |
| **TOTAL** | 238 | 569 | 0 | 366 | 1173 | |
| | | | | | | |
| 10/5/2025 | 90 | 119 | | | 209 | |
| 10/12/2025 | 0 | 162 | | | 162 | MEA Week |
| 10/19/2025 | 0 | 148 | | | 148 | Lutefisk Week |
| 10/26/2025 | 93 | 146 | | | 239 | |
| **TOTAL** | 183 | 575 | 0 | 0 | 758 | |
| | | | | | | |
| 11/2/2025 | 75 | 218 | | | 293 | |
| 11/9/2025 | | 192 | | | 192 | |
| 11/16/2025 | | 133 | | | 133 | |
| 11/23/2025 | 28 | 181 | | | 209 | |
| 11/30/2025 | 67 | 70 | | | 137 | |
| **TOTAL** | 170 | 794 | 0 | 0 | 964 | |
| | | | | | | |
| 12/7/2025 | 78 | 213 | | | 291 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12/14/2025 | 45 | 144 | | | 189 | | |

## *Christmas Eve Attendance St. John's Lutheran 2016-present*

| Service Times | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 Virtual | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2:30 PM | 252 | 317 | 361 | 270 | | 156 | 162 | 175 | 258 | 247 |
| 5:00 PM | 386 | 350 | 365 | 473 | | 126 | 214 | 284 | 261 | 271 |
| 6:30 PM | 119 | | 113 | 104 | | 56 | | | | |
| 8:00 PM | | 106 | | | | | 83 | 134 | 111 | 138 |
| 9 PM | | | | | | 58 | | | | |
| 10 PM | 78 | | 90 | 110 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| C Eve TOTALS | 835 | 773 | 929 | 957 | | 343 | 459 | 593 in person 696 online | 630 in person | 656 |
| | | | | | | | | 1289 Total | | |
| Christmas Day 9 AM | 39 | 48 | 76 | 59 | | 30 | 41 | 60 in person 500 online 560 total | 72 in person | 34 |

# 2025 Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Annual Report

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) include all women at St. John's Lutheran Church after confirmation age. All are welcome to participate in any of the activities throughout the year.

Currently there are four church Circles which meet either mornings or afternoons within the first two weeks of the month with dates/times published in the Snippets. A main focus for our women is the monthly Bible Studies guided by the "Gather" magazine published by the national Women of the ELCA. This past year, we studied "Faithfulness, Flourishing Relationships, and Money/Stewardship/Generosity".

In addition to the Bible Studies, the women were involved in many different activities. These included:

- Greeting weekly Sunday mornings before the church service
- Quilting weekly Wednesday mornings November 2024 through April 2025 which resulted in creating 97 quilts. These were donated to WELCA Giving Day, People of Hope Church, Men's Clubhouse, Women's Clubhouse, United Way, and also to a family in Dodge Center that experienced a house fire that resulted in a total loss.
- "Doing Day" was held April 9th with over 20 women met pulling together the kits that totaled: 24 boxes, 221 kits (18 baby, 16 newborn, 37 hospice, 37 personal care, 23 fabric, and 90 school). These were made for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries and for many other organizations.
- Women's Day Retreat at Good Earth Village was held on March 29th was attended by: Kay Hodge, Diane Lindgren, Sharon Melquist, and Renee Solberg.
- Zumbro River Conference was held on April 5th at Zion Lutheran Church in Stewartville, MN by: Linda Andrist, Kay Hodge, Diane Lindgren, Janna Lindgren, Renee Solberg, Nancy Sanford, and Jodene Sorenson.
- The WELCA SE Synod Conference was held September 27th at Grace Lutheran in Waseca, MN. Those attending were: Kay Hodge, Diane Lindgren, Sharon Melquist, and Renee Solberg.
- Summer coffee and treats were provided for 17 weeks (Memorial weekend through the second weekend in September).
- Coffee and treats were provided for the 9 weekly lefse prep and baking days.
- The Thankoffering Service was held in November. Thanks to the many donations provided by the woman and others within the congregation, we were able to donate 80 bags which equated to 612 pounds of food/supplies to the Dodge County we Food Shelf.
- The 17th annual Christmas luncheon was held on December 13th which was well attended. The Looney Lutherans provided our entertainment and once again provided well needed laughter.
- The women served four funerals held at St. John's.

- Stuffing envelopes and volunteering in the church office
- Visiting the home bound and attending the monthly church service at Fairview Health Care

Blessings from our 2025 Board: Marge Albright, Marty Buckwalter, Char Edgar, Bonnie Eidem, Shelley Gustafson, Nancy Johnson, Sharon Melquist, JoAnn Roth, Phyllis Sands, Renee Solberg, Jodene Sorenson, Marilyn Tietz

Submitted by: Sharon Melquist & Renee Solberg, WELCA Co-Chairs

# St. John's Lutheran WELCA Finances – 2025

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Beginning Balance January 1, 2025 | | $3,729.17 |
| Lutefisk Committee (Doing Day/Quilting/Speakers/Luncheon) | 1,716.00 | |
| Quilt Sales | 200.00 | |
| Alerus/Home Federal (Christmas Luncheon Sponsor) | 250.00 | |
| Memorial Gifts | 535.00 | |
| Wm Brown (Donation for Quilting Supplies) | 600.00 | |
| Thankofferings | 663.75 | |
| Circle Coffee Service | 1,221.22 | |
| Circle/Meeting Offerings | 748.00 | |
| Serve Funerals/Meetings | 600.00 | |
| St John's Foundation (Annual Charitable Request) | 500.00 | |
| St John's Foundation (Purchase Fiberfil for Quilting) | 500.00 | |
| Christmas Luncheon Tickets/Quilt Raffle | 4,085.00 | |
| Total Receipts | | $11,618.97 |
| Good Earth Women's Day Registration | 160.00 | |
| KM Lions Club (Annual Flag Program) | 45.00 | |
| Doing Day Supplies | 546.00 | |
| KM Care & Share (Donation) | 100.00 | |
| Administrative Expenses | 69.95 | |
| SE MN Women of the ELCA (Conference Offering) | 500.00 | |
| St John's Foundation (2025 Member Memorials) | 165.00 | |
| Quilting Supplies | 1,413.30 | |
| SE MN Women of the ELCA (Circle Offerings) | 374.00 | |
| SE MN Women of the ELCA (Conference Registrations) | 210.00 | |
| Campus Ministry (Foundation) | 500.00 | |
| Women of the ELCA (Thankoffering) | 663.75 | |
| Misc Kitchen Supplies (Funerals/Meetings) | 333.14 | |
| Christmas Luncheon (Meal/Program/Misc Supplies) | 3,821.44 | |
| Total Disbursements | | $8,901.58 |
| Ending Balance December 31, 2025 | | $6,446.56 |

# St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation

## 301 8th Ave NW Kasson, MN 55944

## 2025 Annual Report

"They are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous, thus laying up for themselves a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life which is life indeed." – 1 Timothy 6:18-19

Every year, the St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation reaches out to our congregation, community, and beyond. The income generated by the Foundation's investments helps to provide financial support for people and projects. It may be in the form of scholarship help for a student attending a Lutheran college or to provide help to reduce the cost of young people attending a camp or youth gathering. Money may help update office equipment, audio visual equipment for live streaming, or unexpected church maintenance. It may help to provide funds for new programs or outreach in the community. Funds have also been made available for mission support for areas like Haiti, Tanzania or Lutheran World Relief. But this help is only available because people have donated funds to the Foundation with the assurance that they will help to provide a perpetual source of income for future needs.

The Foundation was established about 1982 and was incorporated in 1993 with the purposed of enhancing the mission and outreach of St. John's Lutheran Church by investing the gifts to the Foundation and making distributions from the income. The Foundation holds the principle of such gifts in perpetuity and annually distributes a portion of the income as provided by the by-laws. The by-laws and constitution of the Foundation gives the board of directors the guidelines on how the income will be divided. The board receives applications for available funds and makes recommendations to the church council on which projects should be funded. The five elected board members are responsible for making judicious investment decisions to protect the Foundation's principle and generate income for distribution.

In 2025 the Foundation received contributions of $1535 in the form of memorials and gifts to add to the principle. We are happy to receive donations of cash, stock, or distributions from estates or minimum required distributions from tax sheltered investments. All gifts given to the Foundation are tax deductible and will help to generate earnings for the future.

In 2025 the Foundation approved distributions of $18,525 from the previous year's earnings. This included over $6,100 for property projects and improvements. The Foundation provided $5400 for scholarships and youth programs. Local mission programs were given $3000 and $2000 was given to worldwide missions like Tanzania and Lutheran World Relief. The Foundation is thankful for the income generated that can be used to support the various missions of the church.

The 2025 board members of the Foundation were: President – Clark Johnson, VP – Tim Tjosaas, Secretary – Sharon Melquist, Treasurer – Ron Albright, and Asst. Treasurer – Dave Bornfleth.

### St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation Financial Report for 2025

**Assets on hand as of December 31, 2024**

| | |
|---|---|
| Alerus Bank – Checking Account - | $ 2,894.94 |
| Alerus – Savings Account | $ 19,712.17 |
| ELCA Endowment Fund – Pooled Trust | $182,209.06 |

| | |
|---|---|
| ELCA Mission Investment Fund | $ 83,461.42 |
| Value of Bonds held | $100,330,05 |
| Unit Trusts | $ 46,717.91 |
| Edward Jones Cash on Hand | $ 7.70 |
| Vanguard – Wellington Investor CL | $ 17,515.67 |
| Jackson National Life Insurance – annuity | $ 17,645.16 |
| **Total Assets as of December 31, 2024** | **$470,494.08** |

**Receipts During 2025**

| | |
|---|---|
| Memorials and Donations | $ 1,535.00 |
| Income Provided from Investments | $21,105.54 |
| **Total Foundation Receipts for 2025** | **$22,640.54** |

**Distributions of Foundation Funds in 2025**

| | |
|---|---|
| Council Approved Distributions | $18,525.00 |
| Tax preparation fee | $ 125.00 |
| State of MN Registration Fee | $ 25.00 |
| **Total Expenditures of Foundation Funds for 2024** | **$18,675.00** |

**Assets on hand as of December 31, 2025**

| | |
|---|---|
| Alerus Bank – Checking Account - | $ 899.94 |
| Alerus – Savings Account | $ 28,953.50 |
| ELCA Endowment Fund – Pooled Trust * | $200,819.67 |
| ELCA Mission Investment Fund * | $ 83,461.43 |
| Value of Bonds held * | $104,331.17 |
| Unit Trusts * | $ 46,169.38 |
| Edward Jones Cash on Hand * | $ 8.96 |
| Vanguard – Wellington Investor CL * | $ 17,995.92 |
| Jackson National Life Insurance – annuity * | $ 19,232.51 |
| **Total Assets as of December 31, 2025** | **$501,872.48** |

***** as of last statement

Submitted by Ron Albright – St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation Treasurer

# 2025 Annual Report - Food For Friends

Food for Friends has had another wonderful year of providing nutritious, child-friendly, and easy-to-prepare foods to Kasson-Mantorville students in Head Start, Pre-K, elementary school, and middle school. The rising price of groceries continues to significantly impact families, and we are thankful we can provide this nourishment to children in our community.

**School Year**

Each week throughout the school year, participating Head Start, Pre-K, Elementary, and Middle School students receive a bag filled with food to sustain them through weekends and school breaks when they do not have access to school breakfast or lunch.

For the 2025–26 school year, Food For Friends is serving:

- 12 Head Start students
- 2 Pre-K students
- 29 elementary school students
- 8 middle school students

These numbers may fluctuate as families' situations change. Students are added when a family experiences new financial challenges or when teachers recognize a need. Teachers and social workers at the school know they can reach out to us at any time to add a student. We also stay in contact with community social workers so they can suggest Food for Friends to families in need.

**Community Engagement and Partnerships**

The St. John's congregation and the Kasson-Mantorville communities are what make this work possible. From the space provided at St. John's to house operations, to food and cash donations from congregation and community members, we could not provide these meals without this support. We have also continued to have the youth group help on packing nights—an enormous help to our team and a meaningful opportunity for youth to be involved.

The Cindy Glazier Outreach for Children Foundation continues to provide a tremendous amount of financial support through their annual golf tournament. This partnership has helped ensure financial stability for ongoing operations.

The Kasson-Mantorville FCCLA students held a food drive again this year. This partnership helps fill our shelves with food that is kid-friendly, shelf-stable, and easy for a child to prepare. Thank you for the continued support in the fight against hunger!

Prayerfully,

Jennifer Hodgman and Elizabeth Armstrong

# 2025 Annual Report - Lutefisk Dinner and Bake Sale

The Lutefisk Dinner Steering Committee is thankful for everyone who supported this year's lefse bakes, dinner, and bake sale by either volunteering, donating, or attending. We are blessed with a wonderful congregation who come together to keep this tradition of great food and fellowship alive!

The 2025 Lutefisk Dinner was held on Thursday, October 23, 2025. Reservations were pre-purchased for the six seating times (*11am, 12pm, 1pm, 4pm, 5pm, and 6pm with 24 tables each*) or for takeout meals. A total of 1381 tickets were pre-sold: 1141 dining room, 122 takeout, and 118 worker area. The 122 takeout meals included 13 complimentary meals that were delivered to local members on our visitation roster who were interested in the meal. In addition, the takeout team assembled 12 takeout meals for guests who converted their tickets from dining room seating to takeout.

A total of nine lefse bakes were held on Wednesdays in August through October. An average of 14 people helped each Tuesday with the potato prep and an average of 48 people helped each Wednesday with the lefse bakes. New this year was a lefse bake on Saturday, October 4, 2025. Overall, 1190 pounds of potatoes were used and a total of 469.25 dozen lefse was made for the dinner and bake sale.

The committee purchased 1300 pounds of lutefisk, 500 pounds of ground meat for meatballs, 650 pounds of rutabagas, and 230 pounds of additional potatoes.

Congregation members contributed the following for the dinner this year: 420 pounds of quartered potatoes, more than 105 pounds of butter, 108 dozen Norwegian baked goods, 18 batches of cranberry relish, and $3,765 in monetary donations. Coleslaw and additional cranberry relish was made at the church along with 54 dozen rosettes and 188 dozen cookies.

The Lutefisk Dinner Steering Committee presented the church council with a check for $19,678.22 in December 2025. The church council will distribute $8,000 to the Southeastern MN Synod for benevolence and the remainder to St. John's 150th Anniversary dedicated fund.

Proceeds from the bake sale and monetary donations to the bake sale totaled $8,307.50.These proceeds will be made available to others through a small grants application process. Any church commission, committee, or person with a local church-related project or need is invited to apply. Applications will be available in the church office until February 1, 2026.

After the small grants process is complete, the Lutefisk Dinner Steering Committee will have a balance of $4,000 in their checking account. These funds are designated for startup funds for the 2026 dinner and for unanticipated kitchen expenses.

-Submitted on January 3, 2026 by Amy Weaver, Dinner co-chair

# 2026 Proposed Budget

| | | | Jan - Dec 25 | YTD Budget | 2026 PROPOSED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | | | |
| | Income | | | | |
| | | Total 30900 · Offerings | 551,344.01 | 626,500.00 | $ 615,220.00 |
| | | Total 35000 · Commission Income | 82,610.94 | 48,900.00 | $ 74,700.00 |
| | | Total 37000 · Office Income | 4,025.50 | 60,745.00 | $ 51,280.00 |
| | | Total 38000 · Miscellaneous | 17,037.84 | 11,000.00 | $ 14,000.00 |
| | Total Income | | 655,018.29 | 747,145.00 | $ 755,200.00 |
| | Expense | | | | |
| | | Total 43000 · Compensation | 379,815.05 | 489,896.00 | $ 487,225.00 |
| | | Total 60000 · Continuing Education | 3,373.53 | 5,785.00 | $ 5,955.00 |
| | | Total 61000 · Mileage-Program Staff | 4,805.84 | 5,500.00 | $ 5,500.00 |
| | | Total 62000 · Administrative | 1,047.89 | 2,000.00 | $ 2,000.00 |
| | | Total 63000 · Office Expense | 12,965.85 | 22,100.00 | $ 19,900.00 |
| | | 63400 · McKern's Accounting | 4,400.00 | 4,800.00 | $ 4,800.00 |
| | | Total 64000 · Insurance | 24,191.95 | 24,108.00 | $ 31,150.00 |
| | | Total 71500 · Growth & Hospitality | 703.00 | 1,450.00 | $ 1,450.00 |
| | | Total 72500 · Media | 2,401.49 | 4,000.00 | $ 6,500.00 |
| | | Total 74500 · Property & Building | 48,118.29 | 24,000.00 | $ 23,500.00 |
| | | Total 74539 · Utilities | 30,456.70 | 40,600.00 | $ 40,600.00 |
| | | Total 75000 · Mission & Outreach | 50,313.32 | 45,140.00 | $ 53,900.00 |
| | | Total 75500 · Stewardship Commission | 7,875.81 | 25,000.00 | $ 25,000.00 |
| | | Total 76000 · Worship & Music | 8,869.98 | 10,000.00 | $ 15,000.00 |
| | | 76045 · Memorial & Interior Design Exp | 3,604.60 | 5,000.00 | $ 5,000.00 |
| | | Total 76500 · Youth & Family | 21,794.75 | 37,750.00 | $ 27,719.00 |
| | Total Expense | | 604,738.05 | 747,129.00 | $ 755,199.00 |
| Net Ordinary Income | | | 50,280.24 | 16.00 | $ 1.00 |
| Net Income | | | **50,280.24** | **16.00** | **$ 1.00** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **NEW ITEMS in 2026** | | |
| ***Ihanja Water project | $ 7,000.00 | Expense to match the Income |
| ***Isanzu Dispensary | $ 5,000.00 | Expense to match the Income |
| Intern Pastor (replacing Pr. Deborah's spot) | $ 32,863.00 | |
| Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) | $ 2,100.00 | |
| Media equipment purchases | $ 2,500.00 | |
| Increase in benevolence to Synod | $ 1,800.00 | |
| Organ repairs | $ 5,000.00 | |
| | $ 56,263.00 | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **ONE TIME EXPENSES** | | |
| Capital Campaign & 150th Anniversary | $ 25,000.00 | |
| Organ Repair | $ 5,000.00 | |
| Media upgrades | $ 2,500.00 | |
| | $ 32,500.00 | |

| | 2022 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offerings | $458,461.00 | $ 571,450.00 | $551,344.00 |
| Budgeted Of. | $549,260.00 | $ 585,600.00 | $626,500.00 |
| Percent of budget | 83.47% | 97.58% | 88.00% |
| Net Income | $ (44,003.00) | $ 59,945.00 | $ 50,280.00 |
| Compensation us | 99.45% | 74.47% | 77.53% |
| Without CKP | 96.95% | 85.56% | 77.53% |

# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving" (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

> "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."
>
> —Colossians 2:6-7

Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

# 2025 Ministry Report

We gathered at **Council as Leaders** to think collaboratively and further equip ourselves for ministry as lay and rostered leaders.

**Nuer Community Lutheran Church**, a new worshipping community, was established! Rev. Yang Tut was ordained.

We had four new entrants to the **Candidacy** process! 13 were in process as '25 concluded. 19 attended the annual **Candidacy Retreat** at Good Earth Village.

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are."
—1 John 3:1 (emphasis added)

Through Christ, we have been made children of God! What good news! It is out of this identity, the truest proclamation of who we are, that we live as followers of Jesus in this world.

As members of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA, we strive to *walk together proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ*. We live in this community of faith, across sixteen counties with 100,000 baptized members as the children of God. Because this is who we are, we celebrate all the ways God is at work in us and through us – not only in our own communities but throughout the synod and church - for the sake of the world.

Join me in celebrating all the ways God has been at work in our midst over the past year, and let's look ahead, together, with joyful anticipation for what God will yet do, in us and through us, for the sake of the good news of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Rev. Regina Hassanally

Bishop Regina Hassanally

A variety of **Power and Boundaries educational workshops** were offered to equip church council members, faith formation professionals, and rostered ministers for leadership.

**Rev. Sarah Krolak** was called to serve as pastor of **Connections Ministry/Shelter Church**, which is a Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry based in Mankato.

Synod members participated in the **Lutheran Church of Colombia's National Assembly** where Rev. John Rojas was elected as bishop.

About 140 ministry leaders attended the **Fall Theological Retreat**, which includes fellowship, education, and retreat. Rev. Leila Ortiz led the presentations and discussion on pneumatological estuaries, with the theme of Baptism in Muddy Waters.

We gathered under the theme *"Remember what God has done. Prepare for what God will do."* at the **Synod Assembly**. Three resolutions were passed regarding *Support for the Least of These and the Ministries that Serve Them* and *Expanded Preaching and Teaching on the Stories of Women in the Bible and Use of Female Imagery of God and of God's Work in the World*. On the first ballot, Bishop Hassanally was elected to a second six-year term.

**17 Rostered Ministers** joined our synod!

SEMNSynod.org