

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

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# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## OPENING LITURGY

### Son of God, Eternal Savior

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

**And also with you.**

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

**Amen.**

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need,  
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

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# Table of Contents – Annual Report

Mission Statement	1
Agenda	2
2023 Annual Meeting Minutes	3
Standing Committees Elected Positions	4-5
Pastor’s Letter	6
Pastoral Acts	7-8
Membership Data	8
Attendance Report	9
Parish Minister Report	10-15
Synod Report	16
Gustavus Report	17
Green Lake Lutheran Ministries	18
Standing Committees Reports	19-24
End-of-Year Financial Report	25-26
Designated Funds Report	27
Altar Guild Financial Report	28
Lutheran Church Men’s Report	29
Endowment Financial Report	30
Youth Financial Report	31
Bazaar Financial Report	32
Auditing Committee Report	33
2024 Proposed Budget	34-35
Notes	





## MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church, have received the word of the Lord as the supreme gift from which many of our blessings of faith and life have come to us. We accept our Lutheran heritage of faith which the pioneers of our area have passed on to us in the building of our Christian congregation, and we celebrate with them and all Christians, the treasure of our Lord's Church. As the people of God, partners in the community of saint, we commit ourselves as the living message of Christ in the world. Our congregation is more than a physical building; we are an assembly of living stones that are called individually, and as a congregation, to daily living the Gospel of the Lord, inspired and counseled by the Lord's Holy Spirit.

We therefore, reach out, to share this gift of faith. As Christians, we are called to faithful witness and service: the mission to whom all of God's people have been called. This call has local, national, and international dimensions. Because we have been blessed, we wish to continue in fellowship with our Lord to be the source of blessings to others. We hear our brothers and sisters crying out, hurting, and seeking our help in obtaining true worth, dignity, and meaning in life. We will not wait for others to proclaim and provide assistance or justice. We will seek to be a message and benediction to others who will know what it means to be surrounded by the forgiving, unbinding grace and love of the Lord. And, because the Lord has provided us with the abundance of an agricultural community, we will be guardians of these gifts of God and use them responsibly as part of our daily reverence to our Lord. Thus, according to the will of god, we will equip the saints within our fellowship so that we may all lead a life worthy of our calling Christ, and be supportive of others.

We proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in Word and Sacrament. We believe that our salvation comes to us as a gift of the Lord because He loves us. His great commission to reach out to the world with His message is of primary importance to us. While growing in our commitment to our Lord, knowing the Lord's resurrection is the first fruits of promise, we will likewise bring before the Lord, in our sacrificial giving, our personal variety of talents and gifts and experiences for the blessing and unity of the congregation and its mission for all people to join with us, as sinners and saints, in the fellowship of Christ and His Church. We extend the invitation to others to be part of our hopes, labors, and joys. We prayerfully hope the members of the congregation and friends who will experience being loved- will love, being served- will serve, and being blessed- will be blessed, and that they will find rich and rewarding fellowship. Then together we must seek to live our lives in such a way that others can see that the message we confess is true.

## SUMMARY MISSION STATEMENT

**We, the members of Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church, having received God's Word as a gift and heritage do commit ourselves to be the Body of Christ with its inherent obligations: to share the Good News of the Gospel with our world, to teach the Scriptures faithfully, and to give our time and talents to the glory of our Lord. Therefore, we are compelled by our Lord to invite all members of the communities around us to join with us in the fellowship of Christ and His Church.**



**133<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church**

**January 21, 2024**

**\*Items that require a Congregational Vote**

**I. AGENDA**

Declaration of the One Hundred and Thirty third Annual Meeting of the Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**II. OPENING PROCEDURES**

- A. Adoption of Agenda\*
  - A. 1. Approval of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congregational meeting minutes\*
- B. Appointment of Tellers (by Council and/or Chairperson)\*
- C. Appointment of Recorder (by Council and/or Chairperson)\*
- D. Declaration of a Quorum (Congregational Constitution, Chapter 10: C10.04. Forty voting members shall constitute a quorum)
- E. Devotions

**III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- A. Nominating Committee Report (Proposed Ballot)
- B. Nominations from the floor by members of the congregation\*
- C. Election of Officers of the Congregation

**IV. PASTOR'S REPORT \***

Pastoral Acts (as printed)  
Attendance Report (as printed)  
Parish Minister Report (as printed)  
Synod Report (as printed)  
Gustavus Report (as printed)  
Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Report (unavailable at time of printing)

**V. REVIEW OF REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES \***

Administration  
Care Team  
Children Youth and Family  
Equipping  
Missions  
Outreach  
Parish Life  
Technology  
Worship and Music

**VI. FINANCIAL REPORTS \***

Financial Secretary  
Altar Guild  
Lutheran Church Men  
Endowment Fund  
Youth Account  
Bazaar  
(Auditing Committee Report)

**VII. PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024 \***

**VIII. BUSINESS\***

Call for Sister Sarah Hausken as Parish Minister for Cross of Calvary Church

**IX. CLOSING DEVOTIONS: Prayer and Benediction, Pastor Matt Hausken**

**X. ADJOURNMENT\***



## 132<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING of CROSS OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church President Nathan Cole called the 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congregational meeting of Cross of Calvary Church to order at 10:15 AM on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023. He presented the agenda to the congregation. *A motion was made by Sandra Gay to adopt the agenda for the congregational meeting, seconded by Alex Gay, motion carried and passed. (No additions were added)*

President Gordy Blem announced the appointed tellers as: *Karen van der Hagen, Chris Hanson and Alex Gay*

Sue Altmann was appointed as recorder to take minutes for the meeting.

A quorum was declared with over 40 voting members present.

A motion to except the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes was made by Scott Johnson and seconded by Jill Hanson motion carried.

Nathan Cole then opened the floor for any additional nominations: *A motion to approve the ballot was made by Jill Hanson and seconded by Kathy Reese, motion carried. A motion was made to cast a unanimous show of hands by Gordy Blem and seconded by Curt Sather motion carried.*

Pastor Matt Hausken thanked the outgoing council members. He also thanked the staff and volunteers for serving the church throughout the year. Pastor recognized the committees for all their wonderful contribution to the church. There is a grief lectionary group ending in February. Adult Bible study will be coming in March during the Sunday school hour. Those interested in a couple's bible study should talk to pastor. Theology on Tap bible study for young adults is going well. Thanks! *A motion to approve the Pastors report was made by Scott Johnson and seconded by Sandra Gay, motion passed.*

President Nathan Cole asked the congregation to review the standing committee reports as written in the annual report. Having done so, *Eric Skeie made a motion to accept the standing committee reports, seconded by Chris Hanson, motion carried.*

President Nathan Cole asked the congregation to review the financial reports, for the 2022 year, as presented in the annual report. *A motion to accept the financial reports were made by Alex Gay, seconded by Todd Gay, motion carried.*

President Nathan Cole presented the proposed budget for 2023, which had been forwarded from the council. Congregational support to SW MN Synod and Lutheran Social Services will be maid monthly.

*A motion was made to accept the financial report by Lawanda Frank and seconded by Todd Gay, motion carried.*

Pastor Matt closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction. *A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Alex Gay, seconded by Curt Sather motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Altmann, Recorder

### **Election results:**

**Congregation Council, 3 yr. terms:** Stacey Larson, Sandra Gay, Bobbi Jo Abrahamson, Julie Mitchell (3-year term 2026)

**Auditing Committee 3 yr. term:** Jill Hanson (2026)

**Nominating Committee 3 yr. term:** Sarah Hausken (2026)

**Endowment Fund 3 yr. terms:** Dana Boen (2026)

**Head Usher & Assistance 1 yr. term:**

Head- Daren Sagedahl (2024) Asst. - Brian Boen (2024)

**Congregation Representative to Synod and Conference, 1 yr. term:** Bob & Sue Erickson, David Torgelson

**Representatives to Gustavus Adolphus, 1 yr. Term:**

### **Council Officers:**

**President:** Nathan Cole

**Vice President:** Keith Larson

**Treasurer:** Curt Sather



## Standing Committee Positions

2024

### Congregational Council 3-year term (Term ends after the Annual Meeting)

Needs: 6

Keith Larson, President (2025)

Bob Erickson, Vice President (2024)

Sandra Gay (2026\*), Stacey Larson (2026\*), \_\_\_\_\_(2006), \_\_\_\_\_(2006), Alex Gay (2024\*),  
Kathy Reese (2024) Scott Johnson (2024), Elaine McDowell (2025\*), Trent Athmann (2025),  
\_\_\_\_\_(2025)

Resigned: Julie Mitchell, Nathan Cole, Bobbi Jo Abrahamson

Meet once per month. Each council person shares one devotional per year at council and is scheduled to serve Communion two months each year. Council members will be represented on one of the following Standing Committees (to be determined at the first Council meeting)

\*these individuals cannot run again at the end of their term (they must sit a year out and the eligible to run again) ( ) Year individual will go off committee

### Auditing Committee 3-year term

Need: 1

Jill Hanson (2026), Sue Erickson (2025), Cheryl Mallak (2024)

This three member committee meets in January of each year to review the finances of all accounts of the church.

### Nominating Committee 3-year term

Need: 1

Sarah Hausken (2026), Sue Altmann, (2025), Jon Hawkinson (2024)

This three member committee seeks to nominate leaders of the church. Nominations take place in early January

### Endowment Fund 3-year term

Need: 1

Dana Boen (2026), Heidi Gross (2025), Ronda Berg (2024)

This committee oversees the monies in the endowment fund. The number of meetings is determined by need.

### Head Usher and Assistant. 1-year term

Need: 1 head usher

Need: 1 assistant

Daren Sagedahl (2024), Brian Boen (2024)

This team sets up the ushering list for the year, arranges for captains for each month and distributes the directions for ushering.





**Congregational Representative to the Synod Assembly and Conference Assembly**

**1-year term**

**Need: 3** (must be made up of males and females)

**Bob and Sue Erickson (2024), David Torgelson (2024)**

Participate in Synod Assembly, June 7-8, 2024

**Representatives to Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations Annual Meeting**

**1-year term**

**Need: 2** (May be a couple but does not need to be a couple)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2024), \_\_\_\_\_ (2024)

Attend Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations Annual Meeting, April 27, 2024, 12 pm – 3 pm.





## Pastor Matt's Letter 2023

Grateful. Grateful is the word that I would use to describe my ministry here at Cross of Calvary in 2023 and as we head into 2024. Grateful is a word that gets tossed around so much in our world. It has lost a little bit of its edge and power. But, I am grateful. I am full of gratitude in so many ways.

There has been so much transition at Cross of Calvary. We are full of gratitude for the years of service, dedication, and creativity of our office administrator, Sue Altmann. We are so grateful for the years of dedication and amazing leadership and creativity that Jeni Skeie has given to us as well. As sad as it was to see them leave their positions, we wish them well and know that they will bring the same passion and energy to their new callings. We are blessed. I also give thanks for the hardworking dedication and leadership that Nathan Cole has provided us with over the years as council president.

Change is hard but it can prove to be a wonderful challenge as well. I am without a doubt full of gratitude for Sister Sarah returning, Keith Larson's leadership as president, and Skye Hebrink for so wonderfully stepping up and doing an amazing job as our interim office administrator. They have all been answers to prayers and I trust that God is leading us in a wonderful new direction. We are very close to hiring an amazing office administrator and hope to tell you all very soon who that will be.

Our council is amazing. Take some time to thank each one of our council members. As I said, it has been a year of transition and each council member has stepped up and served admirably. Thank you!

Most importantly, I am so grateful to each one of you, the members of Cross of Calvary. As I start my 21st year with you I am always amazed at how God moves through each and everyone of you and I look forward to continuing to serve among you. It has been my joy and privilege.

As we enter into 2024, the theme that is guiding me is discipleship. Each one of you is called every day to serve God in your own unique capacity. It is your "vocation". You are called to use your gifts, talents, and circumstances to serve. It is our privilege to walk along side of you as you discern this and equip you to go out into the world as faithful disciples. Look for many opportunities that will be offered throughout the year to dig deeper into your faith.

God's richest blessings for a grace filled walk of discipleship together!

In gratitude for our mutual ministry,

Pastor Matt



<b>Pastoral Acts 2023</b>			
<b>Funerals</b>			
Name	Location	Funeral	Memorial
Paul Buhr	on site	04/15/2023	
Elaine Julius	on site	03/15/2023	
Jeff Keltgen	on site	06/15/2023	
Mike Brown	off site	08/15/2023	
Roy French	on site	10/09/2023	
Betty Hamborg	on site	10/18/2023	
Chrissy Boen	on site	12/08/2023	
<b>Baptisms</b>			
Name	Baptism	DOB	Parents
Jack Larson	02/05/2023	10/17/2022	Matt & Danielle Larson
Jaxson Cronen	02/12/2023	10/23/2022	Abbi Steffel & Connor Cronen
Books Baumgartner	05/28/2023	03/08/2022	Ben & Ciji Baumgartner
Charli Kingstrom	06/11/2023	03/21/2023	Michael & Kelsie Kingstrom
Hunter Hennager	07/23/2023	03/15/2023	Cassandra Schwer Hennager
Ada Dale	09/02/2023	09/01/2022	Cody & Amber Dale
Tate Padrnos	09/10/2023	06/23/2023	Turner & Kaylee Padrnos
Nora Ontiveros	10/08/2023	04/18/2023	Taylor Amsden & Javier Ontiveros
Emma Athmann	12/05/2023	06/01/2023	Trent & Breanna Athmann
Nellie Stefansen	12/03/2023	08/01/2023	Mackenzie Lothert & Levi Stefansen
Jordyn Einerson	12/03/2023	02/23/2023	Tyler & Kassi Einerson
<b>Transfer Out</b>			
Name	Date	Transfer	
Bruce Maurice	09/15/2023	Renville, MN	
LeAnn Maurice	09/15/2023	Renville, MN	
Kayla Maurice	09/15/2023	Renville, MN	
Bruce Mages	10/17/2023	Willmar, MN	
Nancy Mages	10/17/2023	Willmar, MN	
<b>New Members</b>			
Name	Date		
Carson Howe	01/07/2023		
Erin Howe/McNelly	01/07/2023		
Kynlee Larson	01/07/2023		
Mick McNelly	01/07/2023		
Jesse Hagen	02/09/2023		
Anna Hagen	02/09/2023		



<b>New Members</b>		
Name	Date	
Shay Hagen	02/09/2023	
Bella Hagen	02/09/2023	
Erika Hennen	02/09/2023	
Ellie Hennen	02/09/2023	
Dane Hennen	02/09/2023	
Allen Schick	06/01/2023	
Nicole Schick	06/01/2023	
Dylan Schick	06/01/2023	
Austin Schick	06/01/2023	
Kate Visser	06/01/2023	
Breckin Visser	06/01/2023	
Stephani Koenen	07/01/2023	
Maisy Koenen	07/01/2023	
Decker Koenen	07/01/2023	
Darlyne Honzay	10/17/2023	
<b>Weddings</b>		
Name	Date	
Breann Mertens/Colten Hunter	09/23/2023	off- site
<b>Confirmation Class 2023</b>		
	<b>09/24/2023</b>	
Melissa Adamski		
Jessica Altmann		
Derrick Bahl		
Sadie Gross		
Aidan Grund		
Elliot Lang		
Addelyn Malvin		
Bailee McLagan		
Wyatt McNelly		
Rylan Ridler		
<b>Membership at beginning of 2023</b>		<b>1180</b>
By Baptism (15 and younger)		11
By Baptism (16 to adult)		0
By Transfer or New Membership		21
Total member received this year		32
By Death		7
Total members removed during 2023		5
<b>Membership at end of 2023</b>		<b>1200</b>





**Attendance for the Year 2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Notes</b>
01-Jan	64	No Sunday School	06-Aug	74	
08-Jan	115		13-Aug	75	
15-Jan	118	Annual Meeting	20-Aug	78	
22-Jan	100		27-Aug	73	
29-Jan	126		03-Sep	61	
05-Feb	130		10-Sep	108	Back Pack Blessing
12-Feb	144		17-Sep	150	3rd and 7th grade bibles
19-Feb	116		24-Sep	80	Affirmation of Faith Sunday
22-Feb	34	Ash Wednesday - No 7pm service		180	Confirmation service 11AM
26-Feb	135		01-Oct	110	
01-Mar	72	Lenten Service	08-Oct	163	Rally Sunday
05-Mar	108		15-Oct	146	
08-Mar	61	Lenten Service	22-Oct	89	MEA
12-Mar	121		29-Oct	120	Reformation Sunday
15-Mar	50	Lenten Service	05-Nov	146	All Saints
19-Mar	118		12-Nov	154	
22-Mar	70	Lenten Service	19-Nov	131	Gideon Sunday
26-Mar	139		22-Nov	25	Thanksgiving Eve
29-Mar	63	Lenten Service	26-Nov	115	No Sunday school
02-Apr	134	Palm Sunday	03-Dec	181	
03-Apr	9	Matin Service	10-Dec	157	
04-Apr	19	Matin Service	17-Dec	133	Christmas Program at 11 am Service
05-Apr	18	Matin Service	24-Dec	73	9:00 No Sunday School
06-Apr	21	Matin Service		228	4:30 Christmas Eve
	23	Maunday Thursday		76	9:00 PM Christmas Eve
	120	Seder	31-Dec	68	No Sunday school
07-Apr	12	Matin Service			
	92	Good Friday			
09-Apr	78	6:30 AM Easter Service			
	175	9:00 AM Easter Service			
16-Apr	114	1st Communion Service			
23-Apr	131				
30-Apr	106				
07-May	121				
14-May	137	Last Day of Sunday School			
21-May	136	Sr. Recognition			
28-May	84				
04-Jun	76				
11-Jun	110				
18-Jun	76				
25-Jun	62				
02-Jul	78				
09-Jul	71				
16-Jul	72				
23-Jul	93				
30-Jul	61				



## Parish Minister Annual Report 2023

“Look around, look around! How lucky we are to be alive right now!”

I've been listening to the Hamilton musical soundtrack lately, and this line describes how I feel to be serving as Parish Minister at Cross of Calvary again. I couldn't be happier or more joyful.

“Look around, look around! How lucky we are to be alive right now!”

My faith tells me we've come to this moment not because of luck, but because of God's guidance. As a congregation, Cross of Calvary is thriving. We went through Deep COVID together, continuing to share the good news of Jesus Christ and care for one another.

We've come out stronger than before with wider capacity to share God's love through technology and personal relationships. Thanks be to God.

Children, youth and family ministries have sharpened in focus, thanks to Jeni Skeie. She set up sustainable after school programs for elementary school students, strengthened our relationship with Green lake Lutheran Ministries, began a Jr. High Game night ministry, taught youth how to lead worship through music, and shared the love of Jesus with individual Jr. and Sr. High students. Pastor Matt has equipped small group leaders to walk alongside confirmation students as they explore, question and proclaim their faith. Pastor Matt is also helping youth prepare for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

“Look around, look around! How lucky we are to be alive right now!”

As we step into 2024 I feel the Holy Spirit calling us to explore how God is leading each of us to share our God given gifts with others. Each of us has been given special gifts. Each of us can offer the world something no one else can give. As you pray, ask God how God is calling you. What is it that only you can do in this place and time? If you'd like help learning how to listen for God's voice, I'm happy to walk alongside you.

“Look around, look around! How lucky we are to be alive right now!”

Thank you Jesus!

Serving with you in Christ,



Sister Sarah Hausken





*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.....*

*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. – 1 Cor. 12.*

One of the great joys of my call is to visit the congregations across this synod. Our territory includes vast plains, rich agricultural land, hilly vistas, quiet lakes, and powerful rivers. God planted our congregations in cities, open farmland, and towns. We are very different from each other; yet in Jesus Christ, we all are one.

As we've journeyed together this year, we have been united by focusing on the WORD: Jesus - the Word-made-flesh, and the word of Scripture – as the source and center of our lives.

- **Embody the Word.** Synod Assembly 2023 brought over 365 voting members together in-person for the first time in 4 years! We rejoiced to sing again in Christ Chapel, passed the 2025 budget, and elected new leaders. And plenary speaker Matt Bloom helped us consider wholistic wellness in daily life.
- **Serving the Word Today.** Rostered ministers gathered for the Fall Theological Conference and considered how the Word is served (our calling to serve Christ) and how we deliver or serve-up the Word to people in our presiding and preaching. Presenter Jason Moore provided insights that can transfer in some way to all of our congregations, as we serve the Word both in-person and online in our both/and world today.
- **Living the Word Today.** Equipping Congregations Day 2023 gathered participants at Vinje Lutheran in Willmar to discover ministry resources – from stewardship to hospitality – to take back home. Luther Seminary Professor Rolf Jacobson led participants to look for the gifts of the Holy Spirit who is at loose in our world today.

Those actions – **Embody, Serving, and Living the Word Today** - provide the framework for reviewing this year and leaning into the next.

## ***Embody the Word***

Thank you for the way you, as beloved children of God, embody the word in your congregations and daily callings. You are engaging in ministry that is vital to the lives of your participants and the larger community. Although many of us are still exhausted from pandemic adaptations, congregations are emerging from these difficult years with a clearer sense of who we are and what God is calling us to be and do today. The dedication of our church leaders to ministries of word and sacrament and serving, to compassion, mercy, and justice - has never been greater.

As we review the past year, one place to turn is the numbers. No, it's not all about the numbers, but trends do tell a story, whether in our households, businesses, or congregations. A synod's responsibility is to note the trends occurring among our congregations because these numbers represent real people, hearing the story of God's love in Jesus Christ.



The most recent statistical summary for congregations comes from the annual reports you completed for 2022. Of the 229 congregations in the SW MN Synod in 2022, 166 filed an annual report; 63 filed no report. When the annual report information comes to you in January, please direct the info to others in your congregation who can assist. Talk with your Church Council about the trends you are seeing. Return the form. And then know you have helped us reach a target of 100% responses this year! Thank you!

*For numbers-lovers*

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Baptized members:	100,421	97,689
Ave. baptized/cong.	439	428
Baptisms age 16+	13	24
Affirmation of Faith	290	353
Transfer in	862	1093
Baptized Received	2,207	2,594
Active Participants	48,944	48,875
Ave. wkly worship on-site	10,662	12,918
Ave. wkly. worship online	14,326	9,554
Ave. att. per cong. on-site	55	64
Ave. att per cong. online	103	70



What stories do those figures tell? There is the cultural trend of fewer people connecting with a faith community. But these numbers also represent stories of outreach as adults are welcomed through Holy Baptism as hospitality is extended and new members are received, and as people are drawn to worshipping together both in the room and online.

***Generosity***

We know there is great generosity in our congregations! Although earned income for congregations was challenged last year everywhere, regular giving and other receipts increased. Over the pandemic years, many congregations held special appeals to upgrade technology – what a gift!

You have an impact on human lives every day. Each week in the announcements, try telling a brief story about one of your ministries. Share a photo on a screen. Thank people for their generosity and the difference they are making. If you are looking for resources to help affirm your people’s generosity, check out the synod website under the “Generosity” tab! (<https://swmnelca.org/congregations/generosity-stewardship/>)

Thank you for the generous Mission Support you shared in 2022. Although current 2023 figures won’t be known until after the fiscal year ends January 31, we have seen a significant decrease in Mission Support this year. Why? We know that the cushion of PPP money is used up. Everything costs more. Some of our congregations’ most generous givers are passing away or face high costs for elder care. And there is the tendency that when faced with financial challenges, congregations choose to direct funds close to home. Whatever the reason, we will continue to wisely steward the resources we receive and are committed to prioritizing providing pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers. Like you, we know that challenges can also lead to doing things in new ways, and we trust in God’s creative Spirit as we plan for the future. Thank you for your generosity.

If you have not yet sent in a Mission Support contribution for this year, will you please consider a gift yet in January? And if you have not yet returned a Mission Support Intent form for 2024, please do so. We are deep in planning the 2026 budget that will be presented at the 2024 Synod Assembly, and your planning will help us do our best planning, as well. Thank you!

***Serving the Word Today***

Thanks be to God for all the Lay and Rostered Ministers leading our congregations today. They are serving Jesus and serving the Visible and Spoken Word to people in worship in this synod and far beyond. Our synod includes 300 rostered ministers, half of whom hold active calls in congregations, specialized calls, and synod calls.







This year, we celebrated the ordination of 5 new pastors: Rev. Chad Duffy, Rev. Mort Meyenberg, Rev. Stefan Swanson, Rev. Bob Ossefoort, and Rev. Sarah Zender. We consistently welcome more rostered ministers to this great synod than we see move away.

One of the greatest challenges for congregations and synods today is securing rostered minister leaders who can “serve the Word” in their context. Today, seminaries are seeing approximately half the number of enrollments they did 15 years ago. The good news is that congregations are embracing the gifts of their people and becoming less pastor-dependent than we were. The other piece of good news is that more lay leaders are sensing the Holy Spirit nudging them to consider part- or full-time ministry – often as a second career; and they are bringing incredible skills and life experiences into these new callings today.

TODAY, I pray that God will “send laborers” into this new and changing vineyard of ministry. My mentor, Rev. Dick Vangerud, often spoke of an initiative of our predecessor church body (The American Lutheran Church) called, “Men for the Ministry.” Yes, back in the 1960s, the initiative was only about “men” for the ministry! But back then, congregations prayed that God would raise up new leaders. Pastors encouraged those they knew to consider ministry as a life calling. Since we can’t grow pastors on trees, this is what I ask you to do:

- Pray in weekly worship and in your own devotions that the Holy Spirit would move hearts for people to consider part- or full-time ministry.
- Notice the people of any age in your church who might have the faith, temperament, and gifts for ministry. Affirm their strengths. Ask them if they might pray about and consider ministry in their future.

We are grateful for the ministry of Gifts of Grace that helps rostered ministers reduce the debt from their seminary training, and for the scholarships that are available from so many sources – including this synod, our seminaries, and the ELCA church-wide. Thank you!

For congregations who have rostered ministers leading you, please take care of them by providing appropriate compensation (see our synod compensation guidelines) and benefits. Encourage them to take sabbath time away from work and make use of continuing education growth. Got a concern? Talk to them, not about them. Give them a word of thanks for their ministry, which they serve 24/7.

Whether there are lay or rostered leaders serving the word with you today, strive to live together as the body of Christ. Nothing is more draining of leadership or destructive of Christian community than behaviors which tear apart the body of Christ. At the end of chapter 12, St. Paul tells the Corinthians, “And I will show you a still more excellent way.” And that is the way of love - the way of Jesus.



## Living the Word Today

These are interesting times to be called and sent by the Triune God to live the Word today! The territory of our synod is described by the state demographer as including areas that are entirely Rural, Town/Rural Mix, Urban/Town/Rural Mix, and Entirely Urban. "Cities, farms, and towns together." As demographic trends continue, the report asks, and we as the church can ask:

- How will we support the many older adults who are part of our communities who may live farther from services and family support?
- How will we respond to labor force shortages as more Boomers move into retirement?
- How can our churches help our distinct communities to be more attractive to new residents?
- How can churches make a difference in communities with growing racial and cultural diversity, and create connections and belonging?

Those gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12) will lead the way as God continues to reform us to live the Word today.

This fall we celebrated the reactivation of our relationships with our friends in the South Eastern Diocese of Southern Africa. Four guests came to be with us here in Sept. -Oct., and then five leaders from SW MN made the journey to South Africa and were blessed by warm hospitality, joy in our friendships, and new opportunities to accompany one another in Christ. Another gift!



I am grateful for the leadership of our Synod Council, taking seriously its responsibility to be faithful stewards of our resources of staffing, facility, and funding. I am excited to work together with them on the Council's commitment to "empower Christian communities to join in God's mission of reconciliation: listening intentionally, loving unconditionally, serving others authentically, and faithfully healing creation." They have been focusing on the strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results they see in this commitment, and are eager to live out this vision with you in the coming year.



I conclude this report by expressing my sincere **thanks and gratitude** to the synod staff who embody, serve, and live the Word each day:

Rev. Heather Culuris – Synod Minister, Tammy Schacher – Executive Assistant, Kristin Bakeberg – Communications Coordinator, Maggie Berggren – Administrative Assistant, and Rev. Dr. Troy Pflibsen – Director for Evangelical Mission. They walk beside you in ministry with wisdom and joy. We are grateful for the ministry of Youth Ministry Coordinator Rev. Nikoli Falenscheck, who served with us for the past year. And we continue to grieve the passing of our colleague and friend, Pr. Naomi Mahler, who brought energy, courage, and faith to her many ministries and lived out + *SOLI DEO GLORIA!* each day.

Thank you for the privilege of embodying, serving, and living the Word together with you as the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA.

*Holy God, we praise you for calling diverse people into your church and its ministries. Uphold all leaders with your strong and loving arms. Empower ministers to serve your people with the word of scripture, the water of life, the meal of grace, and deeds of love and mercy and justice. Equip them with both beloved traditions and fresh ideas; grant them joy in their tasks; and renew them daily by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Word among us, now and forever. Amen. (adapted from ACS, p. 46).*

+ with grace, peace, and love,

Rev. Dee Pederson, D. Min  
Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA



Southwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single great commission compels us from above  
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

(ELW 576)

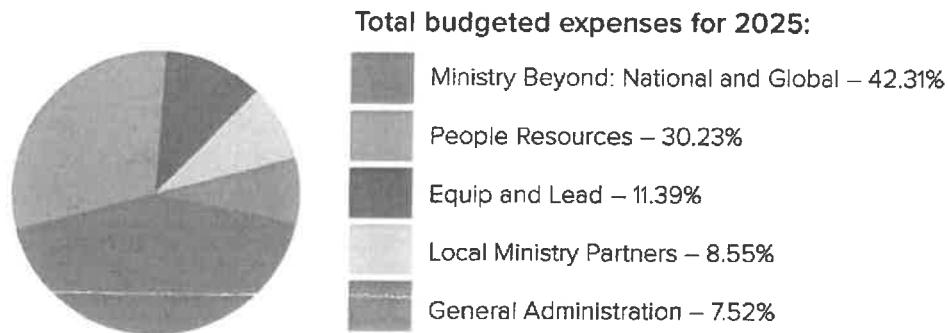


## Southwestern Minnesota Synod Narrative Budget Overview

*Fiscal Year ending January 31, 2025*

### Mission Support Makes Ministry Happen.

Thank you for the Mission Support your congregation shares with this synod. Each Mission Support dollar becomes love and care for God's people in local communities and throughout the world. For Fiscal year 2025, the synod anticipates receiving \$1.82 million in Mission Support gifts – the largest source of giving. Thank you! In addition, we are grateful for special gifts from individuals, congregations, and grants. Thank you! Together, all these gifts make ministries possible:



### Ministry Beyond: Domestic and Global - 42%

Your Mission Support dollars empower ministries here in the U.S. and around the globe. We continue to share 51.5% of the Mission Support gifts we receive through ELCA ministries here and abroad – the equivalent of 42.31% of our total budgeted expenses. Through your generosity and prayer, the ELCA plants new congregations and develops resources for faith formation, discipleship, prayer, and worship. We send missionaries to serve in more than 48 countries around the world. We support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA through seminaries, colleges, and universities; recruit, prepare, and place rostered ministers; provide leadership opportunities for youth and young adults; and provide ministry resources for lay leaders. Our ELCA churchwide organization provides our synod with one full-time staff member – Director for Evangelical Mission (D.E.M.) Rev. Dr. Troy Pflibsen, as well as Regional Gift Planner Rev. Keith Pearson, who works directly with congregation endowments. They represent our Mission Support at work right back here at home.





### People Resources - 30%

Members of the synod staff embody your Mission Support dollars. Synod pastoral staff walk with congregations during times of transition, call process, congregational planning, conflict, and crises. At any given time this year, synod pastoral staff are walking with 45 out of 227 congregations in various phases of the call process and transition. We also walk with congregations considering area partnerships. Administrative staff provide the essential functions of responding to questions over the phone and email, communications, supporting the candidacy and first-call process, managing the official roster of leaders, working with financials, and facilitating governance for your church and the synod.



### Equip and Lead - 11%

St. Paul talked about how God gave gifts "to equip the saints for the work of ministry which is for building up the body of Christ." Much of the work of the synod is to equip God's people for everyday ministry. We support congregations as they adapt to this new time and practice new ways to do synod ministry ourselves. Gatherings for rostered ministers and lay leaders with the bishop, synod staff, and other speakers equip congregations for the vital work of leadership. The Fall Theological Conference provides high-caliber presentations to nourish and equip rostered ministers. The Continuous Growth Pathway (CGP) is a partnership with Gustavus Adolphus College dedicated to helping Rostered Ministers grow and thrive in ministry together. Events like Equipping Day continue, but in new forms. Faithful Innovation is an initiative of renewal, vitality, and transformation for congregations as they adapt to the new challenges and opportunities of our changing culture. Coaching Ministry and the Congregational Resource Team provide resources to support leaders and congregations as they seek self-awareness, clarity, and action to move their ministries forward.



### Local Ministry Partners - 8.5%

Your generosity allows us to direct your gifts to support our Shared Ministries, including Luther Seminary in St. Paul, which trains the next generation of pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. We provide Lutheran chaplains on the campuses of St. Cloud State University, Southwest Minnesota State University, and the University of Minnesota in Morris. We help support Shalom Hill Farm, a rural ministry center for inspiration and learning near Windom. Our fellow believers in the Minnesota Council of Churches and Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota speak God's word of justice close to home. All these Shared Ministry Partners continue to adjust to changing circumstances and challenges.



### General Administration - 7.5%

General Administration is the scaffolding that undergirds our work of ministry. This provides for essentials like internet and phone communication. It includes vehicle maintenance and car insurance so synod staff can travel to congregations, and the use of Zoom meetings allows us to keep the cost of travel low for group meetings and staff travel. Careful stewarding of administrative costs allows for the most faithful use of your Mission Support dollars.



And because we can't say it enough, "Thank you!" for your generosity.

Together – we all are one in mission!



Southwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





• **ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2023** •

Greetings to you from your partners in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! The definition of community at Gustavus has always included the wider ELCA community. The network of institutions and relationships which holds our Lutheran congregations, synods, camps, colleges, seminaries, and social agencies together plays a vital role in nourishing and advancing our collective and important contribution to the world. We all make a greater impact because of this diverse network to which we belong.

Through the Gustavus Association of Congregations, the Office of Church Relations at Gustavus is connected to over 500 congregations from across the country. These relationships are an important source of Christian faith inspiration and ministry encouragement for the college. We have so very much to be grateful for and always look forward to our time together at the annual Gustavus Association of Congregations business meeting in April 2024.

As you gather for congregation annual meetings and synod assemblies, we would like you to know our gratitude for your ministry and hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk alongside you in mission. The Office of Church Relations at Gustavus exists because as a college we live from our Christian faith and desire to be in service to the wider community within which we are rooted. We seek to be a place you might consider as a ministry partner and resource for your congregation's educational goals and growth.

**MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- **Annual Gustavus Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 27, 2024**  
The Annual Business Meeting of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will gather for a luncheon meeting and feature updates from the Gustavus President and Chair of the Board of Trustees as well as inspiration from Gustavus students. For more information: [gustavus.edu/businessmeeting](http://gustavus.edu/businessmeeting).
- **The Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics — JUNE 15-21, 2024**, is an exciting resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. The theme for the 2024 Academy is "How and Why We Sleep, Revelations in Rest." For more information and to nominate a high school student: [gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy](http://gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy).
- **Annual Nobel Conference® — OCTOBER 1-2, 2024 "Sleep Unraveled."**  
Sleep is a universal human experience and yet its importance is often overlooked. Nobel 60 — Sleep Unraveled brings together an interdisciplinary panel of experts to explore the centrality of sleep for human health and mental well-being. In addition to its role in physical rejuvenation, sufficient high-quality sleep is crucial for cognition, memory, learning, and general health. Sleep loss — whether triggered by noise or light pollution, stress, overwork or conflict with circadian rhythms — has been associated with high blood pressure, weight gain, diabetes and a plethora of other medical conditions. The conference will also delve into the neurological and psychological processes of sleep, the cultural evolution of sleep practices and the social justice implications of a twenty-four hour convenience society that condemns workers to permanent sleep deprivation. More details can be found at: [gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference](http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference).
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel — DECEMBER 6-8, 2024** This annual tradition in Christ Chapel celebrates and reflects upon the birth of Jesus Christ through worship that features music, dance, spoken word, and the visual arts. Ticket information and archived live stream services can found at: [gustavus.edu/events/cc](http://gustavus.edu/events/cc).

For more information about these events and the many resources we offer congregations, please contact the Office of Church Relations or visit us on-line at: [gustavus.edu/churchrelations](http://gustavus.edu/churchrelations). Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Grady St. Dennis  
Associate Vice President of Mission/Executive Chaplain





9916 Lake Avenue South  
Spicer, Minnesota 56288  
320-796-2181  
www.gllm.org

Dear Congregational Partners,

What was true over 85 years ago when Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (GLLM) was founded, still holds true today — God shows up in life-changing ways within our ministries!

The facts of 2023:

- Summer program numbers increased by 314 participants!
- Retreat and conference numbers increased drastically!
- Event participation exploded in 2023 making things like our Dinner Theater, Quilt Auction, and community worships a sizable and significant joy in our program year!
- The total number of donors, number of individual gifts, and total dollar amount received all hit all time highs!

And along with all this excitement, we have even more to look forward to! Work has begun on The Village at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp. This over \$1 million dollar project as part of the Water's Edge Campaign will create a wildly vibrant space for the life-changing love of Jesus to be shared. We can't wait to reintroduce this already cherished space to the GLLM network.

Overall income is projected to increase by \$300,000 over 2022 but expenses have also increased as well. We underestimated the expense of the wild growth we experienced this year and going into the last weeks of the year, have a significant deficit to overcome. Thank you to our many partners who are supporting our efforts to finish the year strong.

Together, we have accomplished so much! Thank you for supporting GLLM through your participation, your volunteerism, your gifts, and your mission support. I relish the relationship we have created that goes far past a simple "transaction" and truly deserves the designation of "partnership."

The format of this report doesn't allow near the space needed to process the entire year nor thank all that contributed to its success. Please be on the lookout for our annual report which will be made available in the later half of January 2024.

Blessings,

Travis Aufderheide, Executive Director

Camp House  
1411 Camp House Rd  
Brimson, MN 55602  
218-848-2277

Green Lake Bible Camp  
9916 Lake Ave. S.  
Spicer, MN 56288  
320-796-2181

Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp  
19080 16th St. NE  
New London, MN 56273  
320-354-2961

Serve Boldly  
A ministry of Green Lake  
Lutheran Ministries  
ServeBoldly.net



**2023 Cross of Calvary Church Standing Committees & Members**  
**Council Chair: Keith Larson Vice-Chair: Bob Erickson**

Staff: Pastor Matthew Hausken  
 Parish Ministers: Sarah Hausken  
 Administrative Assistant: Skye Hebrink (interim)

**\*Second Term and unable to run again  
 (End of Year: Off Council)**

<u>2026</u>		<u>2024</u>		<u>2025</u>	
Sandra Gay	2026*	Alex Gay	2024*	Elaine McDowell	2025*
	2026	Kathy Reese	2024	Kirk Elfering	2025
Stacey Larson	2026*	Robert Erickson	2024	Trent Athmann	2025
	2026	Scott Johnson	2024	Keith Larson	2025

Resigned: Julie Mitchell, Nathan Cole, Bobbi Jo Abrahamson

**Administration:** Council Liaisons: Keith Larson, Trent Athmann, Scott Johnson, Bob Erickson  
 Staff: Pastor Matt Hausken

- Manage and care for church property
- Church building
- Parsonage
- Manage and oversee congregational finances
- Manage administration of church

**2023 Administration Committee Annual Report**

2023 was a busy year for the church with many administration changes. Sue Altmann our administrative assistance and Jeni Skeie our Parish Minister both resigned to pursue other career opportunities. While we are happy for them we would like to acknowledge and thank them for their dedication and work they have provided over the years. They were a great asset and will be missed at the administrative level but know we will enjoy them at the congregational level.

Thank you again Sue and Jeni! We hired Skye Hebrink as an interim administrative assistant with the goal of hiring to fill this position. We are currently in the process of interviews. We hired Sister Sarah Hausken as the Parish Minister and due to this we needed to put out a call to her from our church in order to keep her as a rostered Deaconess with the Synod. This required us to update the Synod Ministry Profile, form a call committee, interview Sister Sarah and recommend her to the Church Council to call her to our church. All of these things have been completed. With the resignation of Sue we had a great group of volunteers from the congregation that assisted with keeping the church clean. We purchased 3 Roombas for the church with funds from ham dinner and bazaar. We have two that vacuum and one that mops under the pews in the sanctuary. Theses have decreased the time needed to complete the vacuuming and have served us well. We hired Bev Wacek in December to clean weekly on an



hourly basis. We purchased Quick Books to make things easier for Cheryl to do the bookkeeping including payroll, taxes and the budget. We had monies in our Endowment Fund and from an insurance claim for hail damage to the roof that we invested into two CDs at FM Bank. On the maintenance side we replaced the washing machine and stove in the parsonage with funds from ham dinner and bazaar. We did fall cleanup around the parsonage and church with trimming shrubs and trees.

We will leave you with this quote. "Change is not pleasant, but change is constant. Only when we change and grow, we see a world we will never know." We had many changes in 2023, we are looking forward to where these changes will take us in 2024.

Thank you

Keith Larson

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**Care Team:** Members: Lynette Blem, Sue Erickson, Karen Flom  
Council Liaison: Stacey Larson  
Staff: Pastor Matt

- Comfort meals
- Projects for shut-ins
- Provide ministry to congregation members
- Visitation
- Adopt a family member

### **2023 Care Team Committee Annual Report**

In 2023 the care team continued to focus on providing comfort ministry to congregational members. This was mostly in the form of comfort meals whether fresh or frozen. We are blessed to have a member who makes frozen meals that are kept in the chest freezer at church. These are available to anyone in need whether recovering from surgery, illness, additions to family or other life events. For privacy reasons Pastor Matt asks families permission to be contacted about any comfort needs before letting the committee know. However, the frozen meals are available for others who may know of an individual or family in need. Comfort ministry can be all of us.

The Care Team sends out cards to congregation members we are made aware of or that we are aware of that have had an addition of a child, an illness or funeral relating to the members within our congregation. This practice will continue into 2024.

We are always looking for others to provide ministry and would welcome new individuals to join us.

---





### **Children, Youth & Family:**

Members: This committee is under construction and looking for members.

Sunday school Superintendents: Skye Hebrink (Thank you Skye)

Council Liaison\ : Elaine McDowell

Staff: Sister Sarah Hausken

- See Parish Ministers report
- 

**Equipping:** Members: Darin Ditterich, Amanda Malvin, Eric Skeie

Council Liaison: Keith Larson

Staff: Pastor Matt

- Plan and coordinate adult education opportunities
- Empower people to think about stewardship
- Time and Talent
- Encourage financial offerings

### **2023 Equipping Committee Annual Report**

The equipping committee seeks to engage the members of Cross of Calvary in living out their daily callings. This is done chiefly through Bible Study, discussion, and prayer. We currently have 5 active Bible Studies and one discussion group going. If you are interested in a topic that you believe would help you and others on your faith journey, let Pastor Matt know and we will seek to fill that need. We seek to walk alongside and equip disciples here at Cross of Calvary.

---

**Missions:** Members: Nancy Hague, Betsy Hennen, Susan Meyers, Dave Torgelson

Council Liaison: Alex Gay

Staff: Pastor Matt Hausken

- Educate congregation on missions
- Provide opportunities to be involved in world and local missions
- Distribute mission dollars from church budget

### **2023 Mission Committee Annual Report**

Cross of Calvary Faith Family,

The Mission Committee assists secular and faith-based organizations at the local, regional, and global levels. Our focus this year was providing relief to people experiencing insecurities throughout the world. Donations were given to the following programs: RC Food Shelf, Santa's Closet, Gideon's, World Kitchen, UNICEF, Lutheran Relief, Salvation Army (Renville County), Union Gospel Mission, Good Gifts, Back-the-Pack Program and needed projects at Cross of Calvary.



(If you would like to help us continue helping others, you can donate to the Mission Committee by writing “Mission Committee” in designated area on check or electronic giving.—You can take this off if it isn’t appropriate for annual meeting.)

Thank you for the ability to continue God’s work through these worthy organizations.

Respectfully,  
Betsy Hennen and Mission Committee

---

**Outreach:** Members: Jon Hawkinson, Sister Sarah Hausken, Kelsie Aeikens, Jill Hanson  
Staff: Sister Sarah Hausken

- Invite people to Cross of Calvary
- Promote Cross of Calvary in the community
- Create opportunities to share the love of Jesus through Cross of Calvary

**2023 Outreach Committee Annual Report**

The Outreach Committee has not met regularly during 2023, but encourages all members to continue to reach out to your friends, neighbors and people new to the area looking to experience a church to try Cross of Calvary either in in-person worship and programming or online.

---

**Parish Life:** Members: Dana Boen, Elaine McDowell, Jeni Skeie, Sandy Padrnos  
Council Liaisons: Sandra Gay and Elaine McDowell  
Staff: Sister Sarah Hausken

- Plan and coordinate opportunities for fellowship
- Continue to offer opportunities to acclimate new members
- Coordinate summer coffee hours
- Coordinate Soup Suppers

**2023 Parish Life Committee Annual Report**

In February we had an event held at church. We played the “Not so newlywed” game. We also served a lasagna dinner. It was a lot of fun and very well attended.

We also had a group of people who went to a movie in Montevideo. We went out for dinner afterwards.

Thank you Cross of Calvary members for your support and attendance at our events!

---

**Technology:** Members: Adam Dillon, Jennifer Stratton,  
Council Liaison: \_\_\_\_\_  
Staff: Pastor Matt Hausken, Sister Sarah Hausken



- Manage, maintain and update technology equipment
- Recruit, teach, and schedule worship technology volunteers

## **2023 Technology Committee Annual Report**

### **Office Technology:**

- Adam Dillon has come in to troubleshoot when the copier or other items haven't been working. Thank you!

### **Worship Technology**

- Streaming our worship services continues to expand our congregation's sharing of the Gospel. Online worship reaches an average of 70 screens each week! Each screen may reach multiple people such as a household, senior living center or nursing home.
- Youth continue to serve as clickers and camera operators. Thank you to our youth!
- Excel AV Group replaced our broken camera. We did not have to pay for the new camera.
- We learned how to save worship recordings to Jump Drives - so if there's a funeral we can just plug a jump drive into the recording box and it will record automatically
- Fixed Phone AUX and Computer AUX connections so we can play music via computer or cell phone
- Changed settings to stream at 1080p - this improved our playback video quality

### **Building Technology:**

- Steve Altmann assisted Sister Sarah in connecting her computer to the network in November. Thank you!
- Lightbeam Internet consulted with us regarding worship stream video quality. Our internet is more than fast enough for our needs.

**Worship & Music:** Members: Peggy Vesterby, Jill Hanson,  
 Council Liaison: Kathy Reese  
 Staff: Pastor Matt Hausken

Advise and coordinate worship and music opportunities:

- Coordinate with Musicians
- Organists/pianists
- Bands
- Choirs
- Arrange for special music
- Arrange for Readers
- Coordinate Children's Sermons
- Help choose worship music

## **2023 Worship Committee Annual Report**

The worship committee has been hard at work this year selection music, arranging musicians for worship, providing worship at our area nursing homes and seeking first and foremost to proclaim



the Gospel of Christ as we send disciples out into the world. We meet on a quarterly basis to pick hymns the fit with the theme of the season and the day. It is a faithful and fun loving group. If you are interested in helping us in our mission and join us at our quarterly meetings, let Pastor Matt know!

---

**Grounds Volunteers:** Bernie Johnson, Gordy Blem, Duane Flom & Faye Johnson

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**Landscaping Volunteers:** Sandy Padernos, Bonnie Triplett & Betsy Hennen

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**Parsonage Care Team Volunteers:** Keith Larson, Bob Erickson, Dave Altmann & Mark Thiesse

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**Prayer Garden:** Betsy Hennen

If you have questions or concerns about things happening at church, please speak with a council or committee member. Church members are welcome to serve on committees as they are open to all. Please contact the office if you are interested in joining a committee. Phone: 320-523-1574 or email: [crossofcalvary@gmail.com](mailto:crossofcalvary@gmail.com)





**Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church**  
**General Fund Revenue & Expense Report**

January through December 2023

Jan - Dec 23

Income

A - General Offerings	\$262,601.06
C - Agency In & Out Income	\$1,427.63
D - Employer Retention Tax	\$8,937.02
E - Event Rental Income	\$515.00
F - Interest Income	\$284.50
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u><u>\$273,765.21</u></u></b>

Expense

Building Occupance Costs

Insurance Expense	\$11,406.87
Lawn Mower Reimbursement	\$137.70
Maintenance & Supplies	\$5,852.22
Repairs	\$9,448.58
Utilities	
Electricity/Water/Sewer	\$7,919.30
Garbage	\$325.02
Heat	\$6,388.93
Telephone & Internet	<u>\$2,072.16</u>
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b><u>\$16,705.41</u></b>
<b>Total Building Occupance Costs</b>	<b>\$43,550.78</b>

Congregational Outreach

Green Lake Luth Ministries	\$2,100.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$2,100.00
Missions	\$6,600.00
SW MN Synod	<u>\$12,600.00</u>
<b>Total Congregational Outreach</b>	<b>\$23,400.00</b>

Program Costs & Memberships

Agency In & Out Expense	\$1,624.02
Conference Membership	\$289.75
Confirm/Grad/Baptism/1st Comm	\$1,319.47
Day Camp/VBS	\$1,042.41
Devotionals	\$245.20
Sunday School Expenses	\$1,602.60
Youth Group Expenses	<u>\$2,700.00</u>
<b>Total Program Costs &amp; Memberships</b>	<b>\$8,823.45</b>



**Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church**  
**General Fund Revenue & Expense Report**

January through December 2023

Jan - Dec 23

**Wages & Payroll Expenses**

Admin Asst	\$20,841.22
Band Transfers	\$375.00
Bldg Super	\$0.00
Bldg Supervisor	\$2,850.00
Organist Wages	\$4,243.96
Parish Worker	\$37,625.00
Parish Worker Cont Ed & Mileage	\$1,191.30
Pastor A)Salary	\$64,800.00
Pastor B)Cont Ed	\$2,962.46
Pastor C)Pension	\$8,424.00
Pastor D)Housing	\$6,531.84
Pastor E)Parsonage Repair	\$303.16
Pastor F)Travel & Mileage	\$1,232.71
Pastor G)Health/Dis/Life	\$23,729.58
Payroll Taxes (SocSec/Medicare)	\$5,021.10
Staff Expenses	\$395.00
Treasurer/Payroll Expenses	\$673.94
Work Comp	\$1,225.87

<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>\$182,426.14</b>
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**Supplies & Fees**

Copier Lease & Maint	\$633.36
Copyright & Video License	\$686.34
Miscellaneous	-\$33.40
Office Supplies	\$822.85
Postage and Delivery	\$644.78
Professional Fees	\$232.60
Technology	\$941.01
Vanco E-Deposit Fees	\$1,113.67
Worship Supplies	\$2,573.11

<b>Total Supplies &amp; Fees</b>	<b>\$7,614.32</b>
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<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$265,814.69</b>
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<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$7,950.52</b>
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**Designated Funds  
2023**

	<u>Beginning</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Ending</u> <u>Balance</u>
Back The Pack	\$0.00	\$320.00	\$320.00	\$0.00
Band	\$2,224.56	\$375.00	\$901.71	\$1,697.85
Care Team	\$461.03	\$430.00	\$47.22	\$843.81
Choir	\$1,620.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,620.41
Community Garden	\$498.12	\$140.00	\$24.25	\$613.87
Crafters	\$2,226.67	\$425.00	\$615.37	\$2,036.30
David Ramsey	\$580.00	\$0.00	\$580.00	\$0.00
Emergency Fund	\$227.18	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$307.18
Emp Retention Tax Cr	\$0.00	\$31,689.76	\$0.00	\$31,689.76
Habitat for Humanity	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Ham Dinner	\$4,053.92	\$4,585.00	\$6,373.94	\$2,264.98
Memorials	\$2,770.00	\$1,240.00	\$500.00	\$3,510.00
Mower Replacement	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,436.00	\$64.00
Music	\$1,326.49	\$0.00	\$1,015.00	\$311.49
Parish Life	\$0.00	\$335.00	\$0.00	\$335.00
Prayer Garden	\$3,626.47	\$500.00	\$3,336.00	\$790.47
Property-Bldg	\$148.51	\$46.00	\$0.00	\$194.51
Property-Restricted	\$1,735.00	\$480.00	\$0.00	\$2,215.00
Quilters	\$0.00	\$373.00	\$0.00	\$373.00
Roof Replacement	\$58,179.64	\$8,950.31	\$65,585.74	\$1,544.21
Stephens Ministry	\$95.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$95.14
Sunday School Kids	\$2,759.34	\$2,363.82	\$2,345.62	\$2,777.54
Technology	\$5,992.19	\$3,640.00	\$5,552.69	\$4,079.50
Thrivent	\$3,782.92	\$1,525.00	\$5,816.92	-\$509.00
WELCA/Funeral	\$1,526.11	\$1,075.00	\$587.09	\$2,014.02
World Missions	\$1,185.26	\$40.00	\$823.02	\$402.24
Youth Ministry	\$84.49	\$6,320.92	\$6,405.41	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$98,613.45</b>	<b>\$64,933.81</b>	<b>\$104,275.98</b>	<b>\$59,271.28</b>

**2023 Cross of Calvary Account Balances**

<b>CofC Checking Account</b>	<b>Beginning</b> <b>Balance</b>	<b>Actual</b> <b>Income</b>	<b>Actual</b> <b>Expenses</b>	<b>Ending</b> <b>Balance</b>
General Funds	\$54,814.16	\$273,765.21	\$265,814.69	\$62,764.68
2022 ERTC from Gen Funds to Designated Funds				<del>-\$31,689.76</del>
				<b>2023 General Funds Ending Balance</b>
				<b>\$31,074.92</b>
Designated Accounts	<u>\$98,613.45</u>	<u>\$64,933.81</u>	<u>\$104,275.98</u>	<u>\$59,271.28</u>
<b>Total in CofC Checking</b>	<b>\$153,427.61</b>	<b>\$338,699.02</b>	<b>\$370,090.67</b>	<b>\$90,346.20</b>
Roof Replacement CD	\$0.00	\$63,500.00	\$0.00	\$63,500.00
Endowment Fund CD	\$0.00	\$23,800.00	\$0.00	\$23,800.00



**Cross of Calvary Altar Guild Financial Report  
2023**

Beginning Balance 1/1/2023 \$1631.14

**Revenue**

1/6/23 Deposit- card sales \$74.00

9/19/23 Deposit – card sales \$85.00

**Expenditures**

1/5/23 Stacey Larson – poinsettias \$149.25

1/15/23 Angie Boen- card inventory \$91.25

4/7/23 Stacey Larson – Easter flowers \$379.25

12/14/23 Olivia Floral – poinsettias \$149.25

Ending Balance 12/31/2023 \$1021.14

Respectfully submitted, Jill Hanson





**CROSS OF CALVARY CHURCHMEN ANNUAL REPORT**

**Checking acct. # 2002413**

**BALANCE ON HAND JAN. 1, 2023**

**RECEIPTS- NONE \$163.93**

**BALANCE- \$163.93**

**DISBURSEMENTS**

**FAITH CHEST MATERIAL- \$ 324.18 BALANCE- \$ 363.93**

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**PASSBOOK SAVINGS ACCT. # 603**

**BALANCE ON HAND DEC, 31,2022- \$ 300.26**

**DISBURSEMENTS- NONE**

**RECEIPTS- INTEREST EARNED- \$ 1.41**

**BALANCE ON HAND DEC. 31. 2023- \$301.67**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:**





# CROSS OF CALVARY ENDOWMENT FUND

2023

Balance 1/1/2023			\$28,234.11
Interest Earned	03/31/2023	\$20.19	\$28,254.30
Interest Earned	06/30/2023	\$27.33	\$28,281.63
Interest Earned	09/30/2023	\$35.64	\$28,317.27
Transfer to CD	12/26/2023	(\$27,800.00)	
Interest Earned	12/31/2023	\$31.12	\$548.39
			\$548.39
<b>Total Fund Balance 12/31/2022</b>			<b>\$548.39</b>
<b>CD</b>			<b>\$27,800.00</b>

Members: Dana Boen (2026), Heidi Gross (2025), Ronda Berg (2024)

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Cross of Calvary Lutheran Endowment Fund is to provide additional financial resources to assist the congregation to enhance its ministry of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Purpose:**

The Endowment Fund is to enhance the outreach of this congregation apart from regular giving, gathering gifts for investment in perpetuity. Gifts may come from wills, estates, insurance or as outright cash gifts. No portion of the income of the fund is to be used for the annual operating budget of the congregation. Only earnings of the fund are distributed annually.

**Uses of the Endowment Fund:**

- 10 % Major capital improvement and building programs
- 10% Help person at Cross of Calvary with special needs: including education and health needs
- 20% To be used for the Mission of the ELCA and its SW MN Synod.
- 60% Help pay for other ministries of the congregation



## Cross of Calvary Youth

Checking	\$ 26,521.85
Savings	13,892.42
<b>Total Assets as of 12/31/23</b>	<b><u>\$ 40,414.27</u></b>

### Undesignated and Designated Equity:

Designated:	
Fundraising Accts - Individuals	\$ 14,543.04
National Gathering	2,434.74
BAC	256.00
Youth Room	3,357.46
Camp/Scholarships	7,941.40
Undesignated	11,881.63
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity as of 12/31/23</b>	<b><u>\$ 40,414.27</u></b>

<b>2022/2023 Activity for Youth Events</b>	In	Out	Transfer (to) from Designated Balance	Net
BAC/Skiing	2,388.00	(2,132.00)	(256.00)	-
Breakfast Club	-	(822.19)	-	(822.19)
Camp	3,485.00	(3,485.00)	-	-
Coffee Hour	1,012.29	-	(1,258.00)	(245.71)
Day Camp	1,350.00	(1,406.92)	56.92	-
GLUE 3-4	-	(57.71)	-	(57.71)
Jr High Gathering	1,625.00	(2,269.79)	-	(644.79)
Lockin	100.00	(100.00)	-	-
Soup Supper	434.00	-	(434.00)	-
Spring Fling	2,914.33	(190.00)	(2,724.33)	-
Sr High Gathering	660.00	(767.80)	-	(107.80)
WOW 5-6	-	(73.57)	-	(73.57)
Youth Room	5,000.00	(1,642.54)	(3,357.46)	-
Miscellaneous/Budget/Donations	3,135.23	(1,199.69)	(250.00)	1,685.54
			<b>Total</b>	<b><u>(266.23)</u></b>



**SNOWFLAKE BAZAAR 2023**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Beginning balance for 2023: **\$5486.68**

**Expenses:**

8/29: Sarah Hausken (additional Roomba for Cross of Calvary) \$590.55

11/18: Krystle Dillon (Costco supplies for Soup) \$197.86

12/11: B&D (2 separate checks for Bazaar \$9.38 and \$15.93) \$25.31

12/12: Renco Publishing (2023 Ad in Register – one week) \$99.00

12/18: ACH payment to City of Lambertton \$187.00

(electricity payment for a family in need)

**Total Expenditures:** **\$1099.72**

**Deposits from 2023 Bazaar:** **\$2449.00**

**Ending Balance (as of 12/31/23)** **\$6835.96**

The 2023 Snowflake Bazaar went well! The weather was cooperative, which was Last year's date coincided with the Christmas program, which brought more to the breakfast, but this year we switched things up and went with a soup lunch in addition to the bake sale. We also brought the date up a few weeks to December 10<sup>th</sup> and there seemed to be no issue.

The congregation really delivered for the bake sale too, we were very humbled at just how much was donated. In addition to a silent auction with items donated from local businesses, we were able to raise \$2449.00. For 2024 we'll need to add additional members to the committee, because Krystle and I spent over 9 hours on Saturday setting up, decorating and pricing, and an additional 8 on Sunday! It was well worth it!





## Auditing Committee Report

We, the Auditing Committee, have examined the books of the Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church for the year ended December 31, 2023, including the following organizations and funds:

Youth Group

Lutheran Church Men

Snowflake Bazaar

Altar Guild

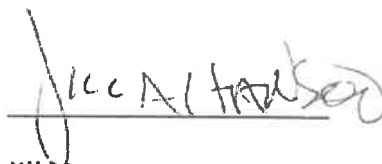
Endowment Fund

Financial Secretary and Church Treasurer

The accompanying financial statements were accepted as presented herein.



Sue Erickson



Jill Hanson



Cheryl Mallak

Date: 1/14/2024



**2024 Preliminary Budget**

As of December 31, 2023

**Ordinary Income/Expense  
Income**

	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>Increase Decrease</b>
<b>A - General Offerings</b>	262,601.06	282,444.00	314,303.00	<b>31,859.00</b>
<b>C - Agency In &amp; Out Income</b>	1,427.63	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>D - Employer Retention Tax</b>	8,937.02	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>E - Event Rental Income</b>	515.00	300.00	500.00	<b>200.00</b>
<b>F - Interest Income</b>	284.50	120.00	300.00	<b>180.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>273,765.21</b>	<b>282,864.00</b>	<b>315,103.00</b>	<b>32,239.00</b>

**Expense**

**Building Occupance Costs**

<b>Cleaning</b>	0.00	0.00	3,600.00	<b>3,600.00</b>
<b>Insurance Expense</b>	11,406.87	12,600.00	25,000.00	<b>12,400.00</b>
<b>Lawn Mower Reimbursement</b>	137.70	1,200.00	200.00	<b>-1,000.00</b>
<b>Maintenance &amp; Supplies</b>	5,852.22	3,000.00	3,000.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Repairs</b>	9,448.58	2,400.00	2,000.00	<b>-400.00</b>
<b>Utilities</b>				
<b>Electricity/Water/Sewer</b>	7,919.30	6,600.00	7,900.00	<b>1,300.00</b>
<b>Garbage</b>	325.02	300.00	325.00	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Heat</b>	6,388.93	6,600.00	6,400.00	<b>-200.00</b>
<b>Telephone &amp; Internet</b>	2,072.16	2,100.00	2,100.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>16,705.41</b>	<b>15,600.00</b>	<b>16,725.00</b>	<b>1,125.00</b>
<b>Total Building Occupance Costs</b>	<b>43,550.78</b>	<b>34,800.00</b>	<b>50,525.00</b>	<b>15,725.00</b>

**Congregational Outreach**

<b>Green Lake Luth Ministries</b>	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Lutheran Social Services</b>	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Missions</b>	6,600.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>SW MN Synod</b>	12,600.00	12,600.00	12,600.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Congregational Outreach</b>	<b>23,400.00</b>	<b>23,400.00</b>	<b>23,400.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Program Costs & Memberships**

<b>Agency In &amp; Out Expense</b>	1,624.02	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Conference Membership</b>	289.75	0.00	300.00	<b>300.00</b>
<b>Confirm/Grad/1st Comm/Bapt</b>	1,319.47	900.00	1,000.00	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Day Camp/VBS</b>	1,042.41	1,800.00	1,200.00	<b>-600.00</b>
<b>Devotionals</b>	245.20	0.00	250.00	<b>250.00</b>
<b>Stephen Ministry</b>	0.00	120.00	100.00	<b>-20.00</b>
<b>Sunday School Expenses</b>	1,602.60	2,700.00	1,800.00	<b>-900.00</b>
<b>Youth Group Expenses</b>	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,500.00	<b>-200.00</b>
<b>Total Program Costs/Memberships</b>	<b>8,823.45</b>	<b>8,220.00</b>	<b>7,150.00</b>	<b>-1,070.00</b>



	<u>Jan - Dec 23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over/Under Budget</u>
<b><u>Wages &amp; Payroll Expenses</u></b>				
Admin Asst	20,841.22	32,760.00	20,800.00	-11,960.00
Band Transfers	375.00	600.00	500.00	-100.00
Bldg Supervisor	2,850.00	5,700.00	0.00	-5,700.00
Organist Wages	4,243.96	4,800.00	4,400.00	-400.00
Parish Worker	37,625.00	47,700.00	60,564.00	12,864.00
Parish Worker Cont Ed/Mileage	1,191.30	1,200.00	1,100.00	-100.00
Pastor A)Salary	64,800.00	64,800.00	67,800.00	3,000.00
Pastor B)Cont Ed	2,962.46	3,000.00	2,800.00	-200.00
Pastor C)Pension	8,424.00	8,424.00	8,814.00	390.00
Pastor D)Housing	6,531.84	6,900.00	6,600.00	-300.00
Pastor E)Parsonage Repair	303.16	1,800.00	1,500.00	-300.00
Pastor F)Travel & Mileage	1,232.71	1,800.00	1,300.00	-500.00
Pastor G)Health/Dis/Life	23,729.58	19,260.00	38,190.00	18,930.00
SocSec/Medicare Tax	5,021.10	7,200.00	6,800.00	-400.00
Staff Expenses	395.00	180.00	200.00	20.00
Treasurer/Payroll Expenses	673.94	340.00	2,200.00	1,860.00
Work Comp	1,225.87	850.00	1,400.00	550.00
<b>Total Wages &amp; Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>182,426.14</b>	<b>207,314.00</b>	<b>224,968.00</b>	<b>17,654.00</b>
<b><u>Supplies &amp; Fees</u></b>				
Copier Lease & Maint	633.36	660.00	660.00	0.00
Copyright & Video License	686.34	720.00	700.00	-20.00
Miscellaneous	-33.40	300.00	50.00	-250.00
Office Supplies	822.85	1,200.00	900.00	-300.00
Postage and Delivery	644.78	600.00	700.00	100.00
Professional Fees	232.60	250.00	250.00	0.00
Technology/Comp Programs	941.01	900.00	2,000.00	1,100.00
Vanco E-Deposit Fees	1,113.67	900.00	1,200.00	300.00
Worship Supplies	2,573.11	3,600.00	2,600.00	-1,000.00
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Fees</b>	<b>7,614.32</b>	<b>9,130.00</b>	<b>9,060.00</b>	<b>-70.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>265,814.69</b>	<b>282,864.00</b>	<b>315,103.00</b>	<b>32,239.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>7,950.52</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>



Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

