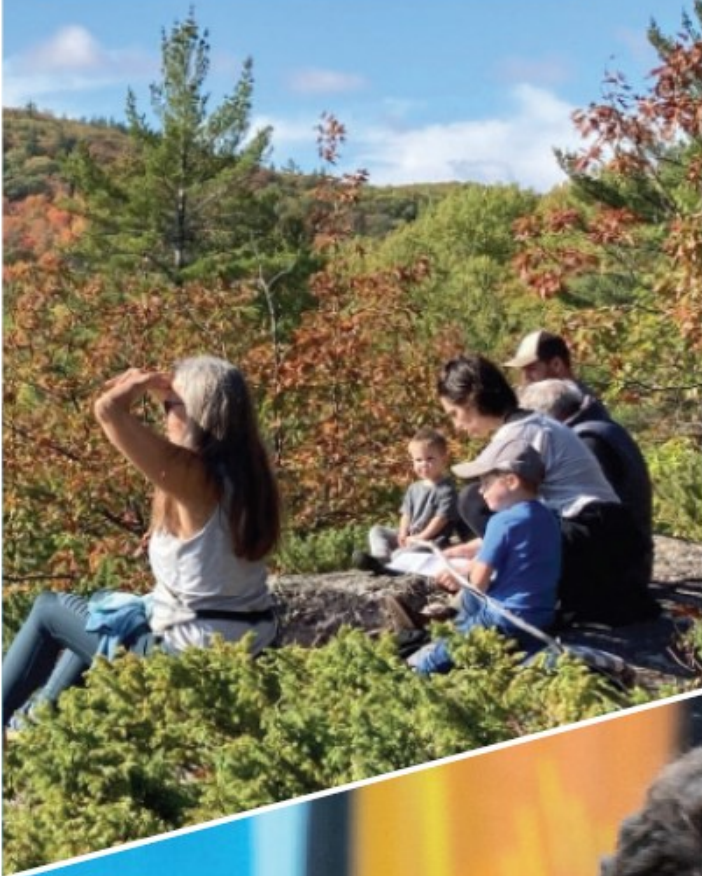




Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



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 food 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’s ability to share the message of God’s love to people who are longing for it. Through your

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“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

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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 signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

2025 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of Agenda

Congregational Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Budget for 2025

Thank You to outgoing members -Brandon Caneva, David Lyons, Robin Baldwin, Madison Pankratz and Mikayla Wilson

Congregation Council President Report

Pastor's Report

Old Business:

New Business:

## **2024**

### **CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

President – Kelly Magdanz  
Vice President – Brandon Caneva  
Secretary – Mikayla Wilson  
Treasurer – Robin Baldwin

### **CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Building (Facilities) Committee	David Lyons and Brandon Caneva
Youth & Education Committee	Mikayla Wilson and Debbie Patmore
Evangelism Committee	Bob Tesch
Stewardship Committee	Brandon Caneva & San Monahan
Worship & Music Committee	Robin Baldwin

**SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** – Pastor Carla and Michelle Williams

**CONFIRMATION** – Pastor Kevin

**PRE CONFIRMATION** -Melissa Pankratz

**LIBRARY** –

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN** – President – Debbie Patmore

**QUILTERS** – Darlene Mullins and Marlene Adolph

**2024 GRACE LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE** -

JD Williams, Robin Baldwin, Ethan Dschaak, Linda Hemmah & Shawn Mechling

# Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

Date 1-14-24

Call to Order: Kelly

Prayer: Pastor Kevin

Adoption of Agenda: Motion- Tim Potts Second- David Lyons

Treasurer's Report: no questions

Budget for 2024

New members Diana Bauer, Heather Kreutz & Jeff DeKraai accepted via applause  
THANK YOU to the outgoing members Dennis Chowen, Linda Hemmah & Clay Lange

Old Business:

Committee Reports: Additional information to be found in monthly reports.

Next Meeting Date

Prepared by Mikayla Wilson

## 2024 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As my term as your Council President for 2024 comes to a close, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your time, commitment, and passion in managing all church affairs. This year has truly been blessed and productive.

Pastor Kevin and Carla have been the leaders we needed, uniting us during this period. With the generosity of a donor and the hard work of several members, we have upgraded our sound system, installed TV monitors, and laid new carpeting.

This year has been eventful, welcoming fourteen new members and celebrating four baptisms, though we also mourned the loss of thirteen members. It's heartening to see many new faces, and we look forward to further growth in our congregation. We've replaced our preschool furnace, acquired two AEDs, and initiated advertising in the Pioneer Newspaper.

2024 also brought about another successful Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, with GLCW back to provide breakfast. A special thank you to all the church members who contributed, and to Debbie Patmore for her leadership. The Christian Motorcycle Club visited and generously donated for the use of the church.

In April, our Easter Egg Drive was a great success, thanks to Brandon Caneva and our Easter bunny, Tim Potts. The Worship and Education Committees have expanded their programs, and it's wonderful to witness so many children, youth, and adults getting involved.

We are currently working on enhancing our security system and developing an online member directory. We welcome any suggestions and assistance in these areas. As we move forward, we will be saying goodbye to Brandon Caneva, David Lyons, Madison Pankratz, and Mikayla Wilson from the council. Although Robin Baldwin's term is concluding, she will continue to serve as treasurer and a non-voting member.

New council members who have agreed to step in are Terri Huntley, Jeremy Vliem, Ron Wiedmann, Jarred Curry and Mike Tysdal. Thank you all—the work goes on.

Additionally, our budget for 2025 has been established and approved by the congregation.

It has been an honor to serve as your President. May God bless you all, and let's continue to grow in our faith and love for one another.

Kelly Magdanz



## 2024 Senior Pastor's Annual Report The Rev. Kevin Jensen Mission Drives the Movement

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.*" (Philippians 4:4)

We have a lot of reasons to celebrate at Grace. Mainly we celebrate what our Lord Jesus Christ has been doing with our hearts and minds. Through faithful worship, solid Bible study, and a dedicated Christian education ministry, our youth and adults at Grace are learning more about our Savior and growing in our faith

Another reason to celebrate is the fantastic new media system that came about because of several generous donations. It not only includes new video screens in our sanctuary but also a nice upgrade to our choir loft in the balcony. And the driving force behind it all is our amazing music ministry! Thanks be to God for such dedicated musicians at Grace.

In addition, our quilters continue to work on their weekly mission work in the Rose Room. Our Women of the ELCA are thriving in their monthly meetings and Bible studies. Our men are growing in faith through our Saturday Men's Prayer Breakfasts at Uncle Louie's. We also have several adult Bible studies, confirmation classes, and even held a two-part healing series this past year that was well-attended.

Growth in giving is happening because of our Stewardship Committee holding another successful Consecration Sunday that helped us remember the importance of Growing-One-Step. In addition, our dedicated Evangelism Committee is meeting monthly to learn about LASSIE—Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, and Encourage. Here's some key questions:

- How are we called to "bear witness?"
- What unique gifts does our congregation have for its witness?
- What are the needs of our community we are called to serve?

As we move into this New Year we will quickly be immersed in our Lenten journey, and this year we will be using a series called "The Hills of Lent." This series will remind those of us living in "The Hills" of the two important mountains in the life of Jesus—Mount Herman where we catch a glimpse of Jesus in his glorious transfiguration; and Mount Calvary where we witness Jesus redeeming the world.

Finally, I must include in this report my thanks for our two paid staff—our dedicated office manager, Keri Fischer—and David Lyons, our faithful church custodian. They both work tirelessly, and I hope if you get a chance to thank them you will do it.

I also need to thank my wife, Pastor Carla, for her dedication and service. I am certainly thankful for her love and support, which truly blesses me every day. Beloved in Christ, our mission always leads us into a closer walk with Jesus—he provides the source of our gratitude. So, as I give thanks to God for all of you, I pray that together we will keep responding to God's grace and discovering how the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ drives our movement forward!



## **2024 New Members**

Bryan Mahoney

Bryce, Megan, Jenika and Jett Leonhardt

Michelle, Jesse and Myles Truth

Paul Haedt

Greg and Cherie Huiner

Jameson, Stevie and Taven Tebben

## **2024 Baptisms**

Adonis Curry

Arminas Curry

Taven Tebben

Haygen Dobler

# IN MEMORIUM

Remembering those who have departed this life this past year.  
Many were near and dear to the Grace Lutheran Church family.  
Their funerals were conducted at Grace Lutheran  
or under our care and ministry.

Marlowe Kinkade\*

William (Bill) Molitor\*

Carl Erickson\*

Ralph Jakovec\*

Neil Hultman\*

Sharon Rank\*

Willard Olsen\*

James Blakeman\*

Bill Jones\*

Marie Jones\*

Norma Lore\*

DeWayne Hayes\*

Marjorie Jutting\*

With 8 additional non-member funerals at BH National Cemetery

\*Members

0	2023	2024	2025
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET
60100 · Bank Charges	\$ -		
60200 · Children's Ministry	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 500.00
60300 – High School Youth	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00
60400 · Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
60500 · Training/ Education/Committees			\$ 2,000.00
60501 - Conferences			\$ 1,200.00
60800 - Facilities & Equipment-other(Elevator)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,200.00
60801 · Building Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,500.00
60803 · Cleaning Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
60804 · Equipment Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
60805 · Grounds Maintenance	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
60806 · Insurance	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 12,000.00
60807 - Janitorial Services	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
60808 · Leased Equipment	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
61600 · Licenses and Registrations			
61700 · College Scholarship	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
61710 · Kitchen Supplies	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
61900 · Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
61901 - Music Expense-Piano Tuning	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
61902 · Sheet Music for Choirs			\$ 150.00
62000 · Office Supplies, Library Supplies, Office S	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
62100 · Organist	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00
62101 · Worship Supplies, General	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,150.00
62201 · Parsonage Maintenance		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
62202 – Mortgage Interest	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,000.00
62203· Mortgage Principle	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
62204 · Utilities	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
62301· Pastor's Base Compensation	\$ 82,000.00	\$ 85,575.00	\$ 89,000.00
62302 - Pastoral Professional Expense		\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
62303· Continuing Education	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
62304 · Lodging	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00
62305 · Meals			\$ 100.00
62306 · Mileage	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
62307 · Pension, Medical, Dental	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 44,000.00
62308 Social Security Reimbursement	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,800.00
62401 · FICA/Medicare Expense	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
62402 · Administrative & Office Wages	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 38,000.00
62500-Youth Ministry Coordinator			
62501 – Workman's Comp Ins	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,000.00
62600 · Postage	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00
62800 - Professional Accounting			
62900 - Pulpit Supply	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,500.00
63000· Pulpit Supply Mileage	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
63304 · SD Synod Monthly	\$ 6,325.00	\$ 6,325.00	\$ 6,500.00
63700 · Telephone, Telecommunications	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,800.00
63901 · Electricity	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 10,000.00
63902 · Natural Gas	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,000.00
63903· Water Expense	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 255,875.00</b>	<b>\$ 255,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 268,950.00</b>

9:36 AM  
 01/06/25  
 Accrual Basis

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 January through December 2024

	Jan - Dec 24
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
40004 · Interest Income	129.84
40013 · Offerings	248,258.93
40015 · Thrivent Choice Dollars	399.00
40016 · Rent-Funerals, Weddings, Other	600.00
40017 · Coffee Fund	2,369.90
40018 · WNL Supper Fund	116.03
40020 · Miscellaneous Income	708.11
	708.11
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>252,581.81</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
60200 · Children's Ministry Exp	444.27
60300 · High School Youth Exp	235.14
60400 · Dues and Subscriptions	718.00
60501 · Conferences	214.00
60800 · Facilities and Equipment	
60801 · Building Repairs & Maintenance	263.53
60803 · Cleaning Supplies	944.24
60804 · Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	2,541.48
60805 · Grounds Maintenance	198.83
60806 · Insurance	10,731.83
60807 · Janitorial Services	6,099.05
60808 · Leased Equipment	3,705.52
60800 · Facilities and Equipment - Other	1,326.24
	1,326.24
<b>Total 60800 · Facilities and Equipment</b>	<b>25,810.72</b>
61710 · Kitchen Supplies	47.50
61900 · Miscellaneous Exp	4,086.12
61902 · Sheet Music for Choirs	149.82
62000 · Office Supplies	3,197.44
62100 · Organist	1,350.00
62101 · Worship Supplies-General	2,570.11
62200 · Parsonage/Housing Allowance	
62201 · Maintenance	3,531.14
62202 · Mortgage Interest	7,228.27
62204 · Utilities	3,543.41
	3,543.41
<b>Total 62200 · Parsonage/Housing Allowance</b>	<b>14,302.82</b>
62300 · Pastoral Ministry	
62301 · Pastor's Base Compensation	79,953.99
62302 · Pastoral Professional Expense	355.35
62303 · Continuing Education	300.00
62304 · Lodging	326.02
62305 · Meals	86.01
62306 · Mileage	1,192.33
62307 · Pension, Medical, Dental	51,381.44
62308 · Soc. Sec. Reimbursement	6,546.72
	6,546.72
<b>Total 62300 · Pastoral Ministry</b>	<b>140,141.86</b>
62400 · Payroll Expenses	
62401 · Fica/Medicare Expense	3,182.13
62402 · Administrative Wages	34,616.23
62400 · Payroll Expenses - Other	900.00
	900.00
<b>Total 62400 · Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>38,698.36</b>
62501 · Workman's Comp Ins	838.00
62600 · Postage	207.00
62900 · Pulpit Supply	1,400.00
63000 · Pulpit Supply Mileage	503.22

9:36 AM

01/06/25

Accrual Basis

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Profit & Loss**  
January through December 2024

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	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>
63300 · SD Synod	
63304 · SD Synod Monthly	<u>6,325.00</u>
Total 63300 · SD Synod	6,325.00
63600 · Tax Expense	40.34
63700 · Telephone, Telecommunications	1,588.62
63900 · Utilities	
63901 · Electricity	9,463.16
63902 · Natural Gas	3,847.56
63903 · Water	<u>1,850.36</u>
Total 63900 · Utilities	<u>15,161.08</u>
Total Expense	<u>258,029.42</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-5,447.61</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-5,447.61</u></u>

## Grace Lutheran Church

## Balance Sheet

01/06/25

As of December 31, 2024

Accrual Basis

	Dec 31, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
14000 · Pioneer Bank 2236	166,222.40
Total Checking/Savings	166,222.40
Other Current Assets	
15001 · Endowment Funds	152,775.65
Total Other Current Assets	152,775.65
Total Current Assets	318,998.05
Fixed Assets	
16000 · Capital Improvements	67,389.84
16001 · Church Building	607,610.16
16002 · Parsonage	230,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	905,000.00
Other Assets	
17002 · Memorials Undedicated	13,199.26
17003 · Playground Dedicated	1,100.00
17005 · Egg Drop Dedicated	2,135.00
17006 · Children's Ministries	4,896.53
17007 · High School Youth Dedicated	20,379.16
17010 · Memorials Dedicated	2,225.75
17011 · Music Dedicated	1,452.64
17012 · Radio Broadcast Dedicated	3,297.15
17013 · Quilting Account	4,865.16
17014 · Pastors Benevolence Dedicated	344.63
17018 · Zto Close out Dedicated Funds	-53,895.28
Total Other Assets	0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,223,998.05</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	17,134.49
Total Other Current Liabilities	17,134.49
Total Current Liabilities	17,134.49
Long Term Liabilities	
19000 · Parsonage Mortgage	115,712.62
Total Long Term Liabilities	115,712.62
Total Liabilities	132,847.11
Equity	
20000 · Opening Balance Equity	1,048,878.43
20003 · Unrestricted Net Assets	44,478.82
Net Income	-2,206.31
Total Equity	1,091,150.94
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>1,223,998.05</b>

## Grace Lutheran Worship Committee 2024 Annual Report

The GLC Worship Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The committee members are very faithful in their attendance and the committee's work is key to the weekly, monthly, and yearly happenings of the church. The Grace Lutheran Worship Committee's chief duty is to plan, lead, and implement worship and the music ministries of the congregation. Throughout 2024, the committee prayerfully accepted the challenge and together with Pastors Carla Nelson and Kevin Jensen, Office Manager Keri Fischer, and the dedicated musicians, technical staff, and worship leaders, the Grace congregation is blessed to continue weekly worship through the radio broadcast and in-house worship.

**Weekly Music Leaders:** Sunday morning musicians include Marlene Kotab, Dan Chapman, Candy McKay, and Danilee Chapman. Marcia Potts and Christian and Marlene Kotab provide music leadership at Wednesday Night Live. Along with other soloists and the children of the church, members of the Grace Choir, Lynette Kvanvig, Gary Meyer, Mikayla Wilson, Marie Ritten, and Paul Haedt all contribute their musical talents. All worship helpers are appreciated, and the committee wants to thank all who answered the call to enhance the worship experience.

**Assisting ministers:** The congregation is blessed to have Tim Patmore (head of assisting ministers), Tim Potts, Garland Dobler, J.D. Williams, and Kim Webber continue as assistant ministers. They are key to the service every Sunday and especially during pulpit supply Sundays.

**Lent/Easter:** The contemplative Ash Wednesday service was held on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 using the sand cross. The confirmation class imposed the ashes. First communion for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and above was held on March 17. The 15th Easter Cantata was presented on March 24 and 26 with 56 singers. The Confirmation Youth presented the Living Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and the High School Youth presented "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" on Good Friday. The Sunday after Easter was designated "Holy Humor Sunday."

**Outdoor Service:** Annie Calhoun was the featured speaker for the outdoor service on June 2. She spoke of her future YWAM mission life in Saudi Arabia.

**Improvements to the balcony/sanctuary:** A \$25,000 gift to the church was designated for 3 big screen TVs, improved audio/visual/technology equipment, and new carpeting in the balcony. Thanks go to, Tim Patmore, Christian Kotab, Tim Potts, and Brandon Caneva for their work on the organization, construction, and installation of the new equipment. The new equipment was purchased and installed by Haggerty's Musicworks in Rapid City. Other Grace members contributed to this successful project.

**Confirmation:** Kaydence Aldren, Quinten Kelly, Talen Koontz, Jenika Leonhardt, Lily Wilson, and Levi McPherson were members of the 2024 Confirmation Class. Each spoke well as they read their faith statements and affirmed their baptism on Oct. 27 and Nov. 10.

**Advent/Christmas:** 5 families shared the Advent and Christmas Eve candle readings. Thanks go out to the Weidenbach, Potter, Blakeman, Pankratz, and Gunderson families for blessing our services. A joyful music service was held on Sunday, Dec. 15, the Children's Christmas Program on Wednesday, Dec. 18, and a large gathering celebrated Christmas Eve at the 5:00 service.

**Thanks to our faithful Worship Committee Members:** Marlene and Christian Kotab, Tim Patmore, Marcia Potts, Robin Baldwin, Ruth Mechling, and Candy McKay. Thanks to Pastor Kevin Jensen for his monthly pastoral report and to the council for supporting the many arms of the worship committee. To our many volunteers – God has blessed us in so many ways because of you. Thank you.

## 2024 EVANGELISM COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

**1 Corinthians 3:6-7:** *“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”*

St. Paul reminds us in this passage that evangelism is a team sport. We are called to do our part and let God do God’s part. In our monthly evangelism classes this fall we have embraced what Martin Luther called “the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren.” As we share the gospel through word and deed—we pray for our Lord’s guidance, love and support. In those classes—we have covered the first four chapters of our guidebook called ***Every One His Witness***. In doing the exercise questions in that manual we are learning how to live out a ministry of presence with those we are inviting into our fellowship. And it seems to be working—we received six new members at the beginning of Advent, including one young child who was baptized right before that. We are coming up with ideas for banners to help publicize special events. We also sponsored a “Bring-a-Friend” Sunday which we combined with our *New Member Sunday* to connect with the beginning of our Advent/Christmas season. In our monthly evangelism classes we are learning more about **LASSIE—Learn, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite & Encourage**. Looking way ahead—we are planning to have another ice cream social on the evening of Pentecost Sunday, June 8. And we have invited one of our new members, Michelle Truth, to bring *The Black Hills Raptor Center* to put on a “Birds of Prey” performance that evening. These are exciting times at Grace Lutheran. Our radio broadcasts of our Sunday services continue to inspire those who listen and you would probably be amazed at how many people I bump into at stores and restaurants who have listened to us!

><> Pastor Kevin

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## 2024 PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

With the end of 2024 also brings the end of my term on council and as property chairman. I want to thank everyone on council for all of your support. I want to thank all the volunteers throughout my tenor on property committee and those who helped to get the parsonage ready for the pastors! The furnace in the basement education wing was replaced in April. Thanks to Dan Boy and Tim Patmore for fixing the railings on the front walkway. Thanks to a generous in-kind donation from Calvin Cammack and Greenscape our church lawn received special care throughout the summer, and they even cleared the leaves in the fall. Earlier in the summer they worked on the parsonage sprinkler system and blew it out in the fall. A leaky shower faucet was replaced in the parsonage and Al Weidenbach came up with a ceiling tile to replace the stained one in the basement. Following our plumber’s recommendation for replacing the water softener and drinking filter at the parsonage, we have that project completed. San Monahan is working on putting together bids and competing the repairs needed on the parsonage driveway. He is also receiving bids and recommendations on installing a new church security system that is especially needed during the rally. Our plumber also sealed off the leaking water fountain in the fellowship hall outside the kitchen. In addition, the drains for the eave’s spouts have been cleaned out. The posts and flags have been placed on the edge of the church’s back parking lot to help snow removal teams keep from gouging up the lawn. The quilters wanted a quilt rack to display a “Quilt of the Month” in the Sonshine room and that was installed in November. The upstairs education furnace needed repairs and that was also completed.

Thank you to everyone, Property Chairman, David Lyons



## 2024 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Grace Stewardship Committee continues to thank the people of Grace for responding favorably to our second go-round of *New Consecration Sunday!* By emphasizing our giving as an act of worship—our congregation sees itself as a center for mission beyond our own walls! Along with yours truly, our committee is composed of ten people including Pastor Jonathan Vehar from the synod office, who served as this year's guest leader. From Grace we have San Monahan, Gary Meyer, Bob Haivala, Connie Hurlburt, Ruth Smit, Kris Little, Ann Bertolotto, and Pastor Kevin. This team of dedicated disciples continues to inform, inspire and encourage all of us to carry out our Consecration Sunday worship commitment in giving of our time, talents and treasures to the glory of God. It is **God's work, our hands!** And that means seeing that Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings are about getting re-vitalized to do God's work in the world! And a big part of that is responding to God's love through our tithes and offerings! Truly, we are blessed to be a blessing to others!

Brandon Caneva, Stewardship Secretary

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### Grace Lutheran High School Youth Group - 2024

A wonderful group of youth meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm during the school year with adult leaders, Michelle Williams and Pastor Carla. Grace Lutheran provides space and support for high school youth to strengthen their relationship with each Jesus and each other. The adult leaders provide a calendar of events that include service projects, worship leadership opportunities, Bible Study and fun.

Service projects this year included: making valentines for nursing home residents and our homebound members, making tie quilts for our Grace Lutheran Class of 2024 graduates and serving Thanksgiving meal at Grace for our 60+ year old members following worship the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Grace Youth Group continues the tradition of leading the Good Friday Worship Service each year. This year's program was called, "Were You There?". The Youth Group will present the Reverse Advent Service in 2025 on Good Friday.

Most weeks, we invite our young adults to reflect on their joys, concerns and where they saw or met Jesus in the previous week. We often focus on the gospel from the previous Sunday.

Fun activities include attending a Sasquatch baseball game in the summer, playing Bible Pictionary, making Gingerbread houses, a Christmas party, and with the mild fall lots of outdoor games on our small patch of grass east of the church. We bought a set of frisbee golf discs with some of the money raised from staffing the photo booth during rally as well as stocking the youth room with snacks and drinks with this money. Special thanks to: Jared & Andria Williams, to the Pastors Carla, Kevin, Bill (Dodi), Melinda and Deb, Kelly & Otto Magdanz, for staffing the photo booth.

The Sunday morning of graduation, Grace continues to recognize our High School graduates with prayers in worship and a special fellowship following worship.

The Education Committee planted the seed for joint youth group activities in Sturgis (remembering the Pumpkin Bowl from days gone by). So, we invited some of the neighboring churches to participate once a quarter in a joint youth group event. St. Francis Youth accepted the invitation and this fall, Grace Youth hosted them in a night of pizza and games. Later in the fall, this almost 30 Grace and St. Francis youth went bowling and enjoyed several games and lots of food thanks to a Thrivent grant. We look forward to more joint activities in 2025.

Thank you, Grace, for supporting our youth. All High School Youth are welcome to join. Wednesdays at 7 pm in The Youth Room.

-Pastor Carla & Michelle Williams

## 2024 Education Committee Report

Committee members include: Garland Dobler, Shawn Koontz, Melissa Pankratz, Mikayla Wilson, Andria Williams, Michelle Williams, Debbie Patmore, Connie Berg, Marlene Kotab, Vicki Monahan and Pastor Carla

The Education Ministry at Grace Lutheran thrives because of the gifted and dedicated volunteers and the prayers and support of the congregation. A very special word of thanks to Connie Berg and Tim & Debbie Patmore for preparing and serving fabulous family friendly meals for Wednesday Night Live (WNL).

We resumed WNL on January 10, 2024. Education opportunities are provided for 4 years olds – through adults. In the spring Shawn Koontz taught preschool – 1st grade, Tessa Gunderson: 2nd - 4th grade, Melissa Pankratz: 5th - 6th, Pastor Kevin: confirmation, Michelle Williams/Pastor Carla: High School Youth and Pastor Carla: adults. The WNL program begins each week with music led by Marlene Kotab. A goal for the WNL young people was to memorize the books of the New Testament. To work toward this goal, Marlene taught a song and the Education Committee provided Bible tabs at the closing spring celebration to every student who could recite the New Testament books. Journey with Jesus led by Vicki Monahan provided Christian education on Sundays following after worship for pre-school – 6th graders.

Grace offered First Communion Instruction, Acolyte Training and Confirmation instruction for youth during WNL. Thank you to Eileen Raforth for teaching a host of first communion students how to make bread as part of their instruction. Vacation Bible School was held in June. It was called, “Mission: Deep Sea”. Connie Berg provided the lesson, Marlene Kotab – music and Vicki Monahan – crafts. There were a host of volunteers, confirmation age and above helping with the program.

We had 11 youth attend one of our Lutheran Outdoors Camps in South Dakota. Pastor Carla joined the youth for a week at Outlaw Ranch.

Journeys with Jesus began taking a break in the fall, as the attendance has been so sporadic. Vicki Monahan has faithfully led Journey with Jesus for years. Thank you for all the little ones who know the good news of Jesus through you, Vicki.

September 18, 2024 we resumed WNL. Garland Dobler agreed to teach our littlest WNL students, so beginning in September, Garland taught pre-school – Kindergarten, Shawn: 1st & 2nd, Tessa: 3rd & 4th, Melissa: 5th & 6th, Pastor Kevin & Mikayla Wilson: confirmation, Michelle Williams/Pastor Carla: High School Youth and Pastor Carla: adults. Bibles were distributed to our new pre-school children and 3rd graders. We blessed backpacks and had special prayers for our students and educators in worship. In October, six youth were confirmed, Jenika, Quintin, Levi, Lily, Talen and Kaydence. In November, we hosted Mary Ketl from Outlaw Ranch for camp night. Marlene Kotab directed an outstanding Christmas Pageant called “Uncertain Poor Shepherds”, assisted by Vicki Monahan costuming the children.

The South Dakota Synod offered a grant to congregations for ministry with our youngest Christians from birth onward called “Sprinkles of Grace.” Garland Dobler wrote the grant for Grace and we received \$1000 for a special ministry for children which will be mailed out seasonally. Please let us know if you have a child or grandchild (infant to preschool) that you would like to be included. The child does not have to be a member. Way to go, Garland!

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on the Grace Education Committee as well as teachers and substitutes for WNL. Please talk to anyone on the committee. We’d love to have you participate. Also, all are welcome, so please attend! There is a class for you, a wonderful meal, and worship with communion weekly during the school year. If you are already attending, please bring others with you!

<b>Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund</b> <b>2024 Annual Report (prepared before receiving EOY 1099's)</b>
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The Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund is Invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust as of August 27, 2015.

**Total Investment in ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust:**

Beginning Value 12-31-2023	\$ 212,499.67	
Additions	\$ .00	
Withdrawals for expense & distributions	\$ .00	
Reinvestments	\$ 6,411.80	
Change in Market Value	\$ 19,987.16,	
Total balance as of Nov. 30, 2023	\$ 238,898.63	\$ 238,898.63

**Checking Account report at Pioneer Bank and Trust**

Balance as of 1-1-2023		\$ 6868.01
Deposited - Ruth Smit from 2023	\$ 500.00	
Deposited - Marlowe Kinkade Mem.	\$ 5,000.00	
Deposited - Dan & Caron Collins	\$ 100.00	
Deposited - Ruth Smit - 2024	<u>\$ 500.00</u>	
Total	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 12,968.01
 Checks:		
GLC - Balcony Upgrade Project	\$ 1,000.00	
GLC - VBS	\$ 500.00	
Canyon Hills Center	\$ 1,000.00	
Box Elder Mission, ELCA	\$ 500.00	
St. Dysmus of SD ELCA Congregation	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	
Total	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00      \$ 8,968.01

Grand total of ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust and Checking \$ 247,826.64



Robin Baldwin  
 GLC Endowment Fund  
 Treasurer

Committee Members: JD Williams, Ethan Dschaak, Linda Hemmah, and Shawn Mechling

## 2024 Grace Lutheran Church Women Annual Report

The women of Grace Lutheran Church have been a part of Grace Lutheran since the beginning and will be in the future a very vital part of this congregation. GLCW has been meeting a combined meeting of all circles on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:30 in the afternoon. We started this in January and seems to be working fine for all coming. Every 4<sup>th</sup> meeting has been a business meeting, Bible study and refreshments, the other meetings consisted of a Bible Study, program and refreshments. Pastor Carla has blessed us as our Bible study leader and we have volunteers for the program and hostess. We need your participation to keep this founding legacy thriving.

The women of Grace Lutheran are busy in a variety of ways to see to the need of many organizations. Every season of the church calendar, every Sunday and every Wednesday service, the Altar Guild is busy making sure that Grace Lutheran is ready for a service. Whether it is setting up for Holy Communion, making sure that the candles have oil or changing the paraments on the altar and pulpit. Come Wednesday morning a group are making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, Cornerstone Mission, Behavior Management, Crisis Intervention to name a few of the organizations that reap the benefits of these quilts. The women and helpers make many types of kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits are School Kits, Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits. The women serve many meals: coffee hour, soup suppers for Lent, funeral luncheons, help with wedding preparations, and of course the Rally Breakfast. We have food drives for Kiwanis, personal care products for Crisis Center, the women are involved with the community along with Grace Lutheran Church.

In 2024 GLCW were able to fulfill their normal endeavors that were available within the church and community. The quilters meet at the church on Wednesday morning, they only take a few breaks during the year otherwise you can find them working away. They sold quilts at the Rally breakfast and now have a nice display in the Sunshine Room. Cards and calls were made to the shut ins and members to keep in touch with each other. The women, with the help of some men and children served the Rally Breakfast. It was a success with serving over 1000 people. The revenue from the breakfast helps us meet our yearly obligations. It was also time to start nominations for new officers. Blessings to these women who decided to keep their position for this following year of 2025 and thank you to the new volunteers. Thank you for your service.

Thankoffering Sunday was held in November with a skit and temple talk. Thank you women of Grace for your donations to the Women of ELCA and their charitable organizations. It was heartwarming to see all of the women of Grace come forward with their offering.

December and Christmas... This year the GLCW received from the social worker at Sturgis Elementary a family that we could help with their Christmas. It was so much fun and heart filling to be able to help with these needs and wants. The participation was overwhelming to put our Christmas packages together and delivered to our shut ins this year. What a great family of women! You could feel the joy and love for our shut in and loved ones.

Wishing you a very blessed 2025!

Yours in Christ,

Debbie Patmore, GLCW President

## 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](http://www.lpgsd.org). Contact Kathy McHenry at 605-274-5030 or [kmchenry@sdsynod.org](mailto:kmchenry@sdsynod.org) for assistance. Together, we can make a difference through thoughtful planning and faithful generosity.

*your life can make a difference*



# 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

**churchonthestreetsf.org**

# LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

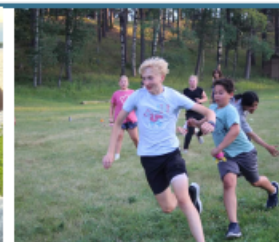


# 2024 CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

## THANK YOU!

Let me begin this report with a huge THANK YOU to the congregations and women's groups of the South Dakota Synod that have so generously supported their partnership ministry with Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota. Through the end of December you have more than **doubled** your financial support for LO. In 2023, you provided just over \$87,000 to LO, now you have provided just over \$190,000. Thank you so very much for your financial support and for sending your families and children to experience a Christ centered community at Klein Ranch, Outlaw Ranch and NeSoDak, the three camps that you own.

When I started at the end of July, I could see in the financial report that we needed to raise \$850,000 before the end of the fiscal year, January 31, 2025. To date, your generosity has provided more than \$930,000. From gifts as small as \$5 to a gift totaling \$100,000, YOUR contributions have made all the difference in sustaining the ministry of LOSD. THANK YOU!



## STAFF UPDATES

2024 has been a year of transition for Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota. In March, Matt Rusch, our site Director at Outlaw tendered his resignation. Late April, Kaycee Cronin was hired to serve as site Director at Klein Ranch. At the end of July, Paul Hanson resigned as Executive Director, and Pastor David Zellmer was asked to serve as Interim Executive Director. Mara Stillson resigned as Marketing Director at the end of August. Linda Weidner retired from her role as Financial Officer for LO at the end of September and Randy Youngquist-Thurrow completed his work as consultant to the Board at the end of October. November 1st Jamie Duprey began her ministry with LO as the new site Director of Outlaw Ranch. On December 2nd, Randy Olawsky and Ben Kyte, retired bankers, stepped in to share the Accounting role.

The Executive Director Search Committee began its work in November. They are hopeful that the LO Board will have the opportunity to meet with the candidate(s) this month.

## SUMMER 2024 | SUMMER 2025

During 2024, we had six busloads of youth going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, campers, family campers, retreats and adult travel trips. Lutherans Outdoors served over 5,200 guests in 2024!

We look forward to this summer when we will once again offer Day Camps and Leadership Programs. If you are interested in either of these or registering for camp, please check the website [www.losd.org](http://www.losd.org).

If you are looking for a great place to hold a retreat for your women's, men's or church group, please call one of the camps. We would love to host you!

Blessings to you in 2025,  
Pastor David B. Zellmer  
Interim Executive Director

**Join Lutherans Outdoors for Summer 2025**  
**"God's Word Comes Near" Register at [losd.org](http://losd.org).**  
**"God's Word is near you, on your lips and in your heart." Romans 10:8**

**In the Hills. On the Prairie. At the Water.**

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA**  
**2025 Proposed Mission Plan**  
02/01/2025 - 01/31/2026

	Adopted 2024	Revised 2024	Proposed 2025
<b>Revenue</b>			
<b>Mission Support</b>			
Undesignated Mission Support	1,803,094	1,763,515	1,807,603
SD Synod Mission Support	28,675	23,800	23,800
<b>Total Mission Support-Congregations</b>	1,831,769	1,787,315	1,831,403
<b>Program Ministry Income</b>			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Income	45,000	45,000	45,000
<b>Total Program Ministry Income</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
DEM Support Staff Income	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	10,000	50,000	50,000
SDS Travel LLC Income	5,000	5,000	5,000
Misc Income	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Other Income</b>	26,000	66,000	66,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	1,902,769	1,898,315	1,942,403
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Churchwide Ministries</b>	41%	42%	42%
Churchwide Support	739,269	740,676	759,193
<b>Region III</b>			
Region III Support	8,004	9,153	8,004
<b>South Dakota Ministries</b>			
<b>South Dakota Partnership Ministries</b>			
SD Ministries Support	11,757	9,996	9,996
Luther Seminary	71,989	70,241	71,974
Church Colleges (ELCA Pool)	6,228	6,077	6,227
Lutheran Social Services	71,989	70,241	71,974
Campus Ministry	126,942	123,861	126,916
Lutheran Outdoors	35,903	35,031	35,895
<b>South Dakota Supported Ministries</b>			
Heartland Ephphatha	6,228	6,077	6,227
Youth Ministry	7,200	7,200	7,200
Campus Ministry Capital	0	0	0
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Woyatan Lutheran/Wambli Ska	19,000	19,000	19,000
Lutheran Planned Generosity	58,300	58,300	58,300
<b>Total Shared Ministries</b>	415,538	406,026	413,712



**South Dakota Synod, ELCA**  
**2025 Proposed Mission Plan**  
**02/01/2025 - 01/31/2026**

	<b>Adopted 2024</b>	<b>Revised 2024</b>	<b>Proposed 2025</b>
<b>Executive Leadership</b>			
Bishop	102,005	104,952	108,101
Assoc/Director of Ev Mission	10,849	12,596	12,974
Assoc-Mobility/Candidacy	84,596	87,333	89,953
Executive Staff Benefits	89,546	71,668	73,818
Exec Travel/Continuing Ed	36,800	40,800	40,800
<b>Program Ministries</b>			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center-Director	99,257	90,259	92,967
Youth Gathering Synod Coordinator	0	0	0
Companion Synod Coordinator	18,521	19,322	19,902
<b>Support Staff and Office</b>			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefit	176,980	180,380	185,791
Synod Office Expenses	66,791	76,020	78,000
Augustana University Occupancy Fee	30,108	31,824	32,300
<b>Synod Committees</b>			
Synod Council	5,000	5,000	5,000
Support to Ministries Committee	3,100	3,100	3,100
Candidacy Committee	6,000	9,000	9,000
Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee	1,000	1,000	1,000
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	200	200	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,500
<b>Mission &amp; Outreach</b>			
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	4,000
Mission Strategy Table	2,000	2,000	2,000
<b>Contingency</b>	1,705	1,506	1,089
<b>Total South Dakota Ministries</b>	<b>739,958</b>	<b>742,460</b>	<b>761,494</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,902,769</b>	<b>1,898,315</b>	<b>1,942,403</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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 a while, and invite others to do the same. You can access Pasque here: <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](mailto:jvehar@sdsynod.org) or Kathy McHenry at [kmchenry@sdsynod.org](mailto: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 prayers and sending your Synod voting members and 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](https://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 30-31, 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. I have shared with the Synod Council that I would be honored if the Synod would call me to serve a second 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 or the Synod's e-news. Sign up at the bottom of the Synod's website, [www.sdsynod.org](http://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.

Journeying together in Christ,

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