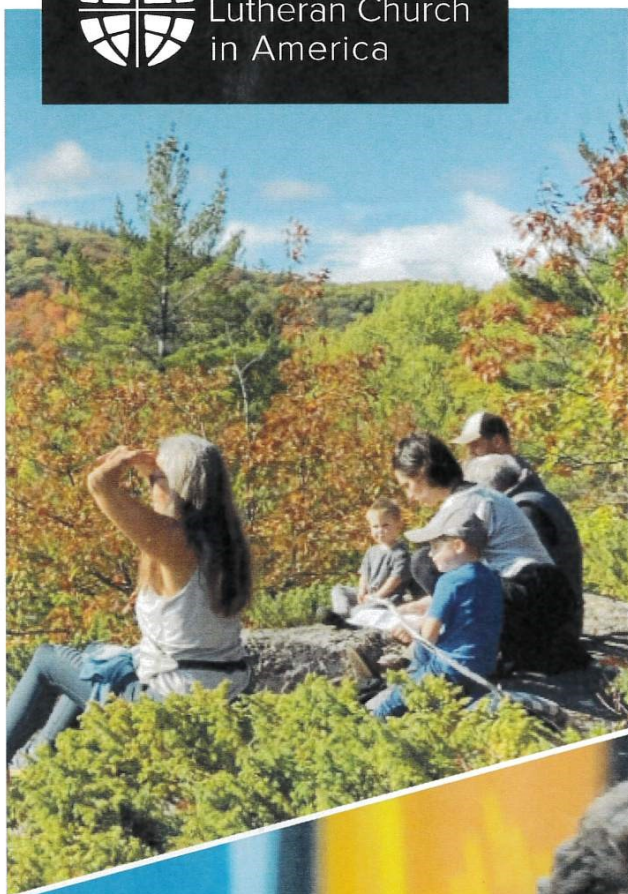




Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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

“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

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.

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

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eldridge, IA

Sunday, January 26, 2025 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order - Joan Hennigan, Council President

Opening Litany - Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante

Adoption of Agenda

Minutes of the previous Annual Congregational Meeting, January 28, 2024

Presentation of Reports

Minutes of January 28, 2024 (John Hintze)	Page 3
Pastors' Reports (Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather)	Page 5
Council President Report (Joan Hennigan)	Page 10
Financial Report (Myron Scheibe)	Page 11
2024 Fund Balance Sheet (Myron Scheibe)	Page 12
2025 Ministry Plan (Joan Hennigan)	Page 13
2025 Budget (Myron Scheibe)	Page 18
2023 Audit Report (Matt Briehl)	Page 22
Church Council Directory (Joan Hennigan)	Page 24
Teams and Committee Members (Joan Hennigan)	Page 25
Church Records Summary (Pastor Carrie)	Page 26
Membership Information (Pastor Carrie)	Page 27
Christian Ed Report (Pastor Heather)	Page 28
Faith Connections Report (Joan Hennigan)	Page 30
Fellowship Report (Sherri Brundies)	Page 31
Property Report (Dan O'Flaherty)	Page 32
Service in the World Report (John Hintze)	Page 34
Stewardship Report (Kim Wilkins)	Page 35
Worship and Music Report (Nina Looney)	Page 36
Youth Committee Report (Pastor Carrie)	Page 38
Endowment Committee Report (Kim Wilkins)	Page 39
Memorial Committee Report (Mary Ann Anderson)	Page 40
Memorial Account Activity Report (Rhonda Webber)	Page 40
Women of Faith Report (Linda Szemkus)	Page 41
Feed Our Children Ministry (Amy Powell)	Page 42
Luther Properties Report (Kim Wilkins)	Page 43
North Scott Food Pantry Report (Deanna Nielsen)	Page 44

Old Business

New Business

Thank you to Outgoing Council Members Dan O'Flaherty and Val Zelinko.

Election of Council Members

Council Members are elected for a three year term. Vote for four: Michelle Rasmussen, Randy Reimers, Annette Tomlinson, and Cindy Zabel.

Election of Endowment Committee Members

Endowment Committee Members are elected for a three year term. Vote for two: Tom Bauer and Janice Hartwig

Election of Nominating Committee Members

Nominating Committee Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for five: Joan Hennigan, John Hintze, Gayle Staples, Mike Strom, Kim Wilkins

Election of Synod Assembly Voting Members

Synod Assembly Voting Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for two: Mike Staples and Gayle Staples

Election of Synod Assembly Voting Member Alternates

Synod Assembly Voting Member Alternates are elected for a one year term. Vote for two: Mike Strom and (Write In)_____.

Adoption of 2025 Budget

Ballot report

Other items

Call for questions

Prayer: Pastor

Adjournment

Joan: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eldridge, IA

Sunday, January 28, 2024 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order: Mike Garner 9:33 am

Opening Litany: Pastor Carrie

Adoption of Agenda: Dan O'Flaherty made a motion to approve the agenda. Jared Penning second. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting minutes: Carol Marten made a motion to approve the minutes. Brad Merrick second. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of Team reports: Team reports are presented in the 2023 Annual Report on pages 7-42. Pastor Carrie also gave a verbal report. Pastor Carrie stated that life is more fulfilling while living in hope that God is among us, to live in hope that God is working among us in the midst of our joy. Pastor Carrie gave thanks to the members of the congregation for all that we do, and how our actions affect people locally, nationally, and world wide - "it makes a difference". She also gave thanks to the church staff, council members, ministry team leaders, and all who come to this place for various reasons.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Thanks to outgoing council members - Thanks were given to Mike Garner, Theresa White, and Deanna Nielsen for their service on the church council.

Elections: Nominees and the positions they are being nominated for were read aloud by Mike G. For the Church Council, nominees are Kim Wilkins, Sherri Brundies, Val Zelinko, and Nina Looney. Mike informed the congregation that the Faith Connections Committee still has an opening. This committee focuses on church hospitality, visitor assimilation, and marketing. Mike asked everyone to please consider this position. Mike called for nominations from the floor. None were received and the nominations were closed. Mike asked the congregation to fill in their votes for the church council. For the Nominating Committee, nominees are Theresa White, Joan Hennigan, Mike Strom, Dan O'Flaherty, and Tom Bauer. Mike called for nominations from the floor. None were received and the nominations were closed. Mike asked the congregation to fill in their votes for the Nominating Committee. For the Endowment Committee, nominees are Kim Wilkins and Allen Lewis. Mike called for nominations from the floor. None were received and the nominations were closed. Mike asked the congregation to fill in their votes for the Endowment Committee. For the Synod Voting Members, nominees are Tom Bauer and Madelyn LaPlante. Mike called for nominations from the floor. None were received and the nominations were closed. Mike asked the congregation to fill in their votes for the Synod Voting Members. For Synod Voting Member Alternate, there were no nominees. Mike called for nominations from the floor. None were received and the nominations were closed.

Adoption of 2024 Budget: Deanna Nielsen made a motion to adopt the 2024 Proposed Budget as presented in the 2023 Annual Report on pages 13-16. Melody Sawvell second. There were no questions or discussions from the floor. The motion passed unanimously.

Ballot Report: 56 ballots were cast and scored by Joni Schneider and Myron Scheibe. The results are as follows:

Church Council - Kim Wilkins(54), Sherri Brundies(55), Val Zelinko(53), Nina Looney(56), Chad Keppy(1-write in)

Nominating Committee - Theresa White(54), Joan Hennigan(55), Mike Strom(55), Dan O'Flaherty (54), Tom Bauer(54)

Endowment Committee - Kim Wilkins(54), Allen Lewis(46)

Synod Voting Member - Tom Bauer(55), Madelyn LaPlante(52)

Synod Voting Member Alternate - Brad Merrick(1-write in),
Carol Roe(1-write in)

Other items: Sue Becker asked about the Sanctuary Update project. At last year's meeting, Amy Murray presented visuals and information on the update. The project includes TV screens, new carpet, lighting, paint, replace all pews, remove communion rails, hearing impaired abilities, and wheelchair accessibility. The estimated cost ranges from \$150 to \$250 thousand. Dan O'Flaherty asked how we would move forward. Mike G. answered we could organize a capital campaign to start the project, or meet this year to discuss the project, or wait until the next annual meeting. Jim Schneider made a motion to start a capital campaign this year. Abby LaPlante second. Jared Penning asked what would happen to the raised money if the project fell through. Pastor Carrie said that this would likely be a pledge campaign over the next 3 years. This pledge campaign would show the congregation's interest in the project. Jim Schneider mentioned the last pledge campaign was well supported and thinks the congregation would show the same support for this campaign. Pastor Heather said the sanctuary update is mostly about accessibility for members and the community - "all are welcome." She stated simple changes have great impacts, and that this update is important to us as a congregation. Mike G. asked for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Call for questions: None

Adjournment: Scott LaPlante made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Duane Miller second. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

The 2024 Annual Report of the Senior Pastor

Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante

As I look at the world around us, as I hear the stories of all that is going on in the lives of the members of Faith, as I experience life with my own family in this year, I know that many of us are facing struggles in our lives. We worry about family and friends who are ill or hurting or aging. We wonder where the world around us is headed in the midst of politics and natural disasters and so much more. We are concerned for the life that our children and grandchildren will live. We fear for our jobs. We are anxious as we await answers about our own health.

I have been asked many times this year how it is that I can face all of the issues in my life and in the world around us with hope and promise. As I have been considering this question while I was preparing for worship at the beginning of this new year, the Old Testament reading for Baptism of Our Lord Sunday jumped out at me. In these words of Isaiah, we are given the promise of God's presence in our lives, not only in the good times, but especially in the times of struggle. Isaiah proclaims:

But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you O Jacob,
 He who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned,
 And the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel your Savior. (Isaiah 43:1-3a)

In our baptism, God calls us and names us and makes us God's beloved. God never promises us that life will be easy, as we have come to know all too well; instead, God promises to be with us to protect us in the floods and the flames, both real and metaphorical. God promises to be present with us and to love us always. This is the promise that holds me together when everything around me seems to be falling apart. This is the one promise I can trust when all other promises are lacking.

As I think about all of this, I am reminded that we are part of this promise, not only the promise God has made to us, but we are part of God's presence in the lives of those around us who need to know that God is with them. Looking at the pictures on the next couple of pages that cover this past year, I see evidence of God's presence through us in the lives of the people in our community throughout 2024.

I see evidence of God's presence in the joy on the faces of the children gathered in our Sunday School classrooms, on our lawn for Final Friday, and in our new Friday Fun Club. I see evidence of God's presence in the wisdom in the Confirmation small group leaders who share God's love with our youth each week. I see evidence of God's presence in the fun and determination of our high school youth as they served their neighbor and experienced life in New Orleans through the ELCA Youth Gathering. I see God's presence in the celebration of those gathered for Cheeseburger in Paradise and the Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner. I see God's presence in the compassion found around the tables of our Congregational Breakfasts and in gathering the community in our new Be Our Guest ministry. I see God's presence in the midst of all of the ways that we worship and in the ways in which we give thanks for the lives of those we love and commend them into God's care. I see God's presence in the promise of belovedness in the celebration of Holy Baptism and Confirmation. I see God's presence in the unity of the North Scott Clergy at the tailgate party hosted on our patio

and in our participation in the Eldridge Days Parade. I see God's presence in the goodness of serving our homeless neighbors a meal with Churches United and providing lunches for community children with the North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry. I see God's presence in the grace we show as we share our building with other organizations who make a difference in our community. I see God's presence in the love shown among the multiple generations who are gathered together at Lutheran Lakeside Camp. These examples only scratch the surface of the ways in which we embody God's presence in our community, and on the days when we are unsure of what the next right step will be, we can trust God's promise to lead and guide us on the way. I give thanks for all of the ways that have experienced God's presence among us in this past year. We celebrated 23 new siblings in Christ who joined us through the waters of baptism throughout the year. We welcomed 36 new members who have joined Christ's mission and ministry with us. We have seen our ministries grow and new ministries begin. We have grown our partnerships with both community organizations and churchwide organizations. We have received grants from ELCA World Hunger and the Moonlight Chase to help us expand our summer food ministry. We have had relationships that have grown among our membership and with our neighbors. We have cared for those around us who are hurting, sick, grieving, or experiencing other major changes in their lives. We have cared for our neighbors around the world through our giving to ELCA World Hunger, Good Gifts, Lutheran Disaster Response, our support of the Behnke family in Japan, and support of our Compassion Children, Denisse and John, among other things. We have found many ways to shine the light of Christ into the our community and into the world.

I also am excited to see where 2025 will lead us to be God's presence for those around us. As we continue to seek the ways in which God is calling us to serve God, one another, and our larger community, I look forward to seeing what new ideas for ministry will be born among us. I am also excited to see us bring to reality the Sanctuary Update this summer. The possibilities that this reimagined space will provide not only to have welcoming and accessible worship, but also to provide a welcoming space for use by the larger community inspire me, and I hope and pray that they inspire you. I give thanks for the financial commitments that have been made toward this project that will allow for us to do this renovation without any financial hardship and allow for us to continue to dream of ways that we can continue to create welcoming spaces in the gift that is our building. Your generosity toward the future of Christ's church in this place is amazing.

Thank you all for the ways in which you continue to share the blessings that God has given to you. Thank you to all of the leaders who have served this year, especially the Congregation Council, the Mutual Ministry Team, and all of the ministry teams who have given of their time and talent to lead our ministry. Thank you to the Faith Lutheran staff with whom I am blessed to serve, Pastor Heather Geest, Beth Ann Anderson, Dennis Kelly, Susan Becker, and Teri Wittkowski, for sharing their gifts in the ministry we are privileged to do together. Finally, thanks be to God for calling me to serve as your Senior Pastor as we continue to live together experiencing God's presence among us and being God's presence for one another and for all those around us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante



THE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR PASTOR HEATHER GEEST

As we look ahead to a new year, I am filled with hope and anticipation for what God has in store for our church. This is a season of opportunity where we are called to step boldly into the future trusting in God's guidance and provision. As the prophet Isaiah reminds us, "See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:19).

It has been a great joy to see the Holy Spirit alive and at work within this community in the past year. We are unafraid of trying new things, and we are growing in our ability to listen with our ears and hearts to the needs of our neighbors near and far.

When the North Scott Community Schools made a decision for shortened school days on Friday, a number of members felt we could use our location to make life easier for parents by providing a safe and fun place for children to come after school. Out of this, Friday Fun Club was born. Another member thought we could provide a place where members of our greater community could learn about other organizations that are serving our neighbors well in order that others might grow in their awareness to help serve and/or support these organizations. Soon Be Our Guest was created, which was a huge success. In the summer, Feed Our Children continues to provide nearly 200 bag lunches twice a week. After seeing the continued need in our community, we are looking at expanding to three days a week in 2025. These examples, among many others, are signs that new life abounds.

I believe God is preparing us for new opportunities to grow in faith, deepen our relationships, and serve our community in transformative ways even if we cannot yet see it. Thank you for being a community who cares and makes a difference by listening and responding with compassion to the needs of our neighbors. God is doing great things through you. So, thank you for your faithfulness to the gospel. What you do matters! Who you are makes a difference in our congregation and in our world. Check out the annual reports from our committees. Let's celebrate God's activity and invite others into what God is doing at 500 W. LeClaire Road in Eldridge.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Heather Geest

2024 COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

The 2024 Church Council was made up of dedicated, hardworking individuals who gave and served so that Faith Lutheran Church in Eldridge, Iowa can strive to be a place to share, seek, and serve Christ. Our mission statement includes grace gifted, faith lifted. We strive to meet the needs of the entire congregation, as well as our community, and our world to the best of our ability.

Our mission and ministry supported by your time, talent and treasure include: a Sunday school program, confirmation, and active youth program, service to others through meal preparation, providing joy with music and worship, sharing our space with community groups, as well as events on our lawn, supporting organizations far and near with donations, and many others that I may overlook. Please take time to read the Ministry Plan 2025 and the team reports for all of the exciting things that are happening here at Faith.

Thank you to all who gave in any way in 2024. Giving and stewardship involve more than money. Many times volunteers just show up and offer to help and serve where needed. Oftentimes things mysteriously get done here at Faith. I call it the mysteries of the church. These acts of love and service add up to brightly shine Christ's light in our church, our community, and the world.

I thank the 2024 Council members for their commitment, care, consideration, joy, excitement and energy in serving. It is very rewarding to serve in this important work. It truly is God's Work, Our Hands.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Hennigan, Council President

2024 Treasurer's Report

First of all, much thanks to Rhonda Webber for all her work as Financial Secretary.

The check and balance system for counting offering consists of two people counting the offering and making a deposit after each worship service. The financial secretary enters all the contributions, including online giving, into our financial database, thus providing separation of duties and ensuring confidentiality.

Disbursement vouchers are submitted and approved according to the budget. The checks are written by our office manager, Beth Ann Anderson, and presented along with the supporting paperwork to the treasurer for approval and check signing. This ensures complete separation of monies received and disbursed with at least 2 people checking and involved in each step of the process.

Payroll is processed by Fahrenkrog Accounting. Church employees submit data to Pastor Carrie. She reviews the payroll before submitting it to the accountant for processing. The payroll checks are issued via electronic deposit.

Thanks to Josh Rasmussen, Neal Becker and Matt Briehl who reviewed the financial records for 2023 and found no issues.

Throughout most of 2024, the General Fund operated mostly in the black, helped out by a good January. We ended the year with positive income.

	Income	Expenses
January	\$42,662.84	\$29,765.46
February	\$24,928.33	\$27,897.58
March	\$29,144.33	\$27,661.51
April	\$26,115.58	\$30,694.95
May	\$21,598.33	\$29,848.08
June	\$45,494.70	\$40,378.52
July	\$20,793.12	\$31,713.32
August	\$37,861.66	\$25,708.07
September	\$24,368.16	\$27,766.53
October	\$20,386.51	\$25,193.91
November	\$27,968.41	\$26,393.65
December	\$56,524.10	\$47,512.31
2024 Total	\$377,844.07	\$370,533.89

The Executive Committee reviewed the 2025 budget requests from the teams, the synod's recommendation for salary increases for the pastors, and various indexes for cost of living increases and recommended a 2.5% increase for all staff. The final recommendation for the 2025 budget was determined by the council.

The Council approved transferring from savings drawing about 0.10% interest to CD's drawing around 5.00% interest.

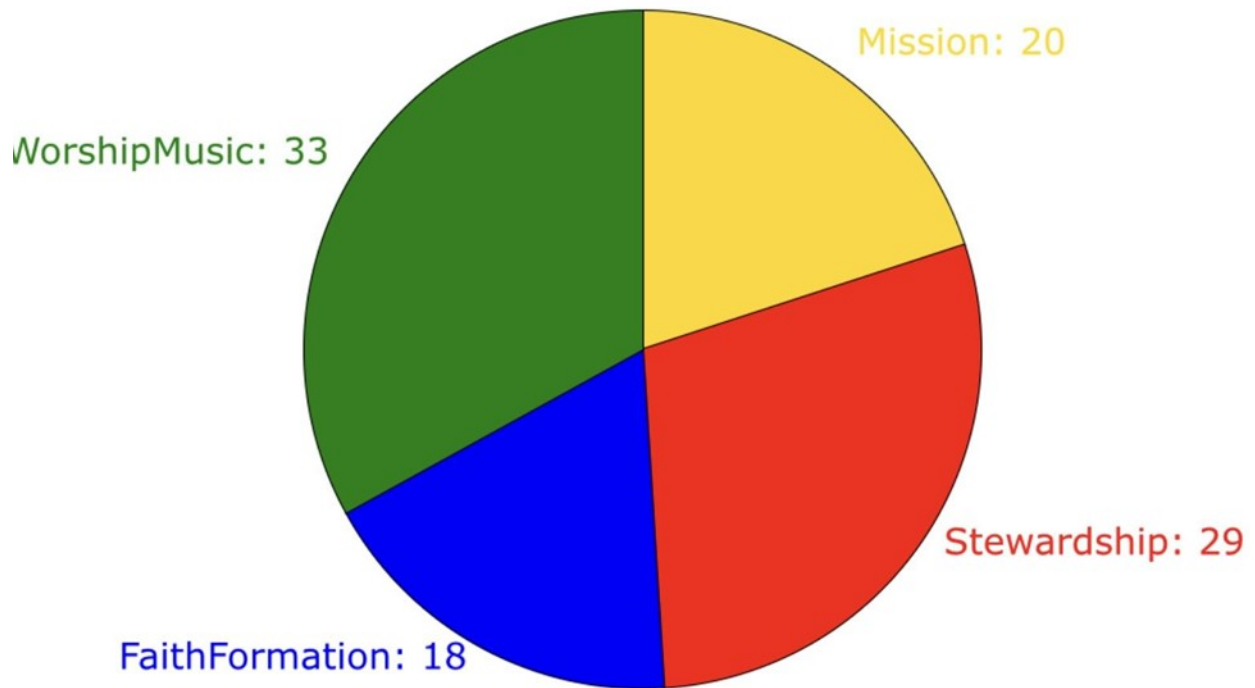
Respectfully submitted,

Myron Scheibe, Treasurer

2024 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH FUND BALANCE SHEET

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		12/31/2023					12/31/2024
2							
3		Balance	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	Transfers		Balance
4	Operating Fund	28,727.29	377,844.07	(370,533.89)			36,037.47
5	Payroll tax withholding						(10.80)
6							
7	Total Operating Funds	28,727.29			-		36,026.67
8							
9	Special Funds						
10	Adult Mission Trip	-	-	-			-
11	Camp	-	200.00	(200.00)			-
12	Christmas	2,555.00	1,649.50	(2,734.50)			1,470.00
13	Coffee Hour	-	141.26	-			141.26
14	Continuing Ed Assoc Pastor	2,126.71	-	-			2,126.71
15	Continuing Ed Sr Pastor	2,163.69	1,000.00	(969.12)			2,194.57
16	Disaster Relief	-	-	-			-
17	Easter	-	3,700.00	(3,700.00)			-
18	Endowment Fund	-	2,500.00	(700.00)	(1,800.00)		-
19	Fellowship Hall Roof	-	-	-			-
20	Food Pantry	-	1,234.62	(1,234.62)			-
21	Memorials	-	1,040.00	(1,025.00)			15.00
22	Misc In/Out	3,073.55	2,126.83	(4,072.83)			1,127.55
24	Mission Trip - Youth	4,996.54	11,953.66	(14,505.39)	1,300.00		3,744.81
25	OCC/Global Barnyard	1,269.00	-	(1,269.00)			-
26	Outreach	110.27	1,420.00	(1,400.98)			129.29
27	Outside Plantings	603.76	-	(118.63)			485.13
28	Rooftop AC	-	-	-			-
29	Sanctuary Update	200.00	213,813.74	-	500.00		214,513.74
30	Summer Food Project	5,129.35	5,688.00	(5,696.14)			5,121.21
31	Sunday School	1,115.30	400.46	(1,365.00)			150.76
32	Teddy Bear	108.50	-	-			108.50
33	Thanksgiving	-	970.00	-			970.00
34	Unbudgeted Repairs/Mntc	893.45	1,378.80	(2,272.25)			-
35	VBS	-	411.50	(305.00)	(56.50)		50.00
36	Women of Faith	-	1,356.50	(1,413.00)	56.50		-
37	World Hunger	-	1,065.79	(1,065.79)			-
38	Youth Junior High	310.47	-	-			310.47
39	Youth Senior High	846.96	140.00	(214.00)			772.96
40	Total Specials	25,502.55	252,190.66	(44,261.25)	-		233,431.96
41							
42	Bank Accounts	12/31/2023	Deposits	Withdrawals	Transfers		12/31/2024
43	Checking	74,789.68	630,034.73	(414,795.14)	(110,000.00)		180,029.27
44	Payroll tax withholding						(10.80)
45	Net checking						180,018.47
46							
47	Savings						
48	Operating Fund	64.93					64.93
49	Unbudgeted Repairs/Maint	15,001.72		(10,000.00)	5,000.00		10,001.72
50	Rooftop AC	17,725.00		(15,000.00)	5,000.00		7,725.00
51	Sanctuary Updates	65.00					65.00
52	Interest		7.91				7.91
53	Total Savings	32,856.65	7.91	(25,000.00)	10,000.00		17,864.56
54	Investments						
55	Operating Fund CD 4/5/25	10,000.00	471.75				10,471.75
56	Unbudgeted Repairs/Maint CD 4/5	30,000.00	1,415.26				31,415.26
57	Sanctuary Updates CD 4/5/25	20,000.00	943.51				20,943.51
58	Sanctuary Updates CD 7/8/25				85,000.00		85,000.00
59	Sanctuary Updates CD 8/6/25				25,000.00		25,000.00
60	Unbudgeted Repairs/Rooftop CD 1/9/25		25,000.00				25,000.00
61	Total Investments	60,000.00	27,830.52	-	110,000.00		197,830.52
62	Memorial Savings	47,831.94	18,440.47	(33,624.46)			32,647.95
63	Endowment Savings						
64	First Central State Savings	3,419.13	2.29		2,300.81		5,722.23
65	First Trust & Savings CD 35477 1/	4,113.79	72.58		(4,186.37)		-
66	First Trust & Savings CD 34401 1/	-	134.63		5,400.00		5,534.63
67	LPL Account 1775-2078 Security 1	20,000.00	908.88		(20,908.88)		-
68	First Trust & Savings CD32952 1/2	-	498.63		20,000.00		20,498.63
69	First Trust & Savings CD32786 6/2	55,210.71	1,314.85		(56,525.56)		-
70	First Trust & Savings CD38477 6/2	-			52,600.00		52,600.00
71	Sentinel Security Life Annuity	21,350.42	603.41				21,953.83
72	Total Endowment Savings	104,094.05	3,535.27	-	(1,320.00)		106,309.32
73	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	319,572.32	679,848.90	(473,419.60)	8,680.00		534,670.82

Ministry Plan 2025



Ministry Area

Ministry changes lives. Our church is our Mission Outpost. We have the fuel to fulfill our mission. Our Mission Fuel (cost, budget, expenses) is future oriented, emphasizing our children and our neighborhood. Our ministry categories are Worship + Music, Faith Formation, Stewardship, Mission. Our priorities are to love God, love people, and make disciples.

Worship + Music \$133,919.28 (33%)

Worship and music fill us with awe and connect us to God. Weekly worship and special celebrations are a major focus of our staff and volunteer time, including weddings, baptisms, funerals, and seasonal celebrations throughout the year. This category includes worship, choir, chimes, Jubilation, baptisms, communion, outdoor worship.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Psalm 100:1



Faith Formation \$73,046.88 (18%)

We provide programs to help us explore what it means to be people of faith in a secular world, including church school for children and youth, Vacation Bible School, adult studies, first communion instruction, confirmation, youth group, camp, and Bible studies. Spiritual questions are common in our age and this gives us a chance to explore them in a Christian setting.

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Mark 10:14



Stewardship. \$117,686.44 (29%)

Part of our purpose is to be a place where people can come to know each other deeply, celebrate and mourn together, and offer support in the ups and downs of everyday life. We eat together (frequently), visit, travel, and have fun as a community. This category includes fellowship, property and administration.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1



Mission \$81,163.20 (20%)

"They'll know we are Christians by our love." We show love for people beyond our membership. We offer space to community groups, support and house the Food Pantry, and the Feed Our Children program. We participate in Churches United and their meal site. We are active in North Scott Clergy. We support ELCA ministries statewide, nationwide, and worldwide. We support local charities and organizations through our Service in the World monthly donations. We support two Compassion International children in Tanzania and Ecuador and family missionaries in Japan.

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40



**2025 Faith Lutheran Church
Proposed Budget**

	A	O	P	R
1		2024 YTD	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed Budget
2	Operating Income			
3	Envelope Offerings	287,697.28	389,723.00	400,364.00
4	Offerings-Compassion Child	815.00	912.00	912.00
5	Offerings-Missionary Support	495.00	540.00	540.00
6	Offerings-Flowers	7,787.00	500.00	500.00
7	Loose	3,566.28	3,500.00	3,500.00
8	Rent Income	-		
9	Vacation Bible School	-		
10	Seminary Student Fund	-		
11	Miscellaneous	-	700.00	-
12				
13	Total Operating Income	293,351.56	395,875.00	405,816.00

**2025 Faith Lutheran Church
Proposed Budget**

	A	O	P	R
1		2024 YTD	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed Budget
14				
15	EXPENDITURES			
16	Mission			
17	Synod Mission			
18	SE Iowa Synod (10%)	29,126.35	39,478.00	40,577.00
19	Bible Camp	-	500.00	500.00
20	Compassion Child	860.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
21	Iowa City Chaplaincy	-	500.00	500.00
22	Luther Properties	-	200.00	200.00
23	Missionary Support	450.00	540.00	540.00
24	North Scott Clergy	-	700.00	1,000.00
25	Seminary Student Fund	400.00	400.00	400.00
26	Total Mission	30,836.35	43,318.00	44,717.00
27				
28	STAFFING			
29	Senior Pastor			
30	Salary	53,075.80	63,691.00	65,728.00
31	FICA Allowance	5,763.40	6,916.00	7,183.00
32	Pension/Insurance	19,656.30	23,521.00	23,361.00
33	Housing Equity Allowance	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,000.00
34	Furnishing Allowance	1,250.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
35	Mileage/Prof. Expenses	3,333.32	3,400.00	3,700.00
36	Additional Benefits		4,000.00	4,000.00
37	Continuing Education	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
38	Total Senior Pastor	88,601.69	107,028.00	109,472.00
39	Assoc. Pastor			
40	Salary/Housing	29,722.62	35,667.00	36,980.00
41	FICA Allowance	2,074.90	2,490.00	2,582.00
42	Pension/Insurance	25,063.70	30,028.00	30,058.00
43	Continuing Education	-	600.00	600.00
44	Mileage/Prof. Expenses	1,367.13	1,200.00	1,600.00
45	Total Assoc. Pastor	58,228.35	70,015.00	71,820.00
46	Support Staff			
47	Organists Salaries	7,339.40	10,082.00	10,334.00
48	Organists FICA	561.51	771.00	791.00
49	Choir Dir. Salary	7,227.92	9,293.00	9,525.00
50	Choir Dir. FICA	552.93	711.00	729.00
51	Custodian Salary	14,580.00	17,496.00	17,933.00
52	Custodian FICA	1,115.40	1,338.00	1,372.00
53	Office Manager Salary	17,733.62	26,643.00	27,309.00
54	Office Mgr. FICA	1,356.63	2,036.00	2,089.00
55	Workman's Comp.	2,112.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
56	Total Support Staffing	52,579.41	70,570.00	72,282.00
57	Total Staffing	199,409.45	247,613.00	253,574.00
58	PROGRAMMING			
59	Fellowship			
60	Coffee	-	250.00	250.00
61	General	518.62	800.00	800.00
62	Total Fellowship	518.62	1,050.00	1,050.00
63	Service in the World			
64	Adult Mission	1,750.00	1,500.00	2,000.00

**2025 Faith Lutheran Church
Proposed Budget**

	A	O	P	R
1		2024 YTD	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed Budget
65	Churches United Meals	129.99	600.00	600.00
66	Promotions in our community	376.10	500.00	500.00
67	Total Service in the World	2,256.09	2,600.00	3,100.00
68	Evangelism			
69	Advertising	867.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
70	General	-	200.00	200.00
71	Hospitality/Gifts	-	200.00	200.00
72	Video Equipment	-	-	-
73	Total Evangelism	867.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
74	Worship/Music			
75	Bulletins	1,105.90	1,300.00	1,375.00
76	Cantata		300.00	300.00
77	Clean Choir Robes	-	50.00	50.00
78	Continuing Education	194.00	300.00	300.00
79	Copyrights	796.25	780.00	850.00
80	Devotionals	279.00	450.00	450.00
81	Flowers Christmas/Easter	750.57	350.00	350.00
82	Music	879.54	1,400.00	1,400.00
83	Piano & Organ Maint	-	300.00	300.00
84	Special Music	-	300.00	300.00
85	Supply Pastor	275.00	900.00	1,000.00
86	Worship Supplies	1,711.98	2,500.00	2,500.00
87	Total Worship/Music	5,992.24	8,930.00	9,175.00
88	Education/Youth/Family			
89	Children's Education			
90	Background Checks	154.08	150.00	150.00
91	Bibles	-	-	-
92	Camp	1,600.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
93	Library	-		
94	Meal Ministry	106.00	300.00	300.00
95	Mission Time/ Special Events	78.53	250.00	250.00
96	Sunday School	368.91	2,000.00	2,000.00
97	Vacation Church School	724.60	1,500.00	1,500.00
98	Total Children's Education	3,032.12	5,200.00	5,200.00
99	Jr High Youth Education			
100	Confirmation Camp	2,446.86	2,500.00	2,500.00
101	Confirmation Flowers	124.12	250.00	250.00
102	Curriculum	451.80	300.00	300.00
103	Meals/Snacks	940.75	1,100.00	1,100.00
104	Stewardship/Fellowship/Mission	317.68	600.00	600.00
105	Total Jr High Youth	4,281.21	4,750.00	4,750.00
106	High School Youth Education			
107	Curriculum	338.57	400.00	400.00
108	HS Mission Trip	5,953.39	6,000.00	6,000.00
109	Meals/Snacks	483.05	700.00	700.00
110	Post Prom	500.00	500.00	500.00
111	Senior Gifts/Flowers	323.38	400.00	400.00
112	Stewardship/Fellowship/Mission	496.32	600.00	600.00
113	Total High School Youth Educ	8,094.71	8,600.00	8,600.00
114	Adult Education			
115	Adult Education	55.67	300.00	300.00
116	Total Education/Youth/Family	15,463.71	18,850.00	18,850.00

**2025 Faith Lutheran Church
Proposed Budget**

	A	O	P	R
1		2024 YTD	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed Budget
117				
118	Stewardship			
119	Misc		50.00	50.00
120	Offering Envelopes	407.93	650.00	650.00
121	Total Stewardship	407.93	700.00	700.00
122	Total Programming	25,505.59	33,730.00	34,475.00
123				
124	Property and Administration			
125	Misc. Expenses			
126	Misc.	-	500.00	500.00
127	Unbudgeted Repairs	-	5,000.00	5,000.00
128	Total Miscellaneous	-	5,500.00	5,500.00
129				
130	Administration			
131	Bank Fees	223.46	275.00	275.00
132	Copier Lease/copies	3,850.21	5,500.00	5,500.00
133	Council Resources	-	200.00	200.00
134	Discretionary Fund	-	50.00	500.00
135	Hospitality	77.64	150.00	150.00
136	Office Supplies	1,390.34	2,200.00	2,000.00
137	Payroll Fees	1,050.00	1,000.00	1,080.00
138	Small Equipment Replacement	-	400.00	400.00
139	Subscriptions and Dues	782.09	700.00	850.00
140	Synod Meetings	1,491.44	2,000.00	2,200.00
141	Computer service	-	650.00	650.00
142	Postage	1,913.59	2,700.00	2,700.00
143	Telephone	1,893.90	2,350.00	2,700.00
144	Website	470.00	564.00	600.00
145	Total Administration	13,142.67	18,739.00	19,805.00
146				
147	Property			
148	Utilities Church	6,263.04	10,500.00	9,500.00
149	Insurance	11,004.00	10,000.00	11,500.00
150	Maint. Church	1,154.84	5,500.00	4,000.00
151	Janitorial Supplies	232.55	500.00	600.00
152	Lawn Care/Snow Removal	918.93	800.00	1,000.00
153	Utilities, Parsonage	4,140.17	7,500.00	6,500.00
154	A/C Rooftop (4 years)	-		
155	Maint. Parsonage	52.45	1,000.00	1,000.00
156	Lift Inspection	-	175.00	175.00
157	Furnace Agreement	2,738.04	3,200.00	3,200.00
159	Tree Removal		2,500.00	-
160	Security/Camera Fees	203.29	300.00	300.00
161	Total Property	27,733.87	46,975.00	47,775.00
162	Total Administration/Property	40,876.54	71,214.00	73,050.00
163	Total Operating Expenditures	296,627.93	395,875.00	405,816.00
164	Net Operating Income (Loss)	(3,276.37)		
165				

AUDIT REPORT 2023

Audit Team: Neal Becker, Josh Rasmussen, Matt Briehl (Chair)

Audit Scope: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Overview: The audit team reviewed the control environment at the Faith Lutheran Church and found no major deficiencies. The audit was conducted based on the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Audit Guide as well as the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Audit Committee Charter. The audit review period was for the Fiscal year 2023 and was conducted during the third quarter of 2024.

Observations and Recommendations

Banking and Investments – Observation. The year end fund balance sheet matches the year end bank statement after adjusting for outstanding items. Adjustments were also made since December 31, was a Sunday and the bank statement ended on December 29. Several checks were written on the last day of the month and transfers transacted to be included on the 2023 balance sheet. The year end Memorial Savings Account balance and Total Savings account balance matched the balance provided on the bank statement after adjusting for 2-year end transfers. Several other months were reconciled during the year and several checks were pulled to match up with receipts. During the year \$60,000.00 was transferred into accounts that will earn more interest for the church.

Recommendation. No deficiencies observed.

Banking Reconciliation – Observation. No deficiencies observed.

Petty Cash – Observation. Petty cash is very seldom ever used. Only 7 transactions were made since the last audit. The petty cash fund was reconciled against the balance of the previous audit in August of 2023.

Recommendation. Recommend we continue to maintain a petty cash fund in case of small emergencies and in place of writing a small check.

Income Benevolence - Observation. No deficiencies observed.

Income Offering – Observation. No deficiencies observed.

Recommendation. Continue to strive for accuracy when counting the weekly offerings and completing the deposit slips. Retain all deposit documents. Continue to provide detailed information for all deposit exceptions at the time they occur.

Disbursements – Observation. In most cases, purchases are well-documented with a clear trail to the charged account. Invoices are routinely paid in a timely manner after receipt in the office. All check stubs note the account and the account number being charged. Documentation is complete and orderly.

Credit Card Transactions – Observation. There were a few small purchases where a credit card receipt was not provided. The undocumented charges were all appropriate for the reason of the purchase. All of these transactions included a comment in the file noting that the receipt was not attached.

Recommendation. Invoices or receipts should be retained and available to verify all credit card purchases. The supporting documentation for credit card purchases is very well organized.

Payroll – Observation. At random, five payroll periods were evaluated and were validated as being accurate for each individual. There was one deficiency observed regarding a blank mileage report for the 8th pay period.

Recommendation. Ensure there are details in the mileage report to create an auditable trail back to the payroll item. If there is an issue with tracking, enter a description with estimations for the month in the total's description.

Endowment Fund – Observation. No deficiencies observed.

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

The Congregation Council has general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

	Pastors	
Senior Pastor	Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante	
Associate Pastor	Pastor Heather Geest	
	Officers	
President	Joan Hennigan (1st term)	Term Ends January '26
Vice President	Dan O'Flaherty (1st term)	Term Ends January '25
Treasurer	Myron Scheibe (1st term)	Term Ends January '25
Secretary	John Hintze (1st term)	Term Ends January '26
	Ministry Team/Committee Chairs	
Christian Education	Val Zelinko (1st term)	Term Ends January '27
Faith Connections	Vacant	Term Ends January '26
Fellowship	Sherri Brundies (1st term)	Term Ends January '27
Finance	Myron Scheibe (1st term)	Term Ends January '25
Property	Dan O'Flaherty (1st term)	Term Ends January '25
Service in the World	John Hintze (1st term)	Term Ends January '26
Stewardship	Kim Wilkins (1st term)	Term Ends January '26
Worship and Music	Nina Looney (2nd term)	Term Ends January '27
Youth	Michelle Rasmussen (1st term)	Term Ends January '25
	Council Resources	
Financial Secretary	Rhonda Webber	
Women of Faith Liaisons	Joni Schneider & Linda Szemkus	

2024 Teams, Committees, Synod Assembly Members

Ministry Teams & Task Teams	
Christian Education	Val Zelinko (Chair), Pastor Heather, Jennifer Bekel, Jennie Garner, Evan Keppy, Abby La Plante, Madelyn La Plante, Betty Strom, Mike Strom, Theresa White, Cindy Zabel and Marla Zabel
Faith Connections	Open (Chair), Linda Golinghorst, Joan Hennigan
Fellowship	Sherri Brundies (Chair), Diane Cole, Janice Hartwig, Carolyn Lewis, Janet Merrick, Beth Raiche-Melheim, Melody Sawvell, and Kathy Zelinko
Worship & Music	Nina Looney (Chair), Pastor Carrie, Sue Becker, and Linda Szemkus
Property	Dan O'Flaherty (Chair), Tom Bauer, Matt Briehl, Mike Garner, Brad Merrick, Steve Sawvell, Myron Scheibe, Bob White, and Bill Wittkowski
Service in the World	John Hintze (Chair), Pam Carlson, Tom Carlson, Carrie Keppy, Brad Merrick, Janet Merrick, and Joni Schneider
Stewardship	Kim Wilkins (Chair)
Youth	Michelle Rasmussen (Chair), Pastor Carrie, Carrie Keppy, Joni King and Diane Krebs, Mentors
Committees	
Audit	Matt Briehl (Chair) 2023-26, Neal Becker 2021-24, Josh Rasmussen 2024-2027
Endowment	Kim Wilkins (Chair) 2024-2027 (2nd term), Scott Rochau 2023-2026 (2nd Term), Allen Lewis 2024-2027, Annette Tomlinson 2022-2025 (2nd term), Janice Hartwig 2022-2025
Finance	Myron Scheibe (Chair), Rhonda Webber
Memorial	Mary Ann Anderson (Chair), Marcia Donaubauer, Karen Schmitt, Rhonda Webber
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather, Amy Murray (2023-2024), Annette Tomlinson (2024-2025), Mary Moore (2024-2025), Terry Fenn (2023-2024), Mike Strom (2024), Tyler Stanton (2024-2025),
Nominating	Tom Bauer, Dan O'Flaherty, Joan Hennigan, Mike Strom, Theresa White
Other	
Synod Assembly Voting Members	Madelyn La Plante and Mary Moore
Women of Faith Board	Linda Szemkus (President), Joni Schneider (Vice President), Lynda Miller (Secretary and Mission Discipleship), Karen Schmitt (Treasurer), Sue Strazewski (Mission Stewardship), Sue Sissel (Mission Justice)

2024 SUMMARY OF CHURCH RECORDS

MARRIAGES

Garret Tiarks & Kari Ann Oetzel

Brooks Allan Johnson

CONFIRMATIONS

Peyton Cline
Bryce Flenker
Drake Huffmann
Christian Keppy
Marshall Mess
Ethan Mueller-White
Natalie O'Flaherty
Addyson Yanke r

MEMBER DEATHS

Earl Kuhl
Carolyn Scheibe
Duane Miller
Sally Ann Puls
Ruth Staudt
Donald Hamann
Ron McFate

NON MEMBER FUNERALS

Janet Carol Dutcher (Committal Only)
Brian Douglas Fuller (Committal Only)
William Johnson
Marian Cousins Snell
Joyce Long

BAPTISMS

Lana Nicole Flenker
Kinsley Vaughn Diercks
Kayden Steven Diercks
Joseph Russell DeMoss
Addy Mae DeMoss
Gareth Riley Black
Campbell Mae Black
Reagan Louise Black
Sydney Elaine Nagel
Jaxson Leo Davison
Nyle Drew Schneckloth
Shepherd Ryan Strom
Rhett Harvey Sawyer
Penelope Jean Westra
Gary Charles Oerman
Lydia Jane McKinney
Natalie Nicole McKinney
Esmae Ann Crane
Elijah Christopher Crane
Marley Sue Franks
Hadley Grace Lueder
Vinny Joseph Trizzino

NEW MEMBERS

Lana Nicole Flenker
Kinsley Vaughn Diercks
Kayden Steven Diercks
Joseph Russell DeMoss
Addy Mae DeMoss
Gareth Riley Black
Campbell Mae Black
Reagan Louise Black
Sydney Elaine Nagel
Jaxson Leo Davison
Nyle Drew Schneckloth
Shepherd Ryan Strom
Rhett Harvey Sawyer
Penelope Jean Westra
Gary Charles Oerman
Lydia Jane McKinney
Natalie Nicole McKinney
Esmae Ann Crane
Elijah Christopher Crane
Marley Sue Franks
Hadley Grace Lueder
Paul & Lynn Atkins
Anthony, Gwendolyn, Vincent & Giorgio Bartoluzzi
Benjamin, Jennifer & Jacob Bekel
Bruce & Joan DeMoss
Travis & Tom Fisher-King
Jon & Kat Franks
Nancy Germain
Vince Knoche
James & Erin McKinney
Josh & Jillian Spencer
Daniel & Annette Vick, Aria, Scarlett & Avery McQuillen
Danelle Vick
Kay Watson
Vinny Joseph Trizzino
Brooks Allan Johnson

TRANSFERS OUT

Ryan & Amy Murray, Rowan & Callan

DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP BY COUNCIL ACTION

None

INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERS

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership, end 2023:	938	714

Members received during 2024:

By baptism/children (Pre–Confirmation age)	22	0
By baptism/adults	2	2
By affirmation of faith	6	6
By transfer from ELCA congregations	21	15
By transfer from other Lutheran congregations	0	0
From non-Lutheran congregations	1	1
From other sources and statistical adjustment	0	0

Total members received this year	51	24
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Baptized members who were confirmed in 2024:	8
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Subtotal	989	746
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Members removed during 2024:

By death	7	7
By transfer to other ELCA congregations	0	0
By transfer to other Lutheran congregations	4	2
To non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
For other reasons & statistical adjustment	0	0

Total members removed this year	11	9
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Membership, end 2024:	978	737
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2024 CHRISTIAN ED ANNUAL REPORT

God is at work in our children's ministry programs. During the school year we are led by a strong group of committed Sunday school teachers who provide weekly Bible lessons, crafts, activities, songs and even an occasional puppet show. The teaching curriculum is based on the church lectionary, which means that all the Bible readings are the same lessons that the children have already heard in the worship service. We believe that following the lectionary curriculum provides a unified learning experience between what is taught in Sunday school and what is preached during the worship service. It is our hope that what the children learn on Sunday morning can be shared and talked about throughout the week. We want our children to be faithful followers of Jesus and to share the message of God's love beyond our church walls. Some of the best role models for our children are the loving presence of Mike and Betty Strom who provide stability, encouragement, creativity, and kindness for our Sunday morning children and families. In the spring of the year, we also had wonderful leadership from Marla Zabel, Theresa White, and Amanda Strom. This fall, we have had dynamic and energetic high school youth leaders and teachers join the team. Evan Keppy does a wonderful job leading songs and stories for Sunday school opening, and Abby La Plante, Madelyn La Plante, and Jennie Garner provide strong, faithful and engaging classrooms. Jennifer Beckel is a wonderful substitute and provides fun and creative opportunities for the kids each week.

During Lent, we provided First Communion preparation for 18 of our youth. We learned about God's love for us through Jesus' body and blood, the bread and wine of communion. They made the communion bread for Maundy Thursday, and they each made a chalice as a keepsake to remember this experience. During that time we also did Pre-Confirmation for a dozen of our sixth grade youth as we talked about the promises they would make at confirmation and what they mean in their lives.

During the summer the children's education team provides Vacation Bible School for our children and the entire community. We are grateful for the many volunteers who give their time and energy to provide engaging and entertaining experiences including music, science activities, crafts, story-telling, and recreation. This year's theme was Camp Firelight, and with the help of Lu, the lightning bug, we learned about how we can trust God to lead and guide us through life.

The summer also offered the opportunity for a number of our children to attend Lutheran Lakeside Camp for "The Best Week Ever". They got to spend time in nature, meet new friends, tie-dye T shirts, swim in the pool and boat in the lake, rollerskate and play all kinds of games, all while learning more about God's love for them. A favorite time of each day is congregation time when everyone from Faith gathers to play game or do other activities so that we can strengthen our relationship with one another. For many this week is truly the best week of summer.

One of our favorite things to do is to provide the annual Children's Christmas Program for the congregation. This year, we presented our "Instant Christmas Program" which allowed the children to tell the story of Jesus' birth while inviting the congregation to help provide the animal sounds. Our older children were wonderful narrators while our many younger children were wonderful angels and sheep.

As you can see from the pictures, we have a lot of fun in all that we do! Thank you for your support of these ministries.

Respectfully submitted

Pastor Heather Geest



Faith Connections Team 2024 Annual Report

The Faith Connections team (formerly Evangelism) had no formal structure in 2024. Joan Hennigan, Linda Golvinghorst, Pastor Carrie, and Beth Ann Anderson did their best to make sure some of the work was completed.

Last year the council decided to rename the team to Faith Connections, and define its focus as: 1) Church hospitality 2) Visitor assimilation 3) Marketing. Council recognizes the importance of having an active Faith Connections team.

In 2025, we are looking for anyone willing to work on these areas of outreach to our neighbors around us. Hospitality ideas, welcoming ideas, social media skills, the ability to write press releases, and advertising skills are all needed on this team. Please join in and share what you love about Faith Lutheran Church!

Joan Hennigan

FELLOWSHIP TEAM – 2024

The fellowship team consists of the following members: Janet Merrick, Carolyn Lewis, Diane Cole, Melody Sawvell, Beth Raiche-Melheim, Jan Hartwig, Katherin Zelinko and Sherri Brundies.

On Sunday June 2nd the parking lot picnic was attended by 45 members. The weather was beautiful. The fellowship team served 61 hot dogs grilled by Brad Merrick. We used 2 racks of chairs, 8 round tables were set up with 3 rectangle tables for the side dishes and drinks. Outdoor games were enjoyed by many. So thankful for those that helped set up and tear down after the picnic.

On August 1st Katherine, Beth, Janet, Pastor Heather, Melody, Jan and I were all at the team meeting. We planned a menu for the anniversary dinner to cook and serve to our members that have been married 40 years or more on August 17th.. We decided to have the guests bring a wedding picture to discuss memories of that day with them. Melody had ideas for the tables, decorations and cake table. We met on Friday afternoon before the meal to decorate. Trivia game was enjoyed by the members along with prizes. We all agreed that it was a big success.

Refreshments were provided by the fellowship team for members during the directory photo sessions.

We joined with WOF for their Advent cookie distribution in December. We discussed working with them on a pizza party sometime in the future.

We set the date for Cheeseburger In Paradise for January 25th instead of February so we can help WOF with their Sweet Treat event usually close to Valentine's Day.

Coffee hour has been successful with a good rotation.

Welcomed new members with Pastor Carrie making chili, mac & cheese, Janet baked treats and Sherri brought corn bread and muffins.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherri Brundies, Fellowship Team Leader

PROPERTY TEAM 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Following is a month by month list of work done here at Faith Lutheran in 2024:

JANUARY. 2024

- The pump that heats the Fellowship Hall needed bearing replaced. Mike Garner and Dan O'Flaherty replaced.
- Cleaned all sidewalks and Food Pantry ramp of 15 inches of snow. Brad Merrick, Bill Wittkowski.
- Installed hangers for all the Christmas decorations in the storeroom downstairs. Dan O'Flaherty
- Replaced the broken oven glass in the kitchen. Brad Merrick

FEBRUARY. 2024

- Picked up sticks and trash outside and cleaned the church due to an illness of the custodian.
- Replaced burnt-out light bulb on upper left spotlight in the sacristy.
- Raked leaves and picked-up sticks.
- Replaced ceiling tile in women's restroom.

MARCH .2024

- Put down 50 bags of mulch around the building.
- Boiler inspection. Removed a rubber ball from one of the trees outside.
- Fabricated a sheet metal panel to cover an opening in the electrical fuse box.
- Had a leak in the roof of the fellowship hall. Called Giesse Roofing and they came and repaired material around an air conditioner. Had to replace two damaged ceiling tiles.

APRIL. 2024

- Put down lawn fertilizer and weed kill.
- Filled all cracks in the parking lot with asphalt tar.
- Worked two days repairing the chair lift.
- Planted a bush in the front flower display.
- Ran water hoses and watered all the plants and the new tree.
- Mowed and trimmed the property as needed.

MAY 2024

- Rebuilt the retaining wall around the tree and re-landscaped.
- Resurfaced the parking lot with sealer and painted all the parking lines.
- Set up the outdoor chapel for services to begin last Saturday in May.
- Have been mowing and edging twice a week recently to keep our property beautiful.
- Getting quotes for replacing the chair lift.
- We had to remove a huge limb, cut up wood and dispose of after the limb cracked from the tree.
- Had the boiler inspection.

JUNE 2024

- Began plans for the sacristy update.
- Removed sticks, and branches from behind the church, general cleanup.
- Dug a six-foot-wide trench for water drainage from parking lot.
- Removed sod and poured concrete for better access to the food pantry.
- Met with a representative from AEL lift solutions to replace our chair lift.
- Got funding from the memorial committee to begin building the chair lift.
- Had keys made to lock the shed .

JULY 2024

- We had a company come in and inject foam into the sunken concrete at the three entrances to the church to eliminate trip hazards.
- Sprayed the parking lot and sidewalk cracks with weed killer.
- Plan to remove the old chair lift on the 30th of July to get ready to install the new lift.
- Watered flowers and pulled weeds weekly.
- Began plans for the sacristy update.

AUGUST 2024

- Did all pre-electrical work for chair lift installation. Larry Mohr donated time and expertise.
- Installed the new chair lift with funds coming from the Memorial committee.
- Back filled the new concrete area for the food pantry entrance.
- Changed batteries in the Fire Alarm box

SEPTEMBER 2024

- Painted handrail going up to the fellowship hall.
- Purchased an edger for trimming the sidewalks.
- Aerated the grounds.

OCTOBER 2024

- Finished the sacristy update.
- Mowed and edged yard along with treatment for clover.

NOVEMBER 2024

- Cut down the flower bed and all the grass and bagged for disposal.
- Oiled all the pumps in the boiler room and started the boilers for the coming months.
- Repair work done in the parsonage, drywall, plastering, sanding and painting two main rooms.

DECEMBER 2024

- Replaced two pumps and a pressure gauge in the boiler room for heating of the facility.
- We had furnace work done at the parsonage.
- Set up the Nativity scene.
- Set up chairs for the Christmas services.

As my three-year term as property team chair comes to an end, I would like to touch on a few of the many projects the property team has completed here at Faith Lutheran. I am only going to touch on the major tasks as it would be impossible to remember all that has been done.

We replaced the windows in the basement rooms where the food pantry now exists. We replaced the roof over the fellowship hall, patched, repaired and painted the parking lot, replaced pumps in the boiler room, removed sod and dirt so we could have better drain off from the parking lot. We tore out and replaced the chair lift for better accessibility. We tore out the bad weed garden in front and replaced it with a beautiful flower garden. We removed dead trees and shrubs, kept the grounds looking beautiful. Like I said there has been so much done and the main reason I wanted to share this with you is that I want to sincerely thank the property team members for their endless dedication to Faith Lutheran. So to Brad, Bob, Bill, Myron, Steve, Mike, Matt thank you for always being there when Faith needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan O'Flaherty, Property Team Leader

Service in the World 2024 Annual Report

Acts of service are a common theme throughout the bible, emphasizing the importance of selflessness and compassion. At Faith, the Service in the World committee continues with these acts of service by volunteering our time and resources to help others and giving to those in times of need. We have impacted lives locally and around the world, providing hope, support, and encouragement.

Team members include John Hintze (chair), Pam Carlson, Tom Carlson, Janet Merrick, Brad Merrick, Joni Schneider, and Carrie Keppy.

Through our outreach mission, we provided support to many ministries, including Lutheran Home for the Aged, Stead Children's Hospital, Bethany Give Kids a Smile, Tapestry Farms, Winnie's Transitional Housing, ELCA World Hunger, Kings Harvest, North Scott High School, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Bethany for Children and Families, and the American Red Cross. Thank you to all who supported the Outreach mission.

Service in the World continued their commitment to the Churches United meal program this year. Six meals were served throughout the year, averaging over 60 guests. Much appreciation goes to other church committees and members who gave their time, hard work, and donations to make this a successful mission.

The Super Bowl "Souper Bowl" event collected over 80 canned food items that were donated to the North Scott food pantry. The Kansas City Chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl 58.

On Compassion Sunday, a video was shown highlighting the hope a Compassion sponsor can bring to a child's life. Faith supports the Compassion Children program by sponsoring John Chima and Denisse Grefa. Also, Faith supports the ELCA Global Missionaries program by sponsoring the Bencke family. Thanks to those Faith members who support these two programs.

Final Friday was a fun event for the elementary students celebrating their last day of school. There were arts and crafts, games, volleyball, and a jumpy house. Good times were had by all.

The annual blood drive was held on October 21st. We had a great turnout of 18 donations.

ELCA Good Gifts was another ministry well supported by Faith. Good Gifts supports programs in 86 countries. These programs provide education in agriculture, health and nutrition, leaders and change makers, and growing the church. Other programs help those in times of crisis.

Thanks to all who purchased goats, chickens, donkeys, cows, honeybees, and pigs.

Service in the World donated a homemade wreath to the Eldridge Hometown Holiday festival. All proceeds from the wreath raffle went to the North Scott food pantry.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hintze, Service in the World Team Leader

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Our finances for 2024 are outstanding. Our Capital Campaign this fall has already exceeded our goal to update the church and will allow us to prepare for some future updates in the future. We are blessed to all in our congregation.

Stewardship is not only about money though. Even though we are thankful for our bountiful financial situation and being thankful it continues, we are thankful that our talents in our congregation continue and flourish. Please consider saying 'yes' when someone asks you to donate your time and talents to our church. You'll be thankful you did.

I look forward to what the coming year brings to our congregation and bringing some new ideas to the table.

Kim Wilkins, Stewardship

WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM REPORT 2024

The Worship and Music Team facilitates all aspects of worship at Faith with the help of many individuals. We thank the members of our team:

Pastor Carrie La Plante – Worship Experience

Linda Szemkus – Altar Guild

Sue Becker – Music

Nina Looney – Faith Families

These individuals have been instrumental for providing a meaningful worship experience for indoor, outdoor and online. We would welcome any members interested in joining the team and welcome input to enhance the worship experience. We thank Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather for keeping us in The Word as they preach. The pastors and Teri Wittkowski lead worship at Grand Haven about 10 times a year as part of our outreach ministry. Weddings and funerals are also part of the worship experience here at Faith.



The Altar Guild has five committees led by Mary Ann Anderson, Janet Merrick, Nancy Meyer, Linda Szemkus, and Lynda Miller. We thank them and all their committee members for preparing for communion, baptisms, etc. We also welcome any new members to these committees that would want to serve. We are using bread at the first service each month that we are inside. Thank-you to all these bakers and anyone who wants to use their talents can sign up for 2025. The recipe is available on the bulletin board in the narthex. We welcome any members that would like to join this ministry.

People of Praise, Resounding Joy, and Jubilation all had a very successful 2024. The congregation was treated to these groups' talents for nearly all of the worship services throughout the program year. The highlight was the Christmas cantata on December 8, when People of Praise, plus members of Jubilation, presented "Sing With the Angels", which was a delightful telling of the role of angels in the Christmas story. The cantata music was given by the Beert, Marlowe, Whitlock, and Judge families in memory of Carol Judge, former choir and Jubilation member and dear friend. In addition, Resounding Joy provided beautiful chime music during the prelude on that special day. Faith's music groups are made up of wonderful, dedicated musicians who willingly share their time and talents each week in praise of our Lord. If you enjoy music (and being part of a fun group!), we encourage you to come join us. If you have questions about People of Praise or Resounding Joy, contact Sue Becker (susan.becker1995@gmail.com); or for Jubilation, contact Neal Becker (bbmist04@gmail.com). Please make sure to acknowledge and thank the volunteers who participate in the music programs at Faith.



Our video crew consisting of Lucas Golinghorst, Scott La Plante, Abby La Plante, and Kevin and Matt Zidarich keep our worship available for all of us and a big thank you to them. They would be happy to have additional members to support this ministry.



This year the team served and prepared one of the Churches United meals. We all enjoyed this experience to serve and use our culinary skills.

We have 8 Faith Families that are asked to help with worship 1 - 2 times per year. We thank our current Faith Family heads: Linda Golinghorst, Kelly Wyatt, Nina Looney, Kelly Penning, Bob and Theresa White, Joni Schneider, Donna Gruenhagen, and Mary Moore. These individuals make sure we have ushers, readers, and communion assistants for worship. Worship Assistance sign ups have been added to the web page for all members to volunteer for worship assistance at any time. We welcome anyone to take a Faith Family head position as many of these individuals have been serving a long time. Tom Bauer leads

usher training quarterly. All are invited to learn usher responsibilities and sign up anytime to serve.

The Sanctuary update was approved by the congregation at the annual meeting. The capital campaign will go forward and was presented to the congregation.

We have many opportunities for members to share their specific gifts as part of worship and prayerfully ask members to get more involved. We thank all who have served this year. Our love of God and each other is alive at Faith as shown by our increased attendance as a community of believers.



Respectively Submitted,

Nina Looney, Team Leader

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



This year has been filled with adventures for the youth in this congregation. Our junior high ministry centers around our Confirmation program. Each Wednesday, the families of our junior high students provide dinner to sustain our youth for the evening, and this provides a good time of fellowship for our youth. In the spring, our 11 confirmation youth gathered for Confirmation Conversations centered around the topic of Living Lutheran, and this fall, our youth have invited friends to join them, so our 18 confirmation youth have gathered for Confirmation Conversations centered the stories of the Old Testament. Through games, videos, Bible study and small group conversation, we have learned about God's love for us. In addition to the conversations, the youth enjoyed fellowship and stewardship activities which included baking pies for Grand Haven, a Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt, and a Christmas party. The youth also have individual mentors with whom they meet five times per year to have conversations about faith. I give thanks for the many adults in the congregation who have agreed to serve as the mentors for these youth. I am thankful for Joni King and Diane Krebs who have served as small group leaders for our youth this past year.

In April, we celebrated our 8th grade youth as they prepared for Confirmation. On April 24, we gathered for our Confirmation Dinner for all of the families of our confirmands, which was served by the 7th grade class. On Sunday, April 28, eight of our youth affirmed their baptism during our Confirmation service. It was a wonderful day to celebrate God's promises together.



Over the summer, we had six youth go to Confirmation Camp and four youth go to High School Camp at Lutheran Lakeside. We had one high school youth serve as a day camp counselor that week, and Katie Garner served as the Health Coordinator at camp all summer. The week that we went, we also took with us eight junior campers, eight adult mission trippers, Pastor Heather and myself. It was a wonderful week of growing in faith and building relationships among the various generations.

Our High School Youth Group has grown this year ranging from eight to twenty youth per week. Throughout the year, we have alternated our weeks among game nights and Bible studies. Our study has centered around the question *Can I Ask That?* where we have considered hard questions that are often not talked about in church. The goal is for our youth to begin to think about what they believe and begin to be able to articulate their beliefs in ways that are respectful so that they can hear what others believe and share what they believe so that everyone can grow in faith. We play all kinds of crazy games, including Blindfolded Musical Chairs, Romans and Christians, as well as Hide-and-Seek and UNO. We end each evening with our highs, lows and God moments and with praying for one another. We are looking forward to studying the book of Genesis in the weeks ahead, and the youth in the group will begin teaching their favorite games to their friends to expand the game possibilities. I give thanks to Joni King, Sue Kirst and Katie Garner who have helped lead the group this year.



This past summer, 11 youth and 4 adults traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana, for the ELCA Youth Gathering. We began with an overnight in Chicago where we enjoyed an evening on Navy Pier before catching our flight to New Orleans the next morning. While in New Orleans, we got to meet all kinds of youth and adults from all over the country who love Jesus like us, we learned about many of the ministries that are part of the larger ELCA, we had an opportunity to worship with the other participants from the Southeastern Iowa Synod, we got to hear many inspirational speakers and hear a lot of great music at the Mass Gatherings each night, and we had an opportunity to serve

by cleaning up an area that was once condos that had been demolished and had become a dump for neighboring parishes. We learned a lot about the city during our time of service, as we participated in a scavenger hunt around the French Quarter, and as we found local places to eat. Upon our return, we hosted a Shareholder Dinner where we were able to share our experiences with the congregation. To prepare for the ELCA Youth Gathering and our 2025 Mission Trip to Denver, we held several fundraisers including Super Bowl Sunday Subs and Snack Mix, two Cinnamon Roll Sundays, hosted Easter Breakfast, and the Shareholder Fundraiser. The added bonus to these fundraisers is that they allow us to build relationships as we raise money, and we are grateful for all those who support our fundraisers and make these trips possible.

As I give thanks for the gifts of 2024, I look forward to all that 2025 will bring for our youth.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE 2024 REPORT

The Endowment Fund at Faith continues to grow and our committee is dedicated to preserving the principal and achieving the safest and highest return on the funds entrusted to us. Our charter provides that we contribute between 20% (minimum) and 40% (maximum) of our earnings annually to each of three categories: Faith Capital Improvement, ELCA Mission and Community Outreach, with the balance undesignated.

This year, having earned \$2,502.57, the following funds were donated:

\$ 500.00 (20%)	to Faith's Sanctuary Update Fund (Faith Capital Imp)
\$ 700.00 (28%)	to SE Iowa Synod- Fund for Leaders (Outreach & Ministry)
<u>\$1,300.00</u> (52%)	to Faith Youth Fund for 2024 Gathering (ELCA Mission Undesignated)
<u>\$2,500.00</u>	Total

Our current balance as of 12/31/24 is \$\$106,309.33. In 2025, due to higher interest rates and CD maturation it appears we will have approximately \$4040 available for distribution! We welcome all suggestions of potential donation recipients!

What a great opportunity! From sending our youth to gather in New Orleans, to the hope that our Synod can help congregations find new spiritual leadership, the earnings from these funds touches us all. At present, the fund is not that large, but growing. If we all support the Endowment Fund growth, think of the future benefits as more of our monthly benevolence is available!

To those who have contributed to the fund, or plan to do so within their estate, thank you from the entire congregation at Faith for your gift to the future of the church we all love.

If you have not yet planned to become a benefactor to Faith Lutheran, prayerfully consider including a gift within your estate plan. Alternately, imagine the joy you might receive from watching a gift you have given bear fruit while you are a live participant in Faith's congregation!

To offer a suggestion or learn more about Faith's Endowment Fund feel free to contact a committee member: Jan Hartwig, Allen Lewis, Scott Rochau, Annette Tomlinson, or Kim Wilkins.

Scott Rochau

Kim Wilkins

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2024

Memorial Committee Report for 2024 Members who are deceased and recorded in our memorial book for 2024 are: Earl Kuhl, Carolyn Scheibe, Duane Miller, Sally Puls, Ruth Staudt, Don Hamann, and Ron McFate.

. Rhonda will include in her report memorials received in memory of our deceased members.

Projects completed in 2024: Chair Lift and update of sacristy.

We had 23 baptisms in 2024. Michele and Mark Mess, in memory of Maddie Mess, have now been presenting a rose to baptized infants.

A note of memorial monies received is mailed to all non-members when notification is received.

The family has 12 months to decide how to use memorial funds, unless the funds are designated for a specific memorial. When the memorial is less than \$100.00, the committee makes the decision unless the family has a special memorial request in mind.

All memorials must be approved by the church council and recorded in the memorial book.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Ann Anderson, Chairman; Karen Schmitt; Rhonda Weber; Marcia Donaubauer, Pastor Carrie La Plante; and Pastor Heather Geest

MEMORIAL ACCOUNT ACTIVITY FOR 2024

Balance 12/31/23		\$	46,546.94
Inflow 1/1/2024 thru 12/31/24			
Gifts Received	\$	18,395.00	
Interest Received	\$	45.47	
Total Inflow 1/1/2024 thru 12/31/2024		\$	18,440.47
Outflow 1/1/2024 thru 12/31/2024			
Downpayment for Handicap Lift and Installation	\$	(20,370.00)	
Youth Gathering in New Orleans	\$	(1,500.00)	
Mission Trip	\$	(500.00)	
Balance Payment for Handicap Lift and Installation	\$	(8,730.00)	
2024 Cantata music	\$	(356.90)	
Sacristry Refrigerator	\$	(799.92)	
Sacristry Bulletin Board	\$	(82.64)	
Total Outflow 1/1/2024 thru 12/31/2024		\$	(32,339.46)
Balance 12/31/2024		\$	32,647.95

Prepared by Rhonda Webber
1/2/2025

WOMEN OF FAITH ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Board Members: Joni Kuehl-Schneider, Karen Schmitt, Lynda Miller, Sue Sissel, Sue Strazewski and Linda Szemkus.

The Women of Faith continue to serve others in various ways. In May we held our annual plant sale. The proceeds from this event help to fund other projects throughout the year. Thank you to everyone that donated plants and pots.

During the school year, we meet for our monthly Bible Study from the Gather magazine. We meet on the 4th Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Gathering area. All are welcome.

The Worship Bags for the children continue to be used during worship. Over 30 plates of cookies were given to those needing Christmas cheer.

The quilting group meets during the school year on the 3rd Tuesday at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. They donated several quilts to the Center. Prayer shawls are available in the church office for anyone in need of comfort.

We served funeral luncheons for the families of Lorenz Behrens, Earl Kuhl, Carolyn Scheibe, William Johnson, and Duane Miller. We were hosts at the visitations for Lorenz Behrens, Carolyn Scheibe, Duane Miller, and Sally Puls. Thank you to everyone that either helped to serve the luncheons or helped with the visitations.

We continue to provide basic items for the kitchen. Such as: paper towels, baggies, paper napkins, dish soap, hand soap and disposable cups. The activity in the kitchen has been busy this year. Thank you to everyone that helps keep the kitchen clean.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Szemkus, President



NORTH SCOTT COMMUNITY FEED OUR CHILDREN MINISTRY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Feed Our Children Ministry was organized by Faith Lutheran Church in [June 2017](#) to provide a free lunch opportunity to our children in the North Scott community during the summer break. During a typical summer, almost 25% of children in our neighborhoods are underserved through the loss of the weekday free and reduced lunch program. Over the summers of 2017-2019 and 2022-2023 we served **more than 18,500** lunches in our community through our twice a week ministry.

With support from members of the congregation and community, we were able to serve **over 3,000** meals during the 2024 summer break! These meals consisted of a lunch and additional items for snack or breakfast. A special thank you to Sammie Garner for organizing and managing our daily operations and inventory this season

As we look forward to 2025, we ask for your continued prayers for the children and families in need, as well as the many people working behind the scenes to grow, harvest, transport, package, purchase, organize, prepare and serve nutritious food to our children. This program not only fills the bellies of the children in the community, but the souls of those that prepare, deliver, and serve lunches. It is amazing to witness joy-filled intergenerational relationships grow while preparing the lunches. The program is also growing young leaders and allowing youth to experience the joy of serving others. Please keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to reach children in need. We look forward to serving with you again in 2025!

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Powell

Feed Our Children Ministry

LUTHER PROPERTIES 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Luther Properties is a not-for-profit organization in Scott County managing 5 low income properties in Davenport and Bettendorf. Most Lutheran churches in Scott County participate in the managing of the buildings by voting church members to the Board of Directors and financially contribute. HUD oversees our buildings and Young Management in Kansas City manages our buildings. Kelli Cogdill and staff oversees the day to day operations. Kelli and her husband Dan run a well oiled operation, and we are very fortunate to have them.

This past year has been relatively quiet. Like most of us have found out, insurance issues and costs are increasing substantially. Luther Properties were not immune either. A combination of higher deductibles and increased costs are making life difficult

Our residents are not all Lutheran. Any denomination is welcome. For any questions, please feel free to contact Kevin Krebs or myself, Kim Wilkins. You can find us in the church directory, or call any Luther Property directory to get your questions answered.

Rent is based on income. Our properties are modern, clean, affordable, well maintained and fun.

Kim Wilkins

NORTH SCOTT FOOD PANTRY - 2024

The North Scott Food Pantry, located in the basement of Faith Lutheran Church, is open to assist families in need on Tuesday evenings, 5:30 – 7:00 PM and Friday mornings 9:30 – 11:00 AM.

Highlights for 2024 include:

- A total of 657 visits were logged in 2024 which is slightly down from 683 in 2023. The pantry served an average of 55 families each month.
- The pantry is well stocked. The community has been very supportive with many groups, businesses and families donating food and/or money to the pantry. The NSFP continues to partner with River Bend Food Bank and MidWest Food Bank, Peoria. A volunteer picks up items from Panera weekly. Food is also purchased from local retailers when it is not available at the food bank. All food donations and purchases are weighed with 48,905 pounds recorded in 2024.
- Notable donations: St. Ann's Knights of Columbus annual golf open raised \$20,000. Howard & Carole Harkins Charitable Trust donated \$10,000. The Mail Carriers' food drive (Stamp Out Hunger) in May collected 2589 pounds. The NSHS National Honor society participated in the Student Hunger Drive competition through River Bend Food Bank. Over 6000 pounds of food was donated directly to our pantry. The students help sort the foods by type and then adult volunteers sorted by dates. The Lancer girls' basketball team hosted the "cart races" at North Scott HyVee. Local businesses sponsored the 8 teams. The teams collected 1525 pounds of food worth \$3367.98. Eldridge Lions donated \$1000. The Kiwanis purchased Girl Scout Cookies to be given to the clients. The list could go on and on as all the local churches, service clubs and schools support the pantry throughout the year.
- In May, clients were able to select 5 cleaning products for "spring cleaning."
- Carolyn Scheibe had been the treasurer since 2019, but that's not all she did! After her passing, we realized she took care of lots of extras including voicemail, email, Facebook and the Vivery app. Kristy Looney volunteered for the treasurer's position. We are still looking for a communication person to cover the voicemail, email, Facebook and the Vivery app. During June, the pantry gave out 56 vouchers for ice cream in memory of Carolyn.
- Families with school aged children picked out extra kid friendly food during the summer.
- School supplies were collected in July. Each school in the district received a large box of supplies.
- Throughout the summer and fall, fresh produce was donated by Garden Ministries (a Davenport Optimist Club project) and local gardeners.
- In 2024, the pantry had the carpet professionally cleaned and the tile floors in the food room and bathrooms waxed. Also the pantry paid for the addition to the top of the ramp. Straightening the access to the ramp has made it easier to back down the ramp. Thanks to Dan O'Flaherty for overseeing the project.
- Clients received additional holiday food the month prior to Easter and Thanksgiving. Clients select holiday/ shelf stable food along with a ham (or turkey for Thanksgiving), cheese and vouchers for eggs, milk and produce. 50 families received Easter food, and 74 families received Thanksgiving food.
- Christmas food boxes and angel tree gifts were given out December 20 & 21. The Eldridge Lions Club members packed the food boxes in early December. On distribution days, volunteers added the perishables and loaded the food into the client's vehicles. 85 food boxes were distributed to 73 families. Christmas gifts provided by St. Ann's and the Scott County Library's angel trees were also distributed. Thanks to Shannon Peterson for overseeing the gift registration and distribution.

It takes many wonderful volunteers using their gifts to make sure the food pantry functions efficiently. Friday hours are staffed by local churches in a 7-week rotation. Faith will man the pantry on February 7th. Tuesday evenings are staffed by volunteers throughout the community. If you are willing to help in any way, please contact Deanna Nielsen (563-370-7444).

Thank you to everyone that donated their time, food and/or money to the food pantry. A big thank you to Faith Lutheran for housing the pantry!

Respectfully submitted,
Deanna Nielsen

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

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

God, we praise you and give you thanks.

You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.

We praise you for food that nourishes us.

You rescued your people from slavery.

We praise you for freedom.

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

We bless you for your justice and mercy.

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

We praise you for his death and resurrection.

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

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

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift

and commission us again to be your servant people.

Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:

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

Send us in your love and mercy,

that the world may know you and praise you.

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,
2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en.



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en.



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 840

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name, that we might be a blessing to others. In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America