



2024

The Year in Review



UNION CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH



Online Copy

annual congregational meeting **Table of Contents**

| | |
|--|---------|
| Agenda..... | Page 4 |
| Opening Litany..... | Page 5 |
| 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes | Page 6 |
| Pastor’s Annual Message..... | Page 7 |
| President’s Annual Message | Page 8 |
| Joint Parish Council Minutes | Page 9 |
| Membership Data & Official Acts..... | Page 10 |
| Membership Roster | Page 11 |
| Cradle Roll Report..... | Page 12 |
| WELCA Report | Page 13 |
| Cemetery Report | Page 13 |
| Youth Committee Report | Page 14 |
| Joint Worship & Praise Committee Report..... | Page 15 |
| WELCA Financial Report | Page 18 |
| Sunday School Financial Report..... | Page 18 |
| Cemetery Board Financial Report..... | Page 19 |
| Youth Committee Financial Report..... | Page 20 |
| General Fund Inflows | Page 22 |
| Summary of Accounts | Page 23 |
| General Fund Outflows | Page 24 |
| Budgets..... | Page 28 |
| Elected & Appointed Positions | Page 31 |
| Committees | Page 32 |
| Snow Removal..... | Page 33 |
| Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Annual Letter | Page 35 |
| Bishop Constanze Hagmaier Annual Letter | Page 36 |
| Lutheran Planned Generosity Annual Report | Page 38 |
| Ministry Celebration, SD Synod | Page 39 |
| Mission Support Funds Ministry Annual Report | Page 40 |
| Journeying Together..... | Page 42 |
| Church on the Street Annual Report | Page 43 |
| Installation of Leaders..... | Page 44 |

annual congregational meeting **Agenda**

1. **Quorum Established** *Census Sheet—15% of voting members required (21)
2. **Opening Litany** Page 5
3. **Annual Meeting Minutes 01.28.24** (Connie Tentinger) Page 6
4. **Pastor’s Annual Message** (Pastor Nancy Eckels) Page 7
5. **President’s Annual Message** (David Ericson) Page 8
6. **2024 Joint Parish Council** Page 9
7. **Review of Membership Reports**
 - Official Acts (Pastor Nancy Eckels) Page 10
 - Membership Roster (Joni Noble) Page 11
8. **Review of Reports**
 - Cradle Roll (Felicia Miller) Page 12
 - WELCA Report (Carol Forslund) Page 13
 - Cemetery Report (Bruce Ericson) Page 13
 - Youth Committee Report (Sherri McKee) Page 14
 - Worship & Praise Committee (Joni Noble) Page 15
9. **Review of Financial Reports**
 - WELCA Financial (Carol Forslund) Page 18
 - Sunday School Financial (Sherri McKee) Page 18
 - Cemetery Financial (Brad Vreugdenhil) Page 19
 - Youth Committee Financial (Sherri McKee) Page 20
10. **Review of Church Financial Reports**
 - General Fund Inflows (April Sommervold) Page 22
 - Summary of Accounts (Sherri McKee) Page 23
 - General Fund (Sherri McKee) Page 24
 - Budget (Sherri McKee) Page 28
11. **Benevolence Amount Determined** *Vote required
12. **Acceptance of the 2025 Budget** *Vote required
13. **Old Business**
14. **New Business**
 - Reduction of council representatives *Vote required
15. **2026 Meeting Date & Time Established:** January 25, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.
16. **Installation of Leadership** (Pastor Nancy) Page 44
15. **Closing Prayer/Table Prayer** (Pastor Nancy)
16. **Adjournment**

*Confident in God's generosity and gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us praise God and give thanks.*

God, we praise you and give you thanks

You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.

We praise you for the food that nourishes us.

You rescued people from slavery.

We praise you for freedom.

You gave us prophets to correct, rebuke, and encourage us.

We bless you for your justice and mercy.

You gave us your Son, Jesus, to love, redeem, and save us.

We praise you for his death and resurrection.

You gave us your Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and Comforter.

We bless you for the gifts of every tribe and nation.

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift.

Commission us again to be your servant people.

Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:

**Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

Send us in your love and mercy,

That the world may know you and praise you.

Let us pray. Gracious God,

You are the giver of every good gift.

**Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name,
that we might be a blessing to others.**

**In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Amen.

annual congregational meeting **Official Minutes**
January 28, 2024

President David Ericson noted that a quorum (31) was established and called the meeting to order.

Pastor Nancy Eckels lead with the opening Litany.

The reports from all organizations in the church are listed in the booklet and each leader touched on their report.

Pastor Nancy wanted all to know how happy she is to have been selected to be our new Pastor. She thanked Joni for such a well put together report booklet! A big thank you to all and she really likes the way we all work so well together.

The Budget was discussed President Dave noted that our budget was a bit higher as we put in extra for the 150th Anniversary and putting in some new landscaping where we had to tear out some bushes. Karen McCrill made a motion to accept the budget and 2nd by Mary Jean Frerichs. MC.

Benevolence (\$2700.00) was discussed April Sommervold made a motion to accept the new amount and Dan Haeder seconded it. MC.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Dwight Fickbohm brought up should our council be made smaller? President Dave said that it would have to be reviewed and will again be discussed through our council.

Installation of leadership was done by Pastor Nancy.

Next Annual meeting will be January 26, 2025

Sherri McKee made a motion to adjourn and Tom Tentinger seconded it. MC.

Connie Tentinger
Council Secretary

Dear Friends,

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

Annual meetings for congregations in the ELCA roll around during the season of Epiphany. It occurred to me that this is an appropriate season for a meeting like this to occur. Epiphany is the day set aside to commemorate the Magi's journey to visit the newborn king Jesus. Guided by the light of a star as their global positioning satellite, the Magi from the east searched for and found the child Jesus, presented their gifts and worshiped him. In the season of Epiphany we celebrate the manifestation of Christ into the world. Curiously, the dictionary definition of the word epiphany also includes “a sudden insight into something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience.”¹

There is certainly nothing commonplace or simple about the revelation of Jesus as the long-awaited Savior to the Magi, who were Gentiles no less, but the work of the church at annual meetings might seem ordinary to us. We may not categorize what we do as revelatory, but it is. The light that shined in the darkness, guiding the Magi to the long-awaited Messiah, is now the light that our congregation, along with the whole church of Christ, shines into the lives and hearts of others.

The pages of this report will shine light on

the many ways this talented and committed congregation has revealed Christ to others or have had opportunities to discover something about Jesus or our relationship with him we had not discovered before.

We celebrated a huge milestone last year at the 150th Anniversary. Union Creek's anniversary arrived close on the heels of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This was a time of great excitement, also struggle and challenge, which is always the way God's people experience the moving of the Holy Spirit. Through joys and challenges and God's unbelievable grace through it all, we enter another blessed year of ministry together.

May this annual meeting be an affirmation of our calling as a community of faith. May we see Christ revealed in our relationships with one another and to the world through the ministries we care about, no matter how large or small, breathtaking, or ordinary. Each act of faith or service offered as a gift to God shines light in a world filled with darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. This day is an opportunity to celebrate that light and recommit to our mission and ministry in the world. Let us pray.

Dear Jesus,

You are the Light revealed. How amazing it is that you have also called us light and you have asked us to shine that light for the sake of the world! Make us living epiphanies, revealing the Christ-light through our words and our actions and may we learn to see that same light in others. Amen.

May God bless and keep you,

Pastor Nancy Eckels

¹<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/epiphany?>

Union Creek Lutheran Church
Congregation:

Writing this letter is a little bittersweet, as it will be my last letter as the president of the council for a while. I have served this congregation over the past 6 years and 4 of them as president. The most important thing that I learned in this time is at the election of officers try not to be there, like I was the first two years of my first term. I say that jokingly of course, but I was elected president in an impromptu meeting after church and Lance Johnson nominated me as president, and the rest is history.

Over my tenure our church has been met with challenges and celebrations. We experienced a worldwide pandemic that changed the landscape of gatherings, a pastor leaving, and we suffered the loss of one of the best organist a congregation could ask for.

Even with those challenges we had a lot of reasons to celebrate. First we welcomed Pastor Nancy, who has been a wonderful addition to our congregation. We also celebrated our 150th celebration this past year, and what a celebration it was. Even though we have not been able to fill Donna's shoes full time, the Lord provides and between the talents within the congregation and some outside assistance we have always had music to sing to the Lord.

2024 was another great year for Union Creek. Aside from the wonderful celebration of the past 150 years that we had in September, we have also seen a growth in our youth and their ministries.

The number of lives that our youth benefit is endless, and even though our group may be small, it is very dedicated to moving in one direction. The new initiative that has been rolled out for the noisy offering will spread our reach even further to people who are in need.

Pastor Nancy has really been hitting her stride and spreading her talents all throughout the congregation. She has brought several new ideas to the table, some that she has implemented like the joint congregation campout. Others we will see come to life in 2025 like the joint congregation outdoor worship service.

I was not involved in the process the last time that we were looking for a minister, but I would say the bond between Union Creek and Roseni grew stronger in our search for Pastor Nancy and will be fortified for the future.

As I step down from my post as the president of the congregation, I am sure of two things. First, that the elected officials will be able to build on the momentum that we have going for us. Attendance has remained strong, and I do not see that changing soon. Secondly the future is bright for Union Creek. No matter what challenges come our way as a congregation we will meet them head on, we will draw on the resolve of our founders, and work together to develop a solution for any situation that we meet.

David Ericson, Council President

2024 Parish Council Meeting
 Roseni Lutheran Church
 Tuesday, November 26, 2024 7:00 PM

Council members present were Tommy Merriman, Patti Ericson, Paulette Vanderham, and Sherri McKee. Pastor Nancy opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Vanderham made a motion to accept the minutes, McKee seconded and the motion carried.

The slate of officers for 2025 was proposed as follows: Tommy Merriman, president; Paulette Vanderham, vice-president; Sherri McKee, secretary, in a motion made by Vanderham, seconded by Ericson and the motion carried.

Discussions: two parish council meetings yearly and joint outdoor worship service.

A joint worship service to celebrate Ash Wednesday will be held March 5, 2025 at 7PM at Roseni.

Merriman presented a 2025 Roseni/Union Creek Salary Package.

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Base Salary | \$48,726.30 |
| Value of Parsonage (30% of Base Salary)..... | 14,617.89 |
| Two-Point Parish | 2,000.00 |
| FICA Reimbursement | 4,998.83 |
| Housing Equity | 1,800.00 |
| ELCA Pension | 7,034.30 |
| Disability/Other..... | 351.72 |
| Total 2025 Compensation & Benefits..... | \$79,529.04 |

Continuing Education (\$800), Professional Expenses (\$300) and Mileage Reimbursement (\$6,000), plus 30 days of vacation including 6 Sundays.

Vanderham moved to accept the 2025 Total Salary Package as proposed, Ericson seconded, and the motion carried. The proposed Total Salary Package will be presented to each church budget committee for review. The 2025 proposed Total Compensation and Benefits Package will be distributed to each congregation at their respective Annual Meetings in January.

The Synod recommends using the 2025 IRS Standard Mileage Rate of 70 cents per mile.

The next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 7PM at Union Creek. A motion to adjourn was made by Vanderham, seconded by Ericson, and the motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sherri McKee, Sec.

statistical report **Membership Data & Official Acts**

| * Total = Total of all Baptized / Confirmed * Confirmed = Full voting membership only | Total | | Confirmed | |
|--|--------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| Membership 01.01.24 | | 191 | | 141 |
| 1 Members Received | | | | |
| a. Baptism (15 years & younger) | 0 | | 0 | |
| b. Baptism (16 years & older) | 0 | | 0 | |
| c. Baptized Youth Confirmed | 0 | | 0 | |
| d. Affirmation of Faith | 0 | | 0 | |
| e. ELCA Transfers | 2 | | 2 | |
| f. Non-ELCA Church Transfers | 0 | | 0 | |
| g. Non-Lutheran Church Transfers | 0 | | 0 | |
| h. Statistical Adjustment | 0 | | 0 | |
| Total Members Received | | +2 | | +2 |
| 2 Members Removed | | | | |
| a. Death | 0 | | 0 | |
| b. ELCA Transfers | (3) | | (1) | |
| c. Non-ELCA Church Transfers | (1) | | (1) | |
| d. Non-Lutheran Church Transfers | 0 | | 0 | |
| e. Statistical Adjustment | (1) | | (1) | |
| Total Members Removed | -5 | | -3 | |
| Membership 12.31.24 | | 188 | | 140 |

- 1e Garry Jacobson & Cheryl Jacobson
- 2b Brittney Callender, *Collin Callender, *Liam Callender (*Baptized Only)
- 2c Tyler Vruogdenhil
- 2e Erica Kjar

OFFICIAL ACTS (Pastor Nancy Eckels)

Weddings

Chad Harvey & Sarah Faulkner (non members, 12.14.24)

Average attendance at Sunday Services: 37

FULL MEMBERS

BARKER, ROY
 BUNDY, CORBIN
 BUNDY, JIM
 BUNDY, MISSY
 BUNDY, TANNER
 BYE, AMANDA

CALENTINE, CARISSA
 CAUTHEN, KATIE
 COYLE, LACI
 COYLE, RYAN

DELPERDANG, ALLISON
 DENNISON, KELLEY
 DEWIT, TESSA
 DOTY, CHRISTOPHER
 DOTY, CRAIG
 DOTY, DENE
 DOTY, JEAN
 DOTY, KEITH
 DOTY, KYLE

ENDELMAN, CANDICE
 ENDELMAN, RACHEL
 ENDELMAN, TRAVIS
 ERICSON, BRUCE
 ERICSON, CHAD
 ERICSON, DAMIEN
 ERICSON, DAVID
 ERICSON, GENE
 ERICSON, KENDRA
 ERICSON, PATTI
 ERICSON, PAYTON
 ERICSON, RAIDEN
 ERICSON, RILEY
 ERICSON, RONI

FICKBOHM, DWIGHT
 FICKBOHM, NICK
 FICKBOHM, SHERRY
 FORSLUND, CAROL
 FORSLUND, DUANE
 FRERICHS, MARY JEAN

GROON, BETHANY
 GROON, KEVIN
 GROON, NATHAN
 GROON, PAULETTE

HAEDER, DAN
 HAIR, BETTY
 HARVEY, AARON
 HEDEBY, JOANN
 HEEREN, DEB
 HEEREN, MARILYN
 HEEREN, ROBIN

HEEREN, ZOE
 HITZEMANN, ELEANOR
 HOHENSTEIN, JORDAN
 HOHENSTEIN, MIKE
 HOHENSTEIN, VAL
 HUGHES, BRITTANY

JACOBSON, COOPER
 JACOBSON, DARREN
 JACOBSON, GARRY
 JACOBSON, JESSICA
 JACOBSON, CHERYL
 JOHNSON, BETSY ANN
 JOHNSON, DARIN
 JOHNSON, LANCE
 JOHNSON, NOLAN

KENEFICK, JESSICA
 KENEFICK, KYLE
 KINCAID, HARRY
 KJAR, ANNIE JO
 KJAR, ELIZA
 KJAR, KEITH
 KJOSE, BECKY
 KJOSE, IAN
 KJOSE, KADE
 KJOSE, RANDY
 KLEMME, BRUCE

McCRILL, GARY
 McCRILL, JUSTIN
 McCRILL, KAREN
 McCRILL, KAYLA
 McCRILL, MARSHALL
 McKEE, KRISTAL
 McKEE, NICHOLAS
 McKEE, SHERRI
 MACEDO, ALLIE
 MILLER, EMILY
 MILLER, FELICIA
 MILLER, KIRK
 MINOR, JESSICA
 MOCKLER, WYNETTE
 MOREHEAD, JADE

NOBLE, JONI
 NOHAVA, MALINDA

PARROTT, KRISTEN
 PODZIMEK, HEATHER
 PODZIMEK, TOM

RICE, DIANE
 RICE, TRAVIC
 ROBINSON, EMMA
 ROBINSON, JASON

ROBINSON, LETITIA
 ROBINSON, MARLEIGH
 ROBINSON, TRAVIS
 RUHLAND, MIC
 RUHLAND, NANCY
 RUHLAND, NANCY
 RUHLAND, TRENT
 RUNCIE, LAKIN

SIEMERS, CANDI
 SIEMERS, GLORIA
 SIEMERS, RON, JR
 SIEMERS, RON, SR
 SALOUM, AMBER
 SOMMERVOLD, ALAN
 SOMMERVOLD, APRIL
 SWANSON, EUGENE
 SWANSON, JULIA
 SWANSON, VERDELL
 SWIFT, ELAINE

TENTINGER, CONNIE
 TENTINGER, JANET
 TENTINGER, JASON
 TENTINGER, JEREMY
 TENTINGER, JOSEPH
 TENTINGER, CRYSTAL
 TENTINGER, ROBERT
 TENTINGER, ROELY
 TENTINGER, TOM

VAN DE WIELE, VANESSA
 VANDERHAM, PAULETTE
 VANDERHAM, TIM
 VANDERHAM, TRACY
 VAN ROEKEL, LESLIE
 VAN WYK, JOHNNY
 VAN WYK, SELENE
 VAN WYK, TRISTAN
 VREUGDENHIL, BRAD
 VREUGDENHIL, DEB
 WIELENGA, HOLLY JO
 WILKENS, WARREN

TOTAL = 140

BAPTIZED ONLY

BARKER, ROBIN
 BARKER, ROYHON
 BARKER, TORINA
 BARKER, TREYSHAWN

COYLE, CARTER
 COYLE, ELISE

DAVIES, ADALIA
 DEWIT, ELOISE
 DEWIT, ROMAN
 DOTY, AMERY
 DOTY, CALVIN
 DOTY, SIENNA
 DOTY, BRAYLON
 DOTY, JAXON
 DOTY, MOXON
 DOTY, OWEN

EDEN, ALYSSA
 EDEN, ASHTON
 ENDELMAN, GAGE
 ERICSON, HENRY
 ERICSON, RIGGS

JACOBSON, BERKLIE
 JACOBSON, KARSTON
 JUDD, ETHAN

KENEFICK, EVERLEE
 KENEFICK, KARSON
 KJOSE, ESTHER
 KJOSE, MATHIAS
 KJOSE, OLIVIA
 KLEMME, ALEXIS

McCRILL, BRIAR
 McKEE, RYLAND
 McKEE, WAYLEN
 MINOR, AYDEN

PARROTT, BRANDON
 PARROTT, ALEX
 PODZIMEK, BELLA
 PODZIMEK, TJ

ROBERTSON, BETH
 ROBINSON, AMELIA
 RUHLAND, JAYCE
 RUHLAND, LILLY

SALOUM, ELENA
 SALOUM, CALVIN
 SIEMERS, SAM
 SWANSON, SAMUEL

VOEGELI, TUFF
 VOEGELI, WYLDE

TOTAL = 48

The following children remain on the Cradle Roll

Calvin Patrick Doty
Birthdate: 02.01.22 / Baptized 07.02.22
Son of Craig & Alexys Doty

Henry Ray Ericson
Birthdate: 09.29.22 / Baptized 11.14.22
Son of David & Roni Ericson

Karson Allen Kenefick
Birthdate: 07.07.23 / Baptized 08.13.23
Son of Kyle and Jessica Kenefick

**The following children turned 3 years of age
and were removed from the Cradle Roll in 2024**

Liam Kenneth Callender
Birthdate: 06.03.21 / Baptized: 07.18.21
Son of Alan & Brittney Callender

Everlee Jean Kenefick
Birthdate: 08.13.21 / Baptized: 10.10.21
Daughter of Kyle & Jessica Kenefick

Riggs David Ericson
Birthdate: 06.26.21 / Baptized: 11.14.21
Son of David & Roni Ericson

Esther Shea Kjose
Birthdate: 06.19.21 / Baptized: 11.27.21
Daughter of Kade & Anna Kjose

Olivia Paige Kjose
Birthdate: 09.08.21 / Baptized: 11.27.21
Daughter of Ian & Taylor Kjose

Wooden cradles like those of years past are used on the display in the sanctuary.

As per Council's decision, children are placed on the Cradle Roll at the time of baptism.

Children are removed from the Cradle Roll at 3 years of age.

*Parents and their children receive a monthly newsletter
that includes scripture, advice, and ideas for their children.*

— Submitted by Felicia Miller

Union Creek WELCA met monthly for Bible study. Pastor Nancy led each lesson from the Gather Magazine.

The fall sale was held on the Friday evening after Thanksgiving. We thank David Ericson for being our auctioneer again this year. The auction brought in \$4,875.00. Thanks to everyone who brought items to sell and also thanks to everyone who bid on the items. Thank you to everyone for a fun time.

In December we enjoyed our Christmas luncheon. We decided to purchase gifts for the elderly and shut-ins.

The ladies dispersed generous mission checks to several different agencies.

—Submitted by Carol Forslund

annual report Cemetery Board

There was one burial in 2024.
Nelda Hultgren

Kyle Paulson did the mowing again this year.
The south gate on the west side was repainted.
A new gate was placed on the north entrance.
The Cemetery Board donated money to the 150th Anniversary.
We sprayed again in the fall.
All is good with the cemetery.

— Submitted by Bruce Ericson

January

Sub Sandwich Sale (300 sandwiches)
Noisy Offering - \$452 to A-W After-Prom Breakfast

February

Souper Bowl of Caring - \$367 to Siouxland Soup Kitchen
Lenten Suppers (2)
Noisy Offering - \$212 to World Hunger

March

Lenten Suppers (3)
Seder Supper (31 people)
Easter Breakfast (60 people)
Noisy Offering - \$175 to Church on the Street

April

Noisy Offering - \$422 to Heifer International

May

Noisy Offering - \$87 to Lutherans Outdoors Wish List

June

Confirmation Camp (Ryland McKee)
Noisy Offering – \$144 to Akron Care Center Activity Dept.

July

National Youth Gathering in New Orleans (Patti Ericson, Marleigh Robinson)
Noisy Offering - \$43 to Union Creek VBS

August

Vacation Bible School (33 kids)
1.2.3 NeSoDak Camp (Letitia and Amelia Robinson, Aria Trobaugh)
Noisy Offering - \$106 to Akron Utilities

September

Beverage Stand and T-Shirt Sales at 150th Celebration
Sunday School Rally Day Party
Parish Campout at Roseni
Noisy Offering - \$126 to Alcester Backpack Program

October

Halloween Party at the Tentinger Barn
Noisy Offering - \$50 Lutherans Outdoors Campership

November

Noisy Offering – \$200 to Safe Place Women's Shelter

December

Christmas Pageant
Cookie Walk
Advent Suppers (3)
Noisy Offering - \$ 112Alcester Utilities

—Submitted by Sherri McKee

Considering the Church seasons, scriptures, festivals, secular holidays, equipped with three or four different hymnals, and copies of *Sundays and Seasons* (a worship planner's road map), this committee chooses hymns, worship music, worship texts, and plans pulpit supply when necessary. Each meeting includes Pastor Nancy, two or three Roseni delegates, and Paulette Groom and Joni Noble from Union Creek.

In addition, Joni coordinates the organists' schedules for Union Creek.

This year, with the help of memorial funds, we added an external speaker for the organ which has helped with sound distribution throughout the sanctuary.

2024 Pulpit Supply:

- ◆ Pastor April Peterson 01.07.24
- ◆ Pastor April Peterson 03.03.24
- ◆ Pastor April Peterson 05.26.24
- ◆ Pastor April Peterson 07.07.24
- ◆ Todd Hakl 08.25.24
- ◆ Todd Hakl 12.27.24

2024 Organists

We are so grateful for these musicians who share their incredible talents with us each week.

- ◆ Naomi Graves
- ◆ Mike Pedersen
- ◆ Marie Lykken
- ◆ Joni Noble

Ash Wednesday: Union Creek hosted the joint Ash Wednesday service with Roseni on February 14th.

2024 Mid-Week Lenten Series

This year's series, The Hills of Lent, was from Creative Communication for the Parish.

Week One: Mount Sinai

Week Two: Mount Carmel

Week Three: Mount Zion

Week Four: Mount of Olives

Week Five: Mount Calvary

Thank you to Brad Vreugdenhil, Deb Vreugdenhil, Lance Johnson, Dan Haeder, Waylon McKee, Ryland McKee, Elijah Graves, Marleigh Robinson, Jason Robinson, and Joni Noble for helping with the homilies each week.

Seder Meal: The Annual Seder Meal was held Thursday, March 28th with a full house.

Palm Sunday: The Sunday School children processed waving palm branches at the beginning of the service.

Easter: Our 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast held on Sunday, March 31st was well attended. Thank you to the Youth for preparing the breakfast.

Holy Humor Sunday: In 2024 we celebrated our first Holy Humor Sunday with Pastor Nancy. Lutherans are very good at laughing at themselves so this was a fun service!

150th Anniversary: We celebrated our 150th anniversary September 8-9, 2024. A total of 168 people attended morning worship and about 212 joined us for lunch! There was a bridal program and history program, along with many other events throughout the two days. Hats off to our Anniversary Committee for a job well done!

(Continued on page 16)

All Saints Sunday: Following tradition, we celebrated the lives of those loved ones who left us this year. On November 3rd, candles were lit by family members in remembrance of Mike Harvey, Donna Swanson, and Nelda Hultgren. The congregation was also welcomed to light their own candles honoring those saints who have gone before us in glory.

Reformation Sunday: Normally we would celebrate Confirmation on this Sunday. This year, after talks between Council and Pastor Nancy, it was decided Confirmation will be moved to April 27, 2025.

Hangin' of the Greens: This year we celebrated "Our Christmas Traditions" on Sunday, December 1st, with everyone sharing holiday memories from Union Creek and their own families as we decorated and lit up the sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who shared their memories of special holiday traditions.

2024 Mid-Week Advent Services "The Gifts of Advent"

The Advent service series from Sundays and Seasons featured a time of scripture meditation.

A medieval Christian practice called Florlegia (in Latin this means "gathering flowers") is the act of gathering favorite words and phrases from a text, like gathering flowers into a bouquet. In the seventh century, a monk in France named Defensor called his gathering of favorite words and phrases his Book of Sparklets. During Advent, we collected our own sparklets!

Week One: The Gift of Patience

Week Two: The Gifts of Speech and Silence
Week Three: The Gift of Hope

Sunday School Program: The Sunday School, under the direction of Angela Ericson and Patti Ericson presented their Christmas program Sunday, December 8th during worship.

Christmas Eve: We held our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service with good attendance.

— Submitted by Joni Noble

This page is left blank intentionally

financial report **WELCA**

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Balance 01.01.24 | | \$9,494.36 |
| Income | | |
| Offerings | 257.00 | |
| Interest | 9.11 | |
| Fall Sale | 4,872.00 | |
| Total Income | | \$5,141.11 |
| Expenses | | |
| Gather Magazine | (139.65) | |
| April Sommervold | (20.00) | |
| Letitia Robinson (shower cupcakes) | (20.00) | |
| April Sommervold (paraments) | (763.00) | |
| April Sommervold (Christmas gifts) | (91.00) | |
| WELCA | (300.00) | |
| Lutheran Social Services | (300.00) | |
| Sioux Falls Gospel Mission | (300.00) | |
| Mike Pedersen—Nora Store | (300.00) | |
| St. Dymas of South Dakota | (300.00) | |
| Sioux City Gospel Mission | (300.00) | |
| Church on the Street | (300.00) | |
| Feeding South Dakota | (300.00) | |
| Food Bank of Siouxland | (300.00) | |
| ELCA World Hunger | (300.00) | |
| Total Expenses | | (\$4,033.65) |
| Balance 12.31.24 | | \$10,601.82 |

—Submitted by Carol Forslund

financial report **Sunday School**

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Balance 12.31.23 | | \$169.38 |
| Income | | |
| Birthday Bank | | 20.95 |
| Total Income | | 60.93 |
| Balance 12.31.24 | | \$190.63 |

— Submitted by Sherri McKee

Checking Account

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Balance 01.01.24 | | \$15.21 |
| Income | | |
| Transfer from Investment Account | | 10,355.00 |
| Expenses | | |
| Insurance | (265.00) | |
| Labor (Mowing) | (4,600.00) | |
| Repairs & Maintenance | (2,185.58) | |
| State of South Dakota | (10.00) | |
| New North Gates | (1,031.23) | |
| Union Creek Church (150th Ann.) | (2,000.00) | |
| C&C Lawn Care (Broadleaf/Fert) | (275.00) | |
| Total Expenses | | (10,366.81) |
| Balance 12.31.24 | | \$3.40 |

Perpetual Care Account (*Savings Account*)

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Balance 01.01.24 | | \$0.50 |
| Interest Income | | 0.00 |
| Perpetual Care CD | | 11,800.00 |
| Balance 12.31.24 | | \$11,800.50 |

General Fund (*Investment Account*)

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------|
| Balance 01.01.24 | | \$6,622.96 |
| Income | | |
| Cash Rent | 10,367.00 | |
| CVA Coop (Equity Redemption) | 366.92 | |
| Interest on CD | 268.69 | |
| CD Matured | 5,678.62 | |
| Wass Funeral Home (Nelda Hultgren) | 25.00 | |
| Interest on Account | 8.64 | |
| Total Income | | 16,714.87 |
| Debits | | |
| Transfer to Checking Account | (10,355.00) | |
| New CD | (11,000.00) | |
| Total Debits | | (21,355.00) |
| Balance 12.31.24 (Investment Account) | | \$1,982.83 |

General Fund (*CDs*)

| | | |
|--|------------|---------------------|
| General Fund CD | 131,121.16 | |
| New General Fund CD | 11,000.00 | |
| Balance 12.31.24 (Total General Fund) | | \$144,103.99 |

| | | Expenses | Income |
|---|-------------------|------------|----------|
| Balance 12.31.23 | \$7,856.16 | | |
| Advent Suppers Income | | | \$91.29 |
| Beverage Sales at 150th Celebration | | | \$645.00 |
| Birthday Jar | | | \$24.43 |
| Christmas Pageant Candy | | \$72.00 | |
| Cookie Walk Expense | | \$40.97 | |
| Cookie Walk Income | | | \$300.00 |
| Deposit Slips | | \$32.89 | |
| Donation | | | \$183.62 |
| Donation from the Church | | | \$200.00 |
| Easter Breakfast Expense | | \$82.56 | |
| Easter Breakfast Income | | | \$180.00 |
| Fall Sale Income - 2023 & 2024 | | | \$340.00 |
| Farmers Market Donation | | | \$100.00 |
| Flood Relief Donation | | \$250.00 | |
| Interest | | | \$7.87 |
| Lenten Suppers Income | | | \$373.00 |
| National Youth Gathering Expense | | \$2,537.17 | |
| Noisy Offering Outflows | | | |
| Jan - A-W After-Prom Breakfast | | \$452.00 | |
| Feb - World Hunger - sent in during 2024 | | | |
| Mar - Church on the Street | | \$175.00 | |
| Apr - Heifer International | | \$422.00 | |
| May - LOSD Wish List | | \$87.00 | |
| Jun - Akron Care Center Activity Dept | | \$144.00 | |
| Aug - Akron Anonymous Utilities Donation | | \$106.00 | |
| Sep - Alcester Backpack Program | | \$126.00 | |
| Oct - LOSD Campership Assistance | | \$50.00 | |
| Nov - Safe Place Women's Shelter | | \$200.00 | |
| Dec - Alcester Anonymous Utilities Donation | | \$112.00 | |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Noisy Offering Inflows | | | |
| Jan - A-W After-Prom Breakfast | | | \$226.00 |
| Feb - World Hunger | | | 105.67 |
| Mar - Church on the Street | | | \$86.80 |
| Apr - Heifer International | | | \$211.04 |
| May - LOSD Wish List | | | \$43.43 |
| Jun - Akron Care Center Activity Dept | | | \$72.12 |
| Jul - Union Creek VBS | | | \$43.06 |
| Aug - Akron Anonymous Utilities Donation | | | \$53.29 |
| Sep - Alcester Backpack Program | | | \$63.06 |
| Oct - LOSD Campership Assistance | | | \$20.90 |
| Nov - SafePlace Women's Shelter | | | \$94.52 |
| Dec - Alcester Anonymous Utilities Donation | | | \$56.05 |
| Nora Store Donation | | \$250.00 | |
| Root Beer Float Sales | | | \$215.00 |
| SD Humanities Speaker-Reimburse from Church | | | \$50.00 |
| Seder Supper Expense | | \$222.47 | |
| Souper Bowl of Caring Income | | | \$141.64 |
| Souper Bowl of Caring Expense 2023 & 2024 | | \$367.00 | |
| Sub Sandwiches Income | | | \$1,862.00 |
| Sub Sandwiches Expense | | \$989.62 | |
| Thrivent Income | | | \$1,030.00 |
| T-shirts Expense | | \$2,059.20 | |
| T-shirts Income | | | \$2,090.00 |
| VBS Expense | | \$1,199.05 | |
| VBS Hudson Church Reimbursement 2023 | | | \$367.00 |
| VBS Income | | | \$550.80 |
| VBS Mission Expense | | \$434.08 | |
| VBS Mission Income | | | \$433.22 |
| Totals | | \$10,411.01 | \$10,260.81 |
| Balance 12.31.24 | \$7,705.96 | | |

– Submitted by Sherri McKee, Chairperson

2024

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Offerings | \$63,269.00 |
| Interest | 33.87 |
| Dividends..... | 267.61 |
| Farm Land Rent | 7,645.00 |
| Thrivent Matching Funds | 1,029.00 |
| Flowers | 280.00 |
| Meals (150th Anniversary)..... | 3,824.00 |
| Merchandise (150th Anniversary) | 4,895.00 |
| Gift from Cemetery (150th Anniversary)..... | 2,000.00 |
| Transfer from Memorial Fund..... | 983.35 |
| <i>(Fire safe filing cabinet)</i> | |
| Transfer from Building Fund..... | 3,119.03 |
| <i>(Glass repair, south window)</i> | |
| TOTAL INFLOWS | \$87,345.86 |

— Submitted by April Sommervold, Financial Secretary

financial report **Summary of Accounts**

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | Balance 12.31.23 | \$24,410.14 |
| | Inflows | 83,243.48 |
| | Transfer from Memorial | 983.35 |
| | Transfer from Building | 3,119.03 |
| | Transfer to Youth | -1080.00 |
| | Expenses | -95,811.97 |
| | Balance 12.31.24 | \$14,864.03 |

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Memorial Fund | Balance 12.31.23 | \$13,739.90 |
| | Inflows | 75.00 |
| | Interest | 219.64 |
| | Transfer to General | -983.35 |
| | Balance 12.31.24 | \$13,051.19 |

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Building Fund | Balance 12.31.23 | \$6,631.58 |
| | Inflows | 0.00 |
| | Interest | 65.09 |
| | Transfer to General | -3,119.03 |
| | Balance 12.31.24 | \$3,577.64 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Peoples Bank CD 1 | Balance 12.31.23 | \$37,718.72 |
| 11 Month 4.75 % Matures 4.14.25 | Interest | 1,504.25 |
| | Balance 12.31.24 | \$39,222.97 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Peoples Bank CD 5 | Balance 12.31.23 | \$24,268.46 |
| 30 Month 3.50 % Matures 6.28.25 | Interest | 856.85 |
| | Balance 12.31.24 | \$25,125.31 |

— Submitted by Sherri McKee, Treasurer

financial report **General Fund**

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Inflows | \$87,345.86 | | |
| Offerings | | \$63,269.00 | |
| 150th Merchandise | | \$4,895.00 | |
| 150th Meals | | \$3,824.00 | |
| 150th Donation | | \$2,000.00 | |
| Interest Earned | | \$33.87 | |
| Dividend | | \$267.61 | |
| Farm Land Rent | | \$7,645.00 | |
| Thrivent | | \$1,029.00 | |
| Flowers | | \$280.00 | |
| Transfer from Building | | \$3,119.03 | |
| Transfer from Memorial | | \$983.35 | |
| | | | |
| Outflows | -\$96,891.97 | | |
| Church Staff | | \$34,148.29 | |
| Pastor | | | \$20,622.49 |
| Secretary | | | \$7,200.00 |
| Organist | | | \$4,875.00 |
| Employee Gifts | | | \$900.00 |
| Soc Sec Match Secretary | | | \$550.80 |
| Pastor Benefits | | \$13,305.44 | |
| ELCA Pension Benefits | | | \$5,378.46 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | | | \$1,520.16 |
| Continuing Education | | | \$156.67 |
| Parsonage Electric | | | \$578.08 |
| Parsonage Internet | | | \$240.00 |
| Parsonage Propane | | | \$787.27 |
| Parsonage Rent | | | \$4,320.00 |
| Parsonage Water | | | \$324.80 |
| Benevolences | | | \$2,700.00 |

| | | | |
|--|--|-------------------|------------|
| Church Utilities | | \$9,681.36 | |
| Electric | | | \$1,691.00 |
| Propane | | | \$2,986.33 |
| Rural Water | | | \$647.70 |
| Garbage | | | \$342.00 |
| Internet | | | \$871.08 |
| Cleaning | | | \$2,100.00 |
| Pest Control | | | \$1,043.25 |
| Supplies | | \$4,302.24 | |
| Office | | | \$1,947.99 |
| Worship | | | \$566.97 |
| Kitchen | | | \$1,140.20 |
| Sunday School | | | \$65.59 |
| Postage | | | \$581.49 |
| Subscriptions | | \$107.97 | |
| Christ in our Home | | | \$107.97 |
| Maintenance | | \$9,562.23 | |
| Church | | | \$5,948.33 |
| Organ/Piano | | | \$1,665.96 |
| Grounds | | | \$1,947.94 |
| New Equipment & Furnishings | | \$983.61 | |
| Safe | | | \$983.61 |
| Insurance | | \$2,514.00 | |
| Property/Liability | | | \$2,514.00 |
| Meetings/Conferences | | \$350.00 | |
| Synod Meeting | | | \$350.00 |
| Missions | | \$1,072.00 | |
| Luther Center | | | \$200.00 |
| Lutheran Outdoors | | | \$200.00 |
| World Hunger | | | \$272.00 |
| Union Creek VBS | | | \$200.00 |
| Church on the Street | | | \$200.00 |
| Benevolences | | \$2,700.00 | |
| Benevolences | | | \$2,700.00 |

financial report **General Fund (Cont.)**

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Miscellaneous | | \$17,084.83 | |
| Post Office Box Rent | | | \$74.00 |
| Memory Garden | | | \$2,562.31 |
| Flood Relief Donations | | | \$1,000.00 |
| SD Non-Profit Report | | | \$10.00 |
| SE SD Conference Dues | | | \$97.50 |
| Confirmation | | | \$39.10 |
| Accounting | | | \$15.93 |
| Anniversary Plaque | | | \$460.00 |
| Anniversary Ornaments | | | \$1,843.17 |
| Anniversary Decorations | | | \$134.97 |
| Anniversary Tent | | | \$1,255.23 |
| Anniversary Central Catering | | | \$3,121.00 |
| Anniversary Advertising | | | \$221.32 |
| Anniversary Pork Supper | | | \$200.00 |
| Anniversary Cakes | | | \$200.00 |
| Anniversary Flyers/Meal Tickets | | | \$136.68 |
| Anniversary Cookbooks | | | \$1,576.67 |
| Anniversary History Books | | | \$3,588.03 |
| Anniversary Metal Drums | | | \$25.00 |
| Anniversary Framing | | | \$311.92 |
| Anniversary Donation | | | \$212.00 |
| Transfers | | \$1,080.00 | |
| Thrivent to Youth | | | \$1,030.00 |
| SD Humanities to Youth | | | \$50.00 |
| Net Total | -\$9,546.11 | \$96,891.97 | |

This page is left blank intentionally

| | 2024 Budgeted | 2024 Expended | 2025 Budgeted |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Staff | | | |
| Pastor | \$27,371.00 | \$20,390.04 | \$28,858.00 |
| Secretary | \$7,200.00 | \$7,200.00 | \$7,560.00 |
| Organist | \$4,125.00 | \$4,875.00 | \$5,000.00 |
| Secretary Soc Sec Match | \$550.00 | \$550.80 | \$580.00 |
| Pastor Sub | \$350.00 | \$232.45 | \$700.00 |
| Employee Gifts | \$900.00 | \$900.00 | \$900.00 |
| | | | |
| Pastor Benefits | | | |
| Board of Pensions | \$3,299.00 | \$5,378.46 | \$2,955.00 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | \$2,400.00 | \$1,520.16 | \$2,400.00 |
| Professional | \$120.00 | \$0.00 | \$120.00 |
| Continuing Education | \$320.00 | \$156.67 | \$320.00 |
| Parsonage Rent | \$4,320.00 | \$4,320.00 | \$4,320.00 |
| Parsonage Electric | \$1,440.00 | \$578.08 | \$700.00 |
| Parsonage Propane | \$1,800.00 | \$787.27 | \$900.00 |
| Parsonage Internet | \$240.00 | \$240.00 | \$240.00 |
| Parsonage Rural Water | \$288.00 | \$324.80 | \$400.00 |
| | | | |
| Church Expense | | | |
| Electric | \$1,700.00 | \$1,691.00 | \$1,800.00 |
| Propane | \$3,500.00 | \$2,986.33 | \$3,500.00 |
| Rural Water | \$600.00 | \$647.70 | \$700.00 |
| Garbage Removal | \$360.00 | \$342.00 | \$360.00 |
| Internet Services | \$875.00 | \$871.08 | \$875.00 |
| Church Cleaning | \$2,025.00 | \$2,100.00 | \$2,100.00 |
| Pest Control | \$963.00 | \$1,043.25 | \$1,000.00 |
| | | | |
| Supplies | | | |
| Office | \$1,500.00 | \$1,947.99 | \$1,500.00 |
| Worship | \$500.00 | \$566.97 | \$600.00 |

| | 2024 Budgeted | 2024 Expended | 2025 Budgeted |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Kitchen | \$600.00 | \$1,140.20 | \$600.00 |
| Sunday School | \$200.00 | \$65.59 | \$200.00 |
| Postage | \$400.00 | \$581.49 | \$600.00 |
| | | | |
| Subscriptions | | | |
| Christ in our Home | \$100.00 | \$107.97 | \$110.00 |
| Living Lutheran | \$150.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| | | | |
| Maintenance | | | |
| Church | \$2,500.00 | \$2,829.30 | \$2,000.00 |
| Organ & Piano | \$0.00 | \$1,665.96 | \$0.00 |
| Grounds | \$0.00 | \$1,947.94 | \$0.00 |
| Window Repair | \$0.00 | \$3,119.03 | \$0.00 |
| | | | |
| Equipment & Furnishings | | | |
| Church | \$0.00 | \$983.61 | \$0.00 |
| Office | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| | | | |
| Insurance | | | |
| Property & Liability | \$2,200.00 | \$2,514.00 | \$2,550.00 |
| | | | |
| Meetings/Conferences | | | |
| Synod Delegates | \$275.00 | \$350.00 | \$275.00 |
| Other Meetings | \$190.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| | | | |
| Missions | | | |
| Church on the Street | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$250.00 |
| Luther Center | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$250.00 |
| Lutherans Outdoors | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$250.00 |
| VBS | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$250.00 |
| World Hunger | \$200.00 | \$272.00 | \$250.00 |

Budget Continued on Page 32

financial report **Budget (Cont.)**

| | 2024 Budgeted | 2024 Expended | 2025 Budgeted |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Benevolences | | | |
| SD Synod | \$2,700.00 | \$2,700.00 | \$2,700.00 |
| | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | |
| Accounting | \$0.00 | \$15.93 | \$20.00 |
| Confirmation | \$150.00 | \$39.10 | \$100.00 |
| Flood Relief | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| Garden | \$0.00 | \$2,562.31 | \$0.00 |
| Non-Profit Report | \$10.00 | \$10.00 | \$10.00 |
| Post Office Box Rent | \$75.00 | \$74.00 | \$80.00 |
| SE Conference Dues | \$54.00 | \$97.50 | \$100.00 |
| SS Pageant | \$40.00 | \$0.00 | \$75.00 |
| 150th Anniversary | \$5,000.00 | \$13,285.99 | \$0.00 |
| | | | |
| Total Budgeted Expenses | \$82,390.00 | \$95,811.97 | \$79,258.00 |
| | | | |
| Transfer to Youth | | \$1,080.00 | |
| | | | |
| Total Expenses | | \$96,891.97 | |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|-------|------------------------|
| GENERAL | Fund 12.31.24 | \$14,864.03 | | |
| MEMORIAL | Fund 12.31.24 | \$13,051.19 | | |
| BUILDING | Fund 12.31.24 | \$3,577.64 | | |
| | | | | |
| 11 Month CD1 | (Mat. 4.14.25) | \$39,222.97 | 4.75% | 11-month |
| 30 Month CD5 | (Mat 6.28.25) | \$25,125.31 | 3.50% | 30-month Rate Riser |

— Submitted by Sherri McKee, Treasurer

Council Members

- April Sommervold (2/3)
- Patti Ericson (2/2)
- Dan Haeder (1/3)
- Connie Tentinger (1/3)
- Nick McKee (1/2)
- Tom Podzimek (1/2)
- *Lance Johnson (1/1)
- *Jim Bundy (1/1)
- *Felicia Miller (1/1)
-
- *Elected for 2024

Current term/year follows each name

** Indicates elected for 2025*

April will complete the third year of her second term and is not eligible for re-election.

Dan and Connie will complete the third year of their first term and are eligible for re-election in 2026.

Financial Secretary

April Sommervold
(Appointed)

Treasurer

Sherri McKee
(appointed)

Auditors

Paulette Groon
Tom Podzimek
*Sherry Fickbohm

Synod Assembly Delegate

*Sherri McKee

Nominating Committee

*David Ericson
*Paulette Vanderham
*Kirk Miller
*Selene Van Wyk

Cemetery Board

Bruce Ericson, President
Alan Sommervold, Vice-President
*Kirk Miller, Secretary
Brad Vreugdenhil, Treasurer
Nick Fickbohm
Dwight Fickbohm
Tom Tentinger
*Verdell Swanson

** Indicates elected for 2025*

Budget

Brad Vreugdenhil
Connie Tentinger
Nick McKee
April Sommervold
Jim Bundy
Sherri McKee

**Christmas
Decorating**

Sherri McKee
Emily Miller
Al & April Sommervold
Jeff & MaLinda Nohava
Dave & Roni Ericson
Kyle & Jessica Kenefick
Selene Van Wyk
Tristan Van Wyk
Ryland McKee
Waylon McKee

Education

Letitia Robinson
Sherri McKee
Patti Ericson
MaLinda Nohava
Kristal McKee
Heather Podzimek

Evangelism

Chad Ericson
Carol Forslund
Paulette Vanderham
Warren Wilkens

Memorial

Karen McCrill
April Sommervold
Tom Tentinger
Jean Doty
Travis Robinson
Kirk Miller

Property

Kevin Groon
Alan Sommervold
Brad Vreugdenhil
Nick Fickbohm
Bruce Ericson
Dwight Fickbohm
Rob Heeren
Dene Doty

Stewardship

David Ericson
Becky Kjose
Lance Johnson
Connie Tentinger

Worship & Praise

Pastor Nancy Eckels
Paulette Groon
Joni Noble

Youth

Sherri McKee
MaLinda Nohava
Patti Ericson
Letitia Robinson
Emma Robinson
Marleigh Robinson

Snow removal includes parking lot, sidewalks, and ramp.

If you need ice melt, purchase it at Dirk’s Hardware and charge to Union Creek Lutheran Church. Ice melt works best if has 24 hours to work/thaw.

Snow removal also includes the following:

- * Advent Services (Wednesdays in December)
- * Lent Services (Wednesdays in February and March)
- * Confirmation/Council/Youth Meetings (Wednesdays of each month)
- * WELCA Bible Studies (3rd Thursday of each month)
- * Funerals

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| December 1-15: Dwight/Nick Fickbohm | 605.565.3586 |
| December 16-31: Robin Heeren | 605.565.2691 |
| January 1-15: Nick McKee/Tom Podzimek..... | Nick 712.551.6460 / Tom 605.933.0848 |
| January 16-31: Alan Sommervold | 605.565.3007 |
| February 1-15: Brad Vreugdenhil | 605.565.2982 |
| February 16-28: Kyle Kenefick | 712.320.0647 |
| March 1-15: Bruce Ericson..... | 605.568.3533 |
| March 16-31: Kirk Miller | 712.551.7654 |

Be aware in November or April there may be a one-time storm cleanout.

If you are ill or have equipment problems, please call one of the other volunteers to help you.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

– *Information compiled by April Sommervold (Revised January 2024)*

South Dakota Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

Annual messages & reports



Dear friends in Christ,

All around us, we see signs of God's love and goodness. A person who has stepped away from church for many years steps back

into a congregation, feeling the call of the Holy Spirit. Young adults feeling isolated in a digital-first world start gathering in person in a small group, enjoying the warmth of a hug and a new friend asking about their week. A mother plants a garden, and it yields fruits and vegetables, giving her nutritious foods for her kids and extra produce to sell at the local market. Everywhere we look, we see signs of Christ's love. In Psalm 93, we read: "More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore" (4-5).

God's love is a majestic thing, and it moves us to share it in word and deed. The ministries of our congregations, our synods, and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, across our country, and around the world.

I am so grateful for you, dear church. Your generosity to each of these three expressions of the church—your congregation, your synod, and the churchwide organization—has bolstered

the church' ability to share the message of God's love to people who are longing for it. Through your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices, you've helped carry this message of God's majestic love. Thank you, dear church. As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to stand steadfast in God's promises, sure of God's love and goodness.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

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

**“More majestic than the
thunders of mighty waters,
more majestic than the
waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the Lord!
Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house,
O Lord, forevermore.”**

—Psalm 93:4-5

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and Peace to you from the Triune God! Thank you for another year of “Journeying Together in Christ,” the Synod’s mission statement based on the story in Luke 24. As a synod, we are committed to intentionally relate to each other, network across the church, equip leaders for ministry, and share leadership on all levels. We can look back on another impactful year of ministry together, adhering to these shared commitments.

Thank you, congregations of the South Dakota Synod, for your financial gifts to support our joint ministries in South Dakota, the ELCA, and the Global Church. Your benevolence impacts lives close to home and worldwide in ways you may never know. I am grateful for your ongoing commitment. The South Dakota Synod is financially healthy because of your dedication and faithfulness. Thanks be to God!

I would like to use the remainder of this letter to highlight a few areas of interest. In addition, I invite you to look at the 2024 Ministry Celebrations annual report insert to get a complete picture of the Synod’s ministry.

Lilly 2.0: The “Holy Playground” Initiative: The South Dakota Synod received another \$1.2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment. Your Synod team continued to listen to your joys and challenges and identified that the majority of congregations long for strategic support of their ministry with children. This grant will directly benefit your children’s ministry. Details on how are expected to be released in early spring 2025. Stay tuned and excited!



Pasque is the Synod’s digital hub for community and learning. Because of Lilly 1.0, the “Journeying Together in Christ” Initiative, we could hire Pastor Kari Web as the Director for Digital Community and Learning. She has created Pasque, named after our state flower, for every member of the South Dakota Synod to connect and learn with and from each other for free. Pasque offers you congregational resources, courses, bible studies, and community. Please take the time to register for free, look around, stay awhile, and invite others to do the same. Access Pasque at <https://www.sdsynodlearns.org>.

Box Elder is one of the fastest growing communities in South Dakota, and we are committed to showing up. Pastor Jonathan Vehar, the Synod’s Director for Evangelical Mission, and Kathy McHenry, Executive Director of Lutheran Planned Generosity, are working diligently to build relationships with personnel from Ellsworth Air Force Base and the members of the Box Elder community. They continue to intentionally listen to the needs of the community and how to best partner in new and innovative ways to be the church for all people there. We always seek donors who help lay a sure foundation for this new mission to start in the beautiful Black Hills. Also, if you want to be a missionary but want to stay close to home, this is an opportunity to reach people in Christ’s name here in South Dakota. Please contact Pastor Vehar at jvehar@sdsynod.org or Kathy McHenry at kmchenry@sdsynod.org if you want to learn more about becoming a partner in this endeavor.

The 2025 Churchwide Assembly will gather in July in Phoenix, AZ; besides prayer and sending your Synod voting members and

(Continued on page 37)

officers, you can actively participate by engaging in the public hearing and response process to the proposed revisions of the Social Statement of Human Sexuality: Gifts and Trust. Following this link: elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society-Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Human-Sexuality-Gift-and-Trust-Reconsiderations will get you to the landing page. You can access all resources and learn how to make your voice heard to the task force and broader church. Please engage in this conversation and let your voice be heard. The church is listening!

The 2025 Bishop's Election will occur at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. We will gather May 31-31, 2025, to conduct business, welcome Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to preach, deliver the churchwide report, and preside over the bishop's election. Many of you have asked me if I would consider serving another term. The bishop's election survey is completed and can be accessed here: <https://sdsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2025-sd-synod-study-full-report.pdf>. In this time of discernment, I invite all to pray for the Holy Spirit to stir our hearts and minds and gain understanding and wisdom for the ministry Christ has called us to. A pre-identification process will begin at the conference assemblies, held simultaneously at all conferences on February 23rd. Please stay tuned through your church's communication of the Synod's e-news. Sign up at the bottom of the Synod's website, www.sdsynod.org, for weekly correspondence directly in your inbox.

Thank you for your trust in my leadership, your support of our shared ministry, and the call to serve as the Bishop of the South Dakota Synod. It has been and continues to be a great honor, and I serve with deep gratitude.



*Bishop Constanze Hagmaier
South Dakota Synod, ELCA*

Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota—A Gift to You

As a ministry of the South Dakota Synod and our partners for over 40 years, Lutheran Planned Generosity is here for you as a gift to encourage and support all forms of generosity, with no obligation, minimums or fees.



Lutheran Planned Generosity
of South Dakota

Smarter Giving Today:

- Do you own **stocks/bonds/mutual funds** that have increased in value? Gift shares through LPGSD to your church and favorite ministries to avoid capital gains tax AND receive a tax deduction.
- Are you over 70 ½ with **retirement accounts**? Make a direct gift from your IRA with a qualified charitable distribution to avoid income tax, lower your adjusted gross income used to calculate Medicare premiums, and meet your required minimum distribution if over age 73.
- Holding onto stored **grain**? Selling **livestock**? Make a gift at the grain elevator or auction market to support God's work through your local congregation or favorite ministries. Avoid all income and self-employment taxes while retaining production cost deductions.
- Seeking a larger tax deduction now but unsure which organizations you'd like to support? Gift cash or assets, including **real estate, farm machinery or business equipment** today to establish a **donor-advised fund** and take your time deciding. This is a great way to involve your children and grandchildren, teaching them the importance of your family's faith and legacy of generosity.

Income for You and Your Family

- Make a gift with cash or any of the assets mentioned above and receive a **lifetime of tax-advantaged payments**. You decide which non-profit ministry receives any remaining balance.
- Create a "Give It Twice" trust with **depreciated business assets** to avoid taxes and create a lifetime of income with the option to continue payments to your children for 20 years after your death. Make a gift of the remainder to your favorite ministries.

Do you have a current legacy plan?

- No matter how old you are or how much wealth you have, writing a will is essential to secure your future and protect your loved ones. Our **FREE tool** helps you write or update your legal will, protect your loved ones and assets, and can even be used to support the causes you love.
- Did you know that your will does not control the distribution of certain assets, such as retirement accounts or life insurance policies? To ensure that those assets go to the people and organizations you love, you must be sure to properly name your beneficiaries. With our online tool, you can **plan your beneficiaries** and ensure your assets support the people and causes you love.
- By notifying us of your gift in your estate plan, we can take extra care to help ensure your gift is directed to the specific program or purpose of your choosing. It only takes a few minutes to fill out this form, which helps us keep our records up to date and protects your gift intentions.

Take the Next Step

For more information or to create a FREE, password-protected legacy plan, visit www.lpgsd.org. Contact Kathy McHenry at **605-274-5030** or kmchenry@sdsynod.org for assistance. Together, we can make a difference through thoughtful planning and faithful generosity.

your life can make a difference

2024 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 2024. **Journeying together in Christ as the South Dakota Synod, in 2024 we have:**

- Applied and received a grant of **\$1,224,172** from Lilly Endowment, Inc. for the Synod's Holy Playground Initiative, which will provide strategic support for children's ministries in congregations and worshipping communities.
- Completed explorations for a potential church plant, with plans to start a worshipping community in Box Elder.
- Received **2 new first call** candidates.
- Completed **22 Ministry Site Studies** and extended **19 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 **25 people** in various stages of **candidacy** in the SD Synod in 2024, with 18 others inquiring and in discernment.
- Granted **\$119,990** in scholarship funds to seminary students, **\$28,500** in internship assistance, and **\$38,232** to Luther and Wartburg Seminaries, for a total of **\$186,722** in support for seminary education.
- Distributed **\$48,220** to date through the Seminary Debt Reduction Program.
- Helped members and congregations recover from severe weather events, including awarding **\$20,000** in Storm Micro Grants and working with congregations to secure **\$140,000** in grants from Lutheran Disaster Response.
- 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 either online or in-person.
- 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.
- Received nearly **300 enrollments** from **over 100 SD churches** to **Pasque Learning Community**, our community effort to promote Spirit-led growth and faith formation. At Pasque, you can find 10 online courses with relevant instructional videos and digital discussion, as well as live weekly Zoom sessions, 4 active communities, and 2 digital downloads.
- 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.
- Welcomed Rev. Joel Pakan as the new **Director for Rural Ministry**, where he has journeyed with our rural ministry sites. Rev. Pakan has continued to work with 14 communities and congregations in transition.
- Continued the work of the Rural Ministry Table, which is currently working on **Small Town and Rural (STAR)** grants, we awarded **\$84,139**.
- Partnered with Grand Valley Lutheran to hold a **Farm to Table Dinner**, which resulted in gifts of **\$44,710** to support rural ministry in South Dakota.
- Received **\$103,700** in Churchwide grants for our Neighbors in Solidarity ministries.

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 2025, we trust in God's guidance and look forward to walking this journey of faith together.

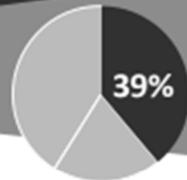


South Dakota Synod FY2023 Thank You

We believe that the ELCA's members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization are called to be church together. Every year around \$1.6 billion is shared as regular offerings to ELCA congregations and worshiping communities. Over 5% of that generosity is shared with our 65 synods, a portion of which is then shared with the churchwide organization. We call this Mission Support. In FY2023, the South Dakota Synod shared \$737,497 directly in Mission Support for ELCA churchwide ministries. Whether utilized locally, regionally, nationally or internationally, Mission Support enables us to have a greater impact in communities — working together to share God's abundant grace with others.

Your Mission Support funds a variety of churchwide ministries.

39% builds Christian communities in the United States by:



Thank you for \$287,624 from the South Dakota Synod for these ministries!

- Planting and supporting hundreds of worshiping communities.
- Revitalizing congregational ministries and reaching out to their surrounding communities.
- Promoting leadership opportunities, discernment and education through leadership initiatives.
- Supporting the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 ELCA colleges and universities.
- Hosting events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.
- Supporting regional work through directors for evangelical mission as well as candidacy and leadership managers.
- Preparing and implementing a system for recruiting and assigning rostered ministers.

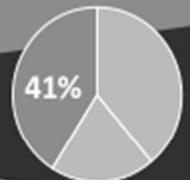
Another **20%** grows the global Lutheran church and addresses issues around the world by:



Thank you for \$147,499 from the South Dakota Synod for these ministries!

- Accompanying new Lutheran churches, expanding ministries, and training leaders and evangelists.
- Sending missionaries to accompany communities around the world.
- Addressing social issues and working for justice.
- Cultivating and maintaining relationships with 149 other churches through the Lutheran World Federation to strengthen the church and its global work.
- Fostering relationships between ELCA synods and 65 companion churches, for a total of 127 official relationships.
- Working with leaders and members of our African-descent, American Indian, Alaska Native, Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latiné communities.

Finally, **41%** strengthens and sustains the ministry and mission of the whole church by:



Thank you for \$302,374 from the South Dakota Synod for these ministries!

- Offering ministry resources and opportunities to lay leaders for networking.
- Coordinating and supporting churchwide ministries.
- Developing social messages of the ELCA as topical documents — called for by ELCA churchwide assemblies and adopted by the ELCA Church Council — to focus attention and action on timely, pressing matters of social concern to the church and society.
- Providing governance, including maintenance of rostered leadership records and support for the ELCA Church Council and triennial ELCA churchwide assemblies.
- Sustaining ecumenical and interfaith relations.
- Partnering with congregations and ministries across the church as they explore new, innovative ways of being church in a constantly changing world.
- Investing in technology and communications.
- Growing and sustaining financial resources.
- Engaging in research and strategic planning.
- Creating and sharing resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship.

Thank you for your ongoing support and faithful partnership! For stories of your impact, visit LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA. To find additional Mission Support resources, visit ELCA.org/SOFIA.

In the fall of 2019, the South Dakota Synod engaged in an intentional listening and learning process.

Here is a brief summary of the results:

What gives you joy?

- Music
- Multi-generational ministry opportunities
- Purposeful gatherings
- Purposeful volunteering
- The Gospel

What keeps you up at night?

- Economic hardships
- Polarization in our society
- Mental Health
- Fear for the future of "the Church"

How do you envision your relationship with the synod staff?

- Resources
- Relationships
- Programs
- Communication
- Faith formation

"Fitting who we are into pews made for who we were."

- Participant from 2019 Listen, Learn, Care Event



These results shape our strategic vision and mission.

Why even be "synod?"

We are synod because we are called to journey together in Christ. - Luke 24:13-35

How will we journey together in Christ?

- Relating with intentionality
- Networking across the church
- Equipping leaders for ministry
- Sharing leadership

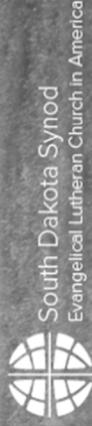
With confidence in Christ's Love for All.

Let's imagine every moment as a classroom, an opportunity to learn, grow, adapt, and lean into the vision God has for the church of today and tomorrow. - Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

What we do together:

- **Intentional Accompaniment**
 - In transitional times for ministry sites and leaders
 - through the Rural Liaison
 - through disaster response
 - through a West River Liaison
 - digital sermon resources
 - Digital Ministry Task Force
- **Networking Across the Church**
 - First peer mentor groups
 - regular Zoom gatherings for lay and rostered leaders
 - connecting with our ministry partners
 - J-Term practica with Augustana University and Wartburg Seminary
 - Rural strategy conversations
- **Equipping Leaders for Ministry**
 - "A Life of Faith" video series
 - E-learning and resource hub
 - Story Junction Pilot Project with LEAD
 - Mental Health First Aid
 - Psychological First Aid
 - Sprinkles of Grace grants for early childhood ministry
- **Sharing Leadership**
 - opportunities to serve on synod committees and task forces
 - permission-giving leadership

Five-Year Journey for the South Dakota Synod, ELCA





Church on the Street Annual Report 2024

ChurchontheStreetsf.org

We take the gifts of the Church out to the people who, for whatever reason, can not come inside. Each time we worship, over 150 people gather, and we know someone is hearing the good news and receiving the sacrament for the first time.

Church on the Street provides opportunities for ministry in a variety of spaces through Worship, pastoral care, fostering connections and meeting essential needs. Through ministries such as Laundry with Love, Fruits of the Freezer, the Undercover Closet, and the COTS Food Pantry the COTS staff and volunteers make it possible for folks to have access to essential needs with dignity while receiving God's love, care, and compassion.



5,000 People served.

Whether in Worship, through the food and hygiene pantry, at the Laundromat, or during pastoral care.



9448 Loads of laundry.

Washed and dried at Laundry with Love.



4000 Candy bags.

Assembled for Worship bags and other giveaways.



75 Churches from 5 Denominations.

Made a financial gift in the past 12 months.



300 Pottery bowls.

Lovingly molded by the hands of people of all ages. (Save the date for February 20th, for the Empty Bowls dinner.)



25+ Churches and Non-profits.

Have attended an event, brought volunteers, and served over 3,000 meals this year.



60 Households.

The record number of households served in a day by the COTS food pantry.

Please take a moment, pray, answer your own WHY, and join us in this amazing Ministry!

LEARN MORE

Visit churchonthestreetsf.org for ways to get involved and support the ministry of Church on the Street.

Email:

Pastor Chris Matson
chris@churchonthestreetsf.org

Intern Deacon Mara Stillson
mara@churchonthestreetsf.org



DONATE

leadership Installation of Leaders

These people have been elected to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

A reading from 1 Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

Response: We will, and we ask God to help us.

I now declare you installed as officers / council members of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.