

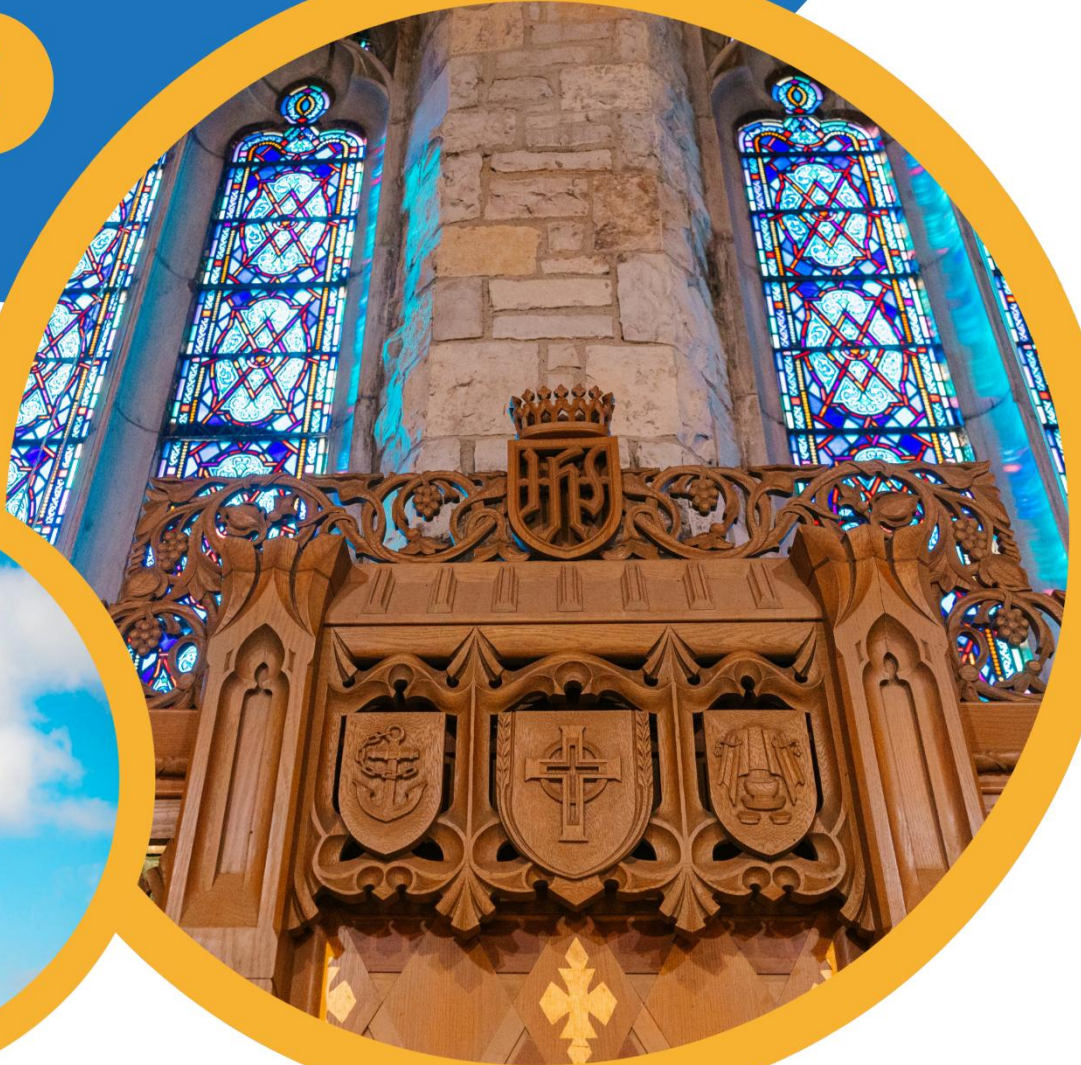


Grace

Lutheran Church

Annual Report

2025



79th Congregational Meeting

January 25, 2026 | Albert Lea, MN

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Annual Congregational Meeting

Opening Liturgy

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approval of Today's Agenda
4. Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
(page 1)
5. Elections
6. New Business
 - Proposed 2026 Budget
7. Motion to Adjourn
8. Closing Prayer
9. Sending Litany

Minutes of the 78th Annual Meeting

January 26, 2025

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Church Council President Munyer at 10 am, ?(number) members were in attendance.

2. Opening Prayer

Pastor Shaner led the congregation in an opening prayer

3. Approval of the Agenda for the Meeting

Becky Tennis Hanson to add an agenda item in New Business: Commissions Status. Motion made by Becky Tennis Hanson and seconded by Gerry Vogt to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was approved.

4. Approval of the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion by Gary Schindler and second by Jerry Dahl to approve the minutes of the annual meeting. The motion was approved.

5. Elections

- President Munyer reviewed the list of nominations for church council. There were no additional nominations from the congregation. Motion made by Sheri Seberson and seconded by Christie Ness to approve nominations.
- President Munyer reviewed and asked for nominations for the Grace Foundation, Inc. Directors. Members will include Karen Hendrickson, Bruce Olson, Steve Thompson, Joel Erickson, Steve Schulz, and Dale Buendorf. Motion made by Bill Barber and seconded by Becky Tennis Hanson. The motion was approved.
- President Munyer asked for volunteers to be voting members to the Blue Earth River Conference, with the following members volunteering: Gary Schindler, Jeanne Schindler, Becky Tennis Hanson, Judy Christensen, Lester Perschbacher, Shari Seberson, and Jim Munyer.
- President Munyer asked for volunteers to be voting members to the Southeastern MN Synod Assembly. The following members volunteered: Shari Seberson and Becky Tennis Hanson.
- President Munyer asked for delegates for the Saint John's Community Annual Meeting in December 2025. Alex Johnston agreed along with Pastor Shane Koepke. Motion made by Jerry Dahl and seconded by Steve Thompson. The motion was approved.
- President Munyer reflected on the non-elected offices that are appointed by the council and noted the following changes to the Personnel Committee: Paul Godtland has transferred out of Grace and Tricia Dahl was added to the committee until January 2027.

6. New Business

- Dave Drommerhausen presented an overview of the proposed 2025 budget. Budget increase of \$27,000 over 2024 budget. Increase due to Maintenance budget increase of \$14,000 and Technology budget increase of \$6,000. Gary Schindler asked about Line 66 of maintenance budget. The past year money was spent relacing valves to pipes going from the new boiler that weren't updated at time of installation. 2025 maintenance big project is the steeple lights.
- Staffing budget was questioned as who are the staff members currently at Grace. Pastor Shane went through the following positions: Maintenance staff: Darin LaFrance and McKinsey Rogert, (cleaning 10-15 hours/week); Office Manager, Deb Attig; Engagement Director, Jenny Campos; Financial Director, Marsha Smith; Music Director & IT, Aaron Bartz; Tech support on Sundays, Brekyn Koepke, Brent Dahl, Ty Yolden, and Markey Samp. Joel Erickson raised the question regarding the ½ position missing from ministry staff, whether that would be a lay person or another pastor. Pastor Shane stated that things would see where they stand after 3-6 months of Pastor Henry's start and see what areas are being needing attention.

Commission Status

- i. Missions – Becky Tennis Hanson reviewed the Missions Ministry Report. 5% of monies brought into the church are given to Missions. Ginny & Rick Loberg's names were missing from the report.
- ii. Quilters, Sharing & Caring, Music & IT – Pastor Shane reminded how all these ministries rely on volunteers and how it's a new age of planning and preparing to keep all going within our congregation.
- iii. Sunday School – Christie Ness added how volunteers are needed to keep the Sunday School going and in order for it to grow. Young and old can help.
- iv. President Munyer also thanked the people that put together the Grace Notes every month. Thanked Carol Olson for helping out as organist, when needed.
- v. Altar Guild – Jane Madsen reviewed the weekly activity of Altar Guild members.
- vi. Pastor Henry Burt – Expressed his appreciation for the welcoming he has received with his 3 weeks so far at Grace. He is excited to start working with the youth ministries and getting to know the congregation.
- vii. Open Forum – Irmie K asked if plans were being made to make a new pictorial directory.
Becky Tennis Hanson – Stated we need new phone numbers for members.
Shari Seberson – Asked how does Grace maintain its membership?

Thanks was given to Jim Munyer for his leadership as the President of the Church Council. Jim is leaving the Council in June 2025.

7. Adjournment

Motion mad by Stuart Ness to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at ?(time).

8. Closing Prayer

Pastor Shane led the congregation in a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doreen Pontow

Council President Report

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17

Grace Lutheran has said goodbye to a pastor this year and welcome to a deacon. We begin 2026 with the ordination and installation of Deacon Jessie Camp. We will be looking forward to the new path that Pastor Shane and Deacon Jessie put forth.

Many people have served in the call process to fill Grace's pastoral positions the past few years. I would like to thank them for their commitment.

It was wonderful to see a new membership directory completed this past year with the help of Jenny Campos and many volunteers. Staff members from Aaron, Darin, Jenny, Deb, Carol, McKenzie, and the audiovisual technicians continue to enhance Grace's mission. Jen Zoller played a big role in getting our Sunday school program up and running last fall. The volunteers like: altar guild, ushers, all choir members, food for backpacks volunteers, visitation, Sunday School, youth ministry, library, missions, personal committee, quilters, and building and grounds, all shows their commitment to Grace's mission.

The Grace Foundation continues its stewardship of managing its funds according to the guidelines. The prospect of a windmill on our farmland continues to be explored with developers.

A big change started in 2025, is the kitchen remodel. What a great space it will be for fellowship and ministry. Donations that have been received for this project is amazing!

My hope for 2026 is that we can get more volunteers to help in the areas needed to keep Grace Lutheran growing in faith together, hand-in-hand.

Peace be with you,
Doreen Pontow
Council President

Lead Pastor Report

In Genesis as the story of God's creation is told, there is a line that says at the end of each day that God looks at the thing God created and sees that "it is good." I believe it's tempting to keep looking forward to what's next, what's busy, what's bright. But God, in God's wisdom, creates, reflects and then moves on. There is value in that lesson for us. You see, since the beginning of time, literally, God invites us to rest, reflect, and keep moving.

Every church has rhythms like this. Your life does, too, if you look back for a minute. We even say things like "hindsight is 20/20" or "if I knew then, what I know now" to make sense of how time and we are always on the move. Grace has a long and wonderful history in this community and we, too, have changed and been enticed into the worldly model that expects us to be like a train always moving down the track, never looking back. But looking back has value, rest has value.

When we take time to reflect, we can give thanks, we can edit, we can celebrate and grieve whatever is needed for tomorrow. This year we have said hello and goodbye to an associate pastor and hello again to a deacon! Jessie has been a breath of fresh air to many and has quickly found her home here at Grace with all of us. I pray you get to know her more and more as our adventures continue. Having a new person on staff here at Grace is also a time for all of us to reflect on what we do and why we do it. Having someone new forces us to say the thing everyone knows inside and say them out loud. The good and the bad, the easy and the difficult. And now that we are in the midst of that reflection, we are given space to think about the value of those things and if they are the priority of us as a congregation today and into tomorrow.

The priority at Grace has been hospitality for years. Our mission statement literally says we are "bringing people together and becoming disciples of Christ." And so here we sit with our kitchen a messy construction zone. Cabinets and countertops and appliances being picked and ordered, lighting and electric work being done and so much happening so that we can continue to be a place of hospitality for generations to come. And...not just for tomorrow, it's a kitchen for today. A kitchen that invites our youth and Wednesday night ministries to come together for supper. It's a space that serves grieving families after funerals and celebrate Easter with breakfast and so many more events that happen around food and fellowship. Thank you for your gift. If you still want to contribute, it's not too late, we are ever closer to our goal and your contribution matters! Please make sure your gift is marked for the kitchen remodel.

9 years later, I'm proud to be a part of Grace. Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve and lead in this place. Our family has grown here, and we feel like we belong here at Grace and Albert Lea.

Peace for the journey, Shane

Deacon Report

One of the exciting parts about ministry is that we can be part of something that is much larger than ourselves. We can often get so caught up in the day-to-day and begin to think that our problems are unique to ourselves.

But over the last 2,000 years, Christians have continually come together to support, love, and uplift each other. Members of the body of Christ have gathered in church basements to discuss budgets, mission trips, fundraisers, difficulties of ministry, and yes, have annual meetings!

When we participate in the ministry of the church, we join a long line of Christians before us and all of those who will come after us. As the year comes to a close, we have the opportunity to come together to look toward the future of the church. To adapt, reassess, and find a path forward. The good news is God walks alongside us amidst our stresses and our joys. Time and time again, God has shown God's faithfulness to us. God's love for us never fails.

In my two months here, I've found a congregation that is full of life. You are a congregation that is ready and excited to do ministry together. That is a powerful thing. This year brought on a slew of challenges, but with God's guidance, you have made it through. That is something to take pride in.

I look forward to the opportunity to grow with you all in 2026 and beyond.

Blessings,
Deacon Jessie

Worship & Music

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Colossians 3:16

In 2025, the Music Ministry (working closely with our Technology volunteers) continued the steady work of supporting congregational worship through song, leadership, and clear communication. Much of this ministry happens in ordinary, week-to-week faithfulness, through planning, rehearsing, setting up, and serving, so that when the church gathers, the focus can remain on worship.

Highlights from 2025

- Weekly worship support: Across the year's Sunday and weekday services, everybody in the music ministry worked to sustain confident congregational singing and augment the message of worship.
- Children's ministry and music: A meaningful development this year was the Sunday School Christmas program, *We Make Room*, written for our children. This helped Sunday School become more involved working together in brief acting and musicality, and we hope to continue supporting children's musical growth in 2026. As Sunday School grows, additional volunteers are still needed, and the added music component will benefit from more helping hands.
- Choir life and seasonal worship: We've moved up rehearsal times from 6:30 and 7:30 to 6:00 and 7:00. In the second half of the year, rehearsals started back up in September and have been maintaining regular rehearsals and scheduled singing. New members joined the Bell Choir and Grace Choir and we continue to welcome any voices or ringers to join us in worshipping through song. A recent notable experience was at the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, we featured four soloists, and the Grace Choir bolstered the congregational singing as they were dispersed throughout the sanctuary.
- Musical leadership: We are grateful for soloists, cantors, and instrumental leaders who help guide congregational song—especially in services that invite deep listening and prayer. We hope to continue this approach in future services such as the Easter Vigil.
- Partnership beyond our walls: Music has a unique way of building relationships. We saw that in our continued partnership with First Lutheran through a shared summer series and, later, when members of the First Lutheran choir joined the Grace Choir for Thanksgiving Eve alongside members of the Bell Choir.
- Technology and worship environment: To better support worship and special services, we installed additional lighting (overhead fresnels, RGBA par lights, and a choir-loft spotlight), all controlled from the tech booth. We are thankful for new tech booth volunteers who stepped in and are learning the ropes as some of our high-school students graduated and left for college.

Thank you to every volunteer who sang, played, rehearsed, ran sound and lights, and served behind the scenes. Your faithful service helped Grace worship with clarity, warmth, and participation.

Aaron Bartz

Director of Music / IT

Youth Ministry Committee Report

We stayed busy and had some fun with our Grace Youth in 2025! Many 6th-12th grade kids took part in the events we hosted and/or traveled to this year.

The goal of our events is to create a memorable experience, serve our congregation and community, while we continually grow together in faith as part of God's family.

Here's what we were up to over the last several months:

- March – BINGO & Silent Auction (proceeds went to the summer Bible Camp trip)
- June –
 - Dinner & Pickleball
 - Feed My Starving Children and Grand Slam
- July –
 - Bowling & St. Olaf tour
 - 14 youth attended Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek, WI
- August – Youth Room Revival
- September –
 - Outdoor games & bonfire
 - Hiking at Myre-Big Island State Park
- October – Appetizers & board games
- November –
 - Feed My Starving Children and Dave & Buster's
 - Friendsgiving
 - Lefse Day
- December – Caroling & Pizza

Our team also revived Lenten Suppers (winter/spring) and Chew & Chat suppers (on Wednesday evenings before Confirmation). We are grateful for giving and involvement from the congregation for these shared meals.

Thank you to our youth, youth families, and our extended church family for your continued support, encouragement, prayers, and participation.

Respectfully submitted,
The Grace Youth Committee

Scholarship Committee Report

The Scholarship committee has the special opportunity to help students in our community further their education. The below listed students were recipients of scholarships sponsored by Grace members in 2025. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers as they achieve their goals in higher education.

Thank you to all who have donated to support our students. Your donations make a difference!

The Grace Foundation Scholarship – Logan Strom, Mason Buendorf, Henrik Lange

Donald Gross Elementary Education Scholarship – Danica Whelan

Godtland Scholarship – Rosa Corey-Gruenes, Brecken Koepke

LuVerne Godtland Education Scholarship – Mavrick Attig

Gertrude Hanson Memorial Scholarship – Mason Attig

John and Alma Matthews Scholarship – Ty Youlden

Janice M. and Henry J. Guse Scholarship – Navaeh Wacholz

Lindsey Loehr Diemer Memorial Scholarship – Brecken Koepke

Lu Ryan Memorial Scholarship – Mason Attig

Donna Ball Memorial Scholarship – Mavrick Attig

Donald Ball Memorial Scholarship – Reece Jeffrey

Laurence McGill Memorial Scholarship – Danica Whelan

Delores Ost Scholarship – Ty Youlden

Vern Jahnke Scholarship – Mika Cichosz

The Grace Foundation Scholarship for non-traditional students – No Eligible Recipients

Blessings,

Grace Scholarship Committee

Bob Ball

Sheila Calderon

Paul Godtland

Steve Lee

Deacon Jessie Camp, Advisor

Sunday School Report

We have had a great time with our Pre-K (age 4) through 5th graders in Sunday School so far this year. We're learning about God, reading scripture, asking questions, enjoying snacks, singing, and making new friends!

Our weekly schedule:

- Begin together in the Fellowship Hall for snacks and a coloring page/activity
- Aaron Bartz leads us in song

• Divide into our classes for lessons:

- Pre-K - 2nd grade meets near the elevator
- 3rd - 5th grade meets behind the stage
- End together in the Fellowship Hall with a prayer

Here are a few lessons we learned about last fall:

- Jesus' Baptism
- The Disciples
- The Lord's Prayer
- Jesus Blesses the Children

Rally Sunday on September 7th was so much fun! Adults and kids alike enjoyed "Helping Hands" Bingo, a scavenger hunt with prizes, popcorn, and fellowship.

In early November, our 3rd and 4th graders received their First Bibles during the church service. After worship, Pastor Shane led a class with the students and parents about God's word and how to use their Bible.

In mid-November we shifted to spending our Sunday School time preparing for the Christmas program. Aaron Bartz wrote "We Make Room," which the kids performed during worship on December 21st.

We are looking forward to a great 2026 with our Grace kids as well! Here are a few topics we'll cover this winter/spring:

- The Prodigal Son
- Zacchaeus
- The Holy Spirit
- The Last Supper

We are grateful to Mary Circle for providing snacks & juice each week.

Thank you to our volunteer Sunday School leaders for their time & efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Zoller
Sunday School Coordinator

Food for Backpack Report

Team members: Dave Drommerhausen, Joel Erickson, Matt Moller, Corrine Tims, Pastor Shane, Steve Tufte and Becky Thofson (grant writer).

“For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35

With the generosity of Grace members, friends from other area churches, our wider community, and our school social workers, we are able to provide weekend backpack meals for more than 500 students in grades preK–7 and the Alternative Learning Center. That represents over 25% of the students in Albert Lea School District 241.

Grace Lutheran continues to support both Hawthorne Elementary and the Alternative Learning Center through your faithful giving; whether by using giving envelopes, making online donations, or purchasing a backpack from the Angel Tree.

Grace administers the overall Food for Backpacks program. This includes covering half of the total annual cost for Albert Lea School District 241, which exceeds \$45,000 each year. Supporting businesses include Wedgewood Cove, Moose, Legion, DAV, Sons of the Legion, Mayo, Central Freeborn Lutheran Church, and Pro Manufacturing. United Way, the Freeborn County Communities Foundation, and the Freeborn County Mental Health Collaborative continue to be steady and valued supporters of this program.

We work with JA Foods in Michigan to supply a variety of four-meal packets. As food and shipping costs have increased, it now costs \$181 to feed one student for the school year. With a total program budget of more than \$90,000, grants help ensure that half of the cost is covered. Six other area churches—Zion Lutheran, Hayward Lutheran, Ascension Lutheran, First Lutheran, United Methodist, and Crossroads—partner with Grace to support the elementary schools, middle school, and the Alternative Learning Center. Grace, in partnership with Zion, supports 84 students at Hawthorne.

By showing the children of our community that we care about them and their well-being, we help foster a sense of belonging and security. We care deeply about these students and want them to be successful learners.

Thank you for your generous donations, your volunteer time, and your prayers. Blessings abound.

David Drommerhausen



The poster is titled "Food for Backpacks" in a stylized font. Below the title, it says "Addressing Child Hunger in Our Community". A large graphic shows "1 in 4" with the "1" inside a circle. Below this, it states "Preschool - 7th grade children in Albert Lea don't have enough food to eat over the weekend." At the bottom left, two price points are listed: "\$4.53 Per Backpack Meal Packet" and "\$181 Per Year for One Student". On the right side, there is a QR code with the text "100% of every dollar given goes to purchase food." and a "Donate" button. Above the QR code, it says "Funded by donations and grants, the Food For Backpacks program feeds over 580 children in the Albert Lea School District each weekend in partnership with area churches and the district." and the website "foodforbackpacks.com". An image of a yellow backpack filled with food items is also shown.

Food for Backpacks
Addressing Child Hunger in Our Community

1 in 4
Preschool - 7th grade children in Albert Lea don't have enough food to eat over the weekend.

\$4.53 Per Backpack Meal Packet
\$181 Per Year for One Student

Funded by donations and grants, the Food For Backpacks program feeds over 580 children in the Albert Lea School District each weekend in partnership with area churches and the district.

foodforbackpacks.com

100% of every dollar given goes to purchase food.

Donate

Mission Ministry Report

The Mission Team met each month to address the congregation's efforts in addressing some of the church's mission work. Currently, the meeting time is 8:10 on the last Sunday of each month.

The following information lists activities over the last year:

- Food insecurity was addressed through collections of food and funds during March for MN Food Share month and throughout the year through the 'filling of the food pallet' on an on-going basis.
- Fair Trade Equal Exchange coffee, tea, cocoa candy bars were sold each month on the first Sunday of the month.
- The team hosted one Red Cross blood drive during this year.
- Donations were collected for Baby Care Kits and school supplies. We sent 16 baby kits to Lutheran World Relief. We delivered school supplies to Hawthorne Elementary School.
- The monthly Youth for Christ treat ministry was continued.
- A team from Campus Ministry in Winona was hosted in October. An offering was gathered for that ministry.
- International Health Partners representatives were hosted in November. They provided information at the Adult Forum and sold items from Africa before and after the service.
- Dissemination of the funds gathered in 2025 through the undesignated giving (half of one percent of this amount) and through Missionary for a Day will be as follows:
 - \$300.00 Loaves and Fishes
 - \$300.00 to Youth for Christ
 - \$400.00 to Ecumenical Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church
 - \$400.00 to the Salvation Army
 - \$300.00 to the Welcome Pantry at Freeborn County United Way
 - \$300.00 to the Food for Backpack Program
 - \$250.00 to the program supporting the local Foster Care Program
 - \$300.00 to the Campus Ministry at Winona State University
 - \$300.00 to the Campus Ministry at Minnesota State University, Mankato
 - \$300.00 to the Costa Rica Project
 - \$200.00 to the Tiger Den program at Southwest Middle School
 - \$500.00 to International Health Partners (for hospital construction in Tanzania)
 - \$400.00 to ELCA World Hunger

The Mission Team welcomes new members and new ideas for the congregation's mission work. It is an on-going effort to do God's work with our hands and feet. Please consider joining the effort.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Bracker
Becky Tennis Hanson
Jerry Vogt
Ginny Loberg

Pat Palmer
Gerry Vogt
Karen Hendrickson

Altar Guild Report

The Altar Guild team continues its ongoing commitment to fulfilling our responsibilities, even though membership has not increased. As in the past, we have made continued efforts to invite members of the Grace family to join us. These efforts include picture displays showing what we do, invitations to join us on a Sunday, and advertised volunteer opportunities outlined in the Grace Announcements.

We make an effort to keep communication open with team members, primarily through individual verbal and written communication, including notes left in the Altar Guild workroom, bulletin board postings, and emails/messages. A formal meeting was held on September 28, immediately following the church service. Monthly church service schedules are posted in the workroom for individuals to sign up. Non-immediate responsibilities continue to be completed on another day during the week. Coverage continues for funerals, including greeting, lighting of candles, and communion preparation. We also assisted with decorating for Easter and Christmas, as well as the ordering and care of displayed flowers.

This year, the two large altar candles were replaced as the older ones were leaking, and a new chapel altar linen replaced the previous one, which was deteriorating. With the talent and creativity of two women of the church, JoAnn Bracker and Jane Smith, two new sets of church year paraments were created. Sanctuary paraments are also deteriorating and are in need of replacement. To assist the visitation team, a bowl with individual communion sets is placed on the altar on the first Sunday of each month for blessing and then stored in the refrigerator for their use. We have also accommodated a request for an increased number of grape juice servings on the communion trays.

Recorded number of communicants: 7,730

The Altar Guild Guide update is currently in draft format.

With gratitude,
Jane Madson, Lead

Personnel Committee Report

The Grace Lutheran Personnel Committee met three times in 2026. The following issues were reviewed, discussed, and approval was secured by the committee.

- Review and approval of compensation packages for 2026.
 - The committee reviewed the proposed budget for 2026 and considered Synod guidance concerning salary increases for the year.
- Review and approval of insurance coverage for staff.
 - The committee considered a number of coverage options for staff and reached a consensus on the premium amount and co-pays/deductibles.
- Supported reforming of the Call Committee after Pastor Henry's resignation

Personnel Committee Members:

J.D. Carlson

Tricia Dahl

Corrine Tims

Gary Schindler

Pastor Shane

Doreen Pontow – Church Council President (Ex-officio Member)

Usher's Report

Special Services

	<u>2023</u> In person/online	<u>2024</u> In person/online	<u>2025</u> In person
Mid-Week Lenten Service (average, 6 services)	53/206	66/242	62
Holy Week Attendance	617/713	621/1,562	568
Good Friday Service	81/119	96/229	80
Easter Vigil Service	No worship	No worship	52
Easter - 9:00 am	173/191	145/366	282
Easter - 11:00 am	269/217	200/327	113
Thanksgiving Eve	151/299	First Lutheran	102
Hope and Healing	55/336	Unknown	Unknown
Christmas Eve - 3:00 pm	158/421	200/unknown	186
Christmas Eve - 5:00 pm	202/401	181/unknown	202
Christmas Eve - 11:00 pm	90/426	121/unknown	74
Christmas Eve Total	450/1,248	502/unknown	462

Weekly Attendance

Total Weekly Attendance (online & in person)	26,387	25,442	8,446
Jan.-May & Sept.-Dec. (average)	145/317	143/1343	132
June-August, Sunday (average)	90/157	133/579	117
All Weeks - 12 months (average)	170/1356	166/324	162
Sundays in the Year	52	52	52
Record Sunday (2024 in person only)	Easter:442	Easter:345/693	Easter:395
Record Sunday (other than Easter)	280	326	196
	(10/29)	(10/27)	(10/29)
	Confirmation	Confirmation	Confirmation

Anyone interested in ushering (1 month at a time, 3 times a year) please talk to Rick Loberg. It's a great way to serve your fellow members and welcome folks to Grace.

Please have peace,
Rick Loberg, Director of ushers

Building, Equipment, and Grounds

Happy 2026, Members of Grace!

The kitchen remodel has officially begun! It has been a pleasure preparing for this project and working alongside such a dedicated committee. Together, we explored many options to ensure the most efficient layout and an aesthetically pleasing design for Grace's new kitchen. In addition to the kitchen remodel, we are also adding the finishing touches to the basement hallways with new paint and flooring that will provide a consistent look throughout the space.

We are using the same contractor who completed the new bathrooms. His workmanship on that project was exceptional, and I am very glad to have him overseeing the kitchen remodel as well. He takes pride in every detail and is very easy to work with. I would like to extend a sincere thank-you to the committee members who have helped guide these decisions. Their care, collaboration, and commitment to making the best choices for the congregation have been invaluable.

There are rarely any dull moments here at Grace. Time moves quickly with the constant maintenance needs and opportunities for improvements and remodeling. I am truly grateful for this work, as it is something I genuinely enjoy doing.

I would also like to thank McKenzie, who handles the majority of the church cleaning. She does an excellent job, and her support allows me to stay focused and on task with the many responsibilities that need attention.

Finally, a big thank-you to all the youth who have stepped up to assist with audio and video during worship. We have a wonderful group of young people running the soundboard and video systems each week. This has been a great opportunity for them to gain valuable skills while serving the church, and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,
Darin LaFrance



Ministerial Report

Worship Services

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Total Sunday Worship Service	54	54	57	55	55
Total Weekday Worship Services	23	12	7	12	21
Total Services with Communion	77	66	64	67	66

Pastoral Acts

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Children Baptized	9	8	7	3	6
Adults Baptized	0	0	0	0	0
Confirmation of 9 th Graders	15	16	10	13	9
Confirmation of Adults	0	0	0	0	0
Weddings	4	2	0	2	1
Reaffirmation of Wedding Vows	0	0	0	0	0
Funerals	12	18	23	15	16

Membership Report

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Increase:					
a. By Baptism (Children)	9	8	7	3	6
b. By Baptism (Adult)	0	0	0	0	0
c. By Reaffirmation of Faith	15	16	10	13	9
d. By Letter of Transfer	0	5	0	5	3
e. By Adult Instruction:	0	0	0	0	0
f. From Other Sources	0	0	0	0	0
g. By Confirmation (not previously baptized members)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	24	29	17	21	18
Decrease:					
a. By Death:	18	23	18	23	16
b. Inactive Member Reduction	0	0	0	0	0
c. By Transfer to ELCA Congregations	4	0	5	0	0
d. By Transfer to Other Lutheran Congregations	0	0	0	0	1
e. By Release to Non-Lutheran Congregations	0	0	0	0	0
f. For Other Reasons (or requested removal)	0	0	0	0	2
Total	22	23	23	23	19

Ministerial Report Continued

Total Baptized Membership

Total Baptized Membership, December 31, 2024	1,691
Total Baptized Membership, December 31, 2025	<u>1,687</u>
Net for 2025	-4

Total Confirmed Membership, December 31, 2024	1,304
Total Confirmed Membership, December 31, 2025	<u>1,300</u>
Net for 2025	-4

2025 Baptisms: (6) Bethany Lonneman, Levi Bartz, Adalie Talamantes, William Merten, Everett Braund, and Evelyn Schumaker

2025 Marriages: (1) Olivia Stilley & Samuel Kliment

2025 Reaffirmation of Vows: (None)

2025 Deaths: (16) Sandra Becker, Donna Avery, Mary Pirsig, Rose Perteet, Elaine Long, Norma Demmer, Delores Nasby, Gwen Groskurth, Dona Matheson, Mavis Parrish, Carol Peterson, Doris Sigurdson, Jan Delle, Shauna Dakken, Lynn Vogt Rasmussen, and Norena Love

Grace Foundation, Inc.

The purpose of the Grace Lutheran Foundation continues to be to receive from Grace Lutheran members or from the public, gifts, bequests or properties as may from time to time be given. Such gifts are invested with proper regard for their safety and interest according to the will of the congregation membership and designation of the donors. Interest accrued from funds and investments returns, including realized and unrealized capital gains controlled by the foundation, may be designated by the board to be used for missions, education or other specific projects of Grace Lutheran Church and its Gospel outreach.

We are grateful for the collaborative work of Perry Loge and Marsha Smith and for the in-house audit that was completed for the year ending 2025. The foundation's main source of income was, again, the farmland rental monies. We are entering a new contract for a term of one year. We also have income from a contract with Bent Tree Phase Two Wind Farm project through Alliant Energy for the right to pursue installing wind turbines on our property.

Monetary support was again given in the form of scholarships to students from our congregation attending a Lutheran college. The board provided \$2,000 for the youth to attend Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek, Wisconsin and also paid for a new TV and couch for the youth room. We contributed \$15,000 to the kitchen project in 2025 and will contribute another \$15,000 in 2026. The Foundation opens a Mission Investment Fund account valued at \$50 for every newly baptized member.

As we look ahead to 2026, we prayerfully consider the needs of Grace Lutheran Church and consider the needs of Grace Lutheran Church and continue to provide appropriate financial support for the congregation, its ministry programs and gospel outreach.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Grace Foundation Board

Bruce Olson - Chair
Karen Hendrickson - Vice Chair
Steve Thompson
Dale Buendorf - Sec., Farmland adv.
Pastor Shane Koepke
Alex Johnston - advisory

Joel Erickson
Jerry Dahl
Steve Schulz
Doreen Pontow- Council President
Marsha Smith- Bookkeeper

Grace Foundation, Inc.

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025 and 2024

GRACE FOUNDATION, INC.
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2025 and 2024

ASSETS	2025	2024
Current Assets		
Security Bank Checking Account	27,660.51	\$ 18,646.69
Schwab Cash Account	<u>1.13</u>	<u>391.97</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>27,661.64</u>	<u>19,038.66</u>
Foundation Investments		
Schwab Investments	<u>375,546.68</u>	<u>330,981.60</u>
Total Foundation Investments	<u>375,546.68</u>	<u>330,981.60</u>
Godtland Investments		
Mission Investment CD	20,000.00	20,000.00
Mission Investment CD	20,000.00	20,000.00
Mission Investment CD	10,000.00	10,000.00
Security Bank CD	54,369.40	54,369.40
Security Bank CD	<u>16,410.02</u>	<u>16,410.02</u>
Total Godtland Investments	<u>120,779.42</u>	<u>120,779.42</u>
Fixed Assets		
H. Nelson Farm (Perpetuity)(At Appraised Market Value)	<u>1,585,500.00</u>	<u>1,438,400.00</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>1,585,500.00</u>	<u>1,438,400.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ <u>2,109,487.74</u>	\$ <u>1,909,199.68</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Net Assets		
Permanently Restricted Net Assets		
Perpetuity Assets/Godtland	\$ 581,073.17	\$ 580,823.17
Farmland Market Value Increase	1,292,400.00	1,145,300.00
Current Year Memorials	<u>0.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Total Permanently Restricted Net Assets	<u>1,873,473.17</u>	<u>1,726,373.17</u>
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		
Seminary Donations	0.00	0.00
Scholarship Donations	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets (Income)	109,531.98	100,596.09
Current Year Unrestricted Net Income (Loss)(Less Memorials)	24,344.13	8,935.89
Unrealized Security Gains (Losses)	<u>102,138.46</u>	<u>73,294.53</u>
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>236,014.57</u>	<u>182,826.51</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ <u>2,109,487.74</u>	\$ <u>1,909,199.68</u>

Note: In 2012, we went to recording farmland value using the County Assessor's market value.

Appraised market value for farmland for 2026 is set at \$1,196,800.00

This appraised amount is much lower than current value but was confirmed by the assessor's office

Grace Foundation, Inc.

Income Statement for the 12 months ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

GRACE FOUNDATION, INC.

Income Statement

For the 12 months ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

Income	2025	2024
Checking Account Interest	\$ 90.20	\$ 47.47
Scholarship Donations	0.00	0.00
Mission Fund Interest - Godtland	1,307.58	1,234.51
CD Interest - Godtland	815.73	620.74
Schwab Interest/Dividends/CG Distributions	17,006.17	17,652.49
Farm Land Rent	36,015.00	36,015.00
Farm Land CRP	3,948.00	3,948.00
Wind Farm Rent	2,000.00	2,000.00
Memorials	0.00	250.00
MN Treasury refund farm expense	5.00	0.00
Total Income	61,187.68	61,768.21
Investment Sales		
Investments Sold	0.00	14,980.00
Cost of Investments Sold	0.00	11,631.11
Gain (Loss) on Investments Sold	0.00	3,348.89
Expenses		
Student Grants	3,750.00	5,000.00
Farmland Property Taxes	10,488.00	9,634.00
Farm Expenses	20.00	15.00
Safe Deposit Box Rent and bank charges	40.00	68.95
Investment Expenses	1,725.86	1,625.60
Tax Preparation	475.00	550.00
Grace Lutheran Youth Summer Trips	2,000.00	15,266.96
Treasurer Salary	1,449.00	1,266.70
Baptismal MIF 4 Kidz	250.00	50.00
Ashley's Seminary Classes	0.00	18,854.00
Ashley's Rent	0.00	3,600.00
Youth Room	1,645.69	0.00
Kitchen Remodel	15,000.00	0.00
Total Expenses	36,843.55	55,931.21
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 24,344.13	\$ 9,185.89

Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet - Grace Lutheran Church 918 Garfield Avenue Albert Lea, MN as of Dec 31 2025

ASSETS

Cash Accounts	Security Checking Account	\$139,192.15		
	Security Savings Account	\$4,890.27		
	Edward Jones	\$8,237.62		
	Edward Jones --CD's	\$274,000.00		
	Mission Investment Fund Account	\$28,509.72		
	Edward Jones --CD's Hawthorne FFB	\$2,519.35		
	Edward Jones --CD's FFB Grant Fund	\$5,048.38		
	Edward Jones --CD's Hawthorne FFB	\$18,000.00		
	Edward Jones --CD's FFB Grant Fund	\$75,000.00		
	Edward Jones --Special Gift	\$500,000.00		
	Schwab Gift	\$36,427.26		
	Ryan Scholarship Mission Fund Acct	\$11,559.89		
	Guse Scholarship Mission Fund Acct	\$28,899.68		
	Delores Ost Scholarship Mission Fund Acct	\$41,000.00		
	Godtland Scholarship Mission Investment Fund Acct	\$40,000.00		
TOTAL ASSETS			\$1,213,284.32	\$1,213,284.32

LIABILITIES AND FUNDS

LIABILITIES	Federal Payroll Taxes Payable	\$1,766.88		
	State Payroll Taxes Payable	\$96.00		
Total Liabilities			\$1,862.88	\$1,862.88

FUND BALANCES

Undesignated Fund	General Fund	\$237,285.86		
	Edward Jones --Special Gift	\$500,000.00		
	Schwab Gift	\$36,427.26		
Undesignated Fund Total			\$773,713.12	\$773,713.12

Designated Education	Education Ministry Fund	\$2,429.98		
	Library Fund	\$2,437.26		
	Sunday School Offering	\$58.00		
Designated Education Total			\$4,925.24	

Designated Missions	Martin Luther Fund	\$3,043.09		
	Backpack Admin/Interest	\$1,392.79		
	Hawthorne Fund	\$232.43		
	Hawthorne Backpack Fund	\$25,109.73		
	Food for Backpacks Grant Fund	\$124,323.67		
	International Health Partners	\$8.50		
	Heifer Fund	\$1,025.59		
	Missionary for a Day Fund	\$185.09		
	Local Food Shelves	\$1,168.95		
	Mission Giving	\$959.05		
Designated Missions Total			\$157,448.89	

Designated Parish Nurse	Prayer Shawl Fund	\$731.91		
	Visitation Fund	\$1,653.29		
Designated Parish Nurse Total			\$2,385.20	

Balance Sheet Continued

Designated Property	Building Fund	\$21,765.61	
	Memorials Fund	\$7,212.27	
	Prayer Garden Fund	\$2,754.41	
	Thrivent Choice Fund	\$1,054.22	
	Altar Guild Expense Fund	\$4,115.02	
	WELCA Sewing Fund	\$526.01	
	WELCA General Fund	\$3,373.25	
	Kotchen Remodel	\$39,167.29	
Designated PropertyTotal			\$79,968.08
Designated Scholarships	Godtland Scholarship Fund	\$37,548.31	
	Guse Nursing Scholarship Fund	\$24,345.52	
	Hanson Scholarship Fund	\$1,067.88	
	Loehr Scholarship Fund	\$500.00	
	Mathews Scholarship Fund	\$4,595.00	
	Lu Ryan Scholarship Fund	\$11,911.94	
	Don Gross Education Scholarship Fund	\$244.38	
	Laurence O. McGill Scholarship Fund	\$13,530.00	
	Don and Donna Scholarship Fund	\$20,332.75	
	Delores Ost Scholarship Fund	\$53,441.56	
	Vern Jahnke Scholarship Fund	\$8,982.49	
Designated Scholarships Total			\$176,499.83
Designated Worship	Choir Robe Fund	\$912.35	
	Music Fund	\$4,964.08	
	Organ Fund	\$1,010.24	
Designated WorshipTotal			\$6,886.67
Designated Youth	Camp Scholarship Fund	\$5,509.39	
	Foundation Camp Scholarship & VBS	\$50.00	
	Youth Fund	\$4,017.20	
	Youth Event	\$17.82	
Designated YouthTotal			\$9,594.41
Designated Funds Total		\$437,708.32	\$437,708.32
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS			\$1,213,284.32

Income & Expenditures

Income and Expenditures Composite Grace Lutheran Church 918 Garfield Avenue Albert Lea, MN

UNDESIGNATED FUNDS	OPEN BAL	INCOME	EXPENSE	CLOSE BAL
INCOME Budgeted Offering		\$544,273.87		
Endowments, Special Gifts		\$0.00		
PPP/ERC		\$0.00		
Fees and Miscellaneous		\$2,705.34		
Interest Income		\$12,623.39		
Undesignated Income		\$559,602.60		

EXPENSE Mission to Others			\$41,782.09	
Pastoral Ministry			\$335,266.23	
Congregation Ministries			\$51,649.36	
Church Upkeep			\$134,085.68	
Budgeted Expense			\$562,783.36	
Fees and Miscellaneous			\$2,190.80	
Undesignated Expense			\$564,974.16	

	OPEN BAL	INCOME	EXPENSE	CLOSE BAL
UNDESIGNATED FUNDS	\$242,657.44	\$559,602.60	\$564,974.16	\$237,285.88

DESIGNATED FUNDS	OPEN BAL	INCOME	EXPENSE	CLOSE BAL
Designated Education	\$4,624.63	\$375.00	\$67.03	\$4,932.60
Designated Missions	\$124,199.00	\$102,931.91	\$69,723.48	\$157,407.43
Designated Parish Nurse	\$2,270.20	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$2,385.20
Designated Property	\$41,976.69	\$64,178.33	\$26,186.94	\$79,968.08
Designated Scholarships	\$177,568.73	\$13,181.10	\$14,250.00	\$176,499.83
Designated Worship	\$8,976.22	\$290.00	\$2,379.55	\$6,886.67
Designated Youth	\$8,295.76	\$10,905.25	\$9,606.60	\$9,594.41
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$367,911.23	\$191,976.59	\$122,213.60	\$437,674.22

TOTAL FUNDS	OPEN BAL	INCOME	EXPENSE	CLOSE BAL
Undesignated & Designated	\$610,568.67	\$751,579.19	\$687,187.76	\$674,960.10

Respectfully submitted, Grace Lutheran Finance Team

Grace Gifting Policy

Grace Lutheran Church Gift Policy Summary

This document is a brief summary of the **full** Gift Policy adopted by Grace Lutheran Church, intended to offer an overview of how this congregation will handle cash and non-cash gifts offered over and above regular giving. **Donors are encouraged to bless this congregation's present and future with gifts free of restrictions.** The full policy is available in the church office or on www.gracealbertlea.org

The Finance Committee of Grace Lutheran Church has responsibility for reviewing gifts and shall make decisions and/or form recommendations to the Church Council regarding acceptance and use of gifts offered to the congregation, using the guidelines of the current Gift Policy.

The Finance Committee will consider gifts of cash, gifts through beneficiary designation (e.g., bank accounts, annuities, endowments, life insurance policies, etc.), marketable securities, bequests, real estate, other non-cash gifts and in-kind donations.

As a general rule, Grace Lutheran will convert all gifts to cash.

Valuation of non-cash gifts to Grace Lutheran shall be the responsibility of the donor or the donor's estate.

Unrestricted gifts with a value less than \$25,000 shall be used in the general fund.

Unrestricted gifts with a value equal to or greater than \$25,000 shall have the acceptance and use decisions recommended by the Gift Policy as follows:

- This congregation shall offer a contribution of 10% of the total gift to the Mission Giving Fund for distribution by the Mission Team, 45% of the total gift will go to the endowment fund, and the remaining 45% will go the general fund.
- Gifts with specific donor-defined restrictions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Finance Committee in consultation with the Church Council. Donors who choose to restrict the use of a gift to Grace are strongly encouraged to complete a Restriction and Release Form.

Memorial and honorary gifts of any size given to Grace Lutheran shall be handled according to Section VII of the Gift Policy.

Donors are encouraged to consult with their personal tax advisor, estate attorney and/or financial advisor for specific tax, legal, and investment information. Grace Lutheran does not provide any tax, legal, or investment advice.

New Business - Proposed Budget

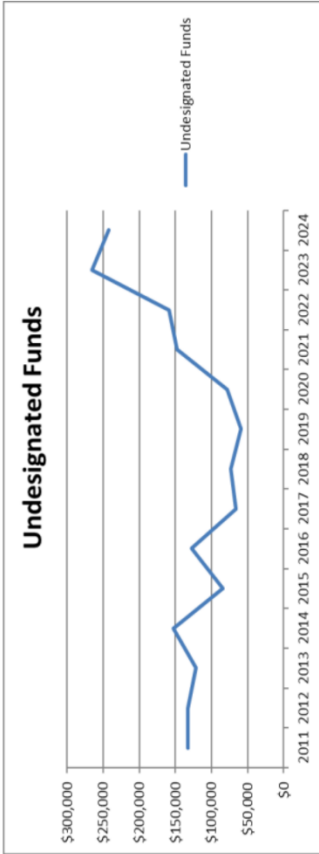
Line	GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH			
1	BUDGETED OFFERING	BUDGET 2025	ACTUAL 2025	PROPOSED 2026
2	ENVELOPES	\$623,465	\$509,207	\$613,167
3	INITIAL OFFERING	\$430	\$795	\$400
4	LOOSE OFFERING	\$9,000	\$10,450	\$9,500
5	LOVE OFFERING	\$752	\$1,772	\$1,700
6	LENTEN OFFERING	\$4,310	\$2,881	\$3,000
7	EASTER	\$3,622	\$8,649	\$8,600
8	THANKSGIVING	\$833	\$445	\$1,000
9	CHRISTMAS	\$6,000	\$10,075	\$6,000
10	ENVELOPE INCOME TOTAL	\$648,412	\$544,274	\$643,367
11	ENDOWMENTS/SPECIAL GIFTS		\$0	
12	PPP/ERC		\$0	
13	BUDGETED INCOME TOTAL	\$648,412	\$544,274	\$643,367
14				
15	MISSION TO OTHERS	BUDGET 2025	ACTUAL 2025	PROPOSED 2026
16	SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD	\$39,731	\$35,704	\$39,421
17	BLUE EARTH RIVER CONFERENCE	\$400	\$326	\$400
18	GOOD EARTH VILLAGE	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
19	LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
20	ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN HOME	\$400	\$400	\$400
21	MISSION GIVING	\$3,028	\$3,352	\$3,005
22	MISSION TO OTHERS TOTAL	\$45,559	\$41,782	\$45,226
23				
24	PASTORAL MINISTRY	BUDGET 2025	ACTUAL 2025	PROPOSED 2026
25	STAFF SALARIES	\$151,777	\$141,065	\$186,102
26	STAFF WAGES	\$168,137	\$130,131	\$142,431
27	PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE	\$25,920	\$15,185	\$26,627
29	STAFF HEALTH INSURANCE	\$31,353	\$28,742	\$33,887
31	STAFF SOCIAL SECURITY	\$12,862	\$9,337	\$10,896
32	TOTAL PAYROLL & BENEFITS	\$390,049	\$324,459	\$399,943
33	STAFF DEVELOPMENT & EXPENSES	\$1,000	\$1,124	\$2,000
34	ROSTERED AUTO ALLOWANCE	\$1,500	\$2,038	\$2,000
35	ROSTERED PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES	\$4,500	\$1,603	\$3,000
36	STAFF MILEAGE	\$200	\$0	\$100
37	CONFERENCE & SYNOD ASSEMBLY	\$1,600	\$1,104	\$1,600
38	GUEST SPEAKERS/ORGANISTS	\$3,000	\$2,150	\$2,000
39	HOSPITALITY EXPENSES	\$900	\$2,787	\$2,400
41	PASTORAL MINISTRY TOTAL	\$402,749	\$335,266	\$413,043

New Business – Proposed Budget Continued

42				
43	CONGREGATION MINISTRIES	BUDGET 2025	ACTUAL 2025	PROPOSED 2026
44	EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM	\$5,300	\$5,511	\$3,500
45	LIBRARY MINISTRY	\$250	\$0	\$250
46	LIFE & GROWTH MINISTRY TEAM	\$1,000	\$2,429	\$2,500
47	MISSION MINISTRY TEAM	\$250	\$0	\$250
48	STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM	\$500	\$0	\$500
49	WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM	\$6,085	\$4,558	\$6,500
50	YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM	\$6,500	\$3,278	\$7,050
51	ADMINISTRATION	\$25,200	\$25,071	\$21,543
52	ADVERTISING	\$2,000	\$1,253	\$2,000
54	MISCELLANEOUS	\$0	\$13	\$0
55	CALL PROCESS	\$0	\$361	\$0
56	PASTOR MOVING EXPENSE	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
57	L.E.A.D.	\$150	\$108	\$150
58	ALTAR GUILD	\$1,900	\$1,470	\$1,900
59	TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY TEAM	\$12,275	\$7,458	\$11,640
60	VISITATION	\$1,000	\$142	\$500
61	CONGREGATION MINISTRIES TOTAL	\$67,410	\$51,649	\$58,283
62				
63	CHURCH UPKEEP	BUDGET 2025	ACTUAL 2025	PROPOSED 2026
65	NEW EQUIPMENT	\$4,000	\$559	\$4,000
66	MAINTENANCE	\$49,450	\$57,638	\$53,000
67	PROPERTY & LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$44,414	\$42,569	\$41,105
68	UTILITIES	\$34,830	\$33,319	\$28,710
69	CHURCH UPKEEP TOTAL	\$132,694	\$134,086	\$126,815
70				
71		BUDGET 2025	ACTUAL 2025	PROPOSED 2026
72	BUDGETED EXPENSE TOTAL	\$648,412	\$562,783	\$643,367

Undesignated Funds

Balance as of:	Start of	Undesignated Funds
12/31/2010	2011	\$133,180
12/31/2011	2012	\$132,963
12/31/2012	2013	\$121,808
12/31/2013	2014	\$152,700
12/31/2014	2015	\$84,166
12/31/2015	2016	\$127,719
12/31/2016	2017	\$66,515
12/31/2017	2018	\$73,800
12/31/2018	2019	\$59,159
12/31/2019	2020	\$78,591
12/31/2020	2021	\$148,309
12/31/2021	2022	\$159,023
12/31/2022	2023	\$265,561
12/31/2023	2024	\$242,657
12/31/2024	2025	\$237,286



Undesignated Balance	Opening	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2019	\$59,159.35	\$41,705	\$12,557	\$8,044	\$6,254	\$90,965	\$80,720	\$69,676	\$47,761	\$57,824	\$47,246	\$30,856	\$78,591	
2020	\$78,590.60	\$62,177	\$60,002	\$58,192	\$79,014	\$181,579	\$156,450	\$142,760	\$133,364	\$122,883	\$104,745	\$88,845	\$148,309	
2021	\$148,309.13	\$257,049	\$235,258	\$217,876	\$211,642	\$271,915	\$253,151	\$236,232	\$229,239	\$185,493	\$160,493	\$154,186	\$159,023	
2022	\$159,023.40	\$161,912	\$149,910	\$141,874	\$139,338	\$154,908	\$149,517	\$176,438	\$188,635	\$179,889	\$175,052	\$154,186	\$265,561	
2023	\$265,560.77	\$266,724	\$255,143	\$255,411	\$263,124	\$263,235	\$253,726	\$262,156	\$256,884	\$248,950	\$237,773	\$235,285	\$250,807	
2024	\$250,806.54	\$246,711	\$225,764	\$251,838	\$251,604	\$246,458	\$239,139	\$239,358	\$229,353	\$234,798	\$238,009	\$227,390	\$242,657	
2025	\$242,657.44	\$241,761	\$236,418	\$242,971	\$254,561	\$244,546	\$244,695	\$235,333	\$227,734	\$215,000	\$218,018	\$234,247	\$237,286	

* \$62,026 Vern Janke special gift 2019

* \$93,947 PPP 2020

\$98,542.50 PPP 2021

GRACE NOTES FIGURES

Income	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2019 YTD income	\$36,491	\$33,972	\$51,782	\$54,157	\$143,371	\$47,961	\$41,409	\$38,568	\$59,504	\$41,206	\$31,788	\$105,634	\$685,843.53
2020 YTD income	\$36,491	\$70,463	\$122,245	\$176,402	\$319,772	\$367,734	\$409,143	\$447,712	\$507,216	\$548,422	\$580,210	\$685,844	
2021 YTD income	\$38,911	\$64,772	\$54,436	\$76,209	\$155,912	\$26,181	\$38,649	\$43,218	\$44,644	\$34,059	\$40,765	\$117,540	\$735,297.10
2022 YTD income	\$38,911	\$103,683	\$158,119	\$234,329	\$390,241	\$416,422	\$455,071	\$498,288	\$542,932	\$576,992	\$617,757	\$735,297	
2023 YTD income	\$162,755	\$38,836	\$37,727	\$39,586	\$115,534	\$28,188	\$29,057	\$40,476	\$26,285	\$32,449	\$31,355	\$51,223	\$633,472.06
2024 YTD income	\$54,170	\$39,430	\$41,760	\$50,983	\$78,863	\$45,321	\$79,590	\$60,640	\$38,162	\$48,159	\$42,931	\$169,449	\$749,457.29
2025 YTD income	\$54,170	\$93,599	\$135,359	\$186,342	\$265,205	\$310,526	\$390,117	\$450,757	\$488,918	\$537,077	\$580,008	\$749,457	
2023 Income/month	\$39,739	\$36,229	\$47,253	\$52,867	\$46,084	\$38,244	\$62,271	\$39,494	\$39,685	\$42,596	\$47,260	\$67,875	\$559,597.13
2024 Income/month	\$47,672	\$29,020	\$78,825	\$176,088	\$222,172	\$260,416	\$322,687	\$362,180	\$401,865	\$444,462	\$491,722	\$559,597	
2025 Income/month	\$47,672	\$76,692	\$155,517	\$206,896	\$252,818	\$293,554	\$340,925	\$379,101	\$423,444	\$468,324	\$508,265	\$569,630	\$569,630.08
2023 YTD expense	\$43,434	\$50,065	\$49,988	\$57,535	\$36,172	\$44,061	\$34,499	\$46,868	\$36,534	\$48,464	\$62,658	\$49,325	\$559,602.60
2024 YTD expense	\$43,434	\$93,498	\$143,486	\$201,021	\$327,193	\$281,254	\$315,753	\$362,621	\$399,156	\$447,619	\$510,278	\$559,603	
2025 YTD expense	\$53,945	\$63,121	\$56,295	\$55,948	\$58,659	\$58,206	\$52,454	\$60,483	\$49,442	\$51,784	\$48,178	\$57,899	\$666,412.28
2019 YTD expense	\$53,945	\$117,065	\$173,360	\$229,308	\$287,967	\$346,173	\$398,627	\$459,110	\$508,551	\$560,335	\$608,513	\$666,412	
2020 YTD expense	\$55,325	\$66,948	\$56,245	\$55,397	\$53,397	\$51,260	\$52,339	\$52,614	\$51,125	\$52,197	\$56,665	\$58,076	\$665,578.57
2021 YTD expense	\$55,325	\$122,272	\$178,518	\$233,905	\$287,302	\$338,562	\$390,901	\$443,515	\$498,640	\$550,838	\$607,503	\$665,579	
2022 YTD expense	\$54,015	\$60,627	\$55,109	\$45,819	\$55,261	\$46,953	\$45,976	\$47,469	\$52,993	\$49,488	\$56,355	\$52,693	\$621,757.79
2023 YTD expense	\$54,015	\$114,642	\$169,752	\$215,571	\$270,832	\$317,784	\$363,760	\$411,229	\$464,222	\$513,710	\$570,065	\$622,758	
2024 YTD expense	\$51,281	\$51,432	\$49,797	\$45,519	\$63,292	\$50,713	\$37,713	\$48,443	\$46,908	\$52,996	\$63,797	\$58,075	\$642,919.92
2025 YTD expense	\$51,281	\$102,712	\$152,509	\$206,028	\$269,320	\$320,033	\$372,702	\$421,145	\$468,053	\$521,048	\$584,845	\$642,920	
2023 Expense/month	\$38,576	\$47,810	\$46,985	\$45,154	\$45,973	\$47,753	\$53,841	\$44,766	\$47,618	\$53,773	\$49,749	\$52,354	\$574,351.36
2024 Expense/month	\$38,576	\$86,386	\$133,371	\$178,525	\$224,498	\$272,251	\$326,092	\$370,857	\$418,476	\$472,249	\$521,998	\$574,351	
2025 Expense/month	\$51,767	\$49,967	\$52,751	\$51,613	\$51,068	\$48,056	\$47,151	\$48,181	\$38,898	\$41,669	\$50,559	\$46,098	\$577,779.18
2024 YTD giving	\$51,767	\$101,734	\$154,485	\$206,098	\$257,166	\$302,222	\$352,373	\$403,453	\$459,453	\$513,122	\$561,681	\$617,779	
2025 YTD giving	\$44,330	\$55,407	\$43,435	\$45,945	\$46,187	\$43,912	\$53,861	\$44,467	\$49,269	\$45,446	\$46,429	\$46,286	\$564,974.18
2025 YTD giving vs Expenses	\$44,330	\$55,407	\$43,435	\$45,945	\$46,187	\$43,912	\$53,861	\$44,467	\$49,269	\$45,446	\$46,429	\$46,286	\$564,974.18
YTD Giving vs Expenses	\$897	\$5,342	\$6,553	\$11,590	\$10,015	\$149	\$19,362	\$2,402	\$12,735	\$3,018	\$16,229	\$3,039	

Undesignated/Designated Funds

BALANCE SHEET AS OF: 12/31/25 12/31/24 12/31/23 12/31/22 12/31/21 12/31/20 12/31/19 12/31/18 12/31/17 12/31/16 12/31/15 12/31/14

TOTAL FUNDS & LIABILITIES	\$713,284	\$612,542	\$634,958	\$565,602	\$430,919	\$667,881	\$480,080	\$326,545	\$625,427	\$325,763	\$274,485	\$199,412
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LIABILITIES	\$1,863	\$1,939	\$2,138	\$2,089	\$2,912	\$3,646	\$3,673	\$6,055	\$42,129	\$42,957	\$42,698	\$37,462
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UNDESIGNATED FUNDS	\$237,286	\$242,657	\$250,807	\$265,561	\$159,023	\$148,309	\$78,591	\$59,159	\$73,800	\$75,285	\$129,608	\$67,553
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SPECIAL GIFT	\$500,000											
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DESIGNATED FUNDS

EDUCATION	\$4,925	\$4,617	\$4,610	\$4,250	\$4,003	\$3,968	\$3,964	\$3,210	\$2,366	\$1,289	\$4,953	\$3,289
MISSIONS	\$8,015	\$299	\$11,370	\$12,719	\$15,969	\$7,846	\$9,668	\$19,036	\$6,959	\$5,876	\$4,586	\$5,023
PARISH NURSE	\$2,385	\$2,270	\$1,606	\$1,888	\$1,689	\$1,469	\$1,344	\$1,456	\$1,344	\$1,088	\$1,815	\$1,999
PROPERTY	\$35,847	\$41,977	\$26,142	\$34,377	\$26,650	\$19,661	\$25,454	\$24,879	\$30,944	\$109,212	\$13,736	\$9,870
W ORSHIP	\$6,887	\$8,976	\$66,348	\$8,823	\$8,951	\$10,751	\$12,646	\$11,348	\$5,846	\$5,150	\$5,020	\$8,449
YOUTH	\$9,594	\$8,296	\$10,820	\$13,353	\$15,522	\$13,687	\$12,765	\$13,441	\$26,299	\$4,065	-\$3,381	-\$7,506
STANDARD DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$67,654	\$66,435	\$120,896	\$75,411	\$72,784	\$57,383	\$65,843	\$73,370	\$73,757	\$126,680	\$26,729	\$21,125

OTHER DESIGNATED FUNDS

CAPITAL-KITCHEN/REMODEL	\$75,595	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$295,327	\$155,040	\$71,805	\$357,288	\$0	\$0	\$0
SCHOLARSHIPS	\$176,500	\$177,569	\$175,503	\$141,714	\$137,814	\$105,025	\$123,768	\$89,874	\$61,185	\$61,660	\$60,345	\$62,668
WELCA/FFB GRANTS	\$153,333	\$118,864	\$80,538	\$60,919	\$39,268	\$35,348	\$31,198	\$12,029	-\$1,898	\$106	\$106	-\$297
THRIVENT CHOICE	\$1,054	\$5,077	\$5,077	\$19,909	\$19,118	\$22,843	\$21,968	\$14,252	\$19,166	\$19,076	\$14,999	\$10,902

TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$474,136	\$367,945	\$382,014	\$297,953	\$268,983	\$515,926	\$397,817	\$261,330	\$509,497	\$207,522	\$102,179	\$94,397
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Undesignated Fund Balance

CHURCH'S CHECKBOOK REGISTER

1									
2									
3	DATE	DESCRIPTION	CHECKS	INCOME	BALANCE				
4	01/01/18	OPENING BALANCE			\$86,927				
5	2018	INCOME		\$662,923		2018	Difference	w/o PPP	
6	2018	EXPENSES	\$690,691				-\$27,768	-\$27,768	
7	12/31/18	CLOSING BALANCE			\$59,159				
8									
9	01/01/19	OPENING BALANCE			\$59,159				
10	2019	INCOME		\$685,844		2019	Difference	w/o PPP	
11	2019	EXPENSES	\$666,412				\$19,431	-\$42,595	
12	12/31/19	CLOSING BALANCE			\$78,591				
13									
14	01/01/20	OPENING BALANCE			\$78,591				
15	2020	INCOME		\$735,297		2020	Difference	w/o PPP	
16	2020	EXPENSES	\$665,579				\$69,719	-\$24,228	
17	12/31/20	CLOSING BALANCE			\$148,309				
18									
19	01/01/21	OPENING BALANCE			\$148,309				
20	2021	INCOME		\$633,472		2021	Difference	w/o PPP	
21	2021	EXPENSES	\$622,758				\$10,714	-\$87,828	
22	12/31/21	CLOSING BALANCE			\$159,023				
23									
24	01/01/22	OPENING BALANCE			\$159,023				
25	2022	INCOME		\$749,457		2022	Difference	w/o PPP	
26	2022	EXPENSES	\$642,920				\$106,538	-\$79,574	
27	12/31/22	CLOSING BALANCE			\$265,561				
28									
29									
30	01/01/23	OPENING BALANCE			\$265,561				
31	2023	INCOME		\$559,597		2023	Difference	w/o PPP	
32	2023	EXPENSES	\$574,351				-\$14,754	-\$14,754	
33	12/31/23	CLOSING BALANCE			\$250,807				
34									
35	01/01/24	OPENING BALANCE			\$250,807				
36	2024	INCOME		\$569,630		2024	Difference	w/o PPP	
37	2024	EXPENSES	\$577,779				-\$8,149	-\$8,149	
38	12/31/24	CLOSING BALANCE			\$242,657				
39									
40	DATE	DESCRIPTION	CHECKS	INCOME	BALANCE				
41	01/01/25	OPENING BALANCE			\$242,657		0 Months		
42	2025	INCOME		\$559,603		2025	Difference	w/o PPP	
43	2025	EXPENSES	\$564,974				-\$5,372	-\$5,372	
44	01/31/24	CLOSING BALANCE			\$237,286				
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49		YEAR	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
50									2026
51		OFFERING	\$617,776	\$624,737	\$530,138	\$679,277	\$552,705	\$538,856	\$544,274
52		ENDOWMENTS/PPP	\$62,026	\$93,947	\$98,543	\$62,631	\$0	\$10,000	\$0
53		MISC INCOME	\$6,041	\$16,613	\$4,791	\$7,549	\$6,893	\$20,774	\$15,329
54		TOTAL INCOME	\$685,844	\$735,297	\$633,472	\$749,457	\$559,597	\$569,630	\$559,603
55									
56		MISSION TOOTHES	\$46,408	\$46,900	\$40,222	\$50,664	\$40,328	\$42,164	\$41,782
57		PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$472,938	\$478,291	\$436,832	\$444,763	\$352,830	\$352,959	\$335,266
58		CONGREGATION MINISTRIES	\$58,251	\$48,972	\$50,599	\$48,195	\$47,295	\$54,090	\$51,649
59		CHURCH UPKEEP	\$85,394	\$77,161	\$93,435	\$95,473	\$131,965	\$125,519	\$134,086
60		MISC EXPENSES	\$3,421	\$14,254	\$1,670	\$3,824	\$1,933	\$3,047	\$2,191
61		TOTAL EXPENSE	\$666,412	\$665,579	\$622,758	\$642,920	\$574,351	\$577,779	\$564,974
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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

Annual Ministry Report

Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA 2025 Ministry Report



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



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



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



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

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, **and that is what we are.**"

—1 John 3:1 (emphasis added)

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

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

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

In Christ,

Rev. Regina Hassanally
Bishop Regina Hassanally



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



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

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



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



17 Rostered Ministers joined our synod!

Elections – Nominations for 2026 Leadership

Present Council Members: Constitution allows for 7-10 members

1. Doreen Pontow (President)	Jan. 2028	6. Erica Samp	Jan. 2028
2. Robert Jacobson	Jan. 2026	7. Jerry Dahl	Jan. 2028
3. Jerry Meyer	Jan. 2026	8. Gerry Vogt	Jan. 2027
4. Adele Rosenow (Secretary)	Jan. 2026	9.	
5. Jen Zoller	Jan. 2028	10.	

Present Grace Foundation, Inc. Directors:

1. Jerry Dahl	Jan. 2028	6. Steve Thompson	Jan. 2028
2. Karen Hendrickson	Jan. 2028	7. Dale Buendorf, Farm Land Advisory	
3. Bruce Olson, Chair	Jan. 2028	8. Pastor Shane Koepke, Advisory	
4. Joel Erickson	Jan. 2028	9. Alex Johnston, Advisory	
5. Steve Schulz	Jan. 2026	10. Marsha Smith, Bookkeeper	
		11. Doreen Pontow, Council Representative	

Voting Members to Blue Earth River Conference Assembly

(Sunday, February 15th, 2026 from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, location to be announced)

1.	7.
2.	8.
3.	9.
4.	10.
5.	11.
6.	12.

Voting Members to Southeastern MN Synod Assembly

(Saturday, May 2, 2026, Mayo Clinic Event Center in Mankato, MN)

1.	3.
2.	4.

Elections – Nominations for 2026 Leadership

Delegates to St. John’s Lutheran Community, Annual Meeting, December 2026

- 1. Pastor Shane Koepke
- 2.
- 3.

Non-Elected Offices, Appointed by the Council

Scholarship Committee for 2026:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bob Ball | 4. Steve Lee |
| 2. Sheila Calderon | 5. Deacon Jessie Camp |
| 3. Paul Godtland | 6. |

Nominating Committee for 2026

(Traditionally outgoing members of the council are the nominating committee)

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | |

Finance Committee

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Tonia Palmer | Jan. 2026 | 3. Dave Drommerhausen |
| 2. Ginny Loberg | Jan. 2026 | 4. Marsha Smith, Bookkeeper |

Personnel Committee

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. JD Carlson | Jan. 2027 | 3. Patricia Dahl | Jan. 2027 |
| 2. Corrine Tims | Jan. 2025 | 4. Gary Schindler | |

Elections – Nominations for 2026 Leadership

*For Church Council: 3 year term (January 2026-January 2029)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. JD Carlson | 4. Robert Jacobson, Incumbent |
| 2. Phillip Lonneman | 5. |
| 3. Adele Rosenow, Incumbent | |

*For Church Council (Youth): 1 Year term (January 2025-January 2026)

1. Markey Samp
- 2.

*Grace Foundation: 3 year term (January 2026-January 2029)

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
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