

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



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

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eldridge, IA

Sunday, January 25, 2026 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order - Joan Hennigan, Council President

Opening Litany - Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante

Adoption of Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual Congregational Meeting, January 26, 2025

Presentation of Reports

Minutes of January 26, 2025 (John Hintze)	Page 3
Pastors' Reports (Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather)	Page 5
Council President Report (Joan Hennigan)	Page 11
Financial Report (Myron Scheibe)	Page 12
2025 Fund Balance Sheet (Myron Scheibe)	Page 13
2026 Ministry Plan (Joan Hennigan)	Page 14
2026 Budget (Myron Scheibe)	Page 19
2024 Audit Report (Matt Briehl)	Page 23
Church Council Directory (Joan Hennigan)	Page 25
Teams and Committee Members (Joan Hennigan)	Page 26
Church Records Summary (Pastor Carrie)	Page 27
Membership Information (Pastor Carrie)	Page 28
Christian Ed Report (Cindy Zabel)	Page 29
Faith Connections Report (Annette Tomlinson)	Page 30
Fellowship Report (Joan Hennigan)	Page 31
Property Report (Myron Scheibe)	Page 32
Service in the World Report (John Hintze)	Page 33
Stewardship Report (Kim Wilkins)	Page 34
Worship and Music Report (Nina Looney)	Page 35
Youth Committee Report (Pastor Carrie)	Page 37
Endowment Committee Report (Kim Wilkins)	Page 38
Memorial Committee Report (Mary Ann Anderson)	Page 39
Memorial Account Activity Report (Rhonda Webber)	Page 39
Women of Faith Report (Linda Szemkus)	Page 40
Feed Our Children Ministry (Amy Powell)	Page 41
Luther Properties Report (Kim Wilkins)	Page 42
North Scott Food Pantry Report (Deanna Nielsen)	Page 43

Old Business

New Business

Thank you to Outgoing Council Members Sherri Brundies, Joan Hennigan, John Hintz, and Myron Scheibe.

Pastor's Report—Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante

Election of Council Members

Council Members are elected for a three year term. Vote for five: Tom Carlson, Mike Garner, Jerry Neff, Kim Wilkins, and Joni Kuehl-Schneider (1 year term).

Election of Endowment Committee Members

Endowment Committee Members are elected for a three year term. Vote for one:
John Hintze

Election of Nominating Committee Members

Nominating Committee Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for six:
Sherri Brundies, Mike Garner, John Hintze, Nina Looney, Mike Strom, and Cindy Zabel.

Election of Synod Assembly Voting Members

Synod Assembly Voting Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for two:
Linda Golinghorst and Evan Keppy.

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 Betty Strom.

Adoption of 2026 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 26, 2025 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order: Joan Hennigan 9:34 am

Opening Litany: Pastor Carrie

Adoption of Agenda: Carrie Keppy made a motion to approve the agenda. Abby LaPlante second. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting minutes: Myron Scheibe made a motion to approve the minutes. Carol Marten second. The motion passed unanimously.

Team Reports: Pastor Carrie gave an oral report. She reminded us that God promised to always be with us, through the highs and lows of our lives, and that this promise is one we can trust. Pastor Carrie was very thankful for the many baptisms and new members Faith has experienced in 2024. She was thankful for the outpouring of donations to the Sanctuary Update Capital Campaign. She also gave thanks to the church council members, the church staff, team members, and to the congregation. Pastor Carrie also stated it is good the church is taking on new risks, such as the Friday Fun Club and the Sanctuary remodel.

Treasurer Myron Scheibe gave an oral report. He stated that Faith ended up \$7000 in the black for 2024. Throughout the year, the general fund operated mostly in the black. A 2.5% increase was recommended for pastor and staff salaries. The 2025 budget is \$405,816. Carrie Keppy made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Scott LaPlante second. The motion passed unanimously. Myron gave thanks to the Narrative Budget committee headed by Joan H.

Joan Hennigan highlighted the Narrative budget for 2025. She stated that this is a ministry plan that divides the 2025 budget into four main categories, being Worship and Music, Stewardship, Faith Formation, and Mission. The ministry plan details are on pages 13-17 of the Annual Report.

All other team reports are presented in the 2025 Annual Report on pages 18-44.

Nina Looney made a motion to approve all 2024 reports as printed. Abby LaPlante second. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Sanctuary update Pastor Carrie gave these details on the Sanctuary update:

The new sanctuary furniture has been ordered from New Holland and will be delivered in mid July.

Sanctuary relighting will be done in the spring.

We will be getting new bids for carpeting and tile.

We will be getting a second audio/visual bid.

Because of the congregation's generous giving, all of the sanctuary updates will be paid in cash.

The Carolyn Scheibe Memorial Fund will be used to illuminate the Sanctuary stained glass windows.

We possibly could have the North Scott Singers perform here after the sanctuary update.

Many thanks were given to Pastor Carrie for her hard work.

New Business:

Thanks to outgoing council members - Thanks were given to Dan O'Flaherty and Val Zelinko for their service on the church council. They will truly be missed.

Elections Joan H. read aloud the nominees and the positions they are being nominated for. One

nomination was received from the floor. Joni Schneider nominated Jim Scheider for the Alternate Synod Voting Delegate. For church council, nominees are Michelle Rasmussen, Randy Reimers, Annette Tomlinson, and Cindy Zabel. For the Nominating Committee, the nominees are Joan Hennigan, John Hintze, Gayle Staples, Mike Strom, and Kim Wilkins. For the Endowment Committee, nominees are Tom Bauer and Janice Hartwig. For the Synod Voting Delegates, the nominees are Gayle Staples and Mike Staples. For the Alternate Synod Voting Delegate, the nominees are Mike Strom and Jim Schneider (write in).

Joan H. stated that there is still one more opening on the Nominating Committee.

No more nominations came from the floor and the nominations were closed. Joan asked all voting members to fill out their ballot.

Mike Garner asked about the treasurer's term of office. It was explained that the treasurer's term is a 3 year term. The position is elected by the council. The treasurer does not need to serve on the council if so desired. This answered Mike's question.

Adoption of the 2025 Budget Joan H. asked for any questions or discussions from the floor concerning the 2025 budget. There were none. Ida Wiebel made a motion to approve the 2025 budget. Lynda Miller second. The motion passed unanimously.

Ballot report 51 ballots were cast. The ballots were scored by Joni Schneider and Myron Scheibe. The results are as follows:

- Church council - Michelle Rasmussen(51), Randy Reimers(51), Annette Tomlinson(51), Cindy Zabel(49)
- Nominating Committee - Joan Hennigan(51), John Hintze(51), Gayle Staples(51), Mike Strom (51), Kim Wilkins(51)
- Endowment Committee - Tom Bauer(51), Janice Hartwig(51)
- Synod Voting Delegates - Gayle Staples(51), Mike Staples(51)
- Alternate Synod Voting Delegates - Mike Strom(49), Jim Schneider(50 - write in)

All nominees were elected.

Other items Pastor Carrie stated that Bishop Current will be June 29th to worship with us.

Kim Wilkins asked if there will be any change to the Narthex during the sanctuary update. Pastor Carrie stated there will be no change.

Pastor Carrie stated that we will have VBS and Feed our Children during the sanctuary update.

It was noted that Pastor Carrie's 50th birthday is January 31st.

Call for Questions: None

Closing Prayer: Pastor Heather

Adjournment: Scott LaPante made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Abby LaPlante second. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

The 2025 Annual Report of the Senior Pastor

Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante

When I wrote the Annual Report that reviewed 2024, I talked about how, in the midst of the realities of the world on the international, national, and local levels, as well as the struggles that we all face in our individual lives, we can often feel alone. We have a need to know that God's presence is with us in the highs and lows of our journey through this life. This has been especially true in 2025 as we have experienced significant losses within our congregation of members and family of members, including Pastor Heather's father-in-law and my father. Feeling the need to experience God's presence has been necessary, and as I think back over this past year, we have really shown up for one another in the joys and the grief and everything in between throughout this year.

We are able to do this because, in our baptism, we have been named and claimed as God's beloved children. We have been given the promise of forgiveness of sins and have been reminded that we have been saved by grace through faith, not only so that we receive eternal life in heaven with God, which we most certainly do, but also so that we are free to do the good works that God has created us to do to be the Body of Christ in this world so that God's presence can be known within this congregation, in our community and around the world. As it is written in Ephesians:

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

As I think back over this past year, there are so many ways that we, as a congregation and as individuals, have been about living out our baptismal calling to do the good works that God has prepared for us. As I have said many times before, I do not believe we are here by accident. The Holy Spirit has gathered us here for such a time as this to do the good works of God by using the gifts that God has given to us together for the sake of the world. Looking at the pictures on the next couple of pages that cover this past year, I see how we have lived out that calling to do God's good works throughout this 2025.

I see us sharing the love of God with the children around us as we gather in our Sunday School classrooms, on our lawn for Final Friday and in Friday Fun Club. I see the wisdom of God being shared with our youth through the Confirmation small group leaders who share God's love and promises each week. I see us creating safe space for our older youth and their friends where they can know God loves them just as they are, and they do not have to pretend to be something else. I see the service that we do through the fun and determination of our high school youth as they served their neighbor and experienced life in Denver, Colorado, while on our mission trip. I see us creating a place of fellowship in God's presence when we gather for Cheeseburger in Paradise, as we gather around tables for our Congregational Breakfasts, and in the gathering the community in our Be Our Guest events. I see how we praise God and help one another grow in faith in 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 us creating a space of belonging in Christ's name in the celebration of Holy Baptism and Confirmation. I see us proclaiming the openness of God's love for all people 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 how we show compassion for those around us as we feed our homeless neighbors a meal with Churches United at Zion Lutheran Church and provide lunches for community children with the North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry. I see how we proclaim God's great welcome as we share our building with other organizations who make a difference in our community. I see how we proclaim God's love and a sense of oneness in the body of Christ among the multiple generations who are gathered together at Lutheran Lakeside Camp. These examples are only the tip of the iceberg of the many ways in which we proclaim God's love and grace and hope and promise into the midst of a world that can sometimes feel chaotic and upside down.

I give thanks for the ways in which we have grown as the body of Christ in God's love and faith in this last year. We celebrated 5 new siblings in Christ who joined us through the waters of baptism throughout the year. We welcomed 12 new members who have joined Christ's mission and ministry

with us. We have seen our ministries grow and change. We have grown our partnerships with both community organizations and churchwide organizations. We have received grants from ELCA World Hunger and the Moonlight Chase, and we made a new partnership with the North Scott Hy-Vee which enabled us to expand our summer food ministry to provide more meals per child each week. 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 Benke family in Japan, and support of our Compassion Children, Denisse and John, among other things. We have supported the organizations closer to home of which we are members, including Lutheran Lakeside, Luther Properties and North Scott Clergy Group both financially and in human resources. We have found many ways to shine the light of Christ into our community and into the world.

The biggest project that we completed this year was the renovation of our sanctuary. The primary purpose of this renovation was to make worship more accessible to more people in every way that we can. No longer does anyone have to go up a stair to receive Christ's body and blood at Holy Communion. People who find it hard to balance a worship book and bulletin with children or because of medical issues can now follow the service on the screens. The choirs now have a designated space from which they can be heard. Our sound upgrade has really changed the ability for many people to hear during worship, and our hearing devices are available for those who need some additional assistance to hear. Our livestream has greatly improved with our new video system, and will continue to improve once the second camera is able to be installed, which allows those who are unable to be at worship for any reason to have a better experience of worship from wherever they are. Gathering around the baptismal font also allows people to feel a closer connection to their baptism each time we gather. All of this helps us to more effectively live out God's calling for us as we invite friends and neighbors and welcome strangers to worship with us.

I am grateful that after all of that work was complete on time and on budget, we have money remaining to help us continue to make our whole space more accessible and welcoming for the people who gather here. We are hoping to update the bathrooms near the sanctuary early in 2026 to fix some of the issues that they have and to make them more accessible for those who have disabilities so that everyone can use them. We also plan to update the furniture, carpet and window coverings in the Gathering Space as well as the carpet in the Fellowship Hall. The final project we are planning to do is to resurface the back parking lot so that it is safer for all those who come here for worship and the North Scott Food Pantry.

Thank you to Myron Scheibe and Dan O'Flaherty who have served as the project managers for this project. Their expertise and the time that they have put in to be of assistance to all of our contractors has been invaluable. I am also grateful to all of our contractors for all of the work that they did to make this happen, even when there were hiccups along the way: Kuesel Construction, FINN Audio/Visual, Abbey Carpet, New Holland Church Furniture, LMI Electric, Hot Glass, Always Clean, and Allen Organ Company. Thank you also to Jennie Garner and Madelyn La Plante for painting all of the heating pipe insulation throughout the sanctuary.

Finally, thank you all for the ways in which you continue to use the gifts that God has given to you to live out the callings to which you have been called to share God's good news and do the good works that God has prepared for you. Thank you to all of the leaders who have served this year, especially the Congregation Council 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 and without whom our ministry would be diminished: Pastor Heather Geest, Beth Ann Anderson, Dennis Kelly, and Susan Becker. I thank them for sharing their gifts in the ministry we are privileged to do together. I give thanks for the life of Teri Wittkowski who shared her gifts with this congregation for 50 years as one of the organists, and who will be deeply missed by all. Finally, thanks be to God for calling me to serve as your Senior Pastor as we continue to live together as God's beloved children in this place, living out our calling to proclaim God's love for the sake of the world by doing the good works that God has prepared for us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante



THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR PASTOR HEATHER GEEST

As I reflect on 2025, I do so with a heart full of gratitude, tenderness, and hope. This has been a year of meaningful transformation — one that has shaped us as a congregation and me personally as your pastor.

One of the most visible signs of transformation this year was the completion of our sanctuary renovation. These changes were not just about getting rid of the teal carpeting, the old tarnished pews, or even the slight inconvenience of stepping up to kneel by the “holy guard railing/fence”. The changes our congregation faithfully made and decided on together were an expression of our theology and calling. By making our worship space more accessible and welcoming, we affirmed a core truth of how we understand the good news of Jesus Christ: that all people are beloved by God and have a place of belonging in this sanctuary. Central in our worship is the baptismal font, reminding us of our baptismal calling and our identity as children of God. The beautiful blue, hand-blown glass bowl catches the water and light, and quietly proclaims a fountain of God’s grace and mercy, flowing freely and generously for all.

Of course, the completion of these updates and renovations (and more to come) would not have been possible without the unbelievable generosity of this congregation. God has blessed us not only financially through your gifts of money, but also through so many great servant leaders who willingly dedicate so much of their time and energy to this community of faith. I will not attempt to name names, because I know I will undoubtedly miss someone. You know who you are! We are grateful, and I am grateful. I know that there have been countless hours of planning, newsletter articles, problem-solving, phone calls, last-minute trips to meet a contractor or sign a check, innumerable amounts of hands-on labor freely given by so many, and prayer. God is so good and has worked through your hands and hearts, and I am so grateful. I will never forget how quickly we packed up the sanctuary on June 15, after the last summer wedding and Sunday worship, and we hauled everything to where it needed to be. We taped off the walls for the construction crews and set up our new temporary worship location upstairs in the cozy Fellowship Hall. Who says Lutherans can’t change? And meet deadlines? We were back in the new sanctuary on time and on budget to welcome the larger community to “come and see” all that God has done in this place. Unbelievable and yet true, what a powerful testimony of God’s faithfulness and yours.

What stands before us now is not simply a renovated space, but a visible sign of generosity lived out in community—one that makes clear our desire to be more accessible, more welcoming, and more faithful to God’s expansive love for all people. I am so proud of this community. I could go on and on. The completion of one full year of “Friday Fun Club”, the expansion of the “Feed Our Children Program”, continued Homecoming Tailgate gatherings on our lawn, feeding the whole community, hosting and highlighting area ministries through “Be Our Guest” series, and creative kids’ summer programming. This is all possible because of who we believe God is and how we choose to respond as a generous, mission-minded, and fiscally responsible congregation. We have people who are so generous, faithful, and shaped with hearts for Christ.

Teri Wittkowski provided fifty years of faithful service, quietly sitting on the bench, hands upon the keys, leading our shared voices as we lifted them to the Lord through hymns and anthems, songs of praise and lament, whose music shaped our worship and presence enriched our community, we miss her. We know as Christians that we don’t need to say “good-bye”, but only “we will meet again.” We are so grateful for her gift of time and her deep love of music and the Lord. We continue to feel her absence, even as we give thanks for a life lived so generously among us.

On a personal note, my family and I mourned the death of my father-in-law, Ed Geest. Walking through the season of death reminds me again and again of how precious and sacred life is and how wonderful it is to be held in prayer and compassion by a community of faith. Without the hope of the resurrection and the new life we have in Christ, I would be sunk. Thank you. Thank you for the reminders of God’s grace and the ways you continue to support my family with kindness, patience and love.

This year also marked a milestone in my own life as I really turned 50, and I am now 51, halfway to 102 years old. As I reflect upon my vocation as a pastor, mom, farm-wife, friend, and sister in Christ; I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to use the gifts that God has given me in this community. I am deeply aware of the privilege of serving this congregation at this stage of life, and I remain grateful for the trust you place in me.

Perhaps most moving of all, I look forward to preparing to witness Violet's (my oldest daughter) confirmation this spring in the same church where she was baptized, at that very font now standing at the heart of our sanctuary. What an incredible gift to stand at that intersection of memory and hope, water and promise, as both parent and pastor. It is a powerful reminder that the church is not only something we build or maintain, but it is also a Christ-centered, life-giving relationship that carries us across generations, in all times and places. We have a generous and loving God, eternal source of joy, love and light, who names and claims us as God's Beloved.

In all of this, celebration and sorrow, endings and beginnings, I have seen God at work among us. Thank you for your faithfulness, openness to change, generosity, servant-leadership, care for one another, and commitment to living the love of Christ in this place.

It is an honor to serve alongside you. I look forward to what God will continue to do in and through us in the year ahead.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Heather

2025 COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

The 2025 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 2026 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 2025. 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 2025 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

2025 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 Kristi Looney, Neal Becker and Matt Briehl (Chairman) who reviewed the financial records for 2024 and found no issues.

Throughout most of 2025, the General Fund operated mostly in the black, helped out by a good January. We ended the year with a small positive income thanks to a strong December as shown.

	Income	Expenses
January	\$49,166.16	\$31,343.93
February	\$26,564.53	\$27,692.06
March	\$28,240.41	\$29,635.13
April	\$24,878.41	\$31,499.99
May	\$34,240.16	\$29,721.14
June	\$27,242.21	\$45,503.09
July	\$25,606.41	\$24,703.98
August	\$28,048.16	\$31,735.29
September	\$24,549.66	\$33,534.17
October	\$20,277.41	\$28,976.98
November	\$30,447.16	\$26,387.56
December	\$60,596.47	\$39,294.94
2025 Total	\$380,857.15	\$380,028.26

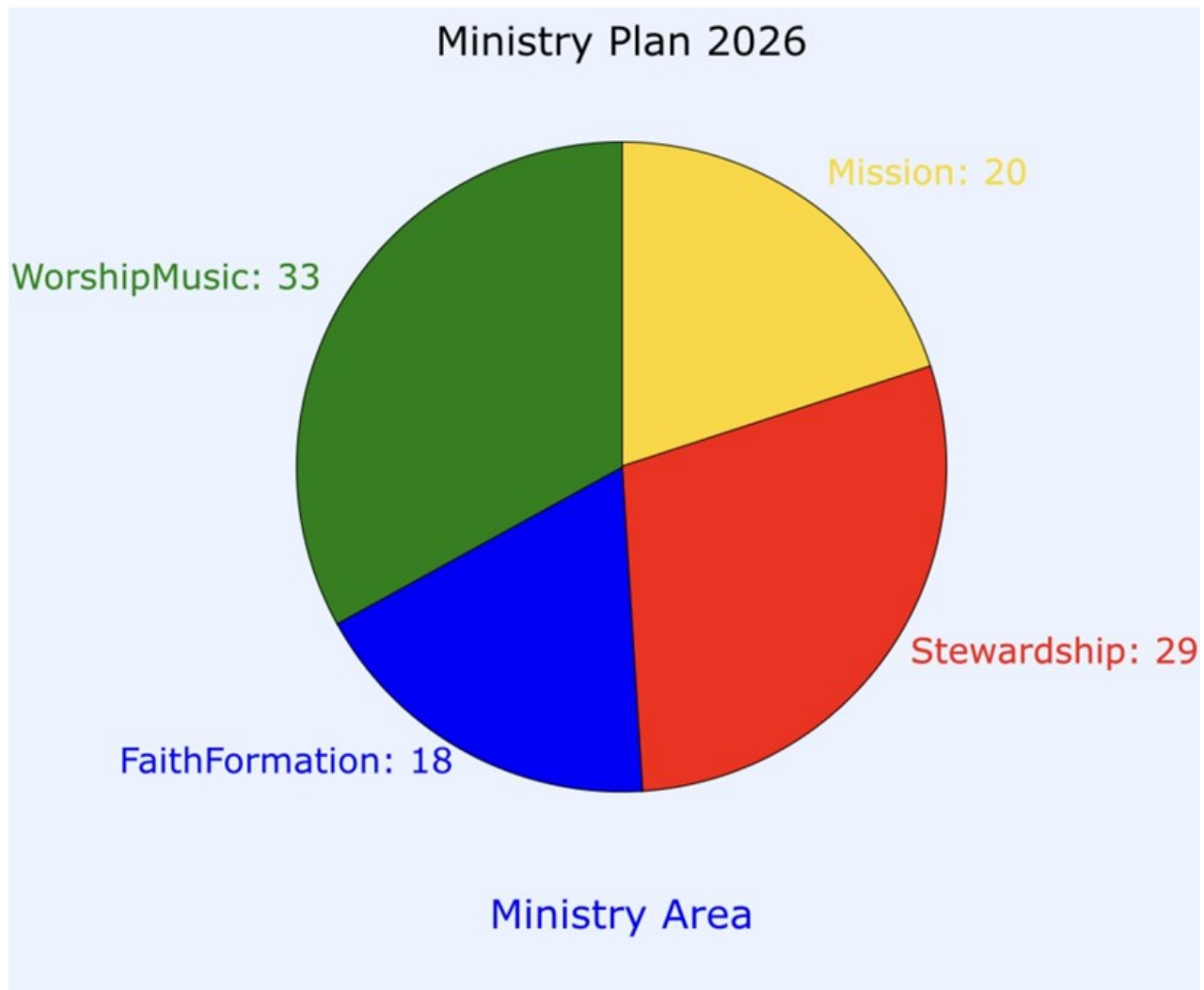
The Executive Committee reviewed the 2026 budget requests from the teams, the synod's recommendation for salary increases for the pastors, and various indexes for cost of living increases and recommended a 2.8% increase for all staff. The final recommendation for the 2026 budget was determined by the council.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Scheibe, Treasurer

2025 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH FUND BALANCE SHEET

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		12/31/2024					12/31/2025
2							
3		Balance	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	Transfers		Balance
4	Operating Fund	\$ 36,026.67	380,857.15	(380,028.26)			36,855.56
5	Payroll tax withholding						1,178.75
6							
7	Total Operating Funds	36,026.67			-		38,034.31
8							
9	Special Funds						
10	Adult Mission Trip	-	-	-			-
11	Camp	-	-	-			-
12	Christmas	1,470.00	2,239.50	(1,539.50)			2,170.00
13	Coffee Hour	141.26	-	(119.70)			21.56
14	Continuing Ed Assoc Pastor	2,126.71	-	(594.00)	267.29		1,800.00
15	Continuing Ed Sr Pastor	2,194.57	-	(975.60)	1,000.00		2,218.97
16	Disaster Relief	-	-	-			-
17	Easter	-	2,395.00	(2,395.00)			-
18	Endowment Fund	-	4,875.00	(3,900.00)	(975.00)		-
19	Fellowship Hall Roof	-	-	-			-
20	Food Pantry	-	975.00	(975.00)			-
21	Memorials	15.00	90.00	(105.00)			-
22	Misc In/Out	1,127.55	605.14	(1,452.74)			279.95
24	Mission Trip - Youth	3,744.81	11,196.54	(9,837.97)			5,103.38
25	OCC/Global Barnyard	-	1,470.00	(1,400.00)			70.00
26	Outreach	129.29	1,610.00	(1,350.00)	(250.00)		139.29
27	Outside Plantings	485.13	-	(129.33)			355.80
28	Rooftop AC	-	-	-			-
29	Sanctuary Update	104,513.74	205,270.00	(239,079.32)	(52,135.11)		18,569.31
30	Summer Food Project	5,121.21	6,090.00	(5,781.45)	250.00		5,679.76
31	Sunday School	150.76	295.75	(130.00)			316.51
32	Teddy Bear	108.50	-	-			108.50
33	Thanksgiving	970.00	1,225.00	(2,195.00)			-
34	Unbudgeted Repairs/Mntc	-	893.50	(6,627.78)	5,794.28		60.00
35	VBS	50.00	254.00	(150.00)			154.00
36	Women of Faith	-	923.50	(923.50)			-
37	World Hunger	-	1,190.50	(1,190.50)			-
38	Youth Junior High	310.47	-	(267.12)			43.35
39	Youth Senior High	772.96	-	-			772.96
40	Total Specials	123,431.96	241,598.43	(281,118.51)	(46,048.54)		
41							
42	Bank Accounts	12/31/2024	Deposits	Withdrawals	Transfers		12/31/2025
43	Checking	180,018.47	622,455.58	(661,146.77)	(46,048.54)		95,278.74
44	Payroll tax withholding						1,178.75
45	Net checking						96,457.49
46							
47	Savings						
48	Operating Fund	73.17					73.17
49	Unbudgeted Repairs/Maint	10,001.72			(4,819.28)		5,182.44
50	Rooftop AC	7,725.00					7,725.00
51	Sanctuary Updates	65.00			52,135.11		52,200.11
52	Interest		3,048.92				3,048.92
53	Total Savings	17,864.89	3,048.92	-	47,315.83		68,229.64
54	Investments						
55	Operating Fund CD 8148 08/5/26	10,471.75	342.31	297.84			11,111.90
56	Unbudgeted Repairs/Maint CD 1129 8/5/26	31,415.26	1,026.92	893.52			33,335.70
57	Sanctuary Updates CD 9178 8/5/26	20,943.51	684.61	595.68			22,223.80
58	Sanctuary Updates CD 3/8/26	85,000.00	2,519.12				87,519.12
59	Sanctuary Updates CD 4/6/26	25,000.00	694.05				25,694.05
60	Unbudgeted Repairs/Rooftop CD 05/9/26	25,000.00	1,523.61				26,523.61
61	Total Investments	197,830.52	6,790.62	1,787.04	-		206,408.18
62	Memorial Savings	32,647.95	16,701.14	(10,173.62)			39,175.47
63	Endowment Savings						
64	First Central State Savings	5,722.23	3,549.71	(4,875.00)			4,396.94
65	First Trust & Savings CD 34401 1/25	5,534.63	255.43	(174.13)			5,615.93
66	First Trust & Savings CD32952 1/25	20,498.63	948.72	(515.31)			20,932.04
67	First Trust & Savings CD38477 6/25	52,600.00	2,528.17	(2,528.17)			52,600.00
68	Sentinel Security Life Annuity 11/25 Bal	21,953.83	691.56				22,645.39
69	Total Endowment Savings	106,309.32	7,973.59	(8,092.61)	-		106,190.30
70	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	534,671.15	656,969.85	(677,625.96)	1,267.29		516,461.08



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 \$137,409.69 (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 \$74,950.74 (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, youth, and adults. We offer 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. \$120,753.97 (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 \$83,278.60 (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, the Feed Our Children program, and Friday Fun Club. 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. We offer a yearly summer Youth Mission Trip, with every third year going to the national ELCA Youth Gathering.

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



2026 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET

	2025 YTD	2025 Budget	2026 Proposed Budget
Operating Income			
Envelope Offerings	374,174.10	400,364.00	410,441.00
Offerings-Compassion Child	945.00	912.00	912.00
Offerings-Missionary Support	540.00	540.00	540.00
Offerings-Flowers	1,075.00	500.00	500.00
Loose	4,123.00	3,500.00	4,000.00
Rent Income			
Vacation Bible School			
Seminary Student Fund			
Miscellaneous			
Total Operating Income	380,857.10	405,816.00	416,393.00
EXPENDITURES			
Mission			
Synod Mission			
SE Iowa Synod (10%)	37,829.73	40,577.00	41,060.00
Bible Camp	500.00	500.00	500.00
Compassion Child	1,032.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Lutheran Lakeside General Fund	-	500.00	500.00
Luther Properties	200.00	200.00	200.00
Missionary Support	540.00	540.00	540.00
North Scott Clergy	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Seminary Student Fund		400.00	400.00
Total Mission	41,101.73	44,717.00	45,200.00

2026 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET

	2025 YTD	2025 Budget	2026 Proposed Budget
STAFFING			
Senior Pastor			
Salary	65,728.08	65,728.00	68,021.00
FICA Allowance	7,182.96	7,183.00	7,434.00
Pension/Insurance	24,527.52	23,361.00	25,024.00
Housing Equity Allowance	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Furnishing Allowance	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Mileage/Prof. Expenses	4,149.74	3,700.00	4,400.00
Additional Benefits	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Continuing Education	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Senior Pastor	111,088.30	109,472.00	114,379.00
Assoc. Pastor			
Salary/Housing	36,980.16	36,980.00	38,015.00
FICA Allowance	2,581.92	2,582.00	2,654.00
Pension/Insurance	31,069.20	30,058.00	34,276.00
Continuing Education	267.29	600.00	600.00
Mileage/Prof. Expenses	2,085.30	1,600.00	1,800.00
Total Assoc. Pastor	72,983.87	71,820.00	77,345.00
Support Staff			
Organists Salaries	9,194.50	10,334.00	10,623.00
Organists FICA	703.41	791.00	813.00
Choir Dir. Salary	9,525.06	9,525.00	9,792.00
Choir Dir. FICA	728.73	729.00	749.00
Custodian Salary	17,993.04	17,933.00	18,435.00
Custodian FICA	1,376.40	1,372.00	1,410.00
Office Manager Salary	22,942.00	27,309.00	28,074.00
Office Mgr. FICA	1,755.07	2,089.00	2,147.00
Workman's Comp.	2,132.00	2,200.00	2,261.00
Total Support Staffing	66,350.21	72,282.00	74,304.00
Total Staffing	250,422.38	253,574.00	266,028.00
PROGRAMMING			
Fellowship			
Coffee	7.04	250.00	250.00
General	495.04	800.00	800.00
Total Fellowship	502.08	1,050.00	1,050.00
Service in the World			
Adult Mission	1,750.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Churches United Meals	327.56	600.00	600.00
Promotions in our community	268.65	500.00	500.00
Total Service in the World	2,346.21	3,100.00	3,100.00
Faith Connection			
Advertising	1,181.14	1,200.00	1,200.00
General (Video Equipment)	764.12	200.00	
Hospitality/Gifts	-	200.00	200.00
Total Faith Connections	1,945.26	1,600.00	1,400.00

2026 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET

	2025 YTD	2025 Budget	2026 Proposed Budget
Worship/Music			
Bulletins	467.53	1,375.00	1,400.00
Devotionals	-	450.00	475.00
Cantata	40.51	300.00	300.00
Clean Choir Robes	239.00	50.00	50.00
Continuing Education	826.40	300.00	300.00
Copyrights	320.00	850.00	900.00
A/V Subscription	566.13	-	3,065.00
Flowers Christmas/Easter	1,451.07	350.00	350.00
Music	125.00	1,400.00	1,450.00
Piano & Organ Maint	300.00	300.00	300.00
Special Music	575.00	300.00	300.00
Supply Pastor	2,028.37	1,000.00	1,000.00
Worship Supplies		2,500.00	2,500.00
Total Worship/Music	6,939.01	9,175.00	12,390.00
Education/Youth/Family			
Children's Education			
Background Checks	8.56	150.00	150.00
Camp	1,480.41	1,000.00	1,500.00
Meal Ministry	50.23	300.00	300.00
Mission Time/ Special Events	325.46	250.00	300.00
Sunday School	710.81	2,000.00	1,000.00
Vacation Church School	927.52	1,500.00	750.00
Total Children's Education	3,502.99	5,200.00	4,000.00
Jr High Youth Education			
Confirmation Camp	2,241.01	2,500.00	3,000.00
Confirmation Flowers	225.51	250.00	300.00
Curriculum	718.07	300.00	450.00
Meals/Snacks	515.88	1,100.00	1,300.00
Stewardship/Fellowship/Mission	377.35	600.00	500.00
Total Jr High Youth	4,077.82	4,750.00	5,550.00
High School Youth Education			
Curriculum	320.99	400.00	400.00
HS Mission Trip	3,930.00	6,000.00	4,000.00
Meals/Snacks	417.45	700.00	700.00
Post Prom	500.00	500.00	500.00
Senior Gifts/Flowers	485.76	400.00	450.00
Stewardship/Fellowship/Mission	377.06	600.00	600.00
Total High School Youth Education	6,031.26	8,600.00	6,650.00
Adult Education			
Adult Education	188.08	300.00	300.00
Total Education/Youth/Family	13,800.15	18,850.00	16,500.00
Stewardship			
Misc		50.00	50.00
Offering Envelopes	383.94	650.00	650.00
Total Stewardship	383.94	700.00	700.00
Total Programming	25,916.65	34,475.00	35,140.00

2026 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET

	2025 YTD	2025 Budget	2026 Proposed Budget
Property and Administration			
Misc. Expenses			
Misc.	-	500.00	500.00
Unbudgeted Repairs	-	5,000.00	
Total Miscellaneous	-	5,500.00	500.00
Administration			
Bank Fees	252.77	275.00	275.00
Copier Lease/copies	5,664.02	5,500.00	5,600.00
Council Resources	-	200.00	200.00
Discretionary Fund		500.00	500.00
Hospitality	63.14	150.00	150.00
Office Supplies	1,763.04	2,000.00	1,900.00
Payroll Fees	1,260.00	1,080.00	1,440.00
Small Equipment Replacement	229.09	400.00	300.00
Subscriptions and Dues	1,594.09	850.00	1,085.00
Synod Meetings	1,190.44	2,200.00	2,200.00
Computer service		650.00	650.00
Postage	2,258.03	2,700.00	2,550.00
Telephone	2,147.58	2,700.00	2,700.00
Website	564.00	600.00	600.00
Total Administration	16,986.20	19,805.00	20,150.00
Property			
Utilities Church	6,966.70	9,500.00	9,500.00
Insurance	14,984.00	11,500.00	20,500.00
Maint. Church	4,745.86	4,000.00	4,000.00
Janitorial Supplies	428.69	600.00	600.00
Lawn Care/Snow Removal	1,910.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Utilities, Parsonage	6,524.16	6,500.00	6,500.00
A/C Rooftop (4 years)	-	5,000.00	
Maint. Parsonage	5,772.01	6,000.00	3,000.00
Lift Inspection	529.65	175.00	175.00
Furnace Agreement	3,129.75	3,200.00	3,200.00
Tree Removal	-		
Security/Camera Fees	610.48	300.00	900.00
Total Property	45,601.30	47,775.00	49,375.00
Total Administration/Property	62,587.50	73,080.00	70,025.00
Total Operating Expenditures	380,028.26	405,846.00	416,393.00
Net Operating Income (Loss)	828.84	(30.00)	-

Audit Report 2024

Audit Team: Neal Becker, Kristi Looney, Matt Briebl (Chair)

Audit Scope: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

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 2024 and was conducted during the third quarter of 2025.

Observations and Recommendations:

Banking and Investments – Observations: The year end fund balance sheet matches the year end bank statement after adjusting for outstanding items. Adjustments were also made for transfers that were conducted after the first of the year but were backdated to be included on the 2024 balance sheet. Reconciled 3 random months during the year and verified receipts for those 3 months.

The year-end balance of \$32,647.95 (Memorial Savings) reported on the balance sheet matches that of the bank statement. Most of the funds debited from this account during the year were spent on the newly installed chair lift.

The year-end balance of \$17,864.89 reported on the balance sheet matches that of the bank statement after adjusting for two transfers made after 12-31-2024. During the year \$25,000.00 was moved into a certificate of deposit.

Recommendation: No deficiencies observed.

Bank reconciliation: No deficiencies observed. Bank reconciliation is well documented in the monthly financial report. Continue to retain receipts.

Petty Cash – Observation. Petty has not been used since the previous audit, September of 2023. The petty cash fund was reconciled against the balance of the previous audit.

Recommendation: Recommend we continue to maintain a petty cash fund in case of small emergencies and in place of writing a small check. Recommend increasing balance in the fund from its current balance of \$2.66.

Income benevolence – Observation. The monthly results were compared with the Synod support forms, check stubs, and Synod reports of giving. Synod report forms were compared with financial reports. The Synod payments each month are well documented.

Income Offering – Observation. Reviewed 24 random weekly offering slips, totaled them, and matched them to the monthly bank deposits, and the bank deposit receipts. Two issues were noted where the bank calculated a different total for the deposit. One was entering an incorrect amount for a check; the other was incorrectly totaling cash submitted with the deposit. Both instances were well documented. No other exceptions were found in the weeks reviewed.

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: Reviewed all purchases in the monthly miscellaneous purchase folders and reviewed complete or random purchases (depending on record volume) in the folders dedicated to

individual vendors. Reviewed invoice payment terms and dates and compared those to check dates to verify timely payment. Verified that each purchase invoice matched the check stub amount. I checked that purchases were charged to an appropriate account and tracked purchases back to the general ledger summary. Purchases are well-documented with a clear trail to the charged account.

Observation: Invoices are routinely paid in a timely manner after receipt in the office. All check stubs note the account and account number being charged. Documentation is complete and orderly.

Credit Card Transactions

Reviewed all credit card transactions paid in 2024. Verified that each purchase was charged to an appropriate account and tracked purchases back to the general ledger summary. The vast majority of credit card transactions have an auditable trail from the source document to the request for reimbursement/expense voucher to the general ledger.

Exceptions noted:

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

Observation/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:

Reviewed a minimum of 6 payroll periods and compared the Payroll Check Register to the payroll worksheets. Reviewed salaries based on the 2024 budget. Compared Payroll Check Register to printout of direct deposits and a worksheet submitted by the accountant.

Exceptions noted:

Mileage log entered incorrectly resulting in a very small difference. An instance of no e-mail to support the days worked during a pay period. The new pay rate for one individual not documented.

Recommendations:

Strive to always provide documentation of hours worked for each individual, and documentation of the approved pay rate for each employee. Have an authorized individual sign approved documents submitted to the accountant for payroll.

Endowment Fund:

Reviewed the statements for the endowment fund for the year 2024. One withdrawal in January did not match up exactly with the check that was issued at a later date. It appears as if additional outside funds were added to the final check.

Recommendation:

Document any differences between the withdrawal amount and amount of the actual check amount.

2025 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	Kim Wilkins (1st term)	Term Ends January '26
Treasurer	Myron Scheibe (2nd Appointment)	Appointment Ends January '26
Secretary	John Hintze (1st term)	Term Ends January '26
	Ministry Team/Committee Chairs	
Christian Education	Cindy Zabel (1st Term)	Term Ends January '27
Faith Connections	Annette Tomlinson (1st Term)	Term Ends January '28
Fellowship	Sherri Brundies (1st term)	Term Ends January '27
Finance	Myron Scheibe (2nd appointment)	Term Ends January '26
Property	Randy Reimers (1st term)	Term Ends January '28
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 (2nd term)	Term Ends January '28
	Council Resources	
Financial Secretary	Rhonda Webber	
Faith Giving/ACH	Jerry Neff	
Women of Faith Liaisons	Joni Schneider & Linda Szemkus	

2025 Teams, Committees, Synod Assembly Members

Ministry Teams & Task Teams	
Christian Education	Cindy Zabel (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	Annette Tomlinson (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	Randy Reimers (Chair), Tom Bauer, Matt Briehl, Mike Garner, Brad Merrick, Dan O'Flaherty, 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 2021-25, Kristy Looney 2025-2028
Endowment	Kim Wilkins (Chair) 2024-2027 (2nd term), Scott Rochau 2023-2026 (2nd Term), Allen Lewis 2024-2027, Tom Bauer 2025-2028 (1st term), Janice Hartwig (2nd Term) 2025-2028
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	Joan Hennigan, John Hintze, Gayle Staples, Mike Strom, Kim Wilkins
Other	
Synod Assembly Voting Members	Gayle Staples and Mike Staples, Voting Members Mike Strom and Jim Schneider, Alternate Voting Members
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)

2025 SUMMARY OF CHURCH RECORDS

MARRIAGES

Bryce Robert Grant & Kelly Sue Pannier

DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP BY COUNCIL ACTION

None

CONFIRMATIONS

Benjamin William Lewis
Bristol Rose Schoenthaler

MEMBER DEATHS

Dan Anderson
Glen Keppy
Delores Rathjen
Ann Kuehl
Jim St. John
David Rose
Jim Schneider
Teri Wittkowski

NON MEMBER FUNERALS

Lois Seibel
Pam J. Cosselman
Ed Stoltz
Ruby Jean Claussen
Jan Morrell
Douglas Morrell
Bernice Meier
Dorothy Gibson
Kathy Jansen

BAPTISMS

Charley Lorraine Costello
Grace JoAnn Franks
McKenna Marie Claeys
Pearl Marie Cronkleton
Eloise Dorothy Brodersen

NEW MEMBERS

Austin & Caitlin Sawyer, Rhett
Brent & Ellen Bloomingdale, Craig
Bella Riley
Bryan & Brianne Tallyn, Brooklyn & Kelsey
Charley Lorraine Costello
Grace JoAnn Franks
McKenna Marie Claeys
Lisa Marie Arnold
Pearl Marie Cronkleton
Eloise Dorothy Brodersen

TRANSFERS OUT

Tyler Stanton

INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERS

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership, end 2024:	978	737

Members received during 2025:

By baptism/children (Pre–Confirmation age)	5	0
By baptism/adults	0	0
By affirmation of faith	1	1
By transfer from ELCA congregations	6	6
By transfer from other Lutheran congregations	5	5
From non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
From other sources and statistical adjustment	0	0

Total members received this year	17	12
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Baptized members who were confirmed in 2025: 2

Subtotal	995	751
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Members removed during 2025:

By death	8	8
By transfer to other ELCA congregations	0	0
By transfer to other Lutheran congregations	0	0
To non-Lutheran congregations	1	1
For other reasons & statistical adjustment	0	0

Total members removed this year	9	9
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Membership, end 2025:	986	742
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2025 CHRISTIAN ED ANNUAL REPORT

Winter Rally Day with Lutheran Lakeside present to promote summer camp, was held on January 5th, along with a Congregational Breakfast. Sunday School attendance during the winter months was on the low side but did pick up a bit with the beginning of Lent.

In March, at our Congregational Breakfast, a Get-Well card making campaign was set up to send get well wishes and prayers to the children going through cancer treatments at St. Jude hospital. Special wishes were extended to Meyer Mixdorf, son of Cory and Elizabeth Mixdorf, grandson of our former Pastor Dan and Linda Mixdorf. We received a very heartfelt thank you back for our notes from the Mixdorf family.

In April the Sunday School children enjoyed the traditional Easter Egg Hunt (even if it was held indoors due to weather). Classes wrapped up for the school year on April 27th, 2025. Appreciation was extended to all of those who graciously volunteered their time to teach Sunday School. We began looking for additional teachers for the 2025/2026 school year to replace those who will not be returning in the Fall.

In May VBS planning was underway. VBS was held June 22nd through June 26th, and the theme was **Road Trip! On the Go With God**. VBS was held in the evenings from 6 to 8 pm. Although this time slot was difficult for some families we had a fair turnout. It was a very hot week also and most activities had to remain inside. We did have a wonderful group of volunteers that dedicated their time to the program. All in all, fun was had by the “travelers” and the volunteers that experienced the action-packed Road Trip through the music, stories and puppet shows, arts and crafts, science experiments, games and snacks. We learned to trust God wherever we go and in whatever situations life brings our way.

Sunday School resumed on Rally Sunday, September 7th. An Open House was held on September 14th. Between the 2 weeks, we had approximately 25 children in grades Pre K through 6th grade register. We also welcomed 2 new Sunday School teachers. Jennifer Bekel for the Pre K group and Cindy Zabel for the 5th and 6th grade group. Maddy LaPlante returned teaching the 1st and 2nd graders. Jennie Garner returned to teach the 3rd and 4th graders. As a group we decided to how to donate our offerings from the previous school year. We are sending \$100.00 to the ELCA to purchase farm animals for the hungry through God’s Global Barnyard program and the remainder (approximately \$160.00) went to Lutheran Lakeside to purchase water coolers for the campers.

In October we began discussing the possibility of bringing in Lutheran Lakeside camp counselors to bring their VBS program this summer and possibly offer a morning daycamp. It would be our goal to reach more kids and bring new energy and excitement to our VBS. There will be a significant increase in cost, but we have obtained a commitment from the Memorial Fund committee to contribute to the cost of hiring Lutheran Lakeside counselors. We continue to work out the details of the congregational responsibilities and begin advertising the program early in the new year to generate interest. We are planning for the week of June 21st.

In November and December, we decided to tackle a new Christmas Program. We adapted a program that was originally co-written by Pastor Carrie’s mom. It was called “The Christmas Gift”. Due to bad weather the program was live streamed, which was greatly appreciated. Participation by the Sunday School youth, the teachers and a few of our older youth was fantastic! The program was very well received, and the congregation seemed to enjoy it. We heard many positive comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Zabel

Faith Connections Team 2025 Annual Report

The Faith Connections team includes Annette Tomlinson (council chair), Linda Golinghorst, Pastor Carrie and Beth Ann Anderson.

Over the past year Linda has been working with Annette on training for website changes and additions as well as how to make changes and additions to the outdoor electronic sign. Linda has done a great job of making sure our website and the electronic sign get updated to current happenings at the church. Our team keeps the website calendar updated each month. We have taken over creating events on our Facebook page for weekly church services as well as assisting Pastor Carrie with Facebook posts on what's happening within the congregation.

Our team also collaborates with Beth Ann on advertising needs. We also help to create press releases for upcoming events when needed.

In the coming year, we hope to develop new ideas to help the community better understand who we are and what we offer at Faith Lutheran Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Annette Tomlinson

Fellowship 2025 Annual Report

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

Cheeseburger in Paradise was held on Saturday, January 25 after the 5 pm service in Fellowship Hall with a good attendance. Conversation, delicious food and fun games were enjoyed by all ages attending. Door prizes were given out to several lucky winners.

The Church Picnic was held indoors on Sunday, June 29 after the 9 am service because of heat and humidity. Tables were set up in the Gathering Space and food was served there due to the sanctuary update. It was well attended by all ages. Food was plentiful. Bishop Current preached that weekend, so she gave our dinner prayer and shared a meal with us. Youth who attended tie-dyed t-shirts for their upcoming Mission Trip. Games were set up in Fellowship Hall and enjoyed by attendees.

The 40+ Anniversary Dinner was not held in the fall this year due to the low number of people who signed up. Hopefully, we will get more people signed up in 2026, so that we can hold this fun event.

Two "Be Our Guest" events were held in 2025. In the spring, on Sunday, May 18, we hosted Dr. Kit Ford of Argrow's House. In the Fall, on Tuesday, Oct. 21, our guest was Ann Schwickerath from Project Renewal held in our newly updated sanctuary. Thank you to Jan Hartwig and helpers Rita Smith and Pam Engelbrecht for planning these guest speaker/learning events.

Coffee hour was held after the 9 am Sunday service. A signup is posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Thank you to all who brought treats and served. Please sign up to help. It is a fun way to serve.



Property 2025 Annual Report

The Property Committee oversees both the building and the site, and has a very dedicated group of volunteers that saves a large amount of money that would need to be spent out if this work had to be contracted.

Ongoing annual work includes snow removal, mowing and other lawn maintenance, and general cleaning and maintenance of the facilities.

A major project overseen by the committee in 2025 was the sanctuary update. Work included a significant upgrade of the altar area, new audio/visual equipment, upgrading the lighting, new floor coverings, and new seating. An associated project was a complete re-do of the sacristy, which was very much needed.

Due to the amount of donations received for the sanctuary, some other much needed improvements can be done, some of them in 2026. A complete remodeling/upgrade to the restrooms on the main floor will be starting soon, with completion scheduled in about 2 months. Other projects include new carpeting in the gathering area and up into the fellowship hall, and possibly an update to the furniture in the gathering area. Hopefully, funds will be available to set aside for a future overlay on the asphalt parking lot area.

Respectfully submitted

Faith Lutheran Property Committee

Service in the World 2025 Annual Report

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 Lakeside (\$100), Bread for the World(\$100), Humble Dwellings(\$100), Habitat for Humanity(\$100), The Center(\$125), Feed Our Children(\$250), Texas Hill Country(\$150), One Eighty(\$150), Wartburg Seminary(\$175), All Hands and Hearts(\$175), and Humanity Homes and Services(\$175). 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 75 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 138 canned food items that were donated to the North Scott food pantry. The Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl 59.

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. On Compassion Sunday, opportunities were given to the congregation to individually support a child through Compassion. Thanks to those Faith members who support Compassion and Global Missionaries.

Final Friday was a fun event for the elementary students celebrating their last day of school. Approximately 100 kids were treated to arts and crafts, games, volleyball, and a jumpy house.

The annual blood drive was held on November 10th. Thanks to those who donated.

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 Leader

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Stewardship is well and alive at Faith Lutheran Church. We exceeded our capital campaign last winter that allowed us to remodel the sanctuary and plan to remodel 2 restrooms on the main floor this winter/spring, replace the carpet in the narthex and fellowship hall, replace the upholstered chairs in the narthex, replace the window coverings on the south windows in the narthex, and start a savings for replacing the blacktop parking lot to the north. All with the generosity of our congregation with no loans outstanding. Awesome!

And top of that, we ended the year \$800.00 in the black for our budget. We came down to the wire on our budget, but our congregation responded at the end of the year. Kudos to everyone!

Stewardship is not just finances! Our people in our congregation make us what we are. Dozens of members volunteer their time and talents in dozens of capacities, as well as our support staff. This church could not survive without all of our members contributing in all the ways we do. Thank you to all your contributions, big and small.

This congregation is growing, and not just in membership, but expanding our reach in the immediate area and beyond. I'm proud to call Faith Lutheran Church my church.

Kim Wilkins, Stewardship

WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM REPORT 2025

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

The team performs many tasks to ensure our worship experiences are meaningful and flow smoothly. We welcome any interested individuals to join the team. Thanks go to Pastors Carrie and Heather for keeping us in The Word as they preach. The Pastors and Teri Wittkowski led worship at Grand Haven about 10 times during the year as part of our outreach ministry. Weddings and funerals are also a part of the worship experience at Faith. Worship and Music team members prepared and served one of the Churches United meals at Zion Lutheran in 2025.

The sanctuary renovation took place during the entire summer, and Sunday services were held outdoors (weather permitting), while Saturday evening services were held in Fellowship Hall (to be able to continue to stream that service). Despite this change from “normal”, the interruption was relatively minimal, things ran smoothly, and we are now blessed with a renovated space featuring a beautiful altar, chancel, and sanctuary area in which to worship. The big screens, installed on the front and back walls of the sanctuary as part of the renovation, now provide an alternative for those who prefer following the service in that way, as opposed to following it with the paper bulletin. They have proven to be a welcome addition to worship, but the bulletin will continue to be printed each week for those who prefer to follow the service in that way. Also, we now have a completely new sound system, which has been a great asset for the church. Occasionally, a few bugs crop up, but the improvements have made an enormous difference in the overall sound quality.

Our Streaming Team, including Scott, Abby, and Maddy LaPlante, Kevin and Ryan Zidarich, Neal Becker, Craig Bloomingdale, and Lucas Golinghorst, work diligently to coordinate sound, streaming, and power point charts as applicable to each worship service. This is no small feat, and we appreciate their efforts in working with the new technology. The team would like to add a few more folks to their rotation, so if you are gifted with, or enjoy, technology, this is your chance to serve! Contact Scott LaPlante for more information.

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 of their team members for completing their many duties, a few of which are: ensuring the paraments and banners are changed with the seasons of the year; making sure adequate supplies are on hand for communion and preparing the sacraments before worship and properly dispositioning them after worship; maintaining the info flyers and pencils in the pews; preparing for baptisms; and several other tasks. We appreciate all those who have baked bread for communion which is used during the first weekend of the month. If you would like to bake bread for an upcoming service, the recipe can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex. The Altar Guild welcomes any individuals to their committees who would like to be a part of this ministry. See Linda Szemkus for more information.

People of Praise, Resounding Joy Chime Choir, and Jubilation Praise Band had a busy year sharing their talents at worship throughout the program year. With the sanctuary update, the loft area is now a much more flexible space in which to make music. Equipment can be moved around with relative ease, based on which group is scheduled to sing or play. Twice during the year (during Lent, and in the fall at the beginning of the program year), several members and friends of these music groups presented a skit series. During Lent, the series was called, “Conversations at the Pearly Gates”, and in the fall, the skit series was entitled, “Help Wanted”, which focused on encouraging people to volunteer within the church. All of the skits were well-received, and had an element of humor along with their main message. On Good Friday, People of Praise and Resounding Joy collaborated in

presenting a service called, “Tenebrae: a Service of Shadows”. Kelly Wyatt and Jim Schneider beautifully narrated the crucifixion story for us, and it was a meaningful and moving experience for everyone in attendance. During the Advent season, we were fortunate to host a brass quartet who treated us to a variety of Advent and Christmas music. The quartet was made up of Alan Knapper (trumpet), Kurt Matherly (trumpet), Brad Miller (trombone), and Neal Becker (euphonium). Additionally, Neal Becker delighted us with several euphonium solos throughout the year. We always welcome any folks who are high school age or older to come join in any of these music groups. It’s a lot of fun, and it can serve to deepen your worship experience. No prior experience is required and there are no auditions. There is only one practical requirement for Resounding Joy--- you must have some basic skill in reading music to participate. Contact Susan Becker for more information about People of Praise or Resounding Joy; and Neal Becker for more information about Jubilation. And lastly, we grieve the loss of three of our music colleagues and friends during 2025--- Teri Wittkowski, Jim Schneider, and Dan Anderson. All three of them were integral parts of the music at Faith and they richly blessed us with their musical talents for many years. They will all be greatly missed.

There are eight Faith Families who helped with worship once or twice during 2025. 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 each worship service. Worship Assistance sign-ups have been added to our web page for members to volunteer in these roles. At times, it has been challenging to fill every position needed for all services each month, which then requires recruiting volunteers on-the-spot, just before worship begins. This is not an ideal situation. If you are contacted by a Faith Family head, we would encourage you to respond positively and help serve at worship. Kelly Wyatt will be stepping down as a family head and we would welcome anyone who is interested to fill this position.

Tom Bauer has faithfully conducted usher training for us every quarter. We invite all members of Faith to learn about the responsibilities of our ushers, and sign up at any time to serve in this capacity.

We have many opportunities for individuals to share their specific gifts as part of worship, and prayerfully ask members to get more involved. We thank all of who have served in some way this year. Our love of God and each other is alive at Faith as our community of believers continues to increase.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina Looney, Team Leader

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



2025 was filled with adventures for the youth in this congregation. Our junior high ministry centers around our Confirmation program, *Collaborate*. 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 18 confirmation youth centered their learning on the New Testament, and this fall, our 23 confirmation youth shared in conversation about Lutheran History and Catechism. 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 Christmas caroling at Grand Haven, 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, Diane Krebs, and Ellen Bloomingdale who have served as small group leaders for our youth this past year.

In April, we celebrated our two 8th grade youth as they prepared for Confirmation. On April 23, we gathered for our Confirmation Dinner for the families of our confirmands, which was prepared by our adult leaders and served by the 7th grade class. On Sunday, April 27, two 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 12 youth go to Trailblazer (Confirmation) Camp at Lutheran Lakeside. We had two high school youth serve as day camp counselors that week, and Katie Garner served as the Health Coordinator at camp all summer. The week that we went, we also took seven Cultivator (Junior) campers and 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 averaging fifteen to twenty youth per week, and usually half of those youth are not members of the congregation. Throughout the year, we have alternated our weeks among game nights and Bible studies. In the spring, we completed our study of *Can I Ask That?* This fall, we started a study called *Fathom*, and we studied Genesis. The youth have been wanting to strengthen their understanding of the Bible and grow their faith. We play all kinds of crazy games, including Romans and Christians, Spoons, Hide-and-Seek and UNO. We end each evening with our highs, lows and God moments and with praying for one another. We look forward to studying the stories of Jesus in the Gospels this spring. I give thanks to Joni King who has helped with the planning and leading this year.



This past summer, 13 youth and 3 adults traveled to Denver, Colorado, for our youth mission trip. We began with an overnight in Omaha, staying at Rejoice! Lutheran Church. We then continued on to Denver. While in Denver, we were able to work with a number of amazing organizations where we were able to clean up the yard for a woman who could no longer do that, clean up alleys where much had been dumped, helped with a garden that supplies non-profits in the area with fresh vegetables, and helped to clean up at a horse stable that provides lessons and therapy for those who might not otherwise have those opportunities. We finished painting a wonderful woman's house.

We had the opportunity to visit go to Red Rocks Amphitheater, Garden of the Gods and Manitou Springs, and we had fun finding local gems for our food adventures. We appreciated the hospitality of First Presbyterian Church in Golden very much. We finished our trip with another stop at Rejoice! in Omaha, and we attended worship there. Upon our return, we hosted a Shareholder Dinner where we were able to share our experiences with the congregation. To prepare for the 2025 Mission Trip to Denver and the 2026 Mission Trip to New Haven, 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.

With all of the wonderful opportunities that we shared in 2025, we are looking forward to all that 2026 will bring.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE 2024 REPORT

The Faith Lutheran Church Endowment Committee meets once a year to distribute the yearly interest accumulated in our endowment savings.

This past year a total of \$4,875.00 was distributed to 6 different organizations:

- \$ 600.00 (12.7%) to Tapestry Farms
- \$ 600.00 (12.7%) to One Eighty
- \$1,000.00 (20.5%) to Project Renewal
- \$1,000.00 (20.5%) to Lutheran Lakeside Camp capital campaign
- \$ 700.00 (14.4%) to Lutheran Services in Iowa
- \$ 975.00 (20%) to Faith Unbudgeted Repairs and Maintenance
- \$4,875.00 Total

Due to lower interest rates this past year, we will not be able to equal the last year's distribution this year.

Current members are Allen Lewis (treasurer), Jan Hartwig, Scott Rochau (recorder/secretary), Tom Bauer, and Kim Wilkins (chairperson). Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante and Joan Hennigan (Congregational President) serve as Ex-Officio members.

Our endowment contributions this year were minimal but we are thankful for our contributions. If anyone has any questions about contributing to our endowment funds, please feel free to contact any committee member or Pastor Carrie for information.

Kim Wilkins

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2025

Members who are deceased and recorded in our memorial book for 2025 are: Dan Anderson, Glen Keppy, Delores Rathjen, Ann Kuehl, Jim St John, David Rose, Jim Schneider and Teri Wittkowski. Rhonda will include in her report memorials received in memory of our deceased members.

Projects completed in 2025 VBS Summer Program

We had 5 baptisms in 2025. Michele and Mark Mess, in memory of Maddie Mess, have been presenting a rose to baptized members.

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

The family has 12 months to decide unless 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 Webber; Pastor Carrie La Plante; and Pastor Heather Geest

MEMORIAL ACCOUNT ACTIVITY FOR 2025

Balance 12/31/24	\$ 32,647.95
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Inflow 1/1/2025 thru 12/31/25

Gifts Received	\$ 16,670.56
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Interest Received	\$ 30.58
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Total Inflow 1/1/2025 thru 12/31/2025	\$ 16,701.14
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Outflow 1/1/2025 thru 12/31/2025

Sacristy Remodel	\$ (6,320.00)
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Installation of Access Control System at front entrance	\$ (3,188.60)
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2025 Youth Mission Trip - Jacob Fenn Memorial	\$ (665.02)
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Refurbishment and repair of artwork in gathering space	\$ (250.00)
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(As of 12-31-25, this check has not cleared the bank)

Total Outflow 1/1/2025 thru 12/31/2025	\$ (10,173.62)
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Balance 12/31/2025	\$ 39,175.47
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Prepared by Rhonda L. Webber

Financial Secretary, Faith Lutheran Church

1/8/2026

WOMEN OF FAITH ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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. Christmas cards were sent 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. If you knit, crochet or quilt, the May 2026 Synod Assembly will be collecting donations of prayer shawls and lap quilts. We would like to send several of these items with our pastors and voting members to the assembly.

We served funeral luncheons for the families of Dan Anderson, Glen Keppy, Ed Stoltz, Ann Kuehl, Janet and Doug Morrell, Jim Schneider, and Teri Wittkowski. We were hosts at the visitations for Dan Anderson, Glen Keppy, Ed Stoltz, Ann Kuehl, Jim Schneider, and Teri Wittkowski. Thank you to everyone that either helped to serve the luncheons, provided desserts or helped with the visitations.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Szemkus, President



NORTH SCOTT COMMUNITY FEED OUR CHILDREN MINISTRY 2025 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 2022-2025 we served more than **26,238** lunches in our community through our twice a week ministry.

With support from members of the congregation and community, we were able to serve **4,741** meals during the 2025 summer break! These meals consisted of a lunch and additional items for snack or breakfast. A special thank you to Sammie and Jennie Garner, Diane Krebs, Linda Szemkus and Mason Carter for organizing and managing our daily operations and inventory this season.

We had donations this past year from Moonlight Chase, Eldridge Lions Club, the Eldridge Methodist Church, and a substantial anonymous donation from a congregation member. North Scott Hy-Vee partnered with Feed Our Children to provide our supplies at their cost, which helped our funds stretch to provide additional food to the children in our community.

As we look forward to 2026, 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 2026!

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Powell
Feed Our Children Ministry

LUTHER PROPERTIES 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Luther Properties is a not-for-profit organization in Scott County managing 5 low income properties with 274 apartments in total in Bettendorf and Davenport. 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 and husband Dan Cogdill and staff oversee the day to day operations locally. Kelli and Dan run a well-oiled operation, and we are very fortunate to have them.

The past year has been relatively quiet. Like most of us have found out, insurance issues and costs are increasing substantially. A combination of higher deductibles and increased costs are making life difficult. A leveling of these costs are forecast for the next year, hopefully.

Our residents are not all Lutheran. Anyone is welcome. Rent is based on income. Our properties are modern, clean, affordable, well maintained, and fun.

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 directly to get your questions answered.

Kim Wilkins

North Scott Food Pantry - 2025

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 2025 include:

- A total of 721 visits were logged in 2025 which is 10% more than 2024. The pantry served an average of 60 families each month. In October the usage peaked with 80 families.
- 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. Food is also purchased from local retailers when it is not available at the food bank. All food donations and purchases are weighed with 55,300 pounds recorded in 2025.
- Notable donations: St. Ann's Knights of Columbus annual golf open raised \$22,500. Howard & Carole Harkins Charitable Trust donated \$10,000. The Mail Carriers' food drive (Stamp Out Hunger) in May collected 2276 pounds. The NSHS Service Club participated in the Student Hunger Drive competition through River Bend Food Bank. Over 8000 pounds of food was donated directly to our pantry.
- In May, clients were able to select 6 cleaning products for "spring cleaning."
- Families with school-aged children picked out extra kid-friendly food during the summer. 79 families benefitted from this.
- School supplies were collected in July. Each school in the district received a couple of boxes of supplies.
- Throughout the summer and fall, fresh produce was donated by Garden Ministries (a Davenport Optimist Club project) and local gardeners.
- 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. 48 families received Easter food, and 83 families received Thanksgiving food.
- Christmas food boxes and angel tree gifts were given out December 19th. The Eldridge Lions Club members packed shelf stable food in early December. On the distribution day, volunteers added the perishables and loaded the food into the client's vehicle. 106 food boxes were distributed to 88 families. This was an increase of almost 20% from last year. Christmas gifts provided by St. Ann's and the Scott County Library's angel trees were also distributed. 66 families received gifts for 107 boys and 82 girls. Thanks to Shannon Petersen for overseeing the gift registration and distribution.

It takes many wonderful volunteers using their gifts to make sure the food pantry functions efficiently. Last year, 77 volunteers signed in for volunteering during our open hours. Some of these volunteers worked over 20 shifts! This doesn't include the volunteers that picked up food from River Bend and Panera or the volunteers that sorted food after a large food drive. Friday hours are staffed by local churches in a 7-week rotation. 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

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

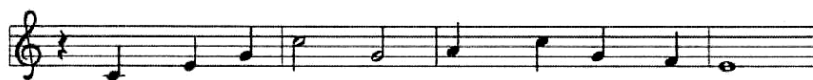
Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

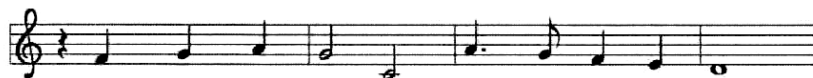
As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality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

Amen.

Founded on Faith



1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creation Sings, 1048

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THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.

MISSION SUPPORT

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.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at [ELCA.org/subscribe](https://elca.org/subscribe).

Read about Mission Support and learn more at LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.