

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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OSLC 2025 Annual Meeting

January 25, 2026 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Approval of the Annual Meeting Minutes of Jan 26, 2025

Treasurer's 2025 Report

Church Council Committee Reports

Auxiliary Committee & Organization Reports

Old Business

New Business

2026 Nominating Committee Report & Election

2026 Budget Discussion & Approval

Closing Comments & Prayer



2025 Church Officers

President: Jared Sanderson
Vice President: Diana Larson
Secretary:

Church Council Members

Member	Serving Through	Committee Assignments
Heidi Johnson	2025	Christian Education
Lori Peters	2025	Christian Education
Sadie Haugen	2026	Evangelism/Membership
Vicki Rentschler	2027	Evangelism/Membership
Blake Bergjord	2026	Property
John Duffert	2027	Property
Kim Johanson	2025	Stewardship/Benevolence
Linda Meier	2027	Stewardship/Benevolence
Becky Sayler	2025	Worship
Larry Wilske	2026	Worship
Cindy Duffert	2027	Worship

**These terms do not expire until after the Annual Meeting in January of the following year.*

2025 Nominating Committee

Heidi Johnson, Lori Peters, Kim Johanson, Becky Sayler

Council Appointed Leaders:

Treasurers: Connie Beyer-LaLonde & Beth Wesala
Financial Secretaries: Cathy Loehr, Becky Sayler
2025 Auditing Committee: Courtney Loiseau & Mandy Sutton
Ushers: John Ulwelling, Roger Ehlers, & Larry Wilske

2025 Church Council Committees

<u>Christian Education Committee</u> Lacey Schipper, Emma Peters Co-Superintendents, Heidi Johnson, Lori Peters, and Kelley Ramsdell	<u>Evangelism Committee</u> Sadie Haugen & Vicki Rentschler	<u>Endowment Committee</u> Becky Sayler-Chair, Brian Relf, Brian Bergjord, Sharla Haugen & Lori Williams
<u>Property Committee</u> John Duffert, Blake Bergjord Holist Sutton, Eric Beltman, Richard Haugen, Jared Sanderson and Diana Larson	<u>Stewardship/Benevolence Committee</u> Linda Meier & Kim Johanson	<u>Worship Committee</u> Becky Sayler, Larry Wilske, Cindy Duffert {MaryBeth Sutton, Julie Relf, Nancy Carlsrud, Alison Ramsdell, Lori Kneebone, & Kim Johanson, Pastor Erika}

2025 OSLC Representatives

<u>Bethel Home Board of Directors</u> Position Open	<u>Synod Convention Delegate:</u> Becky Sayler, Gwen Gullickson and Sadie Haugen
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OSLC 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2025

Unapproved

Meeting called to order by President Diana Larson

QUORUM ESTABLISHED: After some brief technical difficulties, a quorum was established with 45 in-person members and 11 online members in attendance. Additional members joined at 10:20 and 10:42.

APPROVAL OF 2024 MINUTES: A motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Kelley Ramsdell and seconded by Vic Sanderson with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF 2024 TREASURER'S REPORT: A motion was made to approve the 2024 financials by Larry Wilske and seconded by John Uwelling with all in favor. Attention was drawn to the items listed below:

- Total transfer income amount was updated from the booklet to \$40,646.81.
- Special accounts are for documentation purposes, but they are all part of the general fund.
- Gifts to be transferred amount was \$17, 618.91. This was income but taken out of the general fund immediately due to donor's wishes.
- Endowment funds come in but are distributed out as benevolence quarterly and some is set aside to capital outlay.
- Although our income was \$293, 000, \$40,000 of that is repeat money because it went to specific accounts. Actual income was _\$253,000
- Special thank you to Randy & Bridget Tollefson for cleaning, Blake Bergjord for snow removal, and Ramsdell's for cleaning the parking lot and keeping those expenses down/taken care of.
- \$26, 225.96 was the actual amount spent in property management.
- \$12,500 was originally budgeted to go to Synod Benevolence. Actual amount sent was \$8,250 due to low funds.
- An additional transfer in for \$326.54 made the total \$17, 818.45, so total expenses is \$294,260.89.
- Attention was drawn to our account balance on page 8 comparing 2023 expenses to 2024. General fund was -\$3,973.72 as of 12/31/24. Thank you to OSLC members who generously gave in December, because at the beginning of the month we were close to -\$12,000.
- ELCA Endowment was \$707,045.51 on 12/31/24. That number varies on the stock market.

CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: The presence of God is in this building! Every opportunity for involvement grows on you. Please join us here!

- Question was posed to the congregation, "What is your church goal for 2025?"
- Attention was drawn to other committee reports in the booklet. Please reach out to a council member if you have any questions regarding these reports.

AUXILIARY COMMITTEE & ORGANIZATION REPORTS:

- Again, a request to please reach out if you have any questions regarding these organizations or their reports.
- Thank you to Beth in the office, Connie Beyer-Lalonde, auditing committee, financial secretaries, and all others who help keep our church functioning.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- Heidi Johnson brought up a recent matter to the congregation and proposed a meeting for questions next week, February 3rd following service for any questions and input. If you ever have any questions about confirmation, etc... please raise them to the Education Committee or Council.

2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT & ELECTION:

President: Jared Sanderson was nominated. After two calls without response, Larry Wilske made a motion to cease nominations, seconded by Vic Solemn with all in favor.

Vice-President: Diana Larson nominated. After two calls without response, Larry Wilske moved to cease nominations, seconded by Becky Sayler with all in favor.

Secretary: no nominations

Council Positions: A call was made for any additional nominations, and President Larson asked for a unanimous ballot of acceptance for the positions listed below. Motion was made by Zona Sanderson, seconded by Larry Wilske with all in favor.

- Stewardship/Benevolence: Linda Meier (2027) & Kim Johanson (2025)
- Property: John Duffert (2027) & Blake Bergjord (2026)
- Worship: Cindy Duffert (2027) & Becky Saylor to help train (2025)

2025 BUDGET:

- Since income is a concern and other concerns, Pastor's salary will stay at \$50,499.96
- There is not actually an increase in secretary salary, nor custodial salary.
- Currently, there is no custodial salary due to members volunteering their time; however, it needs to be budgeted should they not be able to be filled by volunteers any longer.
- Beth is budgeted based on working (x) amount of hours. Last year, she took some additional time off, not fulfilling all of those hours, thus not receiving hourly wage for them.
 - A question was posed regarding council not recommending a raise for Pastor since there are Synod guidelines suggesting a 5% raise. Council voted from a financial standpoint and performance review to keep salary at the same level. Pastor indicated to council that she did not anticipate a raise due to the current financial situation.
 - The Executive committee is working on performance reviews focusing on accountability to council, activities attending, connection to congregation and youth, and overall communication.
 - All of her housing expenses are accounted for by the church at no expense to Pastor.
- Budgeted items have been left the same knowing the state of the general fund.
- Companion Synod: OSLC giving has decreased significantly over the past year, specifically in the last four months. Discussion was held on the amount given to companion Synod reducing the amount this year \$8000 this year, considering expenses.
- Camperships: \$100 per child given to any members attending LOSD camps. That money will come out of the Endowment Fund, under the education umbrella.
- Insurance: increase of almost \$5,000 because we were not insured for the value it would take to replace the church property.
- Budget totaling \$216,326 is proposed for 2025. Motion was made to approve the 2025 budget by Brian Johnson and seconded by Becky Saylor.
 - Discussion: Kelley Ramsdell reiterated that she did not agree with not following the Synod's recommendation of 5% pastoral raise. Hearing no other discussion, there was a call for a paper vote on the proposed 2025 budget.
 - Vote showed 45 in favor and 4 not. Motion carries.
- After the vote, LeAnn Carr questioned how the numbers were generated in the budget to make the totals and suggested some of those funds could be used in another area, i.e. Pastor's salary.
- Custodial supplies have been primarily donated by members. We need to be able to cover them should they not get donated.
- Appliances at the parsonage are older, and we need to be able to cover them should they break.
- Fuel, we have had mild winters/summers, but that may not be the case and fuel prices have jumped up.
- Prices for all the above-mentioned have increased significantly. We hope to not reach them but need to plan for them.

CLOSING COMMENTS & PRAYER: Thank you to everyone who has come forward to help take care of this building and the activities that go on here.

Meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting was moved to adjournment at 10:51 AM by Richard Haugen and seconded by John Uwelling with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Headrick

2025 OSLC Treasurers Report

INCOME

General Fund Offering	\$128,868.94	Capital Outlay Fund - from endowment	\$6,000.00
Christmas Offering	\$5,178.00	Building Fund Offering	\$25.00
Advent Offering	\$316.00	Endowment Proceeds	\$27,065.00
Lenten Offering	\$640.00	Doug Bendt Estate Income	\$23,456.72
Lenten Supper	\$775.00	Children's Offering	\$880.40
Interest-Checking	\$43.99	Fundraising Account	\$630.00
Other Income-General Fund	\$1,953.58	Music Fund	\$248.02
Transfer from Benev Fund to General Fun	\$4,250.00	Undesignated Memorials	\$4,685.00
Benevolence Fund Offering	\$2,974.05	Roofing Fund	\$3,300.13
Benev Fd from Endowmnt Fd	\$17,919.60	Campership Fund	\$2,605.31
Capital Outlay Offering	\$15,343.33		

Total Income

(Transfers account for \$28,169.60 of this)

\$247,158.07

EXPENSES

Staff Support:

Pastor Salary	\$43,786.28
Pastor Social Security	\$4,227.54
Pastor Pension/Med/Disab	\$9,526.41
Pastor Prof Exp & Cont Ed	(\$540.35)
Pastor Deductibles	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$12,465.28
Fin Secr Salary	\$1,612.00
Organist Salary	\$3,100.00
FICA & Wkmns Comp	\$1,505.86
Staff Auto Expenses	\$1,913.98
Pastor Housing	\$7,688.71
Hiring Expense	<u>\$62.02</u>
Total Staff Support	\$85,347.73

Administration:

Office Supplies	\$1,347.10
Postage	\$6.08
Telephone/Internet	\$1,844.61
Convention Exp	\$600.00
Contingency Fund	<u>\$450.00</u>
Total Administration	\$4,247.79

Worship:

Worship Supplies	\$2,383.73
Music Maintenance	\$386.04
Pulpit Supply	<u>\$1,009.70</u>
Total Worship	\$3,779.47

Capital Outlay:

Capital Outlay Expense	\$0.00
Copier Lease	<u>\$1,882.68</u>
Total Capital Outlay	\$1,882.68

Evangelism & Outreach:

Shepherds & Saints	<u>\$109.48</u>
Total Evangelism & Outreach	\$109.48

Stewardship:

Materials & Programs	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Stewardship	\$0.00

Christian Youth:

Camperships	\$0.00
Youth Activities	<u>\$1,279.21</u>
Total Christian Youth	\$1,279.21

Property Management:

Fuel	\$2,925.35
Utilities	\$11,765.69
Repairs & Maintenance	\$4,268.88
Custodial Supplies	\$265.04
Insurance - Church & Parsonage	\$9,963.75
Parsonage Repairs	\$648.35
Parsonage Utilities	\$1,814.55
Parsonage Fuel	<u>\$541.64</u>
Total Property Management	\$32,193.25

2025 OSLC Treasurers Report

Technology:

Copyright License	\$957.98
Equipment	\$885.68
EZ Text	<u>\$638.08</u>
Total Technology	\$2,481.74

Benevolence:

ELCA Synod Benevolence	\$8,000.00
Local Benevolence	\$500.00
From Endowment-Other	\$14,419.60
From Endowment-Companion Synod	<u>\$3,500.00</u>
Total Benevolence	\$26,419.60

Christian Education:

Sunday School	\$714.83
Vacation Bible School	\$0.00
Adult Programs	\$0.00
Confirmation	<u>\$694.58</u>
Total Christian Education	\$1,409.41

Restricted Funds Expense:

Campership Fund Expense	\$2,999.31
Ed Unit Roof Expense (transfer)	\$1,020.13
Fundraising Account Expense	\$954.40
Roofing Fund Expense (Transfer to CD)	\$18,000.00
Undesignated Memorials Expense	\$2.32
Endowment Fund to Benevolence	\$17,919.60
Endowment Fund to Capital Outlay	\$6,000.00
Endowment Fund to Christian Ed	\$427.71
Endowment - Other	\$1,231.31
Endowment transfer to Endowment Plus	<u>\$20,000.00</u>
Total Restricted Funds Expense	\$68,554.78

Gifts transferred:

Gift transferred to ELCA Foundation	\$16,419.70
Gift transferred to Endowment Plus CD	\$7,037.02
Gifts transfer to SD Synod Nic. books	\$1,438.00
Gifts transferred to Breadbasket	\$102.00
Advent Offering transferred to ELCA	
World Hunger	\$316.00
Transfer from Benev Fund to General Fu	<u>\$4,250.00</u>
Total Gifts transferred	\$29,562.72

TOTAL EXPENSES
(Transfers account for \$42,846.35 of this)

\$257,267.86

OSLC Account Balances

ASSETS

	<u>12/31/2024</u>	<u>12/31/2025</u>
Checking Account		
Altar Guild Fund	\$60.00	\$60.00
Benevolence Fund	\$9,775.95	\$0.00
Boiler Fund	\$250.00	\$250.00
Building Fund	\$2,191.43	\$2,216.43
Campership Fund	\$394.00	\$0.00
Capital Outlay Fund	\$17,661.87	\$37,122.52
Children's Offering Fund	\$1,294.23	\$2,174.63
Ed Unit Roof Fund	\$1,020.13	\$0.00
Fellowship Carpet Fund	\$6,340.92	\$6,340.92
Fundraising Account Fund	\$2,511.82	\$2,187.42
General Fund	-\$3,973.72	\$6,016.45
Music Fund	\$368.21	\$616.23
Roofing Fund	\$17,012.83	\$2,312.96
Sound System Fund	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Transfer Fund	\$1,540.00	\$0.00
Undesignated Memorial Fund	\$5,393.62	\$10,076.30
Endowment Proceeds (reserved for Benevolence & Christian Ed)	\$19,790.67	\$1,277.05
Total Checking Account	\$ 82,631.96	\$ 71,650.91
Other Assets:		
Church Lots	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Educational Building	\$163,300.00	\$163,300.00
ELCA Foundation	\$707,045.51	\$739,884.91
ELCA MIF - Interest to Music Fund	\$1,500.00	\$1,538.57
Endowment Plus CD	\$0.00	\$27,125.67
Organ Fund CD	\$12,550.72	\$13,325.50
Parking Lot	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Parsonage	\$214,864.77	\$214,864.77
Parsonage Lot	\$15,191.96	\$15,191.96
Roofing Fund CD	\$0.00	\$18,376.81
Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall	\$355,000.00	\$355,000.00
CD (Stahly)	\$63,800.60	\$67,745.01
Total Other Assets	\$ 1,563,253.56	\$ 1,646,353.20
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,645,885.52	\$ 1,718,004.11
Liabilities		
Payroll Taxes	\$1,320.13	\$448.87
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,320.13	\$ 448.87

Pastor's Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My heart is full of thankfulness when I think of this congregation! I came to serve you as interim pastor in July, the third pastor of the year, but you have been very gracious and welcoming. There are so many faithful members of all ages who support this church with their presence, their joy, their talents, their hard work and their finances. It takes all of that to make a church of any size work. Thank you for your service to Jesus and his church and for your commitment to the life of Our Savior's.

Much good work is done by this congregation! We support each other and our communities in times of need; we reach out beyond ourselves to serve others, to donate quilts and kits and other necessities. Many ministries are supported financially and we teach and love, not only our own church kids, but through our Vacation Bible School also share the Gospel with the children of the area. When members have an idea that they would like to try, we have been open to new opportunities, like our mystery dinner, that was a fun social occasion, delicious meal, and raised some funds. Our young people are being mentored to serve others in various ways. Those are signs that the Holy Spirit is at work among us.

Many years ago, I heard a sermon that encouraged us to remember those who had died, as remembering literally means to re-member someone, to bring people back to life in our mind, to reassemble their members, that is, their limbs and parts. This image helps me see I Corinthians 12:12 -27 more vividly. A member of a church is not just a person who signs up for membership, but one who is a part of the body of Christ, an arm or leg, an eye or ear.... The Body of Christ is global and timeless, consisting of those who have gone before us and those still living, but most of us experience the Body most tangibly in the local church. We are members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, parts that make up the whole, whose contributions of presence, commitment or time, talents and money, friendship and elbow grease do the work of the church in this place and contribute to the overall mission of the Body of Christ in the world.

Thank you for the life you bring to this congregation. Thank you for attending worship and other gathering times, for your financial gifts, for your prayers and hard work. As you read through this report you will see glimpses of the work of many others in this congregation in Christ's name on behalf of all of us, but there are countless donated hours, dollars, and expertise that are given behind the scenes and done when no one is around that aren't always noticed.

The health of a congregation depends on the spirit and cooperation of the members of the church. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, who are called to work together, love one another and support each other's efforts. What can we do together in the year to come, led by the Holy Spirit? There is work to be done.

Thanks be to God, for he is gracious and his love endures forevermore!

Pastor Erika

Church Council President's Report

God's greetings to everyone! What a year it has been. It's hard for me to believe that we are already at our Annual Meeting considering how the first few weeks of my term as Council President started. I had no idea that we would have had 3 different Pastors serve us this year and a major street renovation going on outside our front door. It truly shows that God's grace and your prayers can get you through the toughest of times. I want to take this time to extend some words of thanks to those who have helped me through this year.

First, a huge thank you to my family. Carrie kept encouraging me to keep praying on my decision to take on this role or not and has supported me throughout it. There have been several late nights and long meetings that kept me away, but she and the girls have taken them in stride.

Second, thanks to the council and call committee members and the Pastors for all that you have done this past year. Your hard work, time, devotion, and dedication do not go unnoticed in my eyes and I am very appreciative of the support you have given me and this congregation. I am blessed to be able to ask each of you for thoughts and input on various things that we have needed to get done at the church. It has been a true pleasure of mine to work with each of you and look forward to working with you continuously in the future.

Next, thanks to you the congregation. I can truly feel the support you have for me in this role. Thanks to all of you for your kind words and encouragement this past year. Thanks for all the volunteering and stepping up to help with whatever is needed at the church. From reading and greeting during the church service to teaching Sunday School and leading the Youth, a huge thanks to each of you for helping in these roles. We have a really great group of people at Our Savior's.

To celebrate the great work of our volunteers and congregation, I would like to bring notice to the successes of our church this past year:

- Our Sunday School and Youth Group flourished as we continue to reevaluate how to guide our children into life-long journeys with Christ.
- We held creative and successful fundraisers, including youth meals, quilt and lefsa sales, and a Mystery Dinner for the community.
- OSLC yet again hosted summer vacation bible camp for the community, which brought over 100 youth to our church.
- OLSC led the charge in a regional youth gathering for local ELCA high schoolers which hosted the Bishop and other key leaders from the SD Synod.
- The quilting groups and WELCA welcomed new members and supported multiple efforts across the church.
- Volunteers were trained by our fearless leaders in how to support the church as it is their home.
- Our Christmas program was revitalized with volunteers and youth.

I took on this role as a way to give back to the church as it is important to me to be involved with the church I am a part of. It has been a very rewarding challenge to work through. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes that we may take for granted. 2026 will be a big year for our congregation as we hope to find a new minister to lead us in our faith and a potential major roof renovation on the education building. I want to challenge each and everyone of you to get even more involved with the church. We have so many important roles that need to be filled or supported coming up. From new council members and Sunday school teachers to sound board operators and readers and giving with your generous monetary donations, there are so many ways to help support our wonderful church and give you some personal gratitude. Thanks for all that each of you do and may you have a blessed year.

Best, Jared Sanderson

Ministerial Acts

Baptisms		Confirmed		Weddings		Funerals	
Children	4	Youth	7	Members	3	Members	3
Adult	0	Non-members	0	Non-members	0	Non-members	0

Membership - End of 2025	BAPTIZED	99	CONFIRMED	334
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Memberships Received 2025	
A. By baptism: Children (15 yrs. & younger)	4
B. By baptism: Adults (16 yrs. & older)	0
C. By transfer from ELCA congregations	1
From other Lutheran congregation	0
From non-Lutheran congregation	0
From other sources—statistical adjustments	0
Confirmed in 2025	7
Total members received in 2025	12

Memberships Removed 2025	
By death	4
By transfer to other Lutheran congregations	7
To a non-Lutheran congregation	0
For other reasons—statistical adjustments	0
Total members removed in 2025	11

Members Received: 2025

By Baptism: Drevyn Hahn, Laramie Harris, Anna Loehr, and Chase Veldkamp

By Transfer or Application: Dennis Krumvieda

By Confirmation: Hunter Bushkofsky, Aston Duncan, Drevyn Hahn, Braehden Kuhnel, Rona Streitz, Rory Thielsen, Titus Tollefson

Members Lost: 2025

By Death: Doug Bendt, Matt Johanson, Linda Eng and Elaine Pederson

By Transfer: Jennifer Headrick, Drew Headrick, Connor Headrick, Fallyn Headrick, Crystal Sherman, Evan Sherman, and Ryan Sherman

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Education Committee~ Lori Peters, Heidi Johnson, Emma Peters, Lacey Schipper and Kelley Ramsdell

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” — Proverbs 22:6

The Education Committee entered 2025 with energy, passion, and a shared commitment to nurturing the faith of our young people. We are grateful for the dedicated leadership of Sunday School Superintendent Lacey Schipper. In August, Emma Peters joined her in a team-leadership approach to help support our education ministries during our transition without a permanent pastor. We were also pleased to welcome Kelley Ramsdell to the Education Committee this year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This past year, our Sunday School ministry thrived, thanks to a remarkable team of teachers and prayer partners who walked faithfully alongside our children. Around 40 PreK–4th Grade students gathered each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. to learn, grow, and experience God’s love. We continued to encourage strong attendance during the winter and spring months, and once again our Youth Group supported us by leading JAM (Jesus and Me) once a month. Our children also offered joyful musical leadership in worship, singing once per month.

Easter brought wonderful moments of celebration, including our Palm Parade and Sunday School “Egg-travaganza.” This event overflowed with excitement—games, singing at Edgewood, and a lively Easter egg hunt made the day unforgettable. We wrapped up our school year with a festive ice cream social and a special video and live program showcasing the children’s accomplishments before pausing for summer break.

In June, OSLC proudly hosted Community VBS, welcoming nearly 100 children for a lively “On the Go with God: Road Trip” adventure. August included a fun, free swim night that brought in over 20 families as we kicked off Sunday School registrations. Rally Sunday returned in September, revealing our new theme: The Joy of the Lord is My Strength. The children continued to sing on the first Sunday of each month, filling worship with their energy and enthusiasm.

October’s faithful hayride and singing visit to Edgewood blessed both our participants and the residents. Later that month, three third graders received their Bibles—a meaningful milestone. We also celebrated Camp Sunday in the fall. By November, Christmas program rehearsals were in full swing. The December 14th performance—beautifully directed by Alison Ramsdell and Jason Unger—was enriched by the quilting ladies’ heartfelt gift of handmade pocket prayer squares for all our youth.

PRE-CONFIRMATION AND CONFIRMATION

Our Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation programs supported 27 students in grades 5–8. Fifth and sixth graders focused on the New Testament, while seventh and eighth graders studied Luther’s Small Catechism until Lent. During Lent, students participated in Wednesday services, and following our pastoral transition, the Education Committee stepped in to continue guiding them.

February’s family night, Taco ‘Bout Love, filled the evening with fellowship, games, a meal, and service projects as students created Valentine cards for shut-ins. Before leaving OSLC, Pastor Ramona celebrated the Confirmation of eight eighth-grade students—a joyful moment for our congregation.

April 30 marked a festive end-of-year celebration that included outdoor games, food, root beer floats, and the assembling of May baskets delivered to shut-ins. In July, nine youth were sponsored to attend Outlaw Ranch, strengthening their faith through camp experiences.

September began with a family tailgate kickoff. Throughout the fall, Pastor Erika led instruction on worship practices with the 5th–6th graders and explored the Bible and Old Testament with the 7th–8th graders. The 5th and 6th graders also enjoyed a hayride, shared Christian music with shut-ins, and hosted a congregational breakfast on November 9. The 7th and 8th graders served at the Mystery Dinner, planned

Advent dinners, and helped lead Advent activities for the congregation. The 5th and 6th graders also participated in the December 14th Christmas Program.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group experienced another spirit-filled year with 20 actively involved youth. In May, we joyfully celebrated 10 graduates and welcomed eight new freshmen. Youth from beyond OSLC continued to join us, and this openness bore fruit when one of our participants chose to be baptized in January—with the Youth Group standing as her sponsors.

Meeting every other Wednesday, the Youth Group launched the year by hosting their Family Meal Around the Table in January, serving 104 participants. February brought a fun ice-skating outing, and throughout the spring, the youth regularly supported JAM on the first Wednesday of each month. In May, we recognized our graduating seniors and celebrated their contributions to OSLC. The youth also served monthly congregational breakfasts with dedication and joy.

In September, we kicked off the year with a trip to Thunder Road followed by Pizza Ranch. We were thrilled to welcome Bridget Flannery and Randy Tollefson as new Youth Group helpers. October included a faith-based Amazing Race (complete with a hayride) and a memorable all-day youth retreat hosted by OSLC. The retreat included a special message from the Bishop and music led by Rural Pastor Joel and brought together youth from surrounding Lutheran congregations.

November highlighted our annual Veterans Recognition Night, complete with a meal and bingo. We closed the year by serving breakfast following the Christmas Program, where several Youth Group members also played handbells—adding a beautiful musical touch to the celebration.

Evangelism/Membership Committee

The membership committee has continued taking a more active role this year in trying to create a sense of community and belonging within the congregation. We continue to send grief books to members who have experienced recent loss and to maintain the visitor bags that can be given out when new people come to worship with us. We also want to find ways to connect the people who are already here and continue to be members.

Our bible study/viewing parties around The Chosen: Season 2 in the spring and Season 3 in the fall led to a lot of great discussions and we plan to start Season 4 this coming spring. Chilingo went well last year and we plan to have the 2nd annual chili cookoff and bingo day in the coming months.

We will continue to look for ways to foster connection and community within our church and the wider community. If you have ideas for things you would like to see happening and would like to help us with this goal we would love to have you on the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Rentschler and Sadie Haugen

Property Committee

Not Available

Worship Committee

The worship committee members are Larry Wilske, Cindy Duffert and Becky Saylor representing the council, joined by Pastor Erika, Nancy Carlsrud, Mary Beth Sutton, Alison Ramsdell, Julie Relf, Kim Johanson and Lori Kneebone. We meet once a month to plan worship services, which includes the type of service and hymns to be sung. A special thanks to these people for their dedication and commitment.

A very special thank you goes out to our Organists Nancy, Ali, Mary Beth, Lori, and Kim for their many years of dedicated service to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Also, Omega Organ and Audio was here in October to perform our annual service on the organ. We have established an organ fund to help build the funding of a

replacement someday. If you feel strongly about this project, your personal donation would be greatly appreciated. We also would like to thank Mary Beth Sutton, Julie Relf and Beth Wesala for putting together the new contemporary music booklets.

We continue to live stream our worship service each week for those unable to attend in person. Members of the Sound Tech team are Beth Wesala, Allen Loehr, Julie Relf, Baylee Hemmer, Diana Larson, Sadie Haugen, Ian Haugen, Dawn Tribitt, Randy and Titus Tollefson. Thank you to these individuals for carrying out our mission to reach out into the community each and every week. We are still looking for more volunteers to help lighten the load for all involved.

We also appreciate the dedication of our ushering staff, which currently includes: John Ulwelling, Roger Ehlers, and Larry Wilske. We couldn't hold a service without you. Thank you.

We also want to recognize our Altar Guild members who spend many hours making sure that everything is in place and ready for our church services. This group includes: Cindy Menning, LeAnn Carr, Todd and Lisa Sanderson, Vicki Rentscher, Dean and Diana Larson, Linda Meier, Becky Saylor and John and Cindy Duffert. The duties include preparation and cleanup of the Holy Eucharist, changing colors and banners, and filling candles. Thank you for your dedication to the church in this manner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Saylor Cindy Duffert and Larry Wilske

Endowment Committee

OSLC Endowment Fund Report: OSLC Endowment Fund Value on January 1, 2025 was \$707,045.51. Part of the Funds Earnings, \$6729.90 was distributed to OSLC for the first 3 quarters and \$6875.30 for the 4th quarter this year. Funds from the Doug Bendt estate totaling \$16,419.70 were added to the Endowment Fund. The rest of the earnings were reinvested. Distributions may be used for Mission, benevolence, Christian Education, and unbudgeted capital outlay for building/repairs.

This year's funds were distributed as follows:

Boys & Girls Club	\$ 2,250.00	Abe Streitz LSM	\$ 1,400.00
Breadbasket	\$ 3,179.90	Matt Johanson Family	\$ 1,500.00
City of Flandreau	\$ 345.00	Moody Co. Ministerial	\$ 1,000.00
Weekend Fuel	\$ 1,384.90	Angel Tree Gifts	\$ 629.90
Moody County Cares	\$ 1,000.00	Bethel Home	\$ 500.00
Companion Synod	\$ 3,500.00	St Dysmas	\$ 500.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 8,000.00	Summer Camperships	\$ 1,500.00
Angel Fund	\$ 229.90		

Numerous capital outlay projects at the church.\$145.40

As of December 31, 2025, the value of the fund grew to \$ 805,436.39.

Becky Saylor, Chair, Brian Bergjord, Lori Williams, Sharla Haugen and Brian Relf as members.

AUXILIARY COMMITTEES & ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Women of ELCA Missions (WELCA)

The group met to tie quilts and collect items for kits.

Lutheran World Relief: 76 school kits, 16 personal care kits, 2 fabric kits

OSLC high school graduates: 13 quilts

Art supplies given to Sunday School and Girls and Boys Club

Christmas Cheer 23 bags delivered to shut-ins

Birthday cards sent to shut-ins

25 quilts to Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Yarn donated to prison missions

Mission Co-Chairwomen Gwenda Gullickson and Linda Meier

Women of ELCA (WELCA)

WELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Our 2025 WELCA Executive Board was voted in at our November 13, 2024 meeting. They were as follows: President Sandy Harris; Secretary – Nancy Carlsrud; Treasurer – Lisa Sanderson; Mission Action – Gwen Gullickson & Linda Meier; Circle Calling Chairman – JoAnn Clark; Kitchen Coordinator –Diana Larson & Lisa Sanderson; Deborah Circle Chairman –Nancy Carlsrud; Ruth Circle Chairman– Diana Larson; Rachel Circle Chairman– Gwen Gullickson . Thank you ladies!

Our 2025 WELCA books were made available to pick up a copy at church or from the church office.

Our faithful quilt ladies made quilts again, several were given to individual, organizations & our High School graduates. Their beautiful quilts were displayed in December and were for sale. Several sold at that time. School kits were put together & sent to missions. For more details, please see the Mission’s report.

Our “Love Offering” campaign in February allowed us to donate \$240 to each of these local charities; Breadbasket, Wholeness Center, Moody County Ministerial Assn., Team of Angels and Weekend Fuel . Thank you for all your donations.

WELCA meetings were held as needed usually after Bible Study. Bible Study was held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. but was changed in October to the 3rd Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. when Pastor Erika is in the office. ALL Circles meet together for Bible Study at that time.

We held our annual “No Bake Bake Sale” in September and October by asking for donations in lieu of a bake sale. These donations were disbursed to missions at the end of the year. This list is in the WELCA Treasurer’s Report.

Our annual “Guest Day Salad Luncheon” normally held in September was cancelled due to street construction by the church. At our November WELCA meeting the annual disbursements were decided and election of 2026 Executive Board were voted in. The slate of our WELCA Executive Board stayed the same as for 2025. Thank you ladies once again. Our annual Christmas Noon Potluck was also cancelled due to bad weather. A Christmas gift of snacks was given to our shut-ins (16), staff & ushers.

We served 5 funerals . Thank you to everyone who worked and furnished food for the funerals.

A big THANK YOU for the donations that we received and all your hard work this year. It is greatly appreciated. Sandy Harris. WELCA President

*** If your name, address or phone number has changed, please contact the church office or me. (864-0321)

WELCA Financial Report 2025

Year ending December 31, 2025

Beginning Balance 1/1/2025	\$ 1,810.69		
2025 Revenue	\$ 4,526.70		
2025 Disbursements	\$ (4,482.76)		
Ending Balance 12/31/2025	\$ 1,854.63		
Revenue:		Disbursements:	
Funerals	\$ 750.00	SD WELCA	\$ (200.00)
Circles/Bible Study	\$ 373.00	Misc-kitchen, etc	\$ (502.88)
LOVE Offering	\$ 1,200.00	LOVE charities	\$ (1,200.00) *
"No Bake" Sale	\$ 1,538.00	WELCA Thankoffering	\$ (150.00) *
Quilts sold	\$ 315.00	Bethel Lutheran Home	\$ (50.00) *
Memorials/gifts	\$ 25.00	Missions	\$ (1,760.00) *
Misc	\$ 25.00	Quilting supplies	\$ (303.88)
Quilt supply donation	\$ 300.10	Summer Youth Camperships	\$ (241.00) **
Interest	\$ 0.60	Spring Medary Conference	\$ (75.00)
Total Revenue	\$ 4,526.70	Total Disbursements	\$ (4,482.76)

* Charities and Missions breakdown:

\$240.00 each (LOVE): Moody County Ministerial, Breadbasket, Team of Angels, Wholeness Center, Weekend Fuel (Flandreau School) \$80.00 each: Banquet, Bethel Lutheran Home Foundation, Children's Home Society, Church of Hope, Church on the Street, Family Connection, Feeding SD, FIS Chaplaincy, LifeScape Foundation, McCrossen's Boys Ranch, Ronald McDonald House, Shepperd's Gift, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, St. Dysmas of SD, Union Gospel Mission, University Lutheran Center, ELCA Disaster Response, Global Health, Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief. \$150 WELCA Thankoffering, \$50 Bethel Lutheran Home (in memory of 1 WELCA member).

** prior yr Christmas quilt raffle designated for 2025 youth camperships

WELCA

Lisa Sanderson, Treasurer

Cana Group

The CANA group held one fund raiser this year making lefsa on December 8th and 9th. We had approximately 12 people enjoying these two days of fellowship. This year's lefsa sales earned \$691. The CANA account has an ending balance of \$3,307.77 which is available when church needs arise. The CANA group is open to all members of OSLC with a purpose of serving. We have served weddings, parties, auction sale lunch stands and other events in the past. Please keep us in mind if you need assistance with an event. The leadership team consists of Nancy Carlsrud, Carolyn Johnson, Diana Larson and Lisa Sanderson.

Bethel Lutheran Home

Report not available. Complete report will be available in Fellowship Hall & on Ed. Unit Bulletin Board once received

The Bethel Lutheran Home Governing Board of Directors was pleased to announce that Kathy Holland has been named the organization's Administrator. She will officially begin at Bethel on November 17.

Nominating Committee Report 2026

<u>Church Officers: Executive Board</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
President	<u>Jared Sanderson</u>	<u>2026</u>
Vice-President	<u>NEED NOMINEE</u>	<u>2026</u>
Secretary	<u>NEED NOMINEE</u>	<u>2026</u>
<u>Church Council</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Education Committee	<u>NEED NOMINEE</u> <u>NEED NOMINEE</u>	<u>2028</u> <u>2028</u>
Evangelism/Membership Committee	Sadie Haugen Vicki Rentschler	2026 2027
Property Committee	John Duffert Blake Bergjord	2027 2026
Stewardship, Benevolence Committee	<u>NEED NOMINEE</u> Linda Meier	<u>2028</u> 2027
Worship Committee	Larry Wilske Cindy Duffert	2026 2027
Nominating Committee	Sadie Haugen Larry Wilske Blake Bergjord	2026 2026 2026
Auditors	Mandy Sutton Courtney Loiseau	2026 2026
Delegates to Synod Assembly	<u>NEED NOMINEE</u> <u>NEED NOMINEE</u> <u>NEED NOMINEE</u>	<u>2026</u> <u>2026</u> <u>2026</u>
Bethel Home Foundation	<u>NEED NOMINEE</u>	<u>2026</u>

2025 Proposed OSLC Budget

	Expended 2024	Proposed 2025	Expended 2025	Proposed 2026	
Staff Support					
Pastor Salary	\$50,499.96	\$50,500.00	\$43,786.28	\$60,000.00	
Pastor Housing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,688.71	\$0.00	
Pastor Social Security	\$5,022.00	\$5,200.00	\$4,227.54	\$6,000.00	
Pastor Pen/Med/Dis	\$24,007.68	\$25,500.00	\$9,526.41	\$28,500.00	
Pastor Prof Exp/Cont Ed	\$1,399.19	\$1,100.00	-\$540.35	\$1,000.00	
Secretary Salary	\$12,706.72	\$14,976.00	\$12,465.28	\$16,000.00	
Custodian Salary	\$0.00	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Financial Sec Salary	\$1,550.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,612.00	\$1,800.00	
Organist Salary	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,500.00	
FICA & Workmans Comp	\$1,378.63	\$1,500.00	\$1,505.86	\$2,000.00	
Staff Auto Expenses	\$2,007.32	\$2,500.00	\$1,913.98	\$2,200.00	
Hiring Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$62.02	\$1,000.00	
Moving Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	
Interim Salary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,650.00	
Interim Social Security	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,900.00	\$52,950.00
Interim Housing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,400.00	
Subtotal	\$101,571.50	\$113,276.00	\$85,347.73	\$179,950.00	\$127,000.00
Administration					
Office & Admin Supplies	\$1,555.45	\$2,500.00	\$1,347.10	\$1,500.00	
Postage	\$8.73	\$150.00	\$6.08	\$100.00	
Telephone/Internet	\$1,796.67	\$2,000.00	\$1,844.61	\$2,000.00	
Convention Expense	\$1,110.00	\$1,300.00	\$600.00	\$1,000.00	
Contingency Fund	\$485.00	\$1,500.00	\$450.00	\$1,000.00	
VANCO Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	
Subtotal	\$4,955.85	\$7,450.00	\$4,247.79	\$6,200.00	
Worship					
Worship Supplies	\$1,534.89	\$2,000.00	\$2,383.73	\$2,500.00	
Music Maintenance	\$655.79	\$1,000.00	\$386.04	\$500.00	
Pulpit Supply	\$1,496.98	\$2,000.00	\$1,009.70	\$1,200.00	
Subtotal	\$3,687.66	\$5,000.00	\$3,779.47	\$4,200.00	
Christian Education					
Sunday School	\$1,446.86	\$2,000.00	\$714.83	\$2,000.00	
Vacation Bible School	-\$100.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
Adult Programs	\$445.57	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
Confirmation	\$737.36	\$1,000.00	\$694.58	\$1,500.00	
Subtotal	\$2,529.79	\$3,550.00	\$1,409.41	\$3,850.00	
Evangelism Membership & Outreach					
Stephen Ministries	\$66.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Evang/Mem. Supplies	\$74.25	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Shepherds & Saints	\$134.28	\$150.00	\$109.48	\$100.00	
Subtotal	\$275.18	\$850.00	\$109.48	\$300.00	

2025 Proposed OSLC Budget

	Expended 2024	Proposed 2025	Expended 2025	Proposed 2026	
Stewardship					
Materials & Programs	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Christian Youth					
Camperships (\$50/person)	\$1,740.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Youth Activities	\$1,996.21	\$2,500.00	\$1,279.21	\$2,500.00	
Youth Gathering	\$2,285.82	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
Subtotal	\$6,022.03	\$2,750.00	\$1,279.21	\$3,500.00	
Property Management					
Church Repairs & Maint.	\$2,893.01	\$5,000.00	\$4,268.88	\$9,050.00	
Church Fuel	\$2,490.66	\$7,000.00	\$2,925.35	\$3,500.00	
Church Utilities	\$10,663.56	\$13,000.00	\$11,765.69	\$13,000.00	
Parsonage Repairs & Maint.	\$1,011.52	\$5,000.00	\$648.35	\$5,500.00	
Parsonage Fuel	\$534.42	\$1,200.00	\$541.64	\$1,000.00	
Parsonage Utilities	\$2,198.87	\$2,800.00	\$1,814.55	\$2,500.00	
Custodial Supplies	\$123.92	\$1,000.00	\$265.04	\$350.00	
Insurance (Church & Parsonag	\$6,200.00	\$11,000.00	\$9,963.75	\$11,000.00	
Subtotal	\$26,115.96	\$46,000.00	\$32,193.25	\$45,900.00	
Technology					
Copyright license	\$1,681.66	\$2,200.00	\$957.98	\$1,100.00	
Equipment	\$880.82	\$500.00	\$885.68	\$1,000.00	
EZ Text	\$582.87	\$1,000.00	\$638.08	\$1,000.00	
Subtotal:	\$3,145.35	\$3,700.00	\$2,481.74	\$3,100.00	
Benevolence & Service					
ELCA/Synod Benevolence	\$8,250.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	
Local Benevolence	\$72.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Subtotal	\$8,322.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	
Capitla Outlay					
Other Capitla Outlay Exp.	\$25,452.88	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	
Copier Lease	\$1,845.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,882.68	\$2,000.00	
Subtotal	\$27,297.88	\$22,000.00	\$1,882.68	\$7,000.00	
Budget Grand Total	\$192,245.20	\$221,726.00	\$149,730.76	\$262,500.00	\$209,550.00

2025 Income Breakdown:

\$216,326.00-Proposed Budget

\$218,988.47-Total Income

5,361- total 2025 attendance

\$214,421.51-Total Expense

103 people average/week attendance

\$4,566.96-Total Profit

(includes Wednesdays and special services)

$\$218,988.47/52 = \$4,211.32/\text{week given}$

$\$4211.32/103 = \$40.89/\text{person attending}$

2026 Proposed Budget Breakdown:

\$262,500-Proposed Budget

$\$262,500/52 = \$5,048.08/\text{week needed}$

$\$5,048.08/103 = \$49.01/\text{person each week}$

A Message from the ELCA Presiding Bishop

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,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

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

2025 South Dakota Synod Ministry Celebration

2025 Ministry Celebrations



Our Synod's vision of Journeying Together in Christ has continued to be the focus of our work. We invite you to take a few moments to review the list below, which celebrates some of the ministry we shared together in 2025. **Journeying together in Christ as the South Dakota Synod, in 2025 we have:**

- Received **3 new first call** candidates, completed **18 Ministry Site Studies**, and extended **24 calls**.
- Ensured that nearly every congregation has a called pastor, interim pastor, Synod Authorized Minister, or lay leader to care for God's people (**thank you** to all of you who are helping out with area congregations and filling in!).
- Walked with **28 people** in various stages of **candidacy** in the SD Synod in 2025, with **18** others inquiring and in discernment.
- Completed Year 2 of the **\$1.13 million** "Journeying Together in Christ" grant and Year 1 of the **\$1.25 million** "Holy Playground Initiative" grant; both grants were awarded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.
- Welcomed Pr. Renae Boehmer as Director for the Holy Playground Initiative. Gave out subawards to **3 Neighbors in Solidarity communities** and have recruited a cohort of over **20 congregations** who will journey together in 2026 to create intergenerational opportunities for young children to fully engage in worship and prayer.
- Continued to support rural congregations through the work of Pr. Joel Pakan, **Director for Rural Ministry**, and 4 part-time **Rural Ambassadors**. In 2025, our Rural Ministry Ambassadors led or participated in over **100** worship services in over **50** South Dakota ELCA congregations. They also led, helped facilitate, or attended over **100** meetings in congregations, conferences, and the synod.
- Continued to promote Spirit-led growth and faith formation through our Pasque Learning Community (sdsynodlearns.org). In 2025, Pasque received over **6,500** unique site visits, with over **400** site accounts created and nearly **500** active enrollments in resources.
- Received a **\$50,000** CaSTLE Grant from Wartburg Seminary for 2025 and was awarded another **\$50,000** CaSTLE Grant for 2026 to support Rural Ambassadors, the Synod Authorized Minister retreat, and resource creation.
- Granted **\$129,231** in South Dakota Synod Educational Scholarship Awards, including the Fund for Leaders program.
- Distributed **\$96,263** through the Seminary Debt Reduction Program, including paying off the loan balances of 5 rostered leaders.
- Awarding **\$21,447** in Storm Micro Grants to help members and congregations recover from severe weather events and **\$10,500** in Micro Grants to the feeding ministries of our congregations and worshipping communities.
- Held a **Synod Assembly**, where we gathered as a community to conduct the business of the Synod.
- Hosted **Spring and Fall Theological Conferences**, where we continued to support the continuing education of our Rostered Ministers.
- Supported the congregations and ministries of the Synod through **visits by Synod staff**, both **digital** and **in-person**.
- Hosted **"Coffee with the Bishop"** for Retired Rostered Ministers, Spouses, Widows/Widowers.
- Hosted **"I've Been Elected to Council, Now What?"** to support congregational lay leaders and supported rostered lay leaders with regular in-person and virtual meetings, such as monthly rostered minister virtual check-ins, Synod Authorized Minister, Senior Pastor, and Interim Pastor check-ins, and a First Call and Senior Pastor Retreat.
- Supported the work of congregational office administrators with a **Synod Office Administrators Monthly Check-In**. **32** administrators have signed up to participate in these check-ins and to share resources in a dedicated Pasque course.
- Continued the work of the Rural Ministry Table, including awarding **\$80,127** in **Small Town and Rural (STAR)** grants.
- Received **\$108,033** in Churchwide grants for our Neighbors in Solidarity ministries.
- Awarded **\$53,038** from Endowment and Listen! Endowment funds to congregations, rostered, and lay leaders

Thank you for all the ways you have supported the ministry of the South Dakota Synod. Together, we continue to serve as the hands and feet of Christ, sharing Jesus' love and grace. As we step into 2026, we trust in God's guidance and look forward to walking this journey of faith together.

A Message from the South Dakota Synod Bishop



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in Christ's name! This year reminded me that the Church is always a blend of plumbing and poetry. The steady, unseen pipes that keep ministry flowing, and the surprising grace that breaks in when we least expect it.

And together, across South Dakota, you lived both.

Because of your faithfulness:

- The **\$1.1 million** Lilly grant continues to strengthen rural ministry through an expanding rural ambassador program and brings learning to your recliner at home through Pasque (<http://www.sdsynodlearns.org/>). Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs) experience intentional community with peers, and seminarians get to experience rural ministry through a paid immersion program.
- **1/4** of all SD Synod congregations have received a STAR (Small Town and Rural) grant through funds raised in SD for South Dakota congregations. These grants have helped to cover unexpected expenses across our synod.
- **\$1.3 million** supports children and families through the "Holy Playground" Initiative, reminding us that every child deserves to flourish.
- **Micro-grants** to alleviate hunger in our communities have been a tangible way to multiply Christ's compassion, feeding the stranger, stocking shelves, warming homes, and empowering congregations to respond in real time.
- **New pastors, deacons, and lay leaders** stepped into their callings, shaped by your encouragement and the Spirit's persistence.
- **Congregations in transition** found guidance, courage, and companions on the path.
- **Partnerships with Native, immigrant, and global communities** deepened our witness and expanded our imagination for what the body of Christ looks like.





South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

These are numbers and facts, yes, but behind every number is a story, a face, a kitchen table, a worshipping community, a moment when the Gospel became flesh again in South Dakota and across our world.

And that is the poetry.

Thank you for granting me the gift of serving another six-year term as your bishop. I receive it with humility and with deep gratitude for the trust you place in me. The work before us is honest and holy, and the Spirit is already ahead of us.

As we enter a new year, may we continue to be a synod that holds plumbing and poetry together, a church grounded enough to meet the needs of today, and bold enough to imagine what God can do next.

With gratitude and hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Hagmaier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

South Dakota Synod, ELCA Proposed Mission Plan

02/01/2025 - 01/31/2027

	Proposed 2026		Proposed 2026
Revenue			
Mission Support			
Undesignated Mission Support	\$ 1,741,590.00	Bishop	\$ 110,612.00
SD Synod Mission Support	\$ 25,000.00	Assoc/Director of Ev Mission	\$ 14,075.00
Total Mission Support-Congregations	\$ 1,766,590.00	Assoc-Mobility/Candidacy	\$ 91,952.00
Program Ministry Income		Executive Staff Benefits	\$ 75,211.00
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Income	\$ 45,000.00	Exec Travel/Continuing Ed	\$ 52,800.00
Total Program Ministry Income		Program Ministries	
Other Income		Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center-Director	\$ 98,488.00
DEM Support Staff Income	\$ 10,000.00	Youth Gathering Synod Coordinator	\$ -
Interest Income	\$ 65,000.00	Companion Synod Coordinator	\$ 21,542.00
SDS Travel LLC Income	\$ 5,000.00	Support Staff and Office	
Misc Income	\$ 1,000.00	Support Staff Salaries/Benefit	\$ 164,091.00
Total Other Income	\$ 81,000.00	Synod Office Expenses	\$ 102,850.00
Total Revenue	\$ 1,892,590.00	Augustana University Occupancy Fee	\$ 32,300.00
Expenses		Synod Committees	
Churchwide Ministries	41%	Synod Council	\$ 5,000.00
Churchwide Support	\$ 714,052.00	Support to Ministries Committee	\$ 3,100.00
Region III		Candidacy Committee	\$ 9,000.00
Region III Support	\$ 8,614.00	Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee	\$ 1,000.00
South Dakota Ministries		Companion Synods Ministry Committee	\$ 200.00
South Dakota Partnership Ministries		Evangelical Outreach Committee	\$ 1,500.00
SD Ministries Support	\$ 10,250.00	Mission & Outreach	
Luther Seminary	\$ 51,761.00	Mission Congregation Start-up	\$ 4,000.00
Church Colleges (ELCA Pool)	\$ 6,006.00	Mission Strategy Table	\$ 2,000.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 69,427.00	Contingency	\$ -
Campus Ministry	\$ 122,426.00	Total South Dakota Ministries	\$ 789,721.00
Lutheran Outdoors	\$ 34,625.00	Total Expenses	\$ 1,892,590.00
South Dakota Supported Ministries		Net Total	\$ -
Heartland Ephphatha	\$ 6,006.00		
Youth Ministry	\$ 2,400.00		
Campus Ministry Capital	\$ -		
Good Samaritan Society	\$ 1.00		
Chapel in the Hills	\$ 1.00		
Woyatan Lutheran/Wambli Ska	\$ 19,000.00		
Lutheran Planned Generosity	\$ 58,300.00		
Total Shared Ministries	\$ 380,203.00		