

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Updated January 23, 2025



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.



ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rooted in God's Word, Serving in God's World

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

✚ INTERIM PASTOR ✚

The Rev. Dr. Bradley James Brauer

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St. Luke Lutheran Church



Mission:

Rooted in God's Word, serving in God's world.

Vision:

To be an inviting and thriving multi-generational Congregation and Preschool while working with our neighbors and serving our community and world.

Core Values:

- Word and Sacrament
- Mutual Trust and Open Communication
- Music, Arts, and Lifelong Education
- Varied and Innovative forms of Serving Others
- Community, Neighborhood, and Pre-school
- A safe place where all are nourished



From the Interim Pastor

In her books, [Kitchen Table Wisdom](#) and [My Grandfather's Blessings](#), hospice colleague Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D. wrote, as I remember her words: We need stories to make sense of life—they hold the key to so much wisdom—that beneath the layers of what we do lies the bedrock wisdom of who we are, who we were created to be. The stories may change with time; they may mix facts with meaning.

As a people of faith, we are a story-formed people seeking wisdom. This annual booklet of reports looking back at the year 2025 (with approval of a 2026 Ministry Spending Plan, the *proposed annual Budget*) is more than a complex catalog of ministries that have shaped St. Luke in the past year and will shape it into 2026 with your faithful financial stewardship of a bunch of gifts. This report is designed to provide glimpses into the stories that find their origin, characters (and there are some!), plot twists, new beginnings, endings, and meaning here in this place we so love.

Here we have sought to be faithful to our calling to be disciples of this Jesus. The Call stories and discipleship journeys are the content of the remainder of the Epiphany season weekend scriptures here as we open up the Divine Drama of the biblical narrative. We have sought to serve the mission of the Christ faithfully. This united, common work we have accomplished and will continue to do (“fishing for people” -gospel in Mth. 4) finds varied expression in a so many ways; and our community that gathers- all of us “gathered in” as the hymn suggests or caught up in the great net of God’s merciful love, as the serigraph of John August Sawnsong, “The Net Let Down” depicts- is richer for the diversity of ministries herein described. I hope that in reading these summaries and reports to congregation you will be intrigued to learn more, become curious about the people involved, and be emboldened in a fresh way to serve and find *your* place in this story which is St. Luke’s, a story grounded in God’s rich love and grace for a broken world of “saints and sinners” simultaneously.

The tapestry of faith we weave here, like the woven rugs and blankets of the Pueblo native peoples, esp. the Navajo, is part of the larger cloth of God’s mercy, with brilliant threads thrown across warp and weft of community we seek to create- something beautiful, true, and good. It is a sacred story; and you, the reader and member, are a vital part of it. And for that I give thanks as well with profound joy for the opportunity of serving you this past year in what has now become a 17th month Interim vacancy pastorate (we must keep praying for that pastor to be revealed to us that God is equipping and sending). I give thanks for your presence and gifts encountered and used here. So, read on, locate yourself in this story, come and follow, whoever you are. Come and follow our Jesus. And wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome and needed here. Blessed to be a blessing . . . That’s who we are! “A child of God,” that’s just who you are!

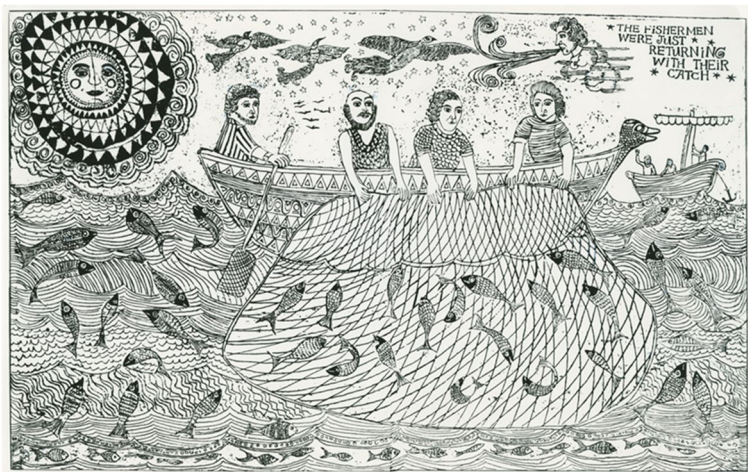
Present day poet M. Dickerson writes: “My ancestors chose me to tell their stories, unravel their truths, learn their hardships and inspire and encourage others. They chose me to keep their possessions, handle them with respect, and share them with the family. My ancestors chose me.”

May the blessings of our ancestors of faith in the multiple generational-gathering of all the saints here be a source of faith and inspiration for you and your own story-telling, -and Christ’s *story-living*- as we seek to serve the mission of Jesus here at St. Luke with grace, beauty, and truth. How blessed are we . . . And how blessed I have been by my partners in mission who are members of the Staff at St. Luke parish: Angie, Danielle, Nancy, Allie, Pamela, Michelle, Judy, and Lori at the Preschool. I could not possibly do the work I do without their support, guidance, and giftedness. May God bless all our ministry leaders too many to name. Remember what the story of Dr. Max Lowe taught us from the film, *City of Joy*, the same thing we learn from Jesus the Servant Savior, “whatever is not given away is lost.”

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Brad Brauer +

The Rev. Dr. Bradley James Brauer,
Interim Pastor (Aug. 2024 – the Present)



St. Luke Lutheran Church
Albuquerque, New Mexico



71TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2026

11:30 AM (after the 10:30 AM worship service)

In the Sanctuary

AGENDA

Call to order	Alison Schuler, Council President
Opening Hymn	Led by Danielle Cordova Coordinator of Music Ministries
Litany & Prayer	Interim Pastor Brad Brauer
Review/Approval of 2025 Congregational Meeting Minutes	
Pastor's Remarks	Interim Pastor Brad Brauer
Council President's Remarks	Alison Schuler
Council Election (ballots distributed, collected, and counted while agenda proceeds)	
Selection of Delegates to the 2026 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly	
2026 Budget Review/Approval	DeAnn Eaton Azar
2026 Capital & One-Time Improvement Review/Approval	DeAnn Eaton Azar
Questions from members	
Council Election Results Announced	Alison Schuler
Closing Prayer	Interim Pastor Brad Brauer
Adjourn	Alison Schuler



St. Luke Lutheran Church
Albuquerque, New Mexico
71ST ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 26th, 2025
11:30 AM - St. Luke Sanctuary

Call to Order

The 2025 Annual Meeting was called to order by Council President, Marshall Shore, at 11:52 AM.

Congregants: Quorum at 65 members to include council members: Marshall Shore, Judy Moore, DeAnn Eaton Azar, Alison Schuler, Cindy Callisto, Greg Haschke, Pastor Brad Brauer

Opening Hymn

Led by Danielle Cordova, Coordinator of Music Ministries

Litany & Prayer: Pastor Brad Brauer

Review/Approval of Minutes of the 2024 Congregational Meeting

Terry Shirrod moved that we approve the minutes of the 70th Annual Meeting.
Ken Sorenson seconded the motion and it was overwhelmingly approved.

Review/Approval of the June 2024 Special Congregational Meeting

DeAnn Eaton Azar moved that we approve the minutes of the June 2024 special congregational meeting.
Alison Schuler seconded the motion and it was overwhelmingly approved.

Pastor's Remarks:

Pastor Brad defers to The Report of the Interim Pastor (Sept – Dec 2024) printed within the annual report.

Council President's Remarks

Marshall Shore expressed his gratitude for the engagement and support of the congregation, not just at this meeting, but throughout the year in our changing initiatives.

He reminded the congregation of the efforts started by Pastors Christa and Wayne to transition from a pastoral church to a programmatic church. He provides special thanks to Sally Trigg for the in-depth efforts she has provided in these new processes and programs.

Marshall provides thanks to Pastor Brad for his quick answering of the transitional call and quick engagement in this church and maintaining the efforts under way.

He reminds the congregation of the simultaneous change within the Synod with the installation of our new bishop, Bishop Aelabouni. He further verbalizes considering ways under this new Bishop/ leadership to renew engagement of the congregation

Marshall provides special thanks to the congregation for mid-year approval of funds in 2024, allowing us to install the new Multigenerational Ministry Coordinator, Allie Brandt.

Marshall defers to Allie to provide remarks.

Marshall then returns to his comments with a review of the call process.

MSP review/update with Tom Berardinelli, Ken Sorensen, Cindy Callisto has been completed and submitted to the Council for review. This will allow establishment of a Call Committee within the next two Council meetings.

The MSP can then be submitted to the Synod and the Call Committee will be able to move forward with identified candidates.

Continued next page

Marshall requests from the congregants, if they are interested in membership to the Call Committee, or they know someone interested, let a council member know.

Pastor Brad is also establishing a transition team for his use to guide his work and support the Call process. A brief explanation of the differences is provided.

A special acknowledgement to the Preschool, and Lori Erven, is provided and Marshall encourages support and prayers for the preschool's upcoming National Accreditation of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation.

In conclusion, he gives heartfelt gratitude and acknowledgement to his wife, Rebecca, for her unwavering support, allowing him to participate in all of this year's important Council work.

MGMC Remarks

Allie Brandt provides a presentation on what items the MGMC has been able to do since her installation. She provides special thanks to all the leaders who welcomed her in and helped put together the foundation of this program. She reviewed each of the teams within the MGM and the many amazing activities and volunteers for each of these committees. She highlighted the ways in which children are becoming more engaged and involved in the services and also provided examples of how children are living the church teachings in daily life (i.e.: anti-bullying). She has been invited to help with Learners & Servers, planning and working to further integrate the Preschool to church activities (fellowship and worship events).

For the upcoming year, the MGMC will continue in their commitment to current programs and encourages the congregation to have a "spirit of holy experimentation" in the way ahead. She reviews some already planned initiatives such as: re-initiating Baby Frolic, planning for upcoming confirmands, and Rainbow Trail.

Council Election

Greg Haschke presided over the election for the four seats. All four incumbents (Cindy Callisto, Greg Haschke, Alison Schuler, and Marshall Shore) are seeking re-election in light of the many changes of transition. There is space available for write-ins.

Greg encourages the congregation to take a serious look at the council requirements and consider running for council in the future. If interested, please let the Pastor or a Council member know.

The vote ensued via paper ballot.

New Business: Delegates for Synod Assembly

Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly: May 22-24 at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque.

Claire Castiglia moved that Cindy Callisto and Greg Haschke attend as delegates this year. Judy Aaker seconded the motion which passed overwhelmingly.

Marshall emphasizes that if someone is interested in becoming a future delegate to let a council member know.

Clarification came through that any congregant can attend the Synod Assembly (especially as it is local this year) but, only the elected delegates can be voting members.

2025 Budget Review/Approval

Judy Moore began the discussion of the 2025 budget provided in the Annual Report. She thanks all those who came last week to have a pre-discussion during which an error was identified in the preschool numbers and have now been updated, as reflected in the reprint of the Annual Report.

She clarifies stewardship as an estimated value as, even now, not all pledges have been made. Much thanks given to Greg Haschke and the Stewardship team to helping to develop these estimates.

Continued next page

She explains the expenses largely come from a separate committee that takes into account all the requests within the church and congregation and then determines what can be accommodated within the budget.

Pastoral ministry highlights: as we are in a transition process, the values have been estimated on the assumption of an interim pastor (Pastor Brad) until August and then another estimate for a new pastor which cannot be truly known at this point in time. The staff finances include a COLA increase to all salaries, including nursery care providers. Most of the funding under music ministry and expenses came from WMA committee.

The office manager is now on Medicare so funds for her have changed and are correctly reflected. Additionally, the business manager salary is split with preschool and they cover half in their budget. She provides a reminder that the MGMC is now for a full 12 months instead of the partial year salary approved in 2024. The new custodial contract is also about to be signed and is more expensive than previously.

Norman Stahulak asked what the marketing/media assistant does and Judy explained that Pamela is the one that oversees that role with the photos and videos and social media presence.

Judy also announces the trouble with the insurance quotes is difficult as they just had the meeting with insurance.

Jerry Aaker provided a comment on utilities that the city has a carbon neutrality policy and goal for all their buildings. He is wondering if the property committee can look at getting an assessment for the possibility of solar for both the cost and the environmental aspects. Clair Castiglia – on the property committee – stated that they would take that under consideration

Ken Sorensen also stated that there have been recommendations for an energy audit which is also being taken into consideration.

Judy reviews bottom line items where money has been pulled aside over time in a temporary restricted fund and these funds can be used to keep the budget balanced.

There were other requests for funding that could not be managed with the basic budget:

Audio-visual overhaul for Fellowship Hall, sound improvements from WMA (Danielle states this is an upgrade to allow sound outside and inside to streamline and help the summer outdoor services), Security (fencing and cameras), a one-time refurbishment of the bells (Danielle states generally once every ten years), and tree trimming recommended by security.

Judy proposes these funds (\$36,893) come from temporary restricted funds with Council approval.

Holly Trujillo asks why the tree cutting is separated from the one-time property clean-up costs. Judy clarifies it comes from two different areas (property vs security)

David Follstaedt – asks what the “council restricted” funds means and Judy clarifies that these are funds that only the Council can approve as they have not been specified to be spent on something else. Judy states this is a new section of the budget compared to last week’s pre-review in order to address questions from last week on how much money the council has to spend.

Ginny Fisher asks if the recommended one time expenditures be a part of the overall budget approval or if there are two votes. Judy states the voting will be for the entirely unless a motion requests they be separated.

Overall, the budget contains a deficit of \$5989.

DeAnn Eaton Azar moves to accept the budget as presented.

Tom Berardinelli seconds the acceptance of the budget and the budget is approved with an overwhelming approval.

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Minutes of the 71st Annual Congregational meeting ... continued from previous page

Questions/Discussion from Members

Ken Sorenson wants to ensure upcoming minutes list a quorum was met and not just the numbers of attendees.

No further questions aside from those listed above.

Council Election Results

62 ballots cast with a unanimous vote for all four candidates; no write-ins. Cindy Callisto, Alison Schuler, Marshall Shore, Greg Hasche are all re-elected.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Brad

Adjourn: 13:02

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Callisto,
Council Secretary

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2025 REPORT OF THE INTERIM PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Bradley James Brauer, ELCA Pastor (ret.)

January 14, 2026

The early part of the year I spent assisting the Call Committee in its work by using the tools and reflections of the Interim ministry period. We used one such tool in February. It is summarized here so that those who were not able to participate can see what questions we generated as we sampled congregation members and leaders about what and who we need here as to pastoral focus/ gifts and what kind of person we are looking for given our ecclesial/ churchly “DNA.”

I led a “Listening Post” Event 1 , Questions for Discussion (IMN / R. Voyle Appreciative Inquiry Model/ tools- Brauer), on Feb. 23, 2025 Here is the preface to the tool we used:

“Our work today should be conceived as a ministry to the congregation, Church Council, MSP Writing Team, and Call/ Search Committee. It is tempting to look at what may not be working in a congregation and to try to fix it and change it for the better. This is a “clinical” approach that focuses often on scarcity and needs/ what is missing in leadership (both lay and pastoral). But we have gathered to discern the congregation’s identity and future chapters of ministry from the perspective of an appreciative inquiry that focuses on what is present, the congregation’s strengths and capabilities. We will discern our abundance and gifts and charisms present here, now, and then seek to think about what kinds of pastoral leadership styles and gifts/ passions best fit the mix, alongside the Staff’s giftedness and mutual ministry work. This is an appreciative inquiry: What is here? What is working? How can we complement and add to those gifts and passions/ leadership styles?”

Here are the questions we asked and answered and then reported to Council and Call Committee [the tool’s numbers may be different than those here in this narrative report]:

1) Without naming names or identifying a person, what do you see as the rich foundation for ministries in and among the present congregational leaders and staff members? What does “good leadership” look like? Use adjectives to describe what you know, see, and have witnessed. 2) Think together about the gifts for ministry we can/ do celebrate. What are the gifts and passions of our lay leaders and staff members currently that are most visible (or sometimes invisible) that can be celebrated and affirmed? What does “healthy leadership” look like here? What does “unhealthy” leadership look like here? 3) Reflect on the strengths, past successes, and what you value and/or have received from Congregation leaders now serving. 4) What core work of a new pastoral leader might best intersect with and complement that leadership foundation and the styles of decision-making already here and present? 5) Jesus one wore a hat. . . a Crown of thorns. Of the many “hats” a pastor wears, what “hats” will this next person need to wear? What chief strengths, abilities, and passions should our next pastor bring to a real sense of shared mutual congregational ministry? 6) Or, perhaps this way of asking: What kind of pastoral leadership and work would best complement, nurture, and build upon our existing strengths, given the Staff and our lay leaders and ministry team leaders? 7) Given the “modes” of congregation ministry and the scope of our work together, what “mode” of ministry might be the best one for the new minister, who will be called, to integrate into the current mix of Staff and Lay Congregational ministries?

The Historic “modes” of Ministry for the Pastor in any congregation, but specifically in the campus ministry setting (Danforth Study) include the Prophetic/ Teaching role; Pastoral/ Shepherding role; Priestly (ministry to Word and Sacraments) role; Governance (administration. planning, care for, and ministry to, the institution, ‘qua institution’ in this household of faith) role.

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Interim Pastor's report ... continued from previous page

We thought together about “What our new/ next minister or pastor be a master of. Then, whimsically, we tried to “build a pastor.” A little bit of [this] and a little bit of [that] but mostly [this] . (Think of linking various sizes and colors of Lego building blocks. Blocks are often assembled on a platform. Think about what pastoral gifts should be the core work and/or the foundation for the next pastor’s ministry among you. What will you appreciate most?)

A report of our findings was given to the Council, Our Staff and Ministry leaders, and the Call Committee (3/13/2025) In the meantime, I’ve shared a few tools and articles with the various committees and leaders to assist them in their work. I have suggested several models of pastoral job descriptions to the Personnel committee. I meet monthly with our 14 Interim pastors and synod leaders in the conjoined synods region. Between February and December 2025, my work has re-focused on the normal tasks of the pastor here in the Interim period of vacancy. I have left the remainder of the Calling and Searching processes to the Call Committee and Council to direct and lead. When a pastoral Call *is* made and *accepted*, then there is a whole lot of work to do to close out the Interim period in a healthy way. Several chapters in the literature of the IMN Interim Work of the Pastor and work of the Congregation thick Training manuals and books will guide this time of “exit”. Watch and stay tuned.

Please see the statistical reports related to my pastoral ministry and a list of Pastoral Acts in one of the reports in this booklet. I am so grateful for the opportunity to come alongside you and assist you all here at St. Luke during what has become a 17th month Interim period of pastoral vacancy. I have loved the work I do and the work I share with you congregation leaders. Thank you for your support, love, acceptance, and engagement in this mutual ministry we share here. I have certainly gained a treasure chest of friends and colleagues.

There is no single model or final description of the clergy role of Pastor. Read Paul’s wisdom about this in his Letter 1 Cor. 4:1-4. The pastor’s role will always be that of a steward who cares deeply for members, for community, for the sacraments, for life together in the Spirit. Martin Luther’s Small Catechism guides my reflections week-in and week -out among you all. Pastors find their vocational center in the Word (Preaching and teaching the scriptures) and at the Table (presiding at the Meal), inviting folks through baptism and catechesis/ conversation/ study into the new life we share. I’ve never forgotten what Fr. George Herebert (1600’s) wrote about the parish ministry in a country place in Bemerton, England: “*The country parson is a Lover of old customs, if they be good and harmless*” This pastor is preoccupied with symbols. It is the pastor’s role to “break out” and set out the central symbols (Book, Cup, Loaf,, Water, Light, Oil, Church as the holy people being formed) and care for these. Such symbols, wrote Roman catholic poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, are the “gear and tackle and trim” of pastoral ministry. Or they ought to be. Words, stories from the Bible and culture as lenses into the Word, images, gestures and postures: pastors have really nothing else. A fellow beggar before the mercies and bread of God, I remain yours in gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Blessings, Peace and Good, and rich joy be yours,

-Rev. B. J. Brauer

The Rev. Dr. Brad Brauer, Interim Pastor (Aug. 2024 – present)

2025 ST. LUKE COUNCIL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

By Alison Schuler, Council President

MISSION OF THE CONGREGATION: Rooted in God's Word; Serving God's People

In the beginning—

Of 2025, we, as the people of St. Luke Lutheran Church, continued to worship our Lord, who gave all for us so that we may have Life, worked to open ourselves even more to God's light in our lives and the lives of others, and prayerfully waited for the unfolding of God's love in our midst and of God's will in our lives. In so many marvelous ways, God blessed us throughout the year, leading us from restructuring and grounding to the beginning of reinvigorated and expectant ministry. As a congregation, we experienced hope and renewal even while we grieved losses and endured challenges.

Council Members:

During 2025, the Congregation Council consisted of 8 members: Interim Pastor Brad Brauer, Treasurer Judy Moore, and six elected members: Cindy Callisto (Secretary), DeAnn Eaton Azar (Vice President and Financial Secretary), Greg Haschke, Hazel Mella, Alison Schuler (President), and Marshall Shore.

Significant Steppingstones

During 2025, we experienced five steppingstones of particular note in our path from Life to even fuller Life. These were:

- The continued and blessed ministry of our Interim Pastor, Brad Brauer, as he shepherded us during our time of transition between called pastors. Pastor Brad enabled us to deepen in the understanding and experience of the Word, challenged us to greater faithfulness, reminded us of calling, and led us through times of joy and sorrow;
- The establishment of a Call Committee and their work;
- A Congregation Council retreat with enlivened vision and expectations for us as a welcoming congregation, building on our strong foundations;

- The establishment of the Capital Committee; and
- The beginning of refreshing and updating facilities to become more welcoming and functional, and continuation of improved IT and safety.

Interim Pastor Brad's continuing Ministry

God has blessed us beyond words by Pastor Brad's ministry among, to, with and for us. With patience, tolerance, and kindness, he has continued to keep us focused on our purpose as God's people and has continued to remind us of what that means in the time and place in which we live. His reports of his own ministry at Council meetings remind all of us of how ministry really happens—with and for the people and world around us—and that it can be evolving and new, as well as expected and sure. Thank you, Pastor Brad, for the children's sermons that teach adults just as much as children, the sermons that illumine, inform, and prod, the service to each of us and to others than calls us to do the same, and for the light of God that you bring into all you do. We are in good hands.

The Call Committee

Calling a new pastor is a significant step in the life of any congregation. Even before a call committee is formed, the Council and the congregation must be involved in a soul-searching process to identify who the congregation is, what its goals are, and what character and talents the congregation believes a new pastor should have. All of that began in 2024 and continued early in 2025 through seeking and drafting sessions of the Council and listening sessions of the Congregation. At its March 27 meeting, the Council formally established a Call Committee, consisting of six members (as specified by the St. Luke Constitution): David Follstaedt, Mary Beth Garrett, Judy Moore, William Tierney (who later

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2025 St. Luke Council report ... continued from previous page

resigned), Robert Trujillo, and Mary Voelz. Thereafter, a Ministry Site Profile, a form of pastoral job description, and other documents were prepared and agreed upon by the Council and Call Committee. The Ministry Site Profile was accepted and posted by the Synod in May. The Call Committee continues its diligent work to identify pastoral candidate(s) for call to St. Luke.

August Council Retreat

At the Council retreat in August, we focused on the theme: How do we live into our identity and vision as St. Luke Lutheran Church, a multigenerational ministry? Pastor Brad reminded us to build our household, together, from maintenance of what we have to renovation, into a place of mission and welcome and ministry in light of the inspiration for our name: St. Luke, the evangelist and patron saint of doctors, healers, and artists. We dreamed and envisioned together, and toured every part of our facility with the assistance of a retired, distinguished architect.

The Council listed words to describe St. Luke, including: hub, sustainable activities and programs, faithful, full, vibrant, embracing, inclusive, thriving, active, intentional, authentic, transparent, Abundant LIFE. We identified long and short-term opportunities for living into our name. These included becoming a hub for healing and nurturing of spirit, mind and body with the power of the Spirit acting through multiple avenues, including our own direct ministries and active involvement in community and other ministries around us. The discussion also identified maintenance and improvement of our facilities to better support our welcoming nature and our ministries of health and wholeness. In the short term, this has included decluttering and adding new furniture in the narthex and lounge to encourage community. Better audio-visual and communications equipment, access and safety measures, some carried over from 2025, have also been identified. Overall master plans and maintenance plans are planned, assuming funding, so that improvements are properly coordinated as they occur over time and our facilities are properly cared for. Expansion and improvements in, for instance, the nursery, will need attention from the congregation in coming years.

The vision includes not just facilities, but also the purpose of the facilities—ministry in the name of Jesus to our members and to the many around us who need God’s care, love and redemption to be real for them. With facilities efforts beginning, ministry will be the next area of focus.

The Establishment of the Capital Acquisition, Implementation, Projects and Expenditures Committee

The Capital Committee (to shorten the name) was established by the Council at its September meeting, with DeAnn Eaton Azar as chair. This committee will assist the congregation and Council to explore and plan what facilities changes would need to occur for St Luke to live into its name and to become a “hub” of life-affirming activity through Christ for our community. Specifically, the Capital Committee will focus on the capital and financing needs aspect of the possible changes and explore alternative avenues for financing of proposed and approved projects.

The beginning of refreshing and updating facilities to become more welcoming and functional, and continuation of improved IT and safety.

You can already see some results from the Capital Committee’s and Property Committee’s work in the narthex, where clutter has been reduced and accessibility improved. Thank you, Capital and Property Committees for whetting our appetites for what is possible!

In addition, safety work has continued with the installation of three cameras on the Menaul side of our facilities. Work already approved by the congregation for 2025 is in process.

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Challenges

We will always have challenges as we do the Lord's work. I will mention some that we should keep in mind and which we should address in the coming year. Challenges by their nature help us to see new life, new hope, and new possibilities. These are your call to serve by doing and to pray!

- Most obviously, we continue to seek our new pastoral staff. The wait for the pastor(s) chosen by God for us can be wearing, but we are strong enough in the Lord to move forward in our ministry as we wait.
- We are ageing. Age can provide us the wisdom of experience, but we also need the vibrancy and creativity of new and younger members. We have the opportunity to find better ways to get our message out and to invite younger people to be part of God's family and to support them when they come. We also need to be alert to the needs of our older members, to provide support and comfort, to ensure our facilities are accessible, and to ensure social interaction and community involvement. This is in pursuit of our multigenerational vision.
- Our finances are stable, but we need to remain a people of giving natures and to expand our support to enable and expand our ministries. Our aging infrastructure gives us the chance to maintain, reassess, and conform it to present and future anticipated needs.
- Many of our members contribute in extraordinary ways to our ministry. More effectively inviting everyone to serve the Lord and to care for God's people will provide our congregation additional and deep joy from the well of Life. Let us consider how we do that, using new as well as cherished approaches.

And, Thank YOU, dear family of Christ at St. Luke!

The scope of activities and ministries at St. Luke has always astounded me. This year was no exception. In addition to the work I described above, so many of you have worked to build God's kingdom among us in so many ways. Your quiet dedication shows the depth of your love for God, carried out in practice every day.

We could not worship without the music ministries of our music director, Danielle Cordova, our chancel and bell choirs and musicians, artists who create and curate the art in our space, all of those who serve on Worship, Music and Arts Committee, and those who participate in our services and ushers and greeters. Week after week you provide both beauty and profound worship for us.

To all of you who keep up our grounds, install and maintain our facilities, furniture, fixtures and equipment, and solve all the big and little issues that crop up every day, thank you.

Likewise, to all of you who prepare meals, feed us doughnuts on Sundays, comfort us with food when we grieve, and provide joyous feasts, you do more than you realize for us. Your presence at all the intersections of our lives enfolds, comforts and renews us in all of our circumstances.

We are, very much, a place of education. Our incredible preschool and its staff and committee lead one of our most visible ministries. The attendance at the children's Christmas Eve service alone testifies to how vital this ministry is. Likewise, to everyone who teaches in the church and facilitates youth and adult learning programs and intergenerational activities (with Allie Brandt's guidance)—to you we owe gratitude we cannot adequately express. You help us to know God and God's love for all of us.

The people who watch our finances, who do the numbers work for us and the preschool, are another group that works largely behind the scenes, to keep us fiscally viable as a congregation. They guide and

Continued next page

2025 St. Luke Council report ... continued from previous page

enable our ministries by ensuring that we can support those ministries with integrity. Those of you in stewardship remind us of and call us to be part of the need for practical support of all that we do with money, and time, and talent.

To the Congregation Council-- you have persevered, slogged, dreamed, and led this blessed congregation. Thank you for your lives of faith that witness to the working of God in community. You ensure that the body of Christ is clothed, fed, taught, encouraged and empowered to thrive.

And, finally, to our staff, Angie, Michelle, Danielle, Allie, and Pamela, what can we say about your care for us, your kind interactions during the exactions of your days, and being the face of St. Luke to our congregation and to the larger community? You listen to us, talk to us, and give us hope. Thank you.

We are blessed beyond measure in this congregation. All of you are here at God's call, and all of you are part of the family of God here, in this place of worship and Life.

May God continue to bless each of you, to guide and call us to God's service, and to teach us the profound gift of love through Christ that God has given us.

Alison Schuler,
Congregation President, January 2026

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

By Greg Haschke, Team Leader

January 15, 2026

2025 Stewardship Team: Greg Haschke (chair), Mary Beth Garrett, Diane Follstaedt, and Pastor Brad Brauer

Advisor: Michelle Barba, Business Manager

All efforts of our team were related to the planning and executing our annual Stewardship Appeal for 2026 and evaluating the results of our 2025 appeal. This was the eighth appeal since we began conducting appeals according to the approach prescribed by the Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) program offered by GSB Fundraising. After the first four years, we have been executing each appeal without assistance from GSB and have been gradually customizing our execution. We employ the skills of Pamela Franco, our Media Ministry Assistant, to produce and print the brochure and statement of intent and to produce video temple talks. This year, we used *Stewardship-To-Go* resources offered by *Church Anew* to help us explore more fully what stewardship means, to choose a theme and graphics, and to provide devotional materials and sermon prompts. *Church Anew* is a project based at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie, MN.

The SAS approach is based on developing new ministry initiatives and proposing a financial goal to realize those initiatives. The Stewardship Team struggles to formulate new initiatives and has focused instead on expanding our existing ministries. While promoting and celebrating new initiatives is our primary responsibility, conceiving of and developing them is beyond the scope of the team. Overall, our appeal this fall succeeded in maintaining awareness of and bolstering enthusiasm for expanding ministries at St. Luke, but we still need broader participation from the congregation for the SAS approach to be effective.

2026 Appeal

The theme of our appeal for 2026 is “What we can do, responding to God’s generosity,” and we chose as our focus Bible verse the New Living Translation of Luke 19:26: “To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given.” Our appeal challenges St. Luke with three goals:

- I. Increase lay leadership of - and participation in – our ministries to support our next pastor
- II. Prepare financially for our next pastor
- III. Expand multigenerational ministries

We hope for increased giving of \$15,000 to achieve goals II and III. Goal II includes offering compensation to our next pastor that meets current synod guidelines. Goal III includes providing for two nursery attendants at all worship services, supporting development of a St. Luke Youth Group for confirmed youth, covering more costs of our annual Rainbow Trail Day Camp, and helping our youth and adults attend the national youth gathering in Minneapolis, MN, in June 2027. We also hope to increase the number of giving households from 121 to 125 and the number who pledge from 76 to 90.

Even though Goal I is not financial, it is the most important. St. Luke requires many lay leaders to effectively pursue our mission. Please consider offering your organizational skills to lead and organize existing and new ministries. Let me know of your ideas about how we can organize and lead our ministries more effectively.

For the first time, we provided printed devotional handouts from *Stewardship-To-Go* based on the Gospel readings to help us discover more meaningful stewardship in our lives.

Pamela Franco produced two video temple talks in which six of our members share their stories of responding joyfully to God’s grace at St. Luke. Thanks be to God for Pamela!

Continued next page

Stewardship Committee ... continued from previous page

For a second year, I also extend a special word of gratitude to our interim Pastor Brad Brauer for bolstering our stewardship emphasis during the fall months by incorporating stewardship themes in his sermons and children’s sermons and authoring written devotional materials for our members to reflect on stewardship in daily life.

Evaluation of 2025 Appeal

The traditional metric for evaluating the success of an appeal is to compare only the increase of total gifts and the total number of giving units. When we set a goal for increased number of givers and increased giving, should the only goal be the net of givers who do not give in the following year – or can considering only the new givers and increase of those who gave in the previous year provide more insight into the effectiveness of our appeal? Certainly, the traditional viewpoint and net amount given are the relevant metrics for our annual financial report. But we cannot predict how many givers will not return from one year to the next and how much associated giving we will lose, so perhaps the increase of returning givers and new givers is a better metric of how the congregation responded to the appeal. **Table 1** summarizes the increases (and decreases) and the net difference from 2024 to 2025.

Table 1. Summary of Givers and Giving: Net vs Increase

	2024	2025 Increases / Decreases			2025
	Net	Returning	New	Non-returning	Net
Number of Givers	132	111	10	20	121
Amount Given	\$572,148	\$25,712	\$15,983	(\$28,640)	\$585,203

By the traditional (net) viewpoint, we lost 11 givers and only increased giving by \$13,055, but 111 returning givers gave \$25,712 (4.7%) more than they gave in 2024, and 10 new givers gave \$15,983. The stated goals of the 2025 appeal were to increase the number of givers from 132 to 135 and increase giving by \$25,000. Returning givers and new givers responded well to the appeal, but those increases did not offset the losses from non-returning givers enough to meet out traditional (net) goal.

Closing Remarks

We continue to apply many of the SAS techniques in our annual appeal while struggling to implement “all seasons” aspects of SAS. Our team needs to engage the congregation throughout the year. Such a year-round program requires work in several distinct specialties: communication, celebration, and analysis. We need to build a stewardship team in which members can focus on these specific specialties year-round. Our non-ex-officio team members each have more than three years tenure and would warmly welcome one or two new members. Please let me know if you would like to join our team.

With much gratitude to the members of our team and to everyone who so generously share their gifts in our ministry at St. Luke,

Greg Haschke
Stewardship Chair

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Stewardship Committee ... continued from previous page

Appendix to 2025 Giving Analysis

Table 1, Table 2, and Table 3 provide more detail of giving in 2025. A few salient points are these:

- Total number of giving units declined from 132 to 121.
- Total (net) giving change: \$13,055 (+2.3%)
- Total change by individual givers: +\$41,695
(+\$25,712 by 111 returning givers and \$15,983 by 10 new givers)
- Pledged Givers
 - Number of pledged giving units declined from 86 to 76.
 - Pledged givers pledged \$31,449 less in 2025 than in 2024 and gave \$7,893 less, but gave \$34,023 (7%) more than pledges in 2025 vs. \$10,467 (2%) more than pledges in 2024.
- Unpledged Givers
 - Number of unpledged giving units declined from 46 to 45.
 - Unpledged givers gave \$20,948 more in 2025 than in 2024.

Table 1. Amounts Pledged and Given 2025

	Amount Pledged	Amount Given
Pledged Givers 2025	\$471,762	\$505,785
Unpledged givers 2025	-	\$79,418
Total 2025		\$585,203

Table 2. Amounts Pledged and Given 2024

	Amount Pledged	Amount Given
Pledged Givers 2024	\$503,211	\$513,678
Unpledged givers 2024	-	\$58,470
Total 2024		\$572,148

Table 3. Number of Giving Units and Lost Giving Analysis

	Pledged 2025	Unpledged 2025	Lost from 2024-2025	Amount lost 2024-2025
Pledged 2024	66	13	7	(\$13,275)
Unpledged 2024	7	25	13	(\$15,365)
New 2025	3	7		\$15,983
Total 2025	76	45	10	(\$12,657)

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

By Judy Moore, Treasurer

December 31, 2025

The members of our Finance Committee this year have been:

Judy Moore, Treasurer of St Luke Lutheran Church
DeAnn Eaton, Financial Secretary of St Luke Lutheran Church
Daleen Olson, representing the finance team for the St. Luke Preschool
Ken Sorenson, representing the Property Committee
Ginny Fisher
Michelle Barba, St. Luke Business Manager

The Finance Committee reviews our financials each month on a Zoom meeting, looking for changes in how items, including expenditures are categorized and making suggestions for improvement in our accounting.

The Finance Committee will be meeting with our insurance agents in early February to review any changes to our policies. In 2026, we plan to review and revise our policies and procedures around handling of income and expenditures including capital expenditures. We will then hope to form a review committee from other congregations to review these as well as our books for last fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Moore
Treasurer

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Status of Funds Report
Cash & Investment Accounts
12/31/2025

Cash & Investments Accounts

Operations Account	\$	183,261
Money Market	\$	114,314
Debit Card	\$	2,168
Petty Cash	\$	200
Payroll Account	\$	11,186
Western Commerce	\$	79,036
CDs First National 1870	\$	119,896
CDs WaFd	\$	102,770
Total Cash & Investments	\$	612,832

Funds Status

Named Donor Restricted	\$	38,412
Alice Thompson Memorial - PS	\$	4,859
Alice Thompson Memorial - St Luke	\$	17,452
Carlson- Schinler Global Missions	\$	16,101

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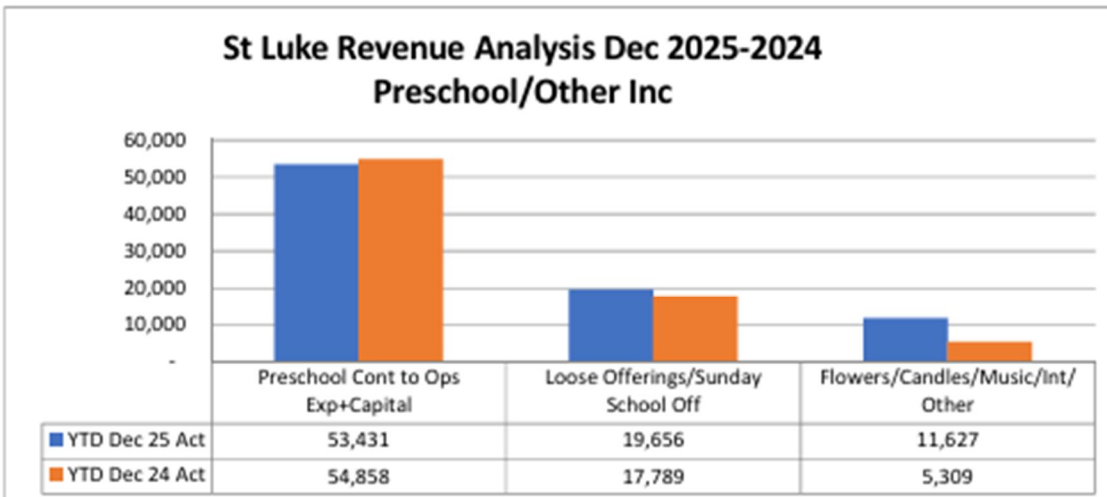
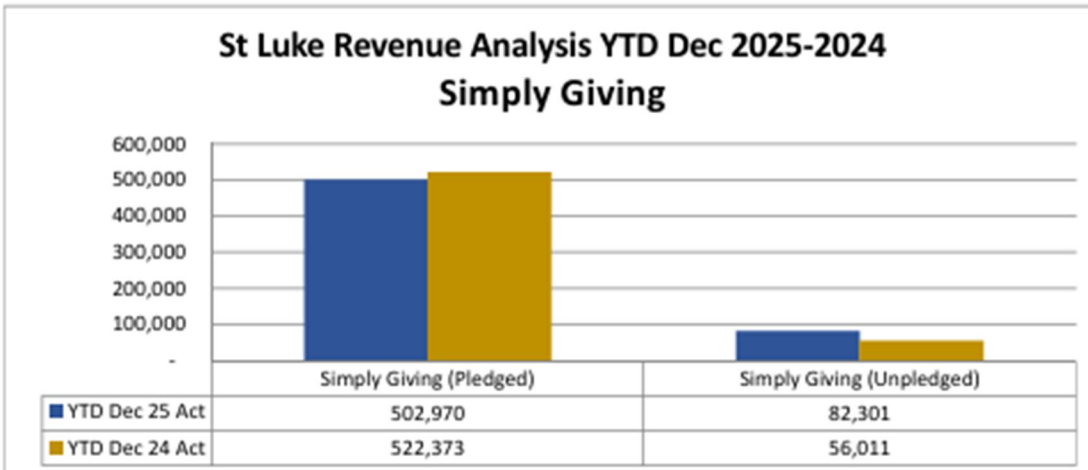
Multiple Donor Restricted Special Purpose	\$	19,348
Music	\$	400
Memorial Music	\$	1,788
Nursery	\$	500
Student Pastor	\$	9,346
Columbarium Niches	\$	7,314
Council Restricted - Special Purpose	\$	49,174
IT Refresh	\$	9,687
Organ Refresh	\$	11,000
Rainbow Trail	\$	1,242
Memorial Receptions	\$	1,386
Memorials	\$	21,821
Pastor Discretionary	\$	1,062
ELCA Youth Gathering	\$	2,976
Capital Reserve	\$	72,102
Total Funds with Restrictions	\$	179,035

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**St Luke Lutheran Church
Financial Secretary Report
Revenue Analysis
Dec 2025/2024**

There is a favorable comparison in net Simply Giving (UnPledged)/Pledged of 6.9k from Dec 24
In Jan 24 we recognized 33.2k of donations that were received in the PY 23 for the 2024 pledge year.
At this time I'm unaware of any 2026 pledges that were received in Dec 2025.
Actual revenue in 2025 was 13.6 greater than in 2024, which was a 2.1% increase.

Revenue	YTD Dec 25 Act	YTD Dec 24 Act	\$ Change	% Change
Simply Giving (Pledged)	502,970	522,373	(19,403)	-3.7%
Simply Giving (Unpledged)	82,301	56,011	26,290	46.9%
Preschool Cont to Operation Exp	47,431	48,858	(1,427)	-2.9%
Preschool Cont to Capital Reserve	6,000	6,000	-	-
Loose Offerings/Special Offerings, et al	19,656	17,789	1,867	10.5%
Flowers/Candles	2,238	2,336	(99)	-4.2%
Interest Earned	9,389	2,972	6,417	215.9%
TOTAL	669,986	656,340	13,646	2.1%



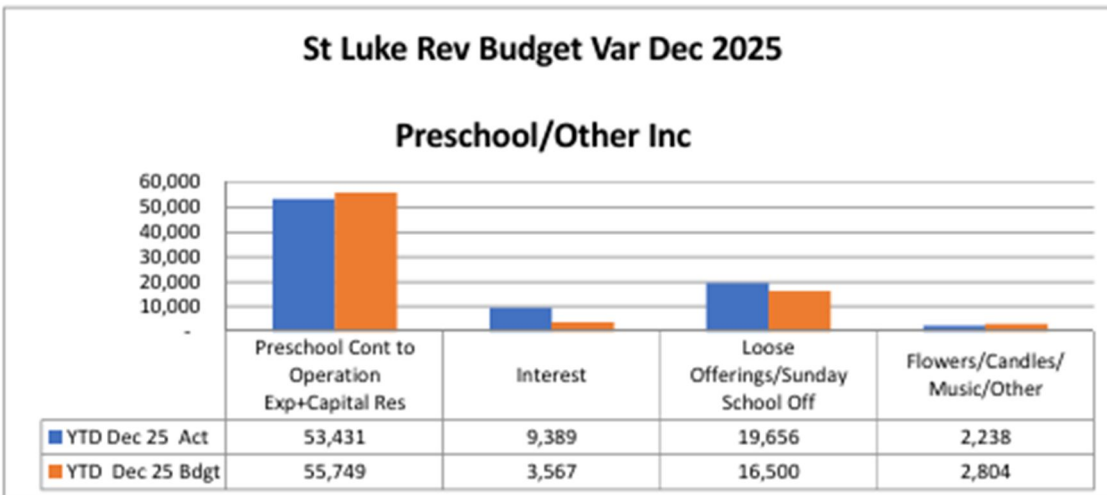
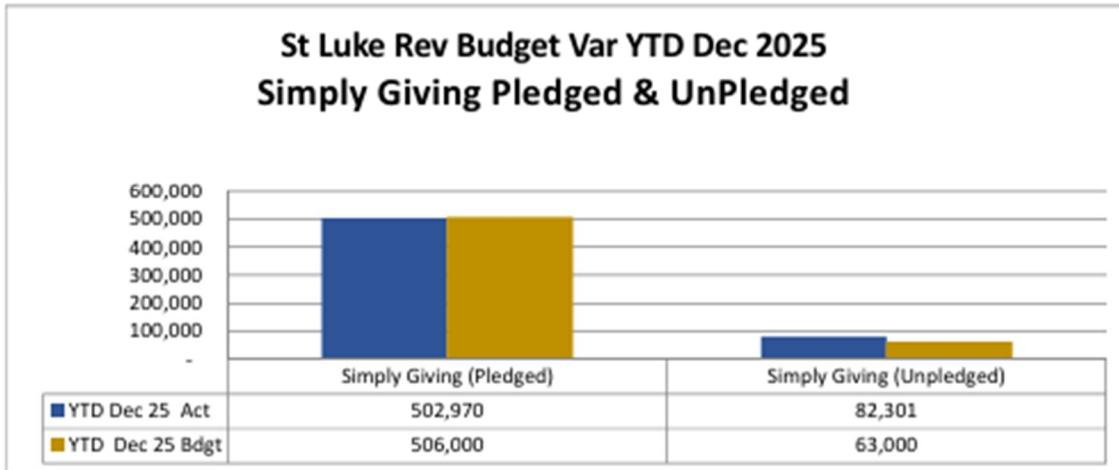
Submitted by:
E. DeAnn Eaton Azar, CPA-Ret/MBA

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**St Luke Lutheran Church
Financial Secretary Report
Revenue Budget Analysis
YTD Dec 2025**

YTD Dec 25 ended with a Favorable budget var of \$22.3 K which is 3.5% more than budgeted revenue. In Jan 24 we recognized 33.2k of donations that were received in prior year 23 for the 2024 pledge year. At this time I'm unaware of any 2026 pledges recd in 2025. We have a Fav var for Simply Giving (Pledged&Unpledged) of 16.3k Interest inc was materially greater than budgeted, in large part due to the oversight of the Trust committee.

Revenue	YTD Dec 25 Act	YTD Dec 25 Bdgt	\$ Change	% Change
Simply Giving (Pledged)	502,970	506,000	(3,030)	-1%
Simply Giving (Unpledged)	82,301	63,000	19,301	31%
Preschool Cont to Operation Exp	47,431	49,749	(2,318)	-5%
Preschool Cont to Capital Reserve	6,000	6,000	-	0%
Loose Offerings/Special Offerings, et al	19,656	16,500	3,156	19%
Flowers/Candles	2,238	2,804	(566)	-20%
Interest Earned	9,389	3,567	5,822	163%
TOTAL	669,986	647,620	22,366	3.5%



Submitted by:
E. DeAnn Eaton Azar, CPA-Ret/MBA

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REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

By Tom Berardinelli, Recorder

January 19, 2026

Report of the St. Luke Budget Committee

Committee Membership: DeAnn Eaton (Financial Secretary & Chair), Judy Moore (Treasurer), Tom Berardinelli, Clare Castiglia, David Follstaedt, Greg Haschke, and Ken Sorenson. Advisor: Michelle Barba (St. Luke Business Manager)

The proposed 2026 Annual Budget was developed to address the following:

1. Support 2026 Stewardship Appeal financial objectives to 1) Prepare financially for our next pastor and 2) Expand our multigenerational ministries, requiring a total of \$15,000 in annual giving (see Stewardship Report and materials for additional details).
2. Budget Expense Changes.
 - a. An increase of \$500 over 2025 for a total of \$55,900 to Benevolence. See budget for breakout/details.
 - b. Pastoral compensation of \$145,950 which includes an increase of \$36,028 with the principal reasons being an estimated increase in insurance costs (for a new pastor) and \$17,500 in Call Committee expenses (travel and moving expenses for a new pastor). This is only an estimate with an assumption of calling a pastor under the age of 65. Until such time that a call is extended and accepted, it is not possible to determine exact compensation costs. Those compensation costs are a part of the call process and will be presented to the congregation when a call recommendation is made by the Call Committee and Council. See budget for details.
 - c. Other staff compensation increased (Coordinator of Music Ministries, Office Manager, Business Manager, Multigenerational Ministries Coordinator, and Nursery providers) by \$9,520. Compensation includes costs for salary, insurance, professional development, and other relevant items. This change also reflects a cost-of-living increase of approximately 3%. See budget for details.
 - d. An increase in \$6,045 for operations costs comprised of increases to the custodial contract (\$5,000) and other supplies (\$1,045). See budget for details.
 - e. An increase in Facility Management expenses of \$6,600 that includes an increase of \$5,100 for landscaping contract and other service contract costs. This has been necessary as our reliance on volunteers for tasks in these areas is no longer sufficient to do this work internally. There is also an increase of estimated utility costs of \$2,500. A reduction of \$1,000 for unscheduled repairs is estimated.
 - f. An increase in combined Life of the Congregation expenditures of \$1,099 focused on increased support for multigenerational ministries.
 - g. Note the above does not include all budget area changes from 2025, but those considered to be most significant in size. See budget for details regarding all expenditures.
3. Overall Budget Summary:
 - a. Total income expected/budgeted for 2026 is \$682,874. This is an increase in estimated budgeted income of \$35,254 in 2026 from that budgeted in 2025. However, actual income for 2025 exceeded that budgeted by ~\$22,000.
 - b. Total expenses budgeted for 2026 are \$715,075. This is an increase in estimated budgeted expenses of \$61,468 in 2026 from that budgeted in 2025. However, actual expenses in 2025 were ~\$46,000 less than that budgeted.
 - c. This proposed budget for 2026 includes a projected deficit of \$32,201.
 - d. Although not considered an expense in the operational budget, the budget does note (as we have

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Budget Committee report ... continued from previous page

done in prior years) Council-designated restrictions for contributions to IT refresh, organ refresh, capital reserve (from church), and capital reserve (from preschool).

4. Budget Deficit Explanation: We have had a consistent trend in the budget (see budget history) since 2019 of actual revenues exceeding actual expenditures in the range of ~\$40,000 - \$90,000. This has largely been due to under-executing budgeted expenditures in the overall budget and/or exceeding budgeted revenue. Based on this consistent history, the Budget Committee believes it is a reasonable risk to propose a budget for 2026 where budgeted expenditures exceed budgeted revenues by \$32,201 (well within the variances mentioned above). It is likely we will under-execute expenses again in 2026 (especially with the uncertainty of when we will have a new pastor called and on board).
5. A big thank you to the members of this committee, and all who submitted the necessary inputs, for their work in developing this proposed budget. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact any member of this committee.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Budget Committee,
Tom Berardinelli, Budget Committee Recorder

2 Attachments:

1. 2026 Budget Proposal
2. St. Luke Budget History (2006-2026)

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Proposed 2026 Budget	Actuals through DRAFT December 2025	2025 Budget	Proposed Budget 2026	Change 2025 to 2026 Budget
INCOME				
Offerings				
Simply pledged	\$ 502,970	\$ 506,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 19,000
Simply unpledged	\$ 82,301	\$ 63,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 12,000
Loose Offerings	\$ 16,312	\$ 15,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 1,000
Special Services Offerings	\$ 2,291	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ (500)
Total Offerings	\$ 603,874	\$ 585,500	\$ 617,000	\$ 31,500
Contributions				
Preschool Contribution to Operational Exp	\$ 47,431	\$ 49,749	\$ 47,874	\$ (1,875)
Preschool Contribution to Capital Reserve	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -
Facility Usage	\$ 410	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Contributions	\$ 53,841	\$ 55,749	\$ 53,874	\$ (1,875)
Designated Contributions				
Flowers/Candles	\$ 2,238	\$ 2,804	\$ 2,000	\$ (804)
Rainbow Trail Day Camp	\$ 643	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Total Designated Contributions	\$ 2,881	\$ 2,804	\$ 3,000	\$ 196
Interest Earned	\$ 9,389	\$ 3,567	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,433
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 669,986	\$ 647,620	\$ 682,874	\$ 35,254
EXPENSES				
Budgeted Benevolence				
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
Preschool Scholarships	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -
Rocky Mountain Synod	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
Navajo Mission	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Global Missions	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -
Lutheran Family Services	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ (500)
Love God Love Neighbor-Gifts of Generosity	\$ 1,150	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	\$ -
Rainbow Trail	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -
Change Bucket Match	\$ 5,345	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -
Other Benevolence	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 2,800	\$ (500)
Total Budgeted Benevolence	\$ 54,295	\$ 55,400	\$ 55,900	\$ 500

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Proposed 2026 Budget	Actuals through DRAFT December 2025	2025 Budget	Proposed Budget 2026	Change 2025 to 2026 Budget
Pastoral Ministry and Expenses				
Call Committee Travel Misc Reimbursement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Call Committee Moving Allowance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Pastors Salary/Housing	\$ 86,840	\$ 91,500	\$ 82,000	\$ (9,500)
Pastors Pension/Insurance	\$ -	\$ 5,774	\$ 34,000	\$ 28,226
Substitute Pastors	\$ 1,450	\$ 3,848	\$ 3,500	\$ (348)
Cell Phone Expenses for Pastors	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ -
Gifts of Grace	\$ 184	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
Pastor Expense Allowance	\$ 201	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
Conventions/Retreats - Pastors	\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,250	\$ 50
Continuing Education - Pastors	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -
Synod Assembly - Pastors	\$ 835	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,500	\$ 100
Total Pastoral Ministry and Expenses	\$ 90,710	\$ 109,922	\$ 145,950	\$ 36,028
Music Ministry and Expenses				
Coordinator of Music Ministries Salary	\$ 36,345	\$ 36,413	\$ 37,500	\$ 1,087
Prof Dev Music Ministry	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,700	\$ 200
Organist-Keyboard Salary	\$ 16,862	\$ 17,425	\$ 18,000	\$ 575
Special Musicians	\$ 2,039	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,600	\$ 600
Contracts for substitutes or assistants	\$ 625	\$ 800	\$ 1,300	\$ 500
Instrument Tuning Organ & Piano	\$ 2,083	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
Copyright Licenses	\$ 1,251	\$ 1,939	\$ 1,850	\$ (89)
Misc Music & Supplies	\$ 993	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,700	\$ -
Choral scholars PLUS STAFF SUPPORT	\$ 13,455	\$ 10,000	\$ 13,500	\$ 3,500
Contract for Sat Eve Accompanist	\$ 5,100	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,000	\$ (1,000)
Total Music Ministry and Expenses	\$ 78,753	\$ 82,777	\$ 88,150	\$ 5,373
Support Staff and Expenses				
Office Manager Salary	\$ 62,371	\$ 62,371	\$ 64,250	\$ 1,879
Business Manager Salary	\$ 29,813	\$ 29,812	\$ 30,750	\$ 938
Nursery Childcare Providers	\$ 4,950	\$ 5,928	\$ 6,100	\$ 172
Employee Relations	\$ 339	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
Multigenerational Ministries	\$ 36,413	\$ 36,413	\$ 37,500	\$ 1,087
Total Support Staff and Expenses	\$ 133,886	\$ 135,024	\$ 139,100	\$ 4,076
Taxes and Benefits Paid				
Payroll Tax Expenses	\$ 14,137	\$ 13,591	\$ 14,000	\$ 409
403b Church Portion	\$ 6,944	\$ 6,949	\$ 7,000	\$ 51
Workers Compensation	\$ 3,401	\$ 5,700	\$ 6,000	\$ 300
Total Taxes and Benefits Paid	\$ 24,483	\$ 26,240	\$ 27,000	\$ 760

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Proposed 2026 Budget	Actuals through DRAFT December 2025	2025 Budget	Proposed Budget 2026	Change 2025 to 2026 Budget
Operations				
Custodial Services Contract	\$ 66,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 71,000	\$ 5,000
Office Copier Contract	\$ 8,971	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
IT - Tech Team	\$ 731	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300	\$ -
IT Subscriptions	\$ 4,360	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ -
General Office Supplies	\$ 5,394	\$ 4,230	\$ 4,750	\$ 520
Custodial Supplies	\$ 6,610	\$ 6,500	\$ 7,000	\$ 500
Fellowship Hall supplies	\$ 444	\$ 925	\$ 950	\$ 25
Total Operations	\$ 92,510	\$ 93,455	\$ 99,500	\$ 6,045
Worship and Education				
Flowers/Candles	\$ 2,016	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -
Worship & Sacristy Materials	\$ 1,772	\$ 1,775	\$ 1,775	\$ -
Education & Curricula	\$ 2,766	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,700	\$ 200
Subscriptions/Printed Materials	\$ 2,667	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,000	\$ (200)
Summer Daycamp	\$ 2,529	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,400	\$ 400
Adult Education	\$ 178	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ -
Total Worship and Education	\$ 11,927	\$ 12,325	\$ 12,725	\$ 400
Life of Congregation				
Call Committee & Hiring Expenses	\$ 1,116	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
Safe Gathering	\$ 227	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Synod Assembly & Leadership Programs for lay persons	\$ 900	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -
Congregational Activities/Leadership retreat	\$ 2,063	\$ 3,600	\$ 4,000	\$ 400
Youth Activities	\$ 472	\$ 500	\$ 850	\$ 350
Camp Subsidies	\$ 1,810	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
Love God Love Neighbor Program	\$ 337	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ (500)
Media Asst Contract	\$ 17,612	\$ 16,501	\$ 17,000	\$ 499
Learners & Servers	\$ 127	\$ 150	\$ 500	\$ 350
Stewardship	\$ 1,064	\$ 650	\$ 650	\$ -
Total Life of Congregation	\$ 25,728	\$ 27,901	\$ 29,000	\$ 1,099
Facility Management				
Landscaping Maintenance	\$ 841	\$ 2,400	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,600
Service Providers/Contracts	\$ 15,668	\$ 16,500	\$ 18,000	\$ 1,500
Planned Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 2,275	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Unscheduled Repairs	\$ 4,566	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000	\$ (1,000)
Utilities	\$ 45,038	\$ 54,000	\$ 56,500	\$ 2,500
Total Facility Management	\$ 68,389	\$ 83,900	\$ 90,500	\$ 6,600

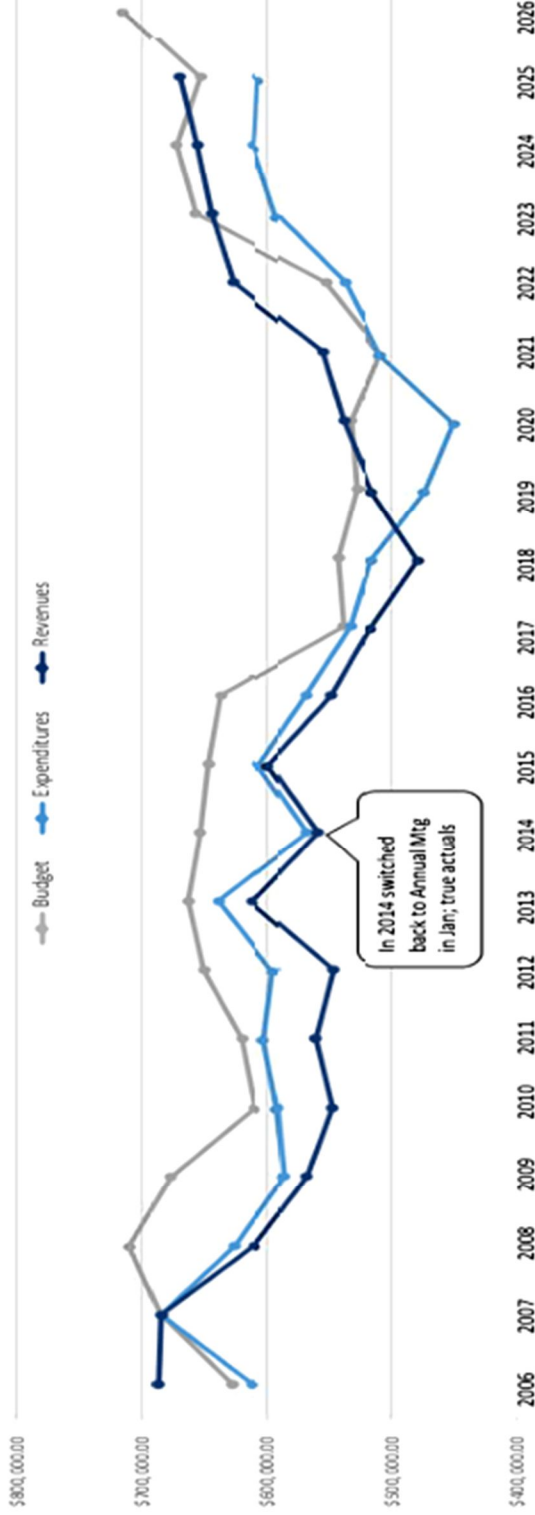
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<i>Proposed 2026 Budget</i>	<i>Actuals through DRAFT December 2025</i>	<i>2025 Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Budget 2026</i>	<i>Change 2025 to 2026 Budget</i>
Financial Management				
Insurance	\$ 24,599	\$ 23,710	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,290
Banking/CC Charges	\$ 2,577	\$ 2,953	\$ 2,250	\$ (703)
Total Financial Management	\$ 27,176	\$ 26,663	\$ 27,250	\$ 587
Total Operational Expenses	\$ 607,858	\$ 653,607	\$ 715,075	\$ 61,468
Other Income/Expense	\$ 26			
Net Operational excess/deficit	\$ 62,154	\$ (5,987)	\$ (32,201)	\$ (26,214)
Council Designated Restrictions				
Contributions to IT refresh	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	
Contributions to Organ Refresh	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
Contributions to capital reserve from church	\$ 9,600	\$ 9,600	\$ 9,600	
Contributions to capital reserve from preschool	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	
Total Council Designations	\$ 19,100	\$ 19,100	\$ 19,100	

Proposed Motion: Congregation approved the 2026 Annual Operating Budget as presented.

Continued next page

ST LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALBUQUERQUE, NM, BUDGET HISTORY 2006 - 2026



638	651	501	305	318	333	322
BAPTISED MEMBERSHIP						

Budget - Amount passed by Congregation at Annual Meeting (2026 is proposed only).

Expenditures - Estimated as of Dec in 2006-13. Actual expenditures in 2014-present.

Revenues - Estimated as of Dec in 2006-2013. Actual revenues in 2014-present.

Baptised Membership - (shown in purple above) when reported in the Annual Report.

(Current as of January 15, 2026)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Diane Quarles

Nominating Committee Members:

Marshall Shore (Chair)

Cindy Callisto

Diane Quarles

The Congregation Council is made up of 6 elected members from our congregation, the pastor or pastors, and our church treasurer. The 2025 Council consisted of:

- Alison Schuler, Council President (Second term-Elected 2025)
- DeAnn Eaton Azar-Council Vice President and Financial Secretary
(First term-Elected 2024)
- Cindy Callisto-Council Secretary (Second term-elected 2025)
- Judy Moore-Treasurer (Appointed by Council)
- Greg Haschke (Second term-Elected 2025)
- Hazel Mella (First term-Elected 2024)
- Marshall Shore (Second term-Elected 2025)
- Interim Pastor Brad Brauer (Permanent Member)

Per our Constitution, the six Council members elected from the congregation serve two-year terms and are allowed to serve two consecutive terms. This year, DeAnn Eaton and Hazel Mella reached the end of their first two-year term. Each did not wish to be nominated for a second two-year term, leaving two seats open. Marshall Shore's untimely death left the second year of his second two-year term open. Thus, there are two, two-year terms and one, one-year term to be filled.

The Nominating Committee met to discuss potential candidates to fill the open council seats and decided to recommend the following:

DeAnn Eaton Azar: to fill the one-year term

_____ : to fill a two-year term*

Gilbert Quintana: to fill a two-year term

Their biographies are attached for your information.

* The candidate selected by the committee to be proposed for this two-year term withdrew from nomination on January 19, 2026, citing inability to serve at this time. The 2026 Committee will undertake efforts to identify a candidate for consideration at a subsequent congregational meeting. Suggestions of eligible members are most welcome.

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Church Council

Ministry Description
COUNCIL MEMBER

General:

The Church Council exercises oversight of the life and activities of St. Luke Lutheran Church. This team is given the responsibility and authority to ensure that everything is done in accordance with the Word of God in Holy Scripture and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These leaders are to care for the spiritual and physical well-being of St Luke's members as well as to present a positive example to the wider community. The council members are to guard the Body of Christ against harmful influences and correct one another (pastors, leaders and others) in wisdom and kindness. They are to pray regularly for St Luke's members and its mission and promote a climate of goodwill, encouragement, and mutual respect.

The council itself consists of the pastor(s) and 6 members of the congregation. The officers of the Council shall be president, vice-president, and secretary. The Treasurer will be appointed. All serve as voting members of the Council. The council functions as the board of directors of St. Luke and is responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and managing business and fiscal affairs. The duties include preparing an annual budget, reviewing pastoral and staff salary recommendations each year, reviewing the membership roster, and submitting a comprehensive annual report to the congregation, as well as those duties listed below.

Spiritual Gifts:

Leadership, discernment, mercy, administration, serving, wisdom, knowledge, exhortation.

Expectations and Responsibilities:

Personal Spiritual Disciplines:

Council members are to be Christian role models at home, in the workplace and at church by practicing the marks of discipleship:

- Pray regularly.
- Worship weekly.
- Read and reflect on the Bible – alone and with others.
- Serve others at and beyond the walls of St. Luke.
- Cultivate Relationships within the church.
- Give generously and move toward a goal of tithing and beyond.
- Make a commitment to discover and deploy one's spiritual gifts.
- Lead diligently – making a commitment to develop one's gift of leadership.

Continued next page

Ministry Description ... continued from previous page

Council members:

- Attend monthly council meetings
- Learn about the ministry, structure, and organization of St. Luke as well as the names of the people involved in these ministries.
- Serve as a liaison between the council and a particular ministry team or task force.
- Deploy personal gifts and talents in specific and accountable ways.
- Serve as a consultant to and provide encouragement to ministry teams – become a shepherd.
- Make suggestions and work for improvements!
- Keep council discussions confidential.

To the Congregation:

- Be a positive voice for members of the congregation at council meetings and vice versa.
- Provide input from your committee for the annual report presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January.
- Consider being St. Luke's representative at the annual synod assembly
- Oversee the development and implementation of short and long-term strategic goals.
- Be a positive ambassador for St. Luke Lutheran Church to the wider community.
- Help identify and encourage the use of gifts and talents among congregational members.

Length of Commitment:

Two year term with no more than two consecutive terms as council member. The term begins at the close of the annual meeting when they are elected.

Personal Commitment:

Worshipping regularly, attending or leading a class or small group, engaging with old, new and prospective members; inviting members to your home for social occasions, supporting on-going ministry teams and various task forces; in regular consultation with pastors.

Approximate Time Commitment: *(in addition to weekly worship & fellowship)*

Monthly- One meeting of 2.5 hours = (2.5 hours)

2 hours of preparation = (2 hours)

1.5 hours for Committee or Ministry Team events = (1.5 hours)

Twice a year – half to full day retreat and/or synod meetings

COUNCIL CANDIDATES' INFORMATION

Submitted by Nominating Committee



E. DeAnn Eaton Azar

E. DeAnn Eaton Azar is a lifelong Lutheran. DeAnn and her husband, Steve Azar, joined St. Luke in 1990.

Over the years DeAnn has served on various committees and task forces. Currently, she serves on Council as the Vice President. While her two year term of council is now over, she feels the calling to continue to serve another year and continue to work to fulfil the vision of our Council President, Alison Schuler, and her wonderful fellow Council members. She also is the Financial Secretary, a role she has filled for many years.

She serves on the Finance Committee; chairs the Trust Committee, chairs the Budget Committee, chairs the Capital Acquisition, Implementation,

Projects and Expenditures Committee (the “Capital Committee”) and serves with Steve on the Sacristy team.

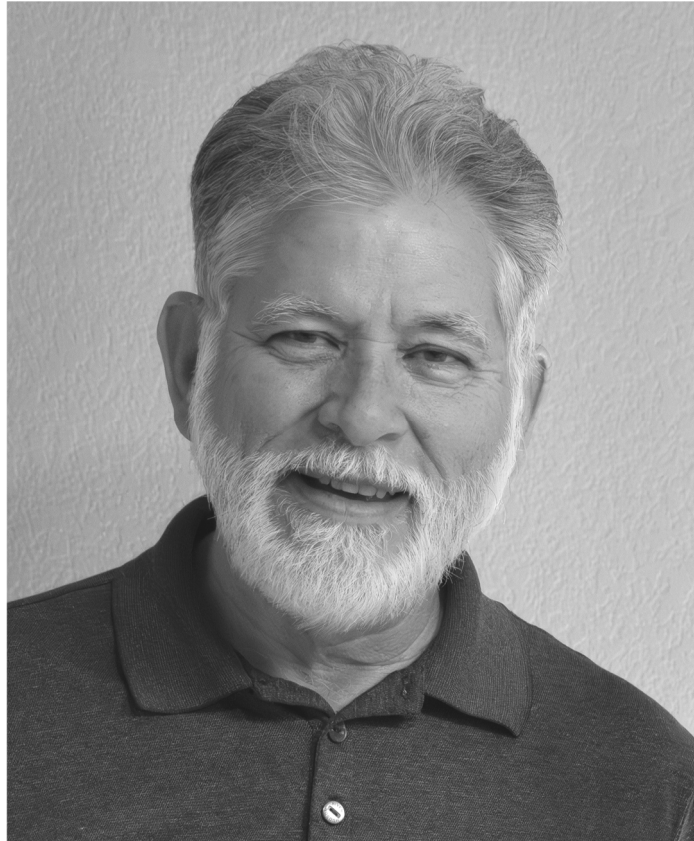
The majority of her professional career was at La Vida Llena/Haverland Carter where she held the positions of CFO then CEO for 29 years. She was an adjunct accounting professor at Lewis University for many years.

She graduated from Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS with a BS in Business; she received an MBA from the College of Santa Fe, Albuquerque. She is also a retired licensed CPA.

She has two children, both confirmed at St. Luke; Clinton Eaton of Albuquerque and Laura Eaton-Ortega of Denver. She has one grandson Joaquin Jamisen Ortega, who was baptized at St. Luke.

COUNCIL CANDIDATES' INFORMATION

Submitted by Nominating Committee



Gil Quintana

I have been a member of St. Luke since 2008. My wife of 35 years, Sally, and I have two children, Julia (married to Alvin) and Jacob, and one grandchild, Maya (10 months old in December). I retired from a 33-year career doing software development for Sandia National Laboratories.

At St. Luke, I have served as a Lector, Greeter, Choir member, and on the Sacristy Care team. Both Sally and I have been devoted to helping the St. Luke Preschool by serving on the Preschool Committee and supporting Spring and Christmas programs. I've also helped with preschool maintenance and several projects over the years (e.g., camera installation, doorbell research/installation, memorial bricks, signage, painting, plumbing fixes, etc.)

For fun, I enjoy nature photography, travel, and growing dahlias.

REPORT OF THE CALL COMMITTEE

Submitted by Call Committee

The Call Committee was established by the Council in early March, 2025. The members appointed to serve on the committee were Judy Moore, David Follstaedt, Mary Beth Garrett, Mary Voelz, Robert Trujillo, and William Tierney. Judy Moore was selected to serve as chairperson.

The committee held its first meeting on March 30, 2025. During this meeting, members reviewed the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) that had been prepared by the Transition Team. The committee then began planning and organizing its work. The final version of the MSP was submitted to the Rev. Sara Wirth of the Office of the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod on May 7, 2025.

During the summer, William Tierney departed from the committee. Despite his departure, the remaining members continued their work, and William's contributions to developing committee processes were greatly appreciated.

While the committee waited to receive candidate names from the synod, they drafted interview questions for introductory Zoom meetings with candidates. These questions were used consistently with all applicants, and to date, the committee has interviewed five candidates.

To prepare for more in-depth discussions, the committee developed additional questions for potential second interviews, recognizing that some questions would be tailored to each individual candidate. Four second interviews were conducted based on this approach.

After completing the interviews, the committee contacted references provided by the candidates and deliberated on the next steps. One candidate accepted another call before we had a chance to invite them to visit the committee in person. One candidate was invited to Albuquerque to meet with the committee. Unfortunately, this candidate accepted another call before the committee could recommend him to the council. It is interesting that many candidates are submitting their resumes to multiple synods at the same time.

At present, the committee is awaiting additional candidate names from the Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Moore
David Follstaedt
Mary Beth Garrett
Robert Trujillo
Mary Voelz

ST. LUKE PRESCHOOL

By Lori Erven, Director

You may have heard the phrase, “opportunity only knocks once,” but at the preschool, our days are filled with opportunities. Our commitment to sharing the stories of God generates opportunities for us to speak love over and nurture the faith of children and their families. Our engagement with families offers the opportunity to build and strengthen trusting relationships. Our presence in the community creates opportunities for us to maintain our reputation as a high-quality early learning center. Our willingness to seek out relevant staff training allows us the opportunity to strengthen our knowledge base and serve as resources. Most of all, we are tremendously blessed by our opportunities to serve the children and their families. Laughter and playfulness are a part of every event in which we gather together as a community.

This past year, these events included our annual park picnic, a field trip to Wildlife West, the Preschool Village Meet-Ups, Family Literacy Night, the Pizza and Pajama Party, and Christmas and Spring Programs. We are blessed by these opportunities and we desire to use them to the glory of God. Galatians 6:9-10 says, “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” These are words of encouragement, especially for those times in which we experience conflict or challenges.

The sudden and unexpected introduction of Universal Child Care in the state of New Mexico has certainly created challenges for early learning centers across the state, including for St. Luke Preschool. While Universal Child Care is meant to remove the financial barriers families may encounter in seeking high quality early learning for their children, it comes with significant negative financial impact to the child care and

preschool centers in the state. For St. Luke Preschool specifically, the reimbursement rates paid by the state are overall lower than our tuition rates. Variables such as each child’s schedule and length of day, create additional financial challenges within the Universal Child Care model. With the majority of our families now on Child Care Assistance contracts, there is the possibility we will experience a considerable deficit by the end of the school year. With respect to the future, it is currently unclear if we will be able to participate in Universal Child Care long term. However, choosing not to participate could create a situation in which we would lose enrollment, as families may choose other early learning centers for their children. In taking a step back to reflect and consider the future, we remember the goodness of God, even in the hard stuff, and we seek His guidance, with thanksgiving.

Along with our strong and dedicated staff, the preschool is blessed to work in partnership with the church office staff and custodians who directly support the preschool with logistical and property issues; the Preschool Committee members who give of their time and talents in an ongoing basis; the members of the Preschool and Church Cooperative (PCC) who bring fresh ideas and creativity; the willingness of the Learners and Servers members to join us; the kindness of Pastor Brad and the Church Council members; and the church congregation members, such as yourself, who support the preschool in a myriad of ways! We are extremely grateful to all who come alongside us with prayers, kindness and support. Above all, St. Luke Preschool continues to be a joyful blessing, that truly belongs to God.

St.LukePreschool



OUR MISSION To form a partnership with families and the church to provide a safe and secure Christian environment that enables and encourages children to learn through developmentally appropriate play and instruction.

PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE

By Diane Quarles, Chair

Our Preschool Committee currently consists of 12 members. Our seven voting members are Diane Quarles - Chair, Alison Schuler - Council representative, Clare Castiglia, Leeondra Schuler, Marge Zinser-Knorovsky, Mary Fidler and Taylor Hollowwa - Secretary.

Our nonvoting members are Allie Brandt - Multigenerational Ministry Coordinator, Michelle Barba - St Luke Business Manager, Lori Erven - Preschool Director, Dick Lynch - Financial Team, Daleen Olson - Financial Team and Pastor Brad.

Since our year goes from June 1 through May 31, we were also blessed to have Jean Hollowwa, Lisa Koontz, Mary Sorenson and William Tierney on our committee for part of the year.

We had a very busy year. St. Luke Preschool began 2025 with 90 students attending the school. We had a 7-week summer program with 21 students. Seven of the older students attended our church's Vacation Bible Day Camp during the week of June 23-27.

School resumed August 7, 2025, with 82 students.

The preschool committee was responsible for making a change to our Bylaws, Article 6, Section 2. We changed our "Scholarships" to "Tuition Assistance". We also added the Business Manager to be included in our decisions on who receives assistance. This was approved by the Congregational Council on January 9, 2025.

We also made a change to the Family Handbook, changing the Period of Observation from 10 days to up to 30 days. The 10-day period was too short a time to get acquainted with the child and family.

We also are responsible for approving the school calendar each year, benchmarking to

keep our rates in line with other preschools rates, approving tuition rates, and approving our yearly budget.

Our Preschool also was once again accredited by NAYEC as a five-star preschool, the highest rating, for another 5 years. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated teachers and staff and, most importantly, Lori Erven, a wonderful leader, for all this to happen.

Our world was turned upside down when our Governor announced in September that New Mexico would be offering Universal Child Care regardless of income. This was not printed to any preschool or daycare previously. We found out about it when it was announced to the country. The effective date of this new program is November 1, 2025. We are working overtime to calculate how this is going to impact our finances. We don't have a definite answer as yet due to so many moving parts to the program.

We are so fortunate to have Lori Erven as our Director. She leads the Preschool in a very professional manner and always having God as the center of her life. Jane Clinger, Office Administrator, is another blessing to our Preschool. The two of them make for a successful leadership of St Luke Preschool. We are so very blessed!

If you are interested in joining our Preschool Committee, please contact any of our members.

St. Luke Preschool
2025 - 2026 Approved Budget
October 21, 2025

		2025-2026 Approved Budget	2024-2025 Actual	2024-2025 Approved Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
41000 · Tuition Subsidy Income				
	41002 · ECECD def income-School	16,744.45	30,849.51	32,844.84
	41004 · Staff Benefit Income-School	-8,517.52	-2,370.00	-2,370.00
	41006 · Scholarship Assistance	0.00	-870.00	-870.00
	Total 41000 · Tuition Subsidy Income	8,226.93	27,609.51	29,604.84
42000 · Tuition - School				
	42005 · Tuition Discounts	-11,560.31	-7,765.50	-7,057.50
	42006 · New Student Referral	-1,600.00	-1,000.00	-1,000.00
	42007 · Schedule Change	100.00	100.00	0.00
	42010 · Late Payment Fees	30.00	75.00	0.00
	42025 · Extended Care - School	34,011.73	31,365.00	28,585.00
	42040 · Drop-In Fees - School	1,726.50	2,012.40	1,000.00
	42045 · Late Pick Up Fees - School	0.00	0.00	0.00
	42000 · Tuition - School - Other	493,552.14	514,331.94	503,344.48
	Total 42000 · Tuition - School	516,260.06	539,118.84	524,871.98
42100 · Registration Revenue - School				
	42150 · Registration Discount	0.00	0.00	0.00
	42100 · Registration Revenue - School - Other	12,825.00	14,310.00	13,300.00
	Total 42100 · Registration Revenue - School	12,825.00	14,310.00	13,300.00
43000 · Tuition - Summer				
	43001 · ECECD Def Income-Summer	-2,860.80	-2,014.90	-1,339.90
	43003 · Staff Benefit Income-Summer	0.00	0.00	0.00
	43005 · Tuition Discount - Summer	-361.20	-691.20	-691.20
	43200 · Registration Revenue - Summer	760.00	745.00	745.00
	43600 · Tuition Summer Camps 1-2	48,160.00	50,688.00	50,688.00
	43000 · Tuition - Summer - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total 43000 · Tuition - Summer	45,698.00	48,726.90	49,401.90
44000 · Fundraiser Inc & Special Events		0.00	0.00	0.00
44100 · Fundraisers				
	44110 · Fall Festival	0.00	0.00	0.00
	44130 · Yearbooks	0.00	0.00	0.00
	44150 · Book Fairs	0.00	0.00	0.00
	44160 · Bake Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00
	44180 · Bricks R Us	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total 44100 · Fundraisers	0.00	0.00	0.00
44200 · In/Out				
	44220 · Field Trip	0.00	0.00	0.00
	44230 · Class Pictures	0.00	0.00	0.00
	44250 · Andy Mason Concert/Pizza	0.00	0.00	0.00
	44260 · Pumpkin Patch/Wildlife West	0.00	0.00	0.00
	44271 · Extra T-Shirts	100.00	100.00	0.00
	44272 · Pass thru	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total 44200 · In/Out	100.00	100.00	0.00

St. Luke Preschool
2025 - 2026 Approved Budget
October 21, 2025

			2025-2026 Approved Budget	2024-2025 Actual	2024-2025 Approved Budget
		45000 · Donations - Undirected			
		45001 · Undirected Parent Contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00
		45000 · Donations - Undirected - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Total 45000 · Donations - Undirected	0.00	0.00	0.00
		45100 · Donations - Directed	0.00	0.00	0.00
		45200 · Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
		47000 · Scholarship Income Church	3,500.00	870.00	3,500.00
		47100 · Scholarship Income GrocBox Tops	0.00	0.00	0.00
		47300 · Scholarship Inc-Memorials/Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
		49000 · Reimb-Alice Thompson	0.00	0.00	0.00
		49200 · Reimb- Lisa Marie (School)	0.00	3,654.30	0.00
		Total Income	586,609.99	634,389.55	620,678.72
		Gross Profit	586,609.99	634,389.55	620,678.72
		Expense			
		Administrative Expenses			
		56005 · Accounting Services	30,195.20	29,394.55	29,420.54
		56010 · Soc Sec Expense Emp'r	31,439.18	32,208.38	33,569.49
		56015 · Medicare Expense Emp'r	7,249.46	7,532.64	7,850.93
		56050 · Pension Plan 403b - Director	2,000.18	2,000.18	2,000.18
		56065 · Pension Plan 403b Off Admin	425.10	425.10	425.10
		56070 · Pension Plan 403b - Bkpr	1,509.76	1,469.69	1,470.98
		56100 · Worker's Comp Insurance	2,669.22	3,445.83	3,847.16
		56150 · Workers Comp Qtr Admin Fee	199.95	204.25	219.30
		56225 · Postage, Mailing Service	100.00	0.00	200.00
		56250 · Staff Incentives/Lunches	200.00	144.45	200.00
		56255 · Staff Appreciation Award	200.00	35.22	200.00
		56300 · Internet Expense	92.67	30.67	61.34
		56400 · Licensing/Accreditation Cost	805.00	1,555.00	850.00
		56410 · Accreditation Support	500.00	3,431.15	3,808.91
		56450 · Janitorial Services	34,250.00	32,625.04	32,205.04
		56500 · Insurance	6,039.26	6,180.00	5,862.48
		56700 · Staff Recruitment	471.53	304.67	450.00
		56750 · Marketing	1,600.00	1,404.10	1,700.00
		56751 · Marketing Media	2,232.70	1,615.30	2,300.00
		56800 · Membership/Administrative Fees	2,102.75	1,673.95	1,500.00
		56910 · T-Shirts	686.00	693.00	1,500.00
		56920 · Office Equip/Software Contracts	6,361.07	4,914.91	5,000.00
		56930 · Office/Computer Supplies	642.88	605.65	500.00
		56940 · Bad Debt Exp/Unretd Initial Dp	0.00	0.00	0.00
		66000 · Misc Payroll Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
		66004 · Misc Payroll Exp - SL Supp Comp	22,185.79	46,394.00	56,020.00
		66005 · Misc Payroll Exp-STL Member	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Total Administrative Expenses	154,157.70	178,287.73	191,161.45

St. Luke Preschool
2025 - 2026 Approved Budget
October 21, 2025

			2025-2026 Approved Budget	2024-2025 Actual	2024-2025 Approved Budget
		Building			
		57100 · School Maint/Clean/Paint			
		57100 · School Maint/Clean/Paint - Other	5,023.32	4,070.82	1,000.00
		Total 57100 · School Maint/Clean/Paint	5,023.32	4,070.82	1,000.00
		57110 · Playground Inspection/Maint	267.20	57.58	250.00
		57200 · Utilities - Telephone	180.00	195.86	195.86
		57300 · Janitorial Supplies	4,500.00	3,734.87	4,500.00
		57500 · Infrastructure Accrual	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
		57550 · Pest Control	626.19	392.82	390.54
		57560 · Permits	250.00	285.00	285.00
		Total Building	16,846.71	14,736.95	12,621.40
		Equipment and Supplies			
		58100 · Classroom/School Supplies	2,206.38	1,186.59	1,200.00
		58150 · Snacks/Paper Goods	2,787.44	1,903.16	2,500.00
		58200 · New Equipment	300.00	141.48	1,800.00
		58300 · Equipment Repairs	500.00	0.00	500.00
		58500 · Teacher Classroom Allotment	2,893.91	2,873.29	3,000.00
		58600 · Emerg Response/First Aid/COVID	1,777.39	1,462.94	2,000.00
		Total Equipment and Supplies	10,465.12	7,567.46	11,000.00
		Merchant deposit fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Staff Expenses			
		53605 · Office Administrator			
		53605 · Office Administrator - Other	30,128.31	31,706.60	29,564.90
		Total 53605 · Office Administrator	30,128.31	31,706.60	29,564.90
		53710 · Teacher			
		Personal Leave Teacher	0.00	1,543.14	0.00
		53712 · Music Teacher	5,816.44	6,946.65	11,274.27
		53710 · Teacher - Other	168,943.71	165,311.95	158,380.00
		Total 53710 · Teacher	174,760.15	173,801.74	169,654.27
		53910 · Substitute Teacher - School	16,300.00	16,572.57	15,200.00
		53920 · Substitute Teacher - Summer	1,737.22	2,485.89	2,485.89
		55110 · Director	78,895.00	75,056.01	75,055.94
		55120 · Director's Cont Ed	2,285.82	372.00	1,000.00
		55150 · Designate-In-Absence	300.00	300.00	300.00
		55210 · Summer - Teachers			
		55212 · Summer - Music Teacher	780.29	606.30	606.30
		55210 · Summer - Teachers - Other	18,707.51	18,381.13	18,381.13
		Total 55210 · Summer - Teachers	19,487.80	18,987.43	18,987.43

St. Luke Preschool
2025 - 2026 Approved Budget
October 21, 2025

				2025-2026 Approved Budget	2024-2025 Actual	2024-2025 Approved Budget
			55215 · Summer Asst Teachers	2,914.37	4,368.45	4,368.45
			55220 · Summer-Lisa Marie	0.00	0.00	0.00
			55310 · Assistant Teacher			
			Personal Leave Asst Teacher	0.00	1,547.34	0.00
			55310 · Assistant Teacher - Other	134,555.03	113,170.93	124,747.19
			Total 55310 · Assistant Teacher	134,555.03	114,718.27	124,747.19
			55315 · Lisa Marie (School)	3,000.00	3,654.30	0.00
			55320 · Staff Training Hours	7,799.46	4,481.33	4,975.68
			55325 · Certificate Assistance	14,600.00	103.20	4,600.00
			55400 · Unused Leave Benefit-School	590.18	758.87	1,820.00
			55410 · Unused Leave Benefit-Summer	224.68	434.30	434.30
			55465 · Fingerprinting/TB	0.00	5.00	50.00
			55475 · CPR/Blood Borne Pathogens	450.00	1,000.00	1,200.00
			55480 · Staff Development	2,400.00	678.00	1,500.00
			55500 · Special Programs-Thompson Trust	400.00	100.00	400.00
			55510 · Special Prog-Lisa Marie(School)	0.00	0.00	0.00
			55520 · Special Prog-Lisa Marie(Summer)	0.00	0.00	0.00
			55600 · Medical Insurance	6,915.59	6,277.22	0.00
			55610 · Staff Retirement	4,432.83	4,065.97	4,693.41
			Total Staff Expenses	502,176.44	459,927.15	461,037.46
			Total Expense	683,645.97	660,519.29	675,820.31
			Net Ordinary Income	-97,035.98	-26,129.74	-55,141.59
			Other Income/Expense			
			Other Income			
			Other Income			
			49001 · Interest Income	11,389.32	12,913.41	12,331.22
			49002 · Returned Check Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
			49003 · Merchant dep fee reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00
			49004 · Unearned Income/Penalty	0.00	0.00	0.00
			49700 · Playground Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00
			49800 · Corrections/Mistakes	0.00	305.03	0.00
			51000 · PPP Loan - Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
			51100 · FFCRA Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00
			54000 · STL Member Funded Award - Incom	0.00	0.00	0.00
			Total Other Income	11,389.32	13,218.44	12,331.22

St. Luke Preschool
2025 - 2026 Approved Budget
October 21, 2025

			2025-2026 Approved Budget	2024-2025 Actual	2024-2025 Approved Budget
	Total Other Income		11,389.32	13,218.44	12,331.22
	Other Expense				
	Other Expenses				
		59100 · Bank Service Charges	15.00	13.33	15.00
		59200 · NSF Check Chargebacks	0.00	0.00	0.00
		59300 · Refunds And Allowances	0.00	0.00	0.00
		59400 · Reimbursable - Thompson Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00
		59700 · Playground - New	0.00	0.00	0.00
		59800 · Fundraiser - Gala Event	0.00	0.00	0.00
		59900 · Cash - Short/(Over)	0.00	0.00	0.00
		60000 · Mistakes/Corrections	0.00	269.16	0.00
		Total Other Expenses	15.00	282.49	15.00
		80000 · Ask My Accountant	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Other Expense		15.00	282.49	15.00
	Net Other Income		11,374.32	12,935.95	12,316.22
Net Income			-85,661.66	-13,193.79	-42,825.37

ADULT FORUM

By David Follstaedt, Coordinator

Adult Forum is a Sunday morning class (between services) aiming towards providing us with a broader perspective on our faith and guiding us as we live in a culture in which societal issues can require careful thought to understand correctly.

In early 2025, Pastor Brauer led us in a study of the Prayers of Jesus, relating them to Jesus' Jewish background. Sally Tripp continued the study she began on American Religious History, providing intriguing insights from literature of the times being studied. We finished this lecture series this fall. The histories of how the U.S. Church handled the two World Wars and events in the second half of the Twentieth Century (like the Civil Rights Movement) were notable highlights.

This past fall, we returned to the Wired Word lessons. These take a topic currently in the news that has religious or moral implications and examine what it means for Christians, including us Lutherans. The lesson presenter alternates between Hazel Mella and David Follstaedt. Some lesson examples show the variety and importance of the topics considered:

Political violence: the death of Charlie Kirk and subsequent censorship of Jimmy Kimmel

Hunger: foodbanks in New Mexico and the potential loss of federal SNAP funding

Gaza: the developing Peace Plan

Life after Death: the findings of twilight consciousness

Modern U.S. Religion: the use of Artificial Intelligence to give Biblical Answers and Spiritual Advice (Forum does *Not endorse*) and Online Influencers of Young Christians

As you can see, these cover statewide, national and world events as well as topics with personal religious implications. All adults are welcome to join us in the Zuni room; you can begin at any time and come unprepared to a Wired Word lesson. To be included on the early email distribution of the weekly lesson, contact David Follstaedt.

ST LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH CAPITAL ACQUISITION, IMPLEMENTATION, PROJECTS AND EXPENDITURES COMMITTEE (Capital Committee) By DeAnn Eaton Azar, Chair

Annual Report 2025

Members: Steve Azar, Tom Berardinelli, Clare Castiglia, DeAnn Eaton (Chair), Michelle Barba (staff support).

Committee background:

The Congregation Council is permitted under C13.6 of the St. Luke Constitution (revised version approved 1/17/2021) to form committees not specifically named in the Constitution “as the need arises”. The Council determined at its retreat on August 16, 2025 to explore and plan what changes would need to occur, both in programs and building facility, for St Luke Lutheran to live into its name and to become a “Hub” of life-affirming activity for our community. Thereafter, at its meeting on September 25, 2025, the Council decided to form a capital acquisition, implementation, projects and expenditures committee to further this objective.

This Committee will

- focus on the capital and financing needs aspect of the possible changes.
- explore alternative avenues for financing of proposed and approved projects.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Committee will

- 1) fulfill the capital needs as determined by church council and approved by the congregation in an efficient, cost effective and timely manner.
- 2) meet with existing committees, generally, Property and the subcommittee of Security to get details of their assessments of church needs, and with other committees as necessary.
- 3) work with outside professionals to determine how best to implement phases of capital projects, primarily architects, engineers, and contractors.
- 4) present project plans to the church council and congregation for direction, input and feedback. determine costs of capital projects.

work with the Finance and Trust Committees to determine optimal funding needs for capital projects.

Committee Organization

- 1) The Committee will consist of 3-5 members including a church council member if possible.
- 2) Committee members will be appointed by the congregation President in Consultation with the pastor(s). The chairperson of the Committee will be chosen by the Committee in consultation with the President.
- 3) Committee members will serve for two-year terms and be eligible for reappointment to additional two year terms.

Continued next page

Capital Committee.... continued from previous page

- 4) The Committee will meet as necessary to fulfill its duties and responsibilities as outlined within this charter.
- 5) Every two years, the Council will reassess the need for and charter of the Committee, which will continue until determined by the Council that its responsibilities have been fulfilled or the need for them no longer exists.

The Capital Committee accomplishments 2025 and 2026 tasks:

Actions and accomplishments for 2025

- 1) Created a charter and recruited members to the committee.
- 2) Clean up, organize and unclutter the narthex. Then we created new intimate and informal gathering areas to sit and converse with church members and attendees.
- 3) Meet with Architects, designers and furniture vendors to further develop and implement the concept to enhance the narthex space. New furniture has been ordered for the narthex and the lounge.
- 4) Submit a budget for the Capital Committee for 2026

Actions tasks and goals for 2026

- 1) Engage a professional architectural firm for the creation of a “masterplan” to explore ways we might improve our church property to be a more welcoming hub of activity. This would include an assessment of our nursery; restrooms; lounge; sanctuary; grounds and buildings; as well as continuing the assessment of our security, audio/visual capabilities, electrical requirements, and information technology systems. It is anticipated that this would be a multi-phase process that would include both short term and long term possibilities. As a part of the process various meetings would be held with the council and congregation with options for design and use to be considered. When and if additional capital funds or debt would be incurred the council and congregation would be required to approve/disapprove such actions.
- 2) Engage a professional engineer to prepare a Capital Needs Assessment of the infrastructure of our buildings. This would include an assessment of the useful life of items like our, HVAC systems and roof. The report would include estimates for when and how much it would cost to repair or replace infrastructure items. This request would probably be outside of our normal operating budget and be funded from existing available funds and/or included as part of the one-time expenditures presented to the Congregation for approval.
- 3) Continue to declutter and replace old worn out furniture throughout the buildings.
- 4) Work with Council, Property, Finance and Trust committees for continuity of improvements and funding.
- 5) Increase number of committee members.

If you have additional feedback for us, would like a copy of the committee charter, or are interested in being part of this exciting committee please contact DeAnn at 505-459-7357 or email at deaton@swcp.com.

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St. Luke Lutheran Church
Spending Plan for 2026 from Capital Reserves &/or Unrestricted Cash

Recommended Capital & One Time Expenditures	2025	2026
A/V for Fellowship Hall	\$15,000	\$ 15,000
<i>Estimate. \$15K approved in 2025 but was not spent.</i>		
Sound Improvements from WMA	\$10,193	\$ 10,000
<i>Estimate. ~\$10K approved in 2025 but was not spent.</i>		
Hand Bell Refurbishment	\$1,700	\$ 4,000
<i>\$1,700 approved in 2025 but not spent. Estimate revised to \$4,000.</i>		
Security (cameras, monitors, electrical and associated costs for installation)	\$6,000	\$ 2,500
<i>\$3,500 spent in 2025 for installation of 6 additional cameras. \$2,500 estimated to be spent in 2026 to complete two remaining cameras and associated costs.</i>		
Wet Dry Vac		\$ 500
<i>Estimate. New in 2026. This and the next two items requested by property to provide better care for our flooring.</i>		
Walk Behind Floor Scrubber		\$ 2,500
<i>Estimate. New in 2026.</i>		
High Speed Burnisher		\$ 1,500
<i>Estimate. New in 2026.</i>		
Capital Improvements, Acquisition, Planning, Assessment & Design		\$ 67,500
<i>Estimate for cost for potential renovations to the Narthex/Restrooms, Nursery, Lounge, and fencing.</i>		
TOTAL One Time Expenditures not-to-exceed approval requested		\$ 103,500

NOTE1: Those items in blue were previously approved in 2025 for purchase, but purchase not yet made so estimates have been carried to 2026 with an increase of total cost for bell refurb

NOTE2: The scope of what may be included in this line in green is TBD and will depend on estimated costs of the components of this line.

NOTE3: This total shown in purple is the total not-to-exceed cost of these estimated one-time and capital improvements. If approved, this would cap what could be spent on these items in 2026.

Proposed Motion: The congregation approve the total not to exceed amount of \$103,500 for capital and one-time improvements as presented.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Contributions from Holly Trujillo, Tom Berardinelli and Allie Brandt

St. Luke's Children Youth and Family (CYF) Ministry team continues to be a strong, thriving ministry team, leading many engaging multi-generational activities. Over the past year, CYF has persisted in its mission, adapted and grown as needed, and ministered to the community beyond our walls.

Our Littlest Worshipers

Nursery: The nursery continues to be a warm and welcoming environment for our littlest worshipers. The staff are loved by both children and their guardians. The nursery staff team meets quarterly and uses results from the Frolic Nursery Evaluation Checklist to guide changes such as changes in toy storage, rotation and organization as well as some procedural improvements. This year, extra efforts have been made to ensure a safe and loving environment. We have made great effort in having two adults trained in Safe Gatherings present as much as possible, implemented a communication log, updated the sign-in procedure, and added sensory items to the nursery. We also implemented a toy sanitation procedure, cleaned out old, broken toys, and outlined an illness and donation policy to help keep our families and staff healthy. Pamela Franco created a nursery brochure which can be handed out to new or inquiring families. Thank you to our staff, Precious Goodhart and Taylor Hollowwa for sharing their time and talents with our young families!

Baptism Day preparation, participation: St. Luke has welcomed two "New saints" into God's family this year, one being an infant. We continue to seek a volunteer to lead the SPLASH program, sending cards on baptism anniversaries and birthdays. Currently, our Multigenerational Coordinator is filling these responsibilities as well as supporting pre-baptismal preparation and fostering relationships with the requesting families. Three baptisms (two Sunday School children and their grandfather) are scheduled for January 2026. This is a sign of the wonderful support CYF provides and their work in bringing others to Christ.

Baby Frolic Program: Baby Frolic met 1 time each month January-May, with 2-4 families. These

lessons were led by Taylor Hollowwa who has a wonderful ability to build relationships with the families she works with. We are greatly appreciative of her stepping into this role. After summer break, when Sunday School classes resumed, many of our youngest worshippers moved up to Godly Play. Although two months of lessons were attempted this fall, there was no one in attendance. CYF made the decision to once again pause the Baby Frolic program until we receive more interested families with 0-2 year olds.

Christian Education at St. Luke

Godly Play: Robin James continued to lead Godly Play for our children 2.5-5 years old, selecting stories and preparing lessons. This fall we have enjoyed a few new faces and many returning. There were typically between 5-9 children present for each lesson. It is busy and keeps us on our toes, trying out new ideas, adding our own "St. Luke flare" to Godly Play. We hope to increase volunteer participation and continue to invite others to fill the roles of storyteller (oral tradition of the Bible), feast provider (aka: snack), and door keeper (intentionally greeting the children at the door). Godly Play training opportunities are available for anyone that is interested in learning more. It's beautiful to see the children immersed in the stories as well as see the beginnings of a church community grow among them.

Kids SPARK & Salt and SPARK Multi-generational Ensemble: In spring of 2025 we continued working on Spark lectionary series. We continued to meet as a whole group for a multi-generational ensemble with Mrs. Danielle. Mrs. Mary continued to teach grades K-2 and Mrs. Holly continued to teach the older students. In fall of 2025 we added a kindergarten class to our Spark lineup led by Ms. Emily. Ms. Mary continued with 1-2 and Holly continued with 3-6. In the fall, our numbers varied each week. We continue to seek out members of the congregation to help substitute so if you are interested, please let us know! Jean Hollowwa continues to be the organizer of the century, keeping us on top of everything! We are so blessed to have our volunteers!

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Children, Youth, and Family ... continued from previous page

Christmas looked different here at St. Luke this year, but it was just as amazing! We had the Spark kiddos star in a pageant with our older youth members reading the Gospel. The pageant was wonderful and had so many different songs. There were so many families in attendance!

Confirmation: Congratulations to our most recent Confirmands: Serenity Madrid Apodaca-Gonzales, Beau Carter Griswold, and Hazel Grace Trujillo completed all curriculum, testing, Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp attendance requirements, communed regularly at St. Luke, and made a contribution of record to fulfill all requirements to become confirmed members of St. Luke Lutheran Church. NOTE: During this pastoral transition period, Tom Berardinelli is serving as the Confirmation Adult Leader and Instructor.

Confirmation requirements: Confirmation studies focused on Luther's Small Catechism with emphasis on the Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Confession, Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, prayer, and household duties. Curriculum used during their course of study included the Lutheran Study Bible, Lutheran Handbook, Luther's Small Catechism, and the By Heart Confirmation Curriculum. Each of the confirmands also passed a comprehensive examination to test their understanding of Luther's Small Catechism. All three confirmands also participated at both Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp (RTLCL) Confirmation Camp twice and RTLCL Confirmation Retreat twice, representing themselves and St. Luke in a commendable manner.

Rite of Affirmation of Baptism: On Reformation Sunday, 26 October 2025, all three confirmands participated in the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism during the 10:30 AM service and were received as adult voting members of the congregation. Congratulations to Serenity, Beau, and Hazel!

Next cohort of confirmands: The next cohort of St. Luke Confirmands, Colin Aaker and Gabriel Welch, will begin their confirmation instruction in September 2026 and are also invited to attend Confirmation Camp in June 2026. The normal period for confirmation instruction is approximately 2 years and involves weekly in-person instruction during the Sunday School hour

on Sundays as well as attendance at a minimum of one RTLCL Confirmation Camp and one RTLCL Confirmation Retreat. We look forward to beginning this phase of Colin's and Gabriel's faith development in their baptism journey. Please keep them in your prayers.

Rainbow Trails Day Camp

Under the leadership of co-coordinators Mary Fidler and Allie Brandt, Rainbow Trails Vacation Bible Day Camp was another success! Forty-one children and youth participated in the vibrant and faith formative week-long program. We welcomed many young children from the St. Luke Preschool summer class and graduates from the St. Luke KinderPrep program, which is an example of the wonderful relationships we have with our partnering preschool and their families. The campers engaged in music, bible study, arts and crafts, water play, recreational fun, and devotional time. We look forward to working with Rainbow Trails Lutheran Camp again for the 2026 Day Camp, June 22-26. Thank you to all the volunteers that provided snacks, arts/crafts, leadership, and hosted camp counselors.

Special Events, Programs, Activities

The Children Youth and Family ministry team leads a variety of activities and events during and outside of worship in order to extend Christian education, learn about God's word and how to live out his word in everyday life.

Love God Love Neighbor: Love God Love Neighbor (LGLN), our inter-congregational youth outreach program, continues to serve its community neighbors once each month. This year, youth grades 6th+ meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month with returning churches (St. John's UMC, St. Chad's Episcopal, St. Paul's ELCA, and Church of the Good Shepherd UMC). LGLN youth have volunteered with the St. John's food and garden program, Saranam, Loving Thunder Equestrian Farm and assembled hygiene kits for the UNM food pantry. We are proud of the love that our youth share with their neighbors in need and look forward to more opportunities. Attendance from St. Luke youth is varied, with 0-2 youth in attendance at each LGLN event. However, St. Luke continues to organize the monthly activities with support from other congregations, as it is seen as an important way for our youth to fulfill

Continued next page

Children, Youth, and Family ... continued from previous page

our mission of “Rooted in God’s word, Serving in God’s world.” As they work towards building a youth group program, the CYF team will consider how LGLN fits into these monthly gatherings and activities.

Backpacks, Bells, and Bibles: At the start of the school year, St. Luke’s CYF team assembled back-to-school bags for all those starting and returning to school. A back-to-school blessing was shared at service for all those returning to school, children, youth, teachers, parents. A blessing was also provided for the St. Luke Preschool staff and children. Per tradition, Bibles were distributed during the All God’s Children message on Reformation Sunday to all St. Luke and visiting children and youth. On All Saints Sunday we distributed tea lights to remember the light of those who have passed and to remind us to share Christ’s light with those still living.

Advent Fair: This year we added to our activities for members of our congregation. We held an Advent fair. We again utilized the Crossroads fellowship area. We had activities for the kiddos, treats for the adults, there was even an obstacle course and a scavenger hunt! This was a fun event that hopefully will become a tradition. Thanks to all those that attended and helped.

Lenten Fair: This year we held our second Lenten Fair. We invited all members of the congregation to participate in this multi-generational activity. It was held in the Crossroads fellowship area. There were many booths, all centered around Lent. Some of the favorites were pretzels, jelly bean prayers, and other art projects. We cannot wait to see what is at this year’s fair!

Faith Stepping Stones: In Spring of 2025 CYF held our Faith Stepping Stones event. This year we focused on the Holy communion. Children from babies to 7th grade participated. Our then confirmands read stories to the kiddos, there were art projects and Pastor Brad spoke about communion in the church and the main parts.

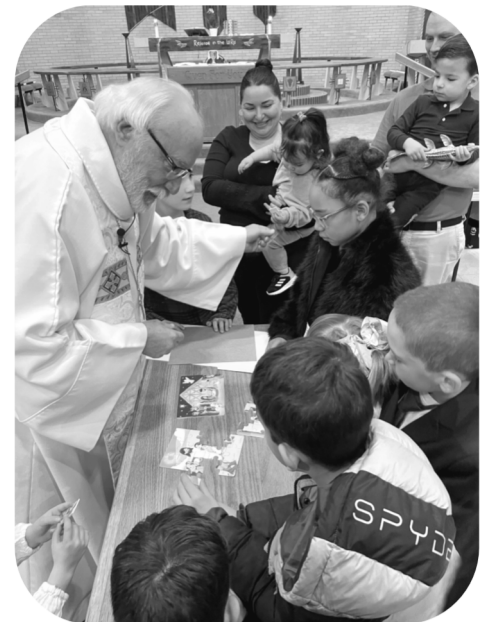
On Maundy Thursday some of the kids that participated helped strip the altar. This event helped kids play an important part of our church. Thank you to all those that attended and helped. We look forward to this year’s event!

Ministry Fair: Before we begin Sunday School in the fall we like to hold a ministry fair. This allows all committees to highlight what they bring to the church. As a committee we highlight our Sunday School Programs, Confirmation our nursery and the needs we have and how people can help. This is a once-a-year event, but we are always looking for help!

Youth Corner & Resources: This year we have added a “Youth Corner” in the Narthex. Each month the “Youth Corner” kiosk board is updated with a schedule of upcoming CYF activities, events and opportunities. Additionally, a variety of free family resources are offered that connect our faith to daily life, family rhythms and routines. Please take a few minutes to see what is happening, learn something new or bravely try an interactive prayer.

We are very grateful for all the volunteers who help continue these CYF programs and activities for St. Luke children and youth. Your time and talents act like ripples in the water, sharing the Gospel and building the Body of Christ exponentially, generation after generation. If you are interested in joining the Children, youth and family committee, or if you have any questions, please reach out to Allie Brandt at stluke.abrandt@gmail.com or Holly Trujillo at htrujillo1624@gmail.com.

Current members include: Betty Begeal, Greg Haschke, Rebecca Shore, Emily Smith, Mary Fidler, Robin James, Donna Berardinelli, Jean Hollowwa, Holly Trujillo, Tom Berardinelli, and Allie Brandt.



GLOBAL, NATIONAL, AND LOCAL OUTREACH MINISTRY

By David & Diane Follstaedt, Coordinators

Members: David and Diane Follstaedt, Elaine Kovach, Norm Stahulak, Allie Brandt, Jerry and Judy Aaker, Debra Werner, Karen Carlson, Mary Beth Garrett and Mary Sorenson

The Outreach Committee was organized in the Fall of 2024 to oversee donations from St. Luke that follow Christ's admonition and Lutheran teaching to help our neighbors. "Our neighbors" are not simply those living near us, but include people in our city, our state, our nation and in other parts of the world. Accordingly, donations are sent to many different organizations and locations (see "Budgeted Benevolence"). These include some ministries of the ELCA, eg. Lutheran Family Services and Rainbow Trail Camp. We also help coordinate some outreach activities like donations to The Storehouse and Hope Works.

This year placed Lutheran Disaster Response as a directly budgeted line item. When a disaster occurs, they are not just there in the immediate aftermath, but continue to help rebuilding communities for even over a year afterward. Thus to support this longer-term assistance, we plan to fund them directly each year. We also added the NM Dream Center to our 2025 list of Bucket of Change recipients (also in January 2026) after learning of their work with victims of human trafficking in a presentation to Learners and Servers. We attempt to learn more about our recipients with such presentations, as will be done in January with Lutheran Family Services.

The Bucket of Change recipients and the amounts donated are listed in the accompanying table. Notably, your Bucket of Change contributions are matched with the congregation's funds, up to \$500/month.

We also coordinate disbursements from a budget line entitled "Other Benevolence". This allows us to donate to unanticipated needs during coming the year. In February 2025, we donated \$800 for relief efforts to the Los Angeles fires. As the year progressed, some of the most concerning issues were the Gaza refugees and hungry people needing nutritional support, both starving peoples abroad and the needy in New Mexico when federal support was cut. We therefore donated \$830 to Lutheran World Relief, \$830 to Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem, and \$840 to The Storehouse. We also identified the Rio Grande Food Project and ELCA World Hunger as Bucket of Change recipients in November and December, respectively.

A look at the 2025 or 2026 budget shows that the members of St. Luke are responding generously to the needs of our neighbors. **Thank You !!** It is your financial contributions that make these donations possible.

The Outreach Committee also develops a project for God's Work – Our Hands weekend. During this weekend in September, ELCA Lutherans around the country are encouraged to participate in projects directly supporting their communities. For the last few years, we have organized projects to support Saranam (just south of Constitution and 1 block east of Eubank). These have included painting colored blocks for stencil designs on their concrete wall near 1127 Mary Ellen (drive by and see it!). This year, ten volunteers showed up to paint the exteriors of apartments where participating families live and to sort donated household items for use by new families coming into the program. Saranam supports families in transition while the parents are completing educational or training courses. We believe this is a successful program helping Albuquerque residents to become financially independent, as evidenced by Saranam's opening a second facility on the west side of the city.

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Global, National, & Local Outreach Ministry continued from previous page

There are other “hands-on” efforts at St. Luke that serve needy members in our community. These include your donations to The Storehouse and to Hopeworks placed in the hampers in the hallway. Holly Trujillo coordinated a coat drive in the fall to keep needy students at the Julia Kahn School warm during winter. At Halloween, the Outreach Committee also collected food to be distributed to needy families at the Julia Kahn School. At Christmas, Learners and Servers organized the giving tree with gifts for children at Saranam. Thank you for supporting the efforts with your direct involvement.

Taken all together, these donations of money, time and goods show that St. Luke is helping neighbors from as near as Indian School Blvd. to as far as the other side of the world.

2025 Bucket of Change

Since 2024, our budget includes funds to match the “Bucket of Change” amounts up to \$500.00. We received a total of \$5,908.69 in direct giving and matching funds of \$5,345.46 were added resulting in a total of \$11,254.15 being given to the organizations listed below.

Organization	Bucket of Change	Matching Funds (up to \$500)
January - Roadrunner Food Bank	\$ 429.78	\$ 429.78
February - New Mexico Dream Center	\$ 448.74	\$ 448.74
March - Saranam	\$ 471.17	\$ 471.17
April - Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity	\$ 409.96	\$ 409.96
May - Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless	\$ 568.75	\$ 500.00
June - Meals on Wheels Albuquerque	\$ 837.82	\$ 500.00
July - Family Promise of Albuquerque	\$ 380.11	\$ 380.11
August - Cuidando Los Niños	\$ 377.18	\$ 377.18
September - Lutheran Disaster Response	\$ 452.74	\$ 452.74
October - HopeWorks	\$ 656.66	\$ 500.00
November – Rio Grande Food Project	\$ 416.93	\$ 416.93
December - ELCA World Hunger	\$ 458.85	\$ 458.85
	\$5,908.69	\$5,345.46

HOSPITALITY GROUP

By Diane Quarles, Leader

Last year was a very busy year for the Hospitality Group. This group, which includes many members of our church, has hosted and put together the following events in 2025:

- 4 Funeral / Memorial Receptions
- 5 Lenten Soup Supper
- Easter Brunch
- Church Picnic
- Sarah Walker Cello Recital Reception
- Confirmation Reception
- Thanksgiving Pie Social
- 3 Advent Soup Suppers

Lindy Blanchard has been in chare of our Coffee Hour Fellowship in between our two Sunday services. She has recruited members to help with picking up doughnut holes each week, providing fruit and veggie trays, preparing coffee and tea, and not only setting up each week, but also cleaning up after the Coffee Hour. Thank you, Lindy!

We appreciate and are so grateful for each and every person who helps. If you would like to get more involved in this ministry, please let me know.

- Diane Quarles at diane.quarles@mac.com.

PAROCHIAL REPORT 2025

Parochial Report 2025

FORM A CONGREGATION REPORT/ REPORT of STATISTICS for Year 2025

(totals populated by the ELCA; These figures are corrected for 2024 and 2025 and may or may not agree with the 2024 year-end Booklet of Reports Info due to statistical adjustments made by the ELCA)

1. Baptized Membership, *most recent report, end of 2024:* 338

2. Baptized Members Received:

+ Children (-15 years) Baptized	1	
+ Adults baptized	0	
+ Those who affirmed their Faith	6	
+ Transfers into St. Luke	0	
+ Other sources/ stat. adj.	<u>0</u>	
	+7	345

3. Baptized Members Removed:

- by death	8	
- by transfer out (or moved away w/ o transfer)	7	
- other reasons/ stat. adj.	<u>0</u>	
	-15	

4. Baptized Membership at end of 2025: 330

5. Total Confirmed Membership:

Most Recent Report/ end of 2024: 254

6. Number of baptized Youth who were Confirmed: 3 257
In 2024 = 0

Members at end of 2024: 297

("Associate" and "Seasonal members"/ restored not reported)

Added in 2025 +6

[3 "Confirmands" and 3 "New Members"]

Lost in 2025 (transfers out [7] and deaths [8]) -15

Members at end of 2025 -9 288

Voting Members at the end of 2025 172

*("confirmed, communing, and contributing" C C8.02.c
 "shall have the privilege of voice and vote")*

Continued next page

Parochial Report 2025 ... continued from previous page

BAPTISMS

First Name	Last Name	Baptism Date
Jayden Jean	Joseph	02/23/2025

CONFIRMATIONS

First Name	Last Name	Confirmation
Serenity	Apodaca-Gonzales	10/26/2025
Beau	Griswold	10/26/2025
Hazel Trujillo		10/26/2025

RECEIVED

First Name	Last Name	Received Date
Jan	Delgado	11/02/2025
Vicki	Grewe	11/02/2025
Judith	Raver	11/02/2025

DEATHS

First Name	Last Name	Deceased Date
Les	Anderson	06/06/2025
David	Begeal	06/25/2025
Charles	Clark	05/24/2025
Diane	Gruner	01/15/2025
Lois	Rowland	06/24/2025
Louanne	Saylors	04/06/2025
Marshall	Shore	12/22/2025
Ardys	Theophilus	02/05/2025

TRANSFERRED OUT

First Name	Last Name	Transfer Date	Transfer Location
Joann	Brawley	09/10/2025	To: St Timothy Lutheran, ABQ, NM
Janet	Garcia	12/16/2025	Greeley, CO
Don	Lange	02/27/2025	Maple Grove, MN
Camille	Lynn	04/01/2025	out of state
Daniel	Lynn	04/01/2025	out of state
Beverly	Ronkos	11/25/2025	No location given
Peter	Ronkos	11/25/2025	No location given

ST. LUKE TRUST FUND COMMITTEE

By DeAnn Eaton, Chair

Annual Report 2025

Members: Karen Carlson, (Secretary), DeAnn Eaton, (Chair), Steve Garrett, Ken Sorenson, Debbie Werner.

Ex-Officio: Pr. Brad Brauer, (Interim Senior Pastor), Judy Moore, (Treasurer)

The “purpose of the Trust Fund is to serve as a repository, separate and distinct from the operating funds of the congregation, for gifts to the Church, whether restricted or unrestricted for ministries and capital improvements which may not be supported by the current operational budget.” Revision approved by congregation at the Congregational Meeting Held December 9, 2007

The Trust Fund Committee reorganized and resumed during calendar year 2025. The first task was to recruit members and then analysis and reinvest the funds that were held at In-Faith. The reason the funds were being moved was In-Faith had converted to a different software system and could no longer provide detailed information on interest, dividends and market adjustments. After input and analyze of the liquidity needs of the church it was decided to invest in Certificates of Deposit.

The Trust Fund Committee works closely with the Finance Committee to determine what amounts should be invested that are not needed to pay ordinary operating expenses. At the last meetings for both committees, it was determined to wait until after the budget was approved to see what funds were needed for capital expenditures. It is estimated that between \$100-150K could be invested which would bring in additional interest earnings to St. Luke.

As of December 31, 2025 these are the investments under advisement at the Trust Committee:

Bank	Term	Amount	Rate	APY	Restrictions
WaFd	7 months	25,000.00	3.44	3.5	Temp Restricted
WaFd	7 months	25,000.00	3.44	3.5	Temp Restricted
WaFd	7 months	25,000.00	3.44	3.5	Temp Restricted
WaFd	7 months	25,000.00	3.44	3.5	Temp Restricted
First National 1870	12 months	50,000.00	4.121	4.20	Unrestricted
First National 1870	12 months	15,841.73	4.121	4.20	Unrestricted
First National 1870	12 months	50,000.00	4.121	4.20	Unrestricted

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WELLNESS COMMITTEE

By Betty Ann Arner, BSN, RN, Wellness Chair

December 2025

Dear Alison, Council President, and Pastor Brad,

I'm writing to let you know that the Wellness Committee is disbanding at the end of this year, after having been started about 2004 by Gayle Carleton, RN, Chairman.

We have enjoyed taking blood pressures for the congregation (up to the end of 2024) and have continued to write medical articles each month for the Horizon.

The Wellness Committee is composed of Gayle Carleton, Sandy Williams Clark, Else Couzin, and Betty Ann Arner, Chairman. Former members included Amy Hlad, Karen Carlson, Twila Randolph, Cheryl Folkes, contributor Cindy Callisto and Lorna Hansen. Most of these women were Registered Nurses.

Sincerely,

Betty Ann Arner

P.S. Thanks to Angie Miller, Office Manager, Ministry Assistant / Horizon Editor, who helped to make those articles appear.

WORSHIP, MUSIC, & THE ARTS

By Tom Berardinelli, Chair

January 12, 2026

FROM: Worship, Music, and the Arts (WMA) Ministries Team

TO: St. Luke Lutheran Church Congregation

SUBJECT: 2025 WMA Annual Report

1. WMA Team Members: Judy Aaker, Tom Berardinelli (Team Lead), Brad Brauer (Interim Pastor), Karen Carlson, Danielle Cordova (Music Ministries Coordinator), Jan Delgado, Pamela Franco (Assistant for Video & Media Ministry), Andy Hochstein, and Shirley Smith.

2. WMA Ministry Group Leaders:

Our ministry group leaders are the core of what we do in WMA. Much of what they do is “behind the scenes” but critically important to the worship life of our congregation. A huge thanks to our ministry group leaders for their attention to detail and handling all of the logistics necessary for our worship services.

- Acolytes & Crucifers – Judy Aaker
- Communion Assistants, Sacristy, and Ushers – Shirley Smith
- Greeters, Readers, & Monday Reports – Angie Miller
- Paraments & Arts – Karen Carlson
- Sound Technicians – Andy Hochstein
- Videography – Pamela Franco
- At-large Representative – Jan Delgado

3. Pastor, Music Ministry, & Staff:

- Pastor – We are blessed to have Pastor Brad Brauer as our Interim Pastor and for the excellent spiritual and worship leadership he continues to provide during this transition period for St. Luke. Please see Pastor’s annual report for additional information and perspective from Pastor Brad.
- Music Ministries – We continue to be blessed by the talent and leadership of our Music Ministries Coordinator, Danielle Cordova, especially in leading our choral scholars program and multiple choirs (Sanctuary Choir, Bells of St. Luke, and Salt & Light Children’s Choir). Danielle is a superstar with incredible talent and her heart is in everything she does to support our worship life. In addition to her Music Ministry Coordinator duties, Danielle has also been doing double duty as our Sunday worship accompanist since our Organist (Nancy Granert) leave of absence and subsequent retirement. Please see Danielle’s annual report for additional details on our outstanding music ministry.
- Staff – A big thanks to Angie Miller (Office Manager), Michelle Barba (Business Manager), Allie Brandt (Multigenerational Ministries Coordinator) and Pamela Franco (Assistant for Video & Media Ministry) for all they do individually and as a team to contribute to the strength of our worship life and WMA ministries. There is a lot that goes into worship planning each week and the staff works hard to ensure it is done well. We are so grateful for all you do!

4. Volunteers: We continue to be blessed with many who assist in the many WMA ministries required for our worship life. A heartfelt thank you to all of our Acolytes, Crucifers, Choir Members, Communion Assistants, Sacristy Team Members, Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Paraments Team Members, Sound Technicians, and Videographers. You are the heart and soul of our St. Luke worship life and we are incredibly grateful for the gifts of your time and talent. Although not a part of WMA, we want to extend a huge thank you to the Hospitality Team for providing snacks after worship services and for organizing the Advent and Lenten Soup Suppers.

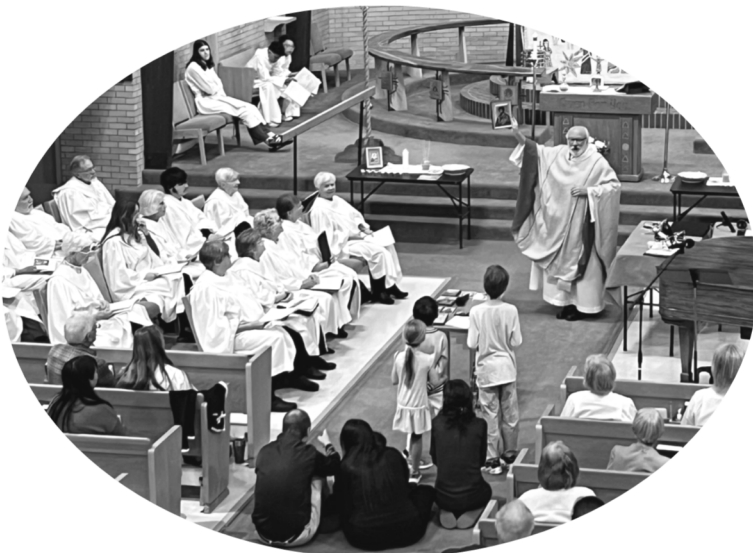
5. Worship Attendance Summary, Observations & Analysis: **Please see the attached attendance report.**

Worship, Music, & the Arts ... continued from previous page

6. Focus of WMA Activity: We continue to focus our activity on the worship life of the Body of Christ present at St. Luke Lutheran Church as well as the transition process to a new pastor(s). We are mindful of the importance of ensuring that all we do as a Congregation, in worship and our music ministries, is at the core of the mission, vision, and core values of St. Luke, especially our vision to be an inviting and thriving multi-generational Congregation. This is particularly important with respect to the importance of attracting and retaining families, especially those with young children.
7. Feedback: Your feedback regarding all aspects of worship continues to be very helpful to us in our worship planning. As the saying goes, “please keep the cards and letters coming.” In addition to speaking with the pastors, staff and WMA team members directly, you may also email us at WMA@stlukeabq.org.
8. Summary:
 - Worship attendance is a lagging indicator but an important data point showing us the worship attendance patterns of the congregation. It is important for WMA and all members of St. Luke to reinforce the importance of worship attendance to our individual and collective spiritual health. The vitality of our worship life is also important to attracting new members as guests see this when they visit with us.
 - We are incredibly grateful for all of our volunteers (in all areas) for all services! More volunteers are always needed. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity with worship, please email the WMA Team at WMA@stlukeabq.org, contact the church office, put it on the golden rod sheet, or tell any member of WMA.
 - My thanks to all members of our WMA team. They are an energetic, dedicated, and a diverse group of very gifted and hardworking people willing to give generously of their time & talents!
 - Finally, we are thankful for all of you who participate in the worship life of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Albuquerque...Amen!

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Berardinelli, WMA Team Lead

Attachment – 2025 Weekend Worship Attendance Report

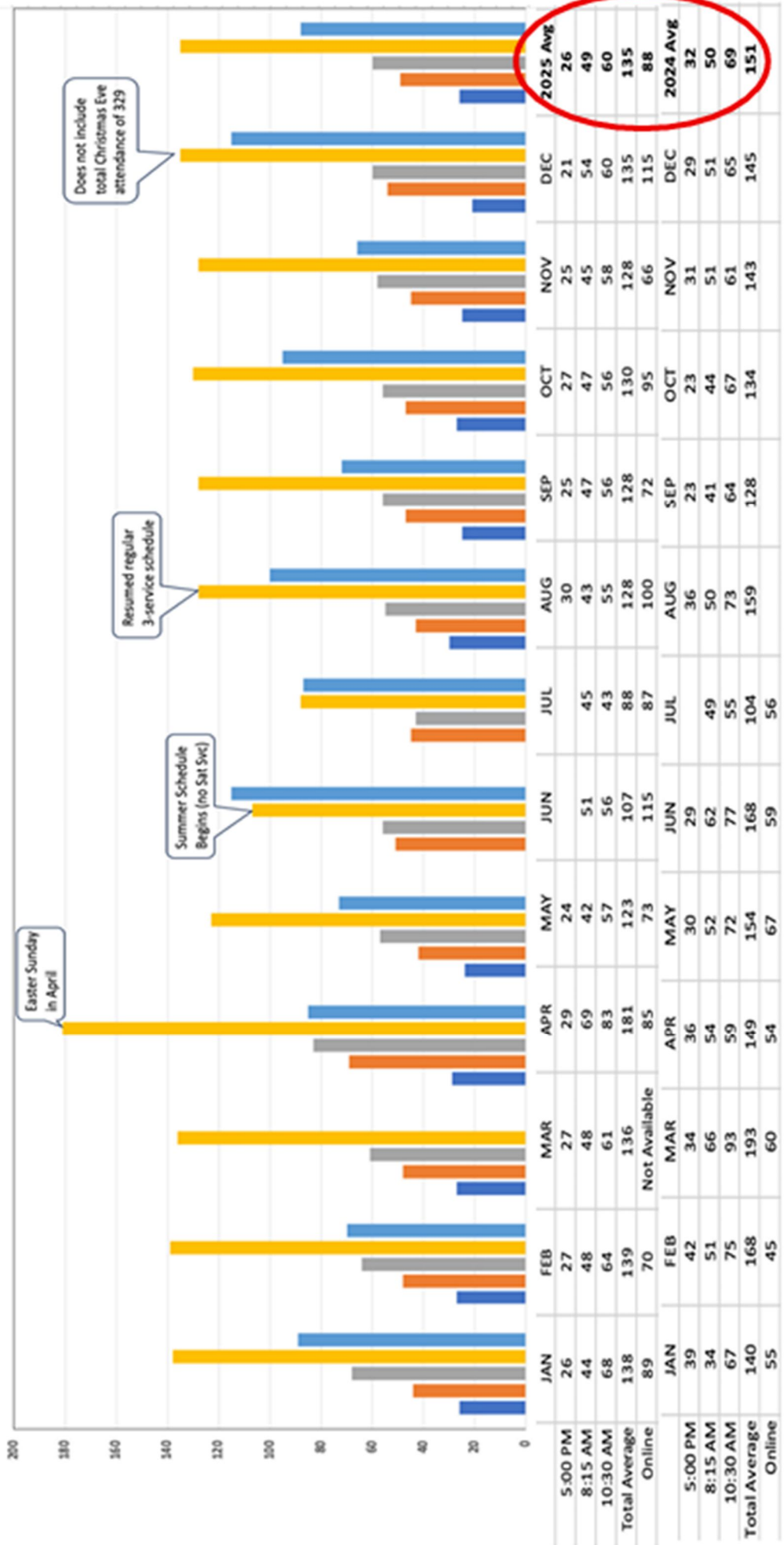


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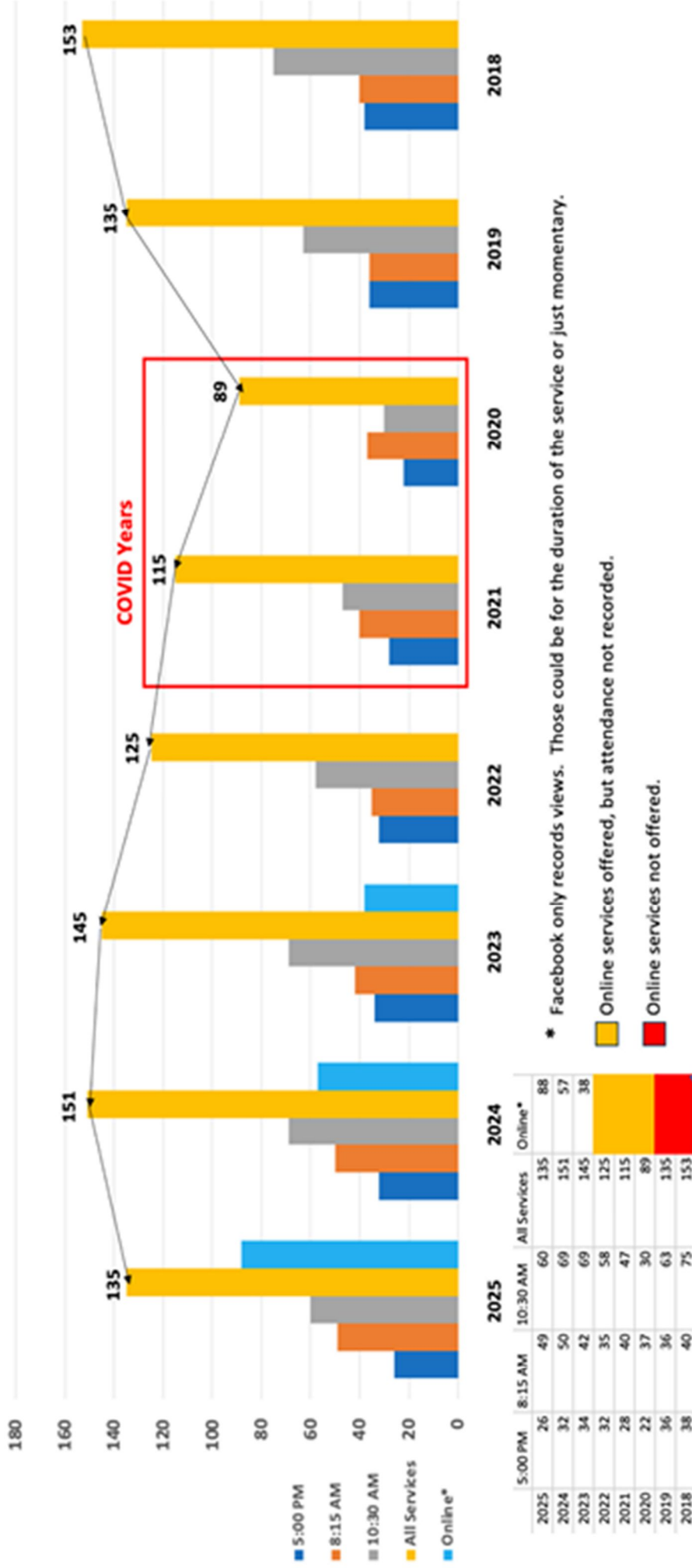
ST. LUKE 2025 ATTENDANCE REPORT

2025 Weekend Worship Attendance Summary
 (Online worship participation for info only and not included in average totals)

■ 5:00 PM
 ■ 8:15 AM
 ■ 10:30 AM
 ■ Total Average
 ■ Online



2018 - 2025 Weekend Attendance Summary
(as of 31 December 2025)



Percentage share of total worship attendance by service:

	Sat/5pm	Sun/8:15am	Sun/10:30am
2025	19%	36%	45%
2024	21%	33%	46%
2023	23%	29%	48%
2022	26%	28%	46%

Observations:

1. Overall average attendance for 2025 (135) is less than overall average attendance for 2024 (151).
2. Overall, distribution of the service attendance in 2025 showed decreases in 5pm (-2%) and 10:30am (-1%) from 2024 while 8:15am increased (+3%) over 2024 share.

Analysis:

1. The reduction in average attendance from 2024 (151) to 2025 (135) is the first reduction in overall average annual attendance since 2020.
2. Comments regarding worship from the Monday Reports (compilation of comments from golden rod sheets), do not indicate any specific reasons or trends that would address this decline in average annual attendance.
3. To provide some context/perspective on our worship attendance:
 - a. Our weekly in-person worship attendance as a percentage of our baptized membership is ~42% (135 of 323) (Source: St. Luke attendance data recorded in 2025)
 - b. Although there is no specific standard in the ELCA (or elsewhere) for what is considered a “good” percentage of attending members, some online research indicates that a percentage between 30-40% is considered “good” by some pastors. (Source: Various online searches)
 - c. For the ELCA-wide, weekly attendance percentage of baptized members has been approximately 31% (Source: Various online searches)
 - d. 44% of all Rocky Mountain Synod (RMS) congregations and 37% of ELCA congregations have in-person worship attendance averages between 51-150 weekly. 47% of congregations in the RMS and 55% of ELCA congregations have less than 50 people attending in-person worship. (Source: Compilation of synod reports to ELCA, most current report is as of 2023)
 - e. Between 2018 and 2023, approximately 87% of ELCA and RMS congregations experienced a decline in baptized membership, often exceeding 25%. During that same period (2018-2023), approximately 95% of ELCA and RMS congregations experienced a decline of in-person attendance, often exceeding 25%. (Source: Compilation of synod reports to ELCA, most current report is as of 2023)
 - f. Given this context our decline in both baptized membership (333 to 323) and in-person worship (151 to 135) would be consistent with overall declines in the RMS and ELCA and be considered much less severe than most congregations in RMS and ELCA. (Analysis based on data in this report and above sources). -

Additional Information for December 2025:

- Midweek Advent Service Attendance:
 - 3 Dec – 49
 - 10 Dec – 48
 - 17 Dec – 40
- Christmas Eve Service Attendance (Wed, 24 Dec):
 - 4 pm – 207
 - 8 pm – 122
 - Total In-person Christmas Eve Attendance – 329
 - Online Christmas Eve – 161

MUSIC MINISTRIES

By Danielle Cordova, Coordinator

It was a pleasure to ring in 2025 with Interim Pastor Brad at the helm. His steady leadership and gentle guidance allowed St. Luke Music Ministries as well as everyone else to start the year with a solid plan.

Midweek Lent Music & Holy Week

St. Luke Music Ministries are always adventurous, and we attempted yet another experiment during Lent. Some members of the Bells of St. Luke gave extra time to add handbells to our Taizé-inspired midweek services. Nancy Granert accompanied on organ, and Rhonda Blech collaborated on flute. Thanks to the volunteers that helped the services to be meditative and impactful.

The Sanctuary Choir took on the project of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* for Good Friday. While there were some fears that we would need to cancel due to last minute technicalities, the choir and soloists came together with sensitive artistry and reverence. A special thanks and congratulations to Nancy Granert, Shane Hall, and Austyn Knecht for executing such a difficult piece.

Summer Music

We changed our summer outdoor music setup so that the keyboard and sound system were in the middle admin building doorway atop the steps, and the congregation seats were spread in a wider cone. We received great feedback from attendees that they could hear much better in this configuration. Thanks to Pastor Brad for his creativity to build a new setup that worked well for all.

Nancy Granert's Leave of Absence and Retirement

Nancy Granert unfortunately needed to resume her leave of absence after Easter. She then announced her retirement from the organ bench in the fall. Nancy will still volunteer her time and talents as she is able. Words cannot express the gratitude we feel to her dedication to St. Luke, to her generous spirit, and her lovingkindness.

In the interim, Danielle has continued and will continue to play piano during Sunday services. Danielle has devoted her extra time to practicing rather than on professional development for 2025. The search for an organist will begin soon.

Contract Pianists and Choral Scholars

St. Luke has been blessed to work with talented contract musicians in our community. We welcomed Ryan Lopez in January 2025 as our Tenor Choral Scholar. We were also blessed by the return of Austyn Knecht, Maria Bollinger, and Shane Hall in the spring semester.

We said goodbye to Saturday night pianist Scott Jacobsen and Choral Scholar Shane Hall at the end of May 2025. A special thanks to their hard work at St. Luke!

St. Luke welcomed back JoAnn Rice as a Saturday night pianist, who had occasionally played as a substitute organist during Fred Frahm's tenure several years ago. At the very end of 2025, we

Continued next page

Music Ministries ... continued from previous page

welcomed Nicholas Lopez as our Bass Choral Scholar, allowing St. Luke to start 2026 with all 4 Choral Scholar positions filled.

Recitals & Events

The Sanctuary Choir was honored to sing at the memorial services of Dave Begeal and Marshall Shore in 2025. We hope that their families found comfort in our songs.

St. Luke hosted several recital guests throughout the year, including: John Garlich with an Epiphany concert; Ji Sun Lee and Michael Lich with an organ and guitar duo concert; the return of Sarah Walder Amata with her Cello Trip series; several community guests with a last-minute benefit concert at the end of November; and children's musician Andy Mason for a preschool-church pizza and pajama party.

Also as a last-minute event, St. Luke was asked to host one of the Rocky Mountain Synod Conference community events. The Fellowship Hall was filled with 80+ church leaders for Hymns & Beer.

Looking ahead

As the music program is growing and more volunteers are coming together, we are looking to continue expanding at a steady pace. Danielle hopes to incorporate more instrumental collaboration in worship services.

St. Luke Singers will continue to visit memory care facilities every 3rd Friday each month, rotating from around 6 facilities depending on their availability. Thanks to Rhonda Blech and Ginny Fischer for continuing this important outreach to members of the community who don't receive many visitors!

Thanks to an agreement with Holy Cross Lutheran Church through Jan Delgado, St. Luke now has Orff instruments on long-term loan, creating more opportunities for diverse music styles and textures, especially for our children. Jan has also generously offered her time to mentor Danielle on Orff Schulwerk methods for all ages.

Danielle will be attending the SWACDA conference in March 2026 to network with choral musicians and directors, to listen to award-winning choirs from around the region, and to workshop her skills with peers.

The Music Ministries will be working to create a more formalized concert series in fall 2026-spring 2027 and to create a mailing list to publicize the great things happening right in our Sanctuary.

Gratitude

All of the great things happening at St. Luke wouldn't happen without our gifted musicians. Thank you for your time, your dedication, and your faith in the process.

Thanks to the WMA team for their continued patience with me as I continue to juggle multiple hats. Thanks for allowing me to take on community projects that allow me to network with local musicians.

Thanks to St. Luke Preschool for giving me lots of joy through the smiles of the little ones.

Thanks to every member that supports the ministries at St. Luke. You allow me to continue working as a musician for my only job, and you make every day I walk into the doors an even better than the day before.

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▲ 2025 Ensembles & Guest Musicians

St. Luke Sanctuary Choir

Director: Danielle Cordova

Piano: Nancy Granert, Danielle Cordova, Rhonda Blech

Organ: Nancy Granert

Sopranos

Austyn Knecht (2025-26 Choral Scholar)

Rhonda Blech

Marina de Vos Mauney

Sally Quintana

Sally Trigg

Altos

Maria Bollinger (2025-26 Choral Scholar)

Betty Begeal

Gayle Carleton

Jan Delgado

Beau Griswold

Brenda Gronewold

Mary Voelz

Tenors

Ryan Lopez (2025-26 Choral Scholar)

Ginny Fisher

Greg Haschke

Basses

Shane Hall (2024-25 Choral Scholar – Graduated
May 2025)

Nicholas Lopez (2025-26 Choral Scholar)

Jerry Aaker

Bob Carleton

Frank Johnson

Gil Quintana

Dave Begeal (in blessed memory)

The Bells of St. Luke

Director: Danielle Cordova

Piano: Nancy Granert & Danielle Cordova

Lindy Blanche

Dorthe Carr

Ginny Fisher

Brenda Gronewold

Shirley Smith

Mary Voelz

Salt & Spark Multigenerational Ensemble

Director: Danielle Cordova

Piano: Nancy Granert & Danielle Cordova

Aaker Family

Apodaca/Jorgensen Family

Baros Family

Bentz Family

Brandt Family

Fidler Family

Franco Family

Griswold/Erven Family

James Family

Koontz Family

Muga Family

Schuler Family

Shore Family

Smith Family

Trujillo Family

Tierney Family

Welch Family

Saturday 5pm & Sunday 8:15am Vocalists

Liz Bentz
Maria Bollinger
Ginny Fisher
Shane Hall

Greg Haschke
Austyn Knecht
Nicholas Lopez
Ryan Lopez

Sally Trigg
Holly Trujillo
Sally Quintana

St. Luke Singers

Co-Directors: Rhonda Blech, Ginny Fisher

Piano: Nancy Granert, Scott Jacobsen, Danielle Cordova, JoAnn Rice

Jerry Aaker
Betty Begeal
Forest Blech
Karen Carlson
Brenda Gronewold
Greg Haschke

Austyn Knecht
Marina de Vos Mauney
Joyce Mills
Gil Quintana
Sally Quintana
Sally Trigg

Mary Voelz
Sandy Williams
Dave Begeal (in blessed
memory)

Lent & Advent Midweek Service Singers

Jerry Aaker
Maria Bollinger
Jan Delgado
Ginny Fisher

Brenda Gronewold
Shane Hall
Austyn Knecht
Ryan Lopez

Sally Trigg
Gil Quintana
Sally Quintana

Guest Musicians

Jerry Aaker, guitar & baritone
Sarah Walder Amata, cello
Ay! Clarumba Clarinet
Quartet
Liz Bentz, violin
Rhonda Blech, flute & piano
Maria Bollinger, mezzo-
soprano
Esmee Brandt, piano
Community of Joy players &
singers
Jan Delgado, cello & electric
bass
Luis Delgado, flute & clarinet
Mark DeWulf, soprano
Oliver Fidler, piano

John Garlisch, organ
Green Chile Celli Quartet
Brenda Gronewold, mezzo-
soprano
Shane Hall, baritone
James Harder, piano
Scott Jacobsen, piano
Frank Johnson, guitar &
baritone
Austyn Knecht, soprano
Ji Sun Lee, organ
Michael Lich, guitar
Gebhard Long, violin
Nicholas Lopez, piano &
baritone
Ryan Lopez, tenor

Andy Mason, guitar &
baritone
Amanda Peñaloza, mezzo-
soprano
JoAnn Rice, piano & organ
Kaleb Romer, tenor
Sally Trigg, mezzo-soprano
¡Viva La Cello! Quartet

Pastor Brad Brauer, piano &
baritone

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

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.