

# *English Lutheran Church* *2024 Annual Report*

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

**Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 10:00 am**



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English Lutheran Church

*Mission Statement*  
*To share Christ's unconditional love,  
inspiring us all for service to others.*

2024 Staff

2024 CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor	Pastor Peter Warren
Financial Administrator	Ava Maxwell
Communications Coordinator	Tammy Rieck/Julie Winger
Custodian	Julie Baggenstoss/Malerie Mathis
Accompanist	Ava Maxwell
Music Director	Missy Kowalchyk

2024 Congregation Council

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Executive Committee:	
President	Greta Larson
Vice President	Mark Groen
Treasurer	Paul Tonsager
Secretary	Jill Hague
Denise Hager	
Lynette Winger	
Dennis Swanson	

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## **2025 Annual Meeting Agenda**

### **English Lutheran Church Congregation Annual Meeting**

Sunday, January 26, 2025, 10:00 am

**CALL TO ORDER**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF 2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

Pastor  
Ministry Teams & Committees  
Highlights from 2024  
Financial Reports

**REVIEW AND VOTE ON 2025 BUDGET**

**ELECTIONS**

Congregation Council  
Congregation Officers  
Memorial & Gifts  
Mission Endowment Committee  
Synod Assembly Representatives  
Nominating Committee

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**English Lutheran Church Congregation Annual Meeting  
Sunday January 28, 2024 @ 10:30 a.m.**

Called to Order by Eric Van Nocker, President.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Pete Warren.

Quorum was reached with 35 people in attendance.

Adoption of the 2024 Annual Meeting agenda. MSC.

Approval of the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes. MSC.

Annual Reports (presented in writing):

- Pastor Report
- Altar Guild
- Graduate Quilt Ministry
- Children, Youth, and Family
- Community Missions
- Finance Committee
- Women's Bible Study |
- Malawi
- Memorial & Gifts
- Mission Endowment & Stewardship
- Music & Worship
- Property Committee
- Northwest Synod of Wisconsin ELCA

Pastor Pete Warren shared a few highlights of the Pastor Report. Eric Van Nocker highlighted the programming accomplished by CYF Team, our updated landscaping, the completion of the remodeled bathroom, storage room, all our Church accomplishments and thanked all volunteers.

Gary Brown discussed the proposed 2024 budget. A discussion was held. Adoption of the 2024 budget. MSC.

Gary Brown led the discussion to consider the pros/cons of selling the approximately 2 acres of property adjacent to the church parking lot. The congregation decided Council should create a working team to decide the highest and best use for the property. Adoption to create a working team. MSC.

## Minutes: Annual Meeting of the English Lutheran Church Congregation 1-28-24

Elections by Unanimous Voice Vote

**Congregation Council Members:**

Jill Hague  
Paul Tonsager  
Mark Groen

**Memorial & Gifts Committee:**

Kristi Lewis  
Sue Meyer

**Mission Endowment Committee:**

Dixie Basch

**Synod Assembly:**

Kim Warren

**Nominations Committee:**

Eric Van Nocker  
Melba Smith  
Gary Brown

Council Executive Committee will be decided at the February Council meeting. MSC

**Other Business:**

Dixie is going to follow up on potential additional members of the Endowment Committee.

Adjournment. MSC.

## Parish Records & Pastoral Acts - 2024

**430 (Baptized)    288 (Confirmed)**

By Baptism: children	6	0
By Baptism: adults	0	0
By Affirmed faith	0	0
By other denomination	0	0
By transfer	0	4
Other & Stat. Adjustment	<u>0</u>	0
Baptized Members Received	+6	
Baptized Members Confirmed		<u>5</u>
Confirmed Members Added		+9

By death	10	10
By transfer	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Total members removed	-12	-12

**424 (Baptized)      285 (Confirmed)**

Baptisms - 6  
Funerals - 15  
Weddings - 1

Average weekly worship attendance - in-person (includes special services - Lent Wednesdays, Good Friday, Maundy Thursday, & Christmas Eve) - 66

Average weekly Sunday worship attendance includes in-person as reported to ELCA  
(no special services) - 65

# Parish Acts - 2024

Willie Jean Glasbrenner  
Hardin Lee Boettcher  
Rhyder Matthew Gardiner  
Lane Howard-Russel Mewes  
Lucille Anndee Mewes  
Hayes Leon Matteson

Brian Parmeter & Kristi McKahan

Patricia Hanson  
Kenneth Kinneman  
Rob Mathis  
Gary Wandmacher\*  
Roxy Harmon\*  
Ardell Flynn\*

Jim Hines  
Elaine Hines  
Evelyn Young  
Arliss Gould  
Nancy Ellefson  
Michael Linehan\*  
Thomas Phernetton\*  
Vicki Nelson  
Timothy Niedfeldt

**New Members**  
Nathan & Jody Rahn  
Philip & Morgan Truax

August Hohl  
Deb Hohl

Gracie Van Nocker  
Travis Bechel  
Lane Mewes  
Lucille Mewes

Molly Abbas  
Tyler Bechel  
Abby Hinrichs  
Alivia Maher  
Piper Van Nocker

\* Denotes Non Member



## Report from Pastor Pete Warren

Siblings in Christ,

Wow! What a year it has been!! 2024 was my second full year here at ELC and while there were a few struggles, it was a good year. We had some turnover in our staff, and I am grateful that Greta Larson stepped in and led us through the hiring process each time.

2024 was my second full year here at ELC and it was fun to build upon the year before as well as try some new things. The biggest thing that we are trying here has been the addition of the Senior Center renting our building. This encouraged us to reimagine how we use the space in our building and has caused a little bit of friction, but overall, it is wonderful to have more people using our beautiful building. There is a lot more life and energy in the building during the week with the various activities that the senior center does. I'm grateful that we have the space to accommodate our new neighbors!

Building upon our programming from 2023, we once again have our Kingdom Kids program on the first Wednesday of the month. We went from 20 kids last year to 43 this year!!! We partnered with Our Savior's Lutheran Church and the Eidsvold-Svea Parish this summer for Vacation Bible School. The previous year we had 32 kids and this last summer, we had over 60 kids for VBS, and we are looking forward to partnering with area churches again this coming summer for VBS.

It is great to see people come together to help with projects around the church. In the Spring and Fall, we have Grubby Sundays where we give the church a good scrub down and take the time to dig through the storage rooms and closets to discover forgotten "treasures." It helps us to take stock of what we have and to clean out the space occasionally.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have a couple of big projects coming up. On Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we are hosting a Hot Beef Dinner Fundraiser at the church! It'll be just like the meal that we serve at the fair! The funds for this dinner will hopefully kick off our kitchen refresh! Our kitchen needs some love and attention, so we are hoping to fix it up and bring it up to code so that we can feed even more people more often! We will also need to do some work to upgrade some of our Heating and Cooling, now that the Senior Center is in the basement. We want to keep things comfortable for them.

I am looking forward to another year of growth and transformation. Thank you for listening to God's call and being part of our family! I think that God has some great things in store for us and I can't wait to see what will happen! God Bless!!

Pastor Pete



*Pastor's  
Report*

***"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us," Hebrews 12:1***



## Report from Altar Guild

**Members:** Sharon Schulze, Judy Dumermuth, Tammy Brenner, Kriste Lewis, Nancy Johnson, Andrea Hinrichs, Diane Wiskerchen, Ava Maxwell, Vi Wilhelm, Tammy Rieck, Bev Greeley, Jeanette Wright, Sue Myers, Cindy Reuvers and Traci Maxwell.

The duties of the Altar Guild members are to arrange altar items necessary for Sunday services, communion, baptisms, weddings, and funerals. We have three or four members on each month of the year to help with the following tasks:

- Fill wine glasses
- Bake communion bread
- Fill oil candles
- Change the paraments and banners
- Re-fill the eternal flame
- Set up for baptisms
- Decorate the church for Advent, Christmas and Easter

If anyone is interested in joining our group; we gladly accept new members at any time. Each group of 3 or 4 serves for three months of the year. You may pick which group works best for you.

*Submitted by Bev Greeley*

## Graduate Quilting Ministry

**Team Leaders:** Judy Erickson & Tammy Brenner

**Team Members:** Melanie Johnson, Tammy Rieck, Sharon Schulze, Vicki Nelson, and others that came when help was needed. (In December 2024 Vicki Nelson passed away. She made many beautiful quilt tops at home for us. We will miss and always remember her.)

**Ministry Purpose:** We gather as a dedicated group to craft a quilt for high school graduates of our church as a gift to them.

### Highlights of 2024:

- Seven (7) high school graduates from our church received quilts.
- Three (3) quilts along with one (1) baby quilt were donated to North Carolina Hurricane Relief.
- Three (3) quilts were given to families through the Christmas Giving Tree program.
- Quilts are always available for emergency needs.

### Goals for 2025:

- We hope to encourage more help— no sewing skills needed. We will continue to meet in 2025. Times to meet will be announced in the future.

**Acknowledgments:** Thank you for Thrivent contributions and the generous donation from the Endowment Committee. We were able to purchase many supplies with these funds. Thank you for the donation of several skeins of “tying” thread. Thank you to all who make this ministry a success.

*Submitted by Judy Erickson and Tammy Brenner*

Graduate Quilt Sunday



## Report from Children, Youth, and Family

**Team Member Roster:** Trina Groen, Renee Van Nocker, Kayla Zimmer, Denise Hager, Pastor Pete, Kim Warren, and Phillip & Morgan Truax

**Ministry Purpose:** To promote shared growth for children, youth, and families. To facilitate shared events that extend the ministry of our church for children, youth and families.

**Sunday School:** Our Sunday School students worked on outreach projects for May Day for our shut-ins, and we recently had a Christmas party with the Sunday School students. Thank you to Katie Groen and Piper Van Nocker for volunteering to teach our students and for preparing fun activities for them. We appreciate you!

**Kingdom Kids:** This is our 2nd year with Kingdom Kids. It is the first Wednesday of every month. We have had a great turnout, averaging 25 students each time in 2023 and roughly 43 kids starting in Fall 2024. Pastor Pete has planned many fun activities and Missy and Ava have been leading music activities. We will continue this through the end of the school year.

**Vacation Bible School:** This year we partnered again with Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Eidsvold Lutheran Church, and Svea Lutheran Church and had a successful Vacation Bible School. We used an amazing program called Stellar. We had about 60 students participate. The program was 4 days a week after Summer School for 3 hours. It was such a fun program and we look forward to next year!

**Confirmation:** This past Fall we confirmed 5 students (Alivia Maher, Tyler Bechel, Molly Abbas, Piper Van Nocker, and Abby Hinrichs). Our Confirmation students collected food for our Thanksgiving meal baskets. We served over 60 families because of this project. Our students also went to Feed My Starving Children last February and look forward to another trip in February 2025. We will be completing a service project that the students will vote on in December 2024. At each class students are served a meal, we play games, and worship together. Our Confirmation Small Group Guides are Phillip and Morgan Truax. Please look for all the wonderful photos that have been shared on Facebook and in the newsletters for both Confirmation and Sunday School.

**Goals:** We will also continue to work to fund our Confirmation Program so it can be free for our youth. Any ministry team/group/ individuals are welcome to serve a meal to our confirmation kids on a Wednesday night. The confirmation program pays for the meal, you would just take care of purchasing, cooking, and serving the meal. Anyone can join Sunday School, Kingdom Kids, and Confirmation at any time of year. We always encourage our students to bring a friend if they would like. We will continue to strive to make personal connections with our students/kids/youth, be there for them, have fun, keep things simple, and get them to open up their Bibles to learn about our Lord.

**Thank You:** We would like to thank Pastor Pete for all of your help with the youth programs, for your leadership, and for the yummy food you are always making for everyone! We would also like to thank all of those who served meals for confirmation nights, Sunday School leaders/teachers, Vacation Bible School Volunteers, and our Confirmation Students as they served as worship volunteers, drivers for the Thanksgiving project, Confirmation Guides - Phillip and Morgan Truax, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Eidsvold Lutheran Church, and Svea Lutheran Church for your partnership in Vacation Bible School, Julie Baggenstoss for driving the May Day Bus and for keeping our church clean, Darren Place for driving the bus to Feed My Starving Children, and for any of you we may have forgotten to thank. Also, a big thank you to Missy Kowalchuk and Ava Maxwell for your musical talents. Thank you!

*Submitted by Kayla Zimmer*



## Report from Community Missions

### 2024 Missions Committee Annual Report

**Members:** Chris Karlstad, Nancy Johnson, Julie Baggenstoss, Cindy Baird

This committee has tried over the past year to be some of the hands and feet of ELC to help our community.

The following projects were coordinated by the team, along with very supportive volunteers.

- Souper Bowl Sunday - Donations collected to pay for a meal at Sharing & Caring Hands.
- Sharing & Caring Hands -Lunch was provided and served to about 160 individuals. ELC volunteers: Pastor Pete, Curt Dumermuth, Joel and Sharon Schulze, Shelley Carr, Chris Karlstad and Nancy Johnson served a meal at Sharing & Caring Hands.
- Adopt A Highway - Clean up on County Road C in both the spring and the fall with other ELC annual volunteers— Curt Dumermuth, Chris Karlstad, and Dan Klaustermeier.
- Pierce County Food Shelf– year-long food collection
- Thanksgiving Meal Baskets— All the groceries needed for a Thanksgiving meals were provided to over 66 families in the community on the weekend before Thanksgiving. Confirmation students collected and sorted the food again this year. ELC volunteers packed and distributed food at the front doors of the church. Some volunteers who helped are Dan Klaustermeier, Julie Baggenstoss, Sharon Schulze, Joel Schulze, Nancy Johnson, Gary Brown, Bev Greeley, Diane Wiskerchen, LaDona, Curt Dumermuth, Pastor Pete and Chris Karlstad. We apologize if you volunteered and your name is omitted. Thank you for your help!
- Christmas Tree of Spirit- More than 100 Christmas gifts were purchased for four families in the Ellsworth School Gift Box Program.
- Acts of Kindness
- Sharing Shed-Thank you Kriste Lewis for supplying and organizing the Sharing Shed for several years. Members of the community visit the shed daily to receive needed clothes, house hold items and hygiene products. Denise Hager, Cindy Baird, Melba Smith, and Diane Wiskerchen have taken over this project. Thank you.
- Thank you to all the Thrivent members for applying for Visa gift cards, the members of ELC and the Endowment Fund for helping fund our community mission projects.

Thanksgiving Meal  
Baskets Food Collection



*Submitted by Nancy Johnson and Cindy Baird*

## Report from the Stewardship Committee

### 2024 Stewardship Committee Annual Report

**Members:** Melba Smith, Lynette Winger, Pastor Pete

On October 13, 2024 we had a Stewardship Brunch following worship to kick off our stewardship drive. It was well attended. Thank you to the team of: Diane Wiskerchen, Cindy Baird, Denise Hager, Tammy Rieck, Lynette Winger, and myself (Melba) who furnished food and helped set up the fellowship hall. In the weeks following the Time and Talent sheets were distributed along with the pledge cards for 2025. Thank you to Pastor Pete and Julie Winger for your assistance.

We had signs in the stairway indicating what stewardship involves.

Thank you for your responses.

*Submitted by Melba Smith*



## Report from Finance Committee



**Committee members:** Paul Tonsager, Curt Dumermuth, Kris Flock, Sue Gulbranson, and Julie Gore

**Mission Purpose:** Review the financial reports of the congregation monthly for accuracy and provide recommendations to the council for any changes needed.

2024 was another very busy year for English Lutheran Church. Pastor Pete worked together with the Finance Committee to prepare reports and recommendations to the Church Council.

Pastor Pete worked to move the Senior Center to English Lutheran Church after they lost their ability to be in the old library. It is good to have more activity in our church building.

The Council is working on putting in air conditioning in the lower level of the church. It has never had air conditioning in this part of the building. It will make it more comfortable for summer use.

CCF Bank contacted English Lutheran Church about the option of increasing the money market interest rate from 2.25% to 5.06% for 13 months. The Council approved the transfer.

The Pierce County Fair stand was again successful in 2024. The profits were much higher this year because of a good attendance and great weather.

The Thrivent Investment account has performed okay for 2024. Gary Brown and Greta Larson are still the representatives on the account that can access any information as needed.

Overall, the financial health of English Lutheran Church remains strong due to the faithful giving of the congregation. We will need to have this continued support in 2025 as our church costs increase in the coming year.

*Submitted by Paul Tonsager*

## Report from Women's Bible Study

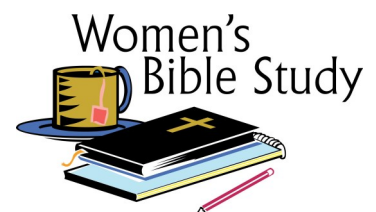
Women's Bible Study meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside room. We do not meet in June, July, or August.

Our study covered Scripture and Nature in four different aspects of that. We also studied Receiving Grace, a study of Ephesians.

We support the young girls in Kenya so they may attend school every day in the month.

You are welcome to join us as we begin our studies in January of 2025.

*Submitted by Melba Smith*





In past years, Bobbie Sawyers kept the Malawi team up and running. Since she has moved away, we do not have an active team member to write this report. Below are excerpts from a recent visit to Malawi by Deacon Laura Ramlow and Bishop Martin that can be found on the Synod website.

[Malawi Blog 2024](#) or <https://nswi.org/malawi>

# MALAWI BLOG

— DEACON LAURA RAMLOW —

## October 24, 2024: Gratitude, Grace & Guests

Hello again, dear friends!

Takulandirani – (welcome) to you all as we embark on our 2024 Malawi visit! Bishop Martin and I have safely landed in Lilongwe, Malawi after 17.5 hours in the air and several moments of grace. Now, to catch you up!

We arrived in Chicago on Monday evening, parked the car for the next 16 days (whew!) and checked into our hotel. We enjoyed some Chicago-style pizza for dinner (as the bishop would say, “When in Rome, right!?”) and returned to the hotel for a good rest before our flight the next day.



Tuesday morning we loaded up the shuttle with suitcases and arrived at O'Hare. Knowing that some of our suitcases with gifts for our friends - which contain several theology books and children's bibles - were over the weight limit, we were prepared to pay our attendant extra fees, as it is far less costly pay at the airport than to ship them 9,000 miles away. Although both were 25 lbs over - he only charged us for one extra. Moment of grace number one.

We were not disappointed to discover that there were empty seats in between us for extra leg and stretching room for this entire flight! Moment of grace number two. On a 13+ hour flight, this is a gift beyond measure. We were well-fed on the plane, and they tried their best to dim the cabin lights and encourage sleeping several times during the journey - but, when it's mid-afternoon for your Midwest inner clock, it makes sleeping difficult. We occupied ourselves with conversation, work, comedy shows, and preparations for our arrival. Our international transfer in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was smooth and quick. No lines through security and a moment to exhale and get some water before boarding the final leg of our trip. Moment of grace number three.

# October 27, 2024: Celebrations, Friends & JOY!

Muli bwanji, anzanga!

Whew! We have had a VERY busy last few days here in Blantyre, and, fair warning, there will be SO many photos in this entry! ( I DID narrow them down from the hundreds that Mphatso and I took, but there are too many that I just had to share!)

Friday was a rest and prep day for Bishop Martin and I, partially since we spent so long traveling here on Thursday, but mostly so the ELCM staff could have the day to prepare for this weekend's events at the new Blantyre Deanery Center. So, we decided to do a bit of exploring in this neighborhood of the city. For those who enjoy celebrity connections, Madonna has 4 adopted children from Malawi and decided to build a children's hospital here in Blantyre in 2017 through her charity *Raising Malawi*.

Although we did not travel near the hospital, we did find a lot of local shops selling everything from wood carvings to auto parts, to fabric, to office supplies and even chicken at a Malawian KFC. It was fun to experience the unique urban culture of Malawi's second largest city with a population of just over 900,000. We picked up a few local goods and headed back to the hotel for a bit of relaxation.

That night we met Themba, a South African serving as the ELCA Regional Representative for Southern Africa. As we ate dinner together, we learned about his studies, family and work; among many other responsibilities, he has been doing a lot of education around gender justice – a current ministry initiative in the ELCM as well. He is a wealth of information and I am thrilled that he is willing to stay in touch and share some of his resources with me!

Saturday morning after a good breakfast (including a couple of cups of good Mzuzu coffee!), I tied on my special anniversary chitenje and we drove to the deanery center for the 42nd anniversary celebration of ELCM. We arrived at 9:45 to a bustle of activity and anticipation. When the "official" ceremonies began, the bishop and I participated in a procession of the Lilongwe Cathedral band followed by the church women, the deans and pastors and the bishops.



We danced all the way to the top of the hill and paused for a demonstration of ministries – each of the deaneries has projects they create/sell as fund raisers for their deanery – as a part of the celebration, they invite Bishop Bvumbwe and the visiting Bishops to learn about and even sample some of their projects. They vary from homemade soaps and plastic upcycled goods to





### November 2, 2024: Rest, Sustainability, & Empathy

It's November, anzanga (friends)!

Although, truth be told, it's difficult to believe it's November while being in Malawi.... here in the southern hemisphere they are nearing their summer/rainy season so we've been experiencing temperatures around 90+ degrees this entire trip. And the evenings don't bring much relief from the heat, only decreasing slightly most nights. It's amazing how much you can sweat while sitting still! But, after seeing photos of the frost and snow that Northwest Wisconsin received on Thursday, I think I'll take a few more days of heat!

Due to a schedule change, lack of drivers/vehicles, and a massive fuel shortage all over Malawi, Bishop Martin and I had Monday "off," a built-in sabbath day where we could rest, read and have some fantastic conversation. We have shared stories of childhood, college, families, and dreams for ministry – it has been a gift to have this time!

Tuesday, we left the ELCM campus and drove to Mvu Camp – we arrived at dusk, took a boat across the river to camp, and were welcomed by Chifundo with iced tea and a quick overview of the next 24 hours. Since we arrived later in the day we did not do a traditional three hour evening game drive, however, Chifundo was kind enough to take us out in the jeep for a bit to see what nocturnal creatures we might spot at night. We were lucky enough to see a genet, a pride of lions, and a few hippos before heading back to check into our chalets and enjoy dinner.



I continue to be impressed by the conservation and sustainability efforts of this place, particularly since they see so many international visitors each month. There are very few things on site that need disposing of – even our water carafes and drinking glasses are upcycled from gin and soda bottles.



The next morning we were escorted from our chalets at 5:00 am for a quick cup of coffee and then we loaded the vehicle and headed out to the bush. I am certain that having Bishop Martin along created some unusual luck because we saw things even Chifundo had never seen before. Perhaps because it is warmer and later in the season, there were herds of so many creatures out and about – zebras, impala, kudu, sable antelopes, warthogs, bush hogs, and elephants.

## Report from Memorial & Gifts Committee

**Members:** Melanie Johnson, Diane Wiskersen, Dan Klaustermeier, Sue Myers, Kriste Lewis, Jeanette Wright

Memorials are donations given to honor a loved one following his/her death. Gifts are also given upon a significant occasion such as a birth, baptism, wedding, birthday, anniversary, or any other important event. Some memorials or gifts are intended to be used for a specific purpose stated by the donor. An undesignated memorial or gift is not given for a specific purpose. When a need arises within the church for funds, this committee authorizes expenditures for the given need. A request for funds can be made at anytime during the year.

In 2024 gifts were given in memory of Dorothea Olson, Jim Hines, Pastor Harlen Menk, Evelyn Young, Nancy Ellefson, Kenneth Kinneman, and Vicki Nelson.

Areas of ministry that received memorial and gift money this year were Undesignated and Youth.

*Submitted by Jeanette Wright*

Memorial & Gifts 2024				
Fund Name	Beginning Balance	Funds Received	Funds Used	Ending Balance
Altar Guild	\$1,123.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,123.33
Banners	\$323.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$323.75
Children's Ministry	\$82.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$82.74
Church Furnishings	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Kitchen	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Landscaping	\$693.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$693.04
Mission Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Music Ministry	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$225.00
PC Fair	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Quilters	\$133.01	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$158.01
Sunday School	\$384.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$384.16
Undesignated	\$3,596.26	\$4,199.00	\$4,689.98	\$3,105.28
Youth Ministry	\$2,251.65	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$2,151.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,062.94</b>	<b>\$5,019.00</b>	<b>\$4,789.98</b>	<b>\$9,391.96</b>

# Report from Mission Endowment Committee

## Mission Endowment 2024 Annual Report

Submitted by: Warren Johnson

**Endowment Committee Members:** Warren Johnson, Chair (term ends 1-31-25), Trina Groen, Treasurer (term ends 1-31-25), Traci Maxwell, Secretary (term ends 1-31-26), Dixie Basch (term ends 1-31-26), Mary Sokolik (Term ends 1-31-25), Diane Wiskerchen (term ends 1-31-26), Kip Gore (term ends 1-31-26). The length of one's term is 3 years for a maximum of 3 terms. They may be re-elected to serve another term of 3 years.

**Endowment Mission Statement:** Transforming lives by spreading God's love through Christ-centered generosity.

### 2024 Summary:

Following Church guidelines and protocol, the Endowment Committee met on four occasions: 2/13/2024, 5/09/2024, 8/14/2024, and 11/13/2024.

I'm pleased to report that all of the distribution requests from various church committees were, once again, approved by this committee, so our goal of supporting our youth and outreach ministry was fulfilled in total.

We continued addressing ministry needs as they arose. An area of importance to clarify is just how Endowment funding works for you and all of the church, both inside and outside its walls. Some view personal money gifts at work only if there are some visual, tangible brick-and-mortar objects to be seen. Endowment is typically so much better. Through your Estate Planning or Will, or other monetary gift, you can designate where your ongoing gift to the church is to go, a gift which has no end. All monetary gifts given to the Endowment Fund take the interest accrued on your capital given, so your gift of money never gets exhausted.

Currently, 3 categories exist to offer your gifts. They are: the Children's Education Fund, the Women's Fund, and the General Fund. Keep in mind, that there is an ever-increasing need to help the General Fund, as many outward ministries need our support. This year, we are still in want of General Fund support. Your monetary gifts given are not used to pay ongoing bills of the church, such as utilities, but rather, are used to provide further ministry within our community (ex. Kingdom Kids) and surrounding areas, as well as to provide resources needed by individuals needing our help.

Examples of ministries and programs supported by the Endowment Fund in 2024 include: Sunday School Easter baskets, Sunday School programs and activities, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation program activities, Luther Point scholarships, Hope supplies, and Sharing Shed expenses.

### Goals for 2025:

For the coming year, we intend to continue dispersing gifts where needed, and prayerfully, increase our church outreach to those areas in need. Another goal is to continue showing unchurched members of our society we are here to love, support, and pray for them in good times and in bad times. Your financial gifts help our church to extend "our stewardship," accomplishing what Christ has set us out to do. We pray you **can** and **will** become part of our 2025 goals.

Warren Johnson,  
Endowment Chair

*Submitted by: Warren Johnson*



Mission  
**REPORT**

## 2024 Mission Endowment Fund Treasurer's Report

Mission Endowment funds are maintained in two separate accounts. The first is an investment account managed by the ELCA. Within that account there are separate accounts for a Children's Fund, a Women of ELCA Fund, and a General Fund. The second account is a checking account referred to as the Mission Investment Fund checking account. Investment earnings from the investment account are automatically deposited into the checking account quarterly. Funds deposited in the checking account are used to support Mission Endowment distribution requests. Summaries of both accounts are provided below.

*Submitted by Trina Groen*

ELCA Endowment Investment Account 2024 Fiscal Summary			
	November 30, 2023	November 30, 2024	Distributions to Endowment Checking
Children's Fund	\$85,364.84	\$96,731.39	\$3,495.70
Women's Fund	\$43,378.29	\$49,154.23	\$1,776.20
General Fund	\$20,504.97	\$28,697.62	\$989.00
Total	\$149,248.10	\$174,583.24	\$6,260.90

\* This account has the principle funds

Mission Investment Fund Checking Account 2024 Fiscal Summary			
	2023 Year End	2024 Year End	Requests Funded in 2024
Children's Fund	\$4,440.18	\$3,292.08	\$4,675.70
Women's Fund	\$3,737.65	\$3,488.16	\$2,041.89
General Fund	\$1,105.70	\$1,652.10	\$500.00
Total	\$9,283.53	\$8,432.34	\$7,217.59

This account is the interest from the principle

## Report from Music & Worship Ministry

**Committee Members:** Bev Greeley, Tammy Brenner, Ava Maxwell, Joel Schulze, Sharon Schulze, Lynette Winger, Missy Kowalchyk, Pastor Warren

This year's Lenten season was different. Instead of using Holden Evening Prayer Service on Wednesdays, the music centered around the message the Pastor focused on.

Summer went well with arrangements made so that Missy could spend time in NC. Music was planned and prepared by Missy so that worship leaders could lead worship.



The church organ was removed. A baby grand piano was acquired.

The members of music worship have been very generous with their time and talent contributing to prayerful services for regular Sunday worship as well as extra Wednesday services in Advent and Lent .

The choir continues to be dedicated to their music, agreeing to do the cantata again.

The Christmas Cantata was once again open to the public; it was decided that we would not ask anything of the public (no free will donation requested), but that they come and enjoy.

Thank you to all who are partners on our team!

*Submitted by Lynette Winger, Ava Maxwell, and Missy Kowalchyk*

## Report from Property Committee

**Committee Members:** Curt Dumermuth, Dave Greeley, Mark Groen

Three major tasks for 2024 included:

- 1) Replacing 4 toilets in the newer addition bathrooms
- 2) Automatic door openers for the main entry doors
- 3) New carpet in the downstairs hallway and entrance

Many other odd jobs were completed by the committee when they were brought to our attention.

Early in 2025 we intend to work toward a temporary solution to the short supply of hot water in the west kitchen sink.

Two future projects appear to be kitchen remodel and replacing/updating furnaces.

We continue to need and appreciate communication from members to help identify areas needing attention.

*Submitted by Curt Dumermuth*





### A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARTIN

To the amazing disciples of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

I remember with gratitude preparing for annual meetings when I was most recently a pastor at St. John's Lutheran in Bloomer. So many reports to collect, so many people to recruit, so many meetings to plan - it was a busy time indeed! But in doing all of that work, they all came together for two important purposes:

1. To share God's stories through your ministries.
2. To plan future God stories through your ministries!

When you really think about it, annual meetings are a time to celebrate what has already happened and a way to dream about what could be in the forthcoming months and years! And from my new perspective as your bishop, I love knowing that despite all of the great things we share in common, there are so many contextual things that are happening in your congregation alone. What a blessing as we come together as fellow ELCA Lutherans, yet all distinct and unique in what God is calling us to do!

As you may know, we also share in our ministry together as the Northwest Synod of WI. There are several things to celebrate that I want to share here.

1. We continue to financially support our synod youth and their related ministries, such as our bible camps and youth gatherings.
2. We raised over \$120k for our friends in Malawi to build additional solar powered wells, despite having a goal of \$40k! It was so fun to share that information with them in person when Deacon Laura and I visited a few months ago and got to see firsthand some wells that had been built and purchased from this synod in the past.
3. We support our young adults in campus ministry, along with other young adult opportunities, such as our upcoming young adult gathering in Puerto Rico this January. This is such an important part of life as they explore their faith and make it their own and we get to help nurture those conversations!
4. We are helping our first call pastors lean into their leadership and nurture their God-given gifts as they discover the joys and opportunities of their first call experiences. This includes helping them out financially as they seek to reduce their educational debt that they bring into that first call.

Finally, I want to thank you for electing me as your bishop. Thus far, I have felt the full support of this synod as I visit congregations from week to week. The days of the election itself, along with the installation in September, have both been two of the most meaningful and life changing experiences of my life and your support is a significant part of it I have fully enjoyed visiting each congregation and look forward to seeing yours over the course of my six year tenure. Yes, I realize it will take four years to get to them all, but the way the time has been flying, it won't be long!

Please know that your synod staff are here for you and want to accompany you on your journey of faith. We will continue to pray for us all in our lives together to make sure that our relationship with you is supported and upheld in prayer, in both the joys and struggles of ministry. We want our relationships to be intentional and strong so that you never feel isolated in this work. We are grateful for your partnership in the gospel!

Privileged to serve,  
Bishop Martin

## 2024 Dedicated Funds

12-31-24 Cash Balances:		
	2023 Year End	2024 Year End
General Fund	\$118,150.69	\$124,306.75
Dedicated Funds	\$78,056.47	\$101,386.04
Thrivent Fund	\$101,849.34	\$110,263.90
Total:	\$298,056.50	\$335,956.69

Endowment fund balances are noted on page 19 of this document.

### Dedicated Funds

#### Dedicated Accounts

December 31, 2024

Account Shortcut and Description	Beginning Balance	Month Credits	Month Debits	YTD Credits	YTD Debits	Ending Balance
<b>Church Operations</b>						
<b>Dedicated Funds</b>						
801 Adult Education Fund	165.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.61
808 ARC Fund	149.67	0.00	0.00	750.33	900.00	0.00
802 Banner Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
822 Community Missions Fund	1,226.34	0.00	0.00	224.00	224.00	1,226.34
811 Confirmation Funds	0.00	1.26	158.51	223.11	223.11	0.00
845 Dollar Club	311.55	0.00	0.00	184.00	363.71	131.84
843 Evelyn Young Estate	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
810 Fairstand Fund	21,363.24	0.00	0.00	65,957.39	53,616.32	33,704.31
812 Funeral Fund	5,177.51	250.00	120.97	2,775.00	4,167.65	3,784.86
816 Hospitality Fund	1,295.14	88.00	309.81	620.79	947.07	968.86
826 Medical Supply Fund (prev Parish Nurse)	1,179.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.84	1,135.58
819 Memorial & Gifts Fund	9,162.94	205.00	3,000.00	6,334.00	4,789.98	10,706.96
820 Misc Dedicated	843.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	843.74
821 Mission Endowment Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
842 Mission Trip	2,916.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,916.45
824 Music Misc	213.04	4,050.00	7,161.26	4,050.00	7,192.26	(2,929.22)
825 Offering Envelopes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
827 Property Fund	8,845.09	125.00	3,841.06	4,002.52	7,779.58	5,068.03
830 Soup Suppers	0.00	266.00	618.13	1,279.25	901.29	377.96
832 Special Music Fund	541.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	541.30
846 Summer Trip Fundraisers	447.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	447.00
834 Sunday School	5,029.79	47.46	627.59	2,373.81	4,506.82	2,896.78
835 Sunday School Offering	3.00	22.17	25.17	632.16	635.16	0.00
836 Thrivent Choice Dollars	1,177.00	0.00	1,154.13	377.00	1,394.12	159.88
837 Turkey Baskets	(565.67)	80.00	1,713.76	1,528.88	1,713.76	(750.55)
838 Vacation Bible School	190.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.79
847 Women's Group	4,841.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,841.76
840 World Hunger	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
848 Youth Leader	4,252.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,252.32
839 Youth Ministry	9,289.44	37.40	0.00	2,251.00	835.00	10,705.44
Dedicated Funds Totals:	78,056.47	5,172.29	18,730.39	113,563.24	90,233.67	101,386.04
Church Operations Totals:	78,056.47	5,172.29	18,730.39	113,563.24	90,233.67	101,386.04
<b>Total for selected dedicated accounts:</b>	78,056.47	5,172.29	18,730.39	113,563.24	90,233.67	101,386.04



## 2024 General Fund & 2025 Proposed Budget

Line No.	Description	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed Budget
101	Envelope Offering	107,401.00	115,500.00	125,464.00	120,000.00
102	Loose Offering	1,035.39	1,000.00	3,495.83	2,500.00
107	E-Giving	73,912.87	79,000.00	75,693.24	80,000.00
120	Church Rental	0.00	0.00	1,907.00	4,000.00
121	Church Fair Stand	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
123	Miscellaneous Income	2,988.43	3,500.00	1,804.38	3,500.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>205,337.69</b>	<b>219,000.00</b>	<b>228,364.45</b>	<b>230,000.00</b>
400	ELCA Benevolence	5,804.19	6,478.50	7,052.85	6,733.50
401	LSS	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,457.83	1,450.00
402	Luther Point Bible Camp	1,653.96	1,654.00	1,516.13	1,654.00
403	Malawi	1,299.96	1,300.00	1,299.96	1,300.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>10,078.11</b>	<b>10,752.50</b>	<b>11,326.77</b>	<b>11,137.50</b>
410	Salary-Pastor	47,317.92	49,421.00	49,421.01	52,633.38
411	Housing	14,195.04	14,826.30	14,826.24	15,790.01
412	SS Allowance	4,705.92	4,914.92	4,914.93	5,234.39
413	Health Allowance	26,930.67	35,268.00	34,301.40	37,380.00
414	Pension/Disability/Group Life	13,284.88	7,607.84	7,284.12	7,600.00
415	Reimbursable Mileage	1,730.53	1,200.00	1,864.95	1,200.00
416	Continuing Education	95.00	800.00	599.00	800.00
417	Pastoral Books/Publications	0.00	300.00	204.45	300.00
418	Official Meetings	485.99	500.00	747.57	500.00
	Mobile phone reimbursement	600.00	600.00	500.00	600.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>109,345.95</b>	<b>115,438.06</b>	<b>114,663.67</b>	<b>122,037.78</b>
420	Staff Mileage	25.50	100.00	0.00	100.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>25.50</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
422	Salary-Communications	14,839.14	21,000.00	18,654.50	16,000.00
423	SS Allowance--C Coord.	1,135.17	1,606.50	1,430.88	1,224.00
424	Continuing Education--C Coord.	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>15,974.31</b>	<b>22,806.50</b>	<b>20,085.38</b>	<b>17,424.00</b>
426	Salary-Finance	5,394.94	6,500.00	3,745.00	4,160.00
428	SS Allowance-Finance	412.71	497.25	286.52	318.24
427	Continuing Education--Fin. Admin.	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>5,807.65</b>	<b>7,197.25</b>	<b>4,031.52</b>	<b>4,678.24</b>
429	Salary--Music Director	10,200.00	10,400.00	11,183.25	10,712.00
430	SS Allowance--Music Director	780.30	795.60	855.58	819.47

## 2024 General Fund & 2025 Proposed Budget

Line No.	Description	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed
431	Continuing Education--Music Director	0.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>10,980.30</b>	<b>11,445.60</b>	<b>12,038.83</b>	<b>11,781.47</b>
432	Salary-- <b>Accompanist</b>	6,600.00	7,800.00	8,200.00	8,035.00
433	SS Allowance-- <b>Accompanist</b>	504.90	596.70	673.18	614.68
434	Continuing Education--	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
435	Musician Substitutes	75.00	500.00	300.00	500.00
439	Guest Musicians	150.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,329.90</b>	<b>9,296.70</b>	<b>9,173.18</b>	<b>9,549.68</b>
440	Youth Director	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
441	SS Allowance--Youth Director	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
450	Salary--Custodian	3,135.00	3,500.00	3,168.75	3,500.00
451	SS Allowance--Custodian	239.84	267.75	242.39	267.75
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,374.84</b>	<b>3,767.75</b>	<b>3,411.14</b>	<b>3,767.75</b>
460	Electricity--Church	4,457.32	5,000.00	4,372.67	5,500.00
461	Gas--Church	4,495.95	5,000.00	3,156.52	4,500.00
462	Water & Sewer--Church	630.35	700.00	487.79	1,000.00
463	Telephone--Church	2,397.67	2,400.00	2,386.89	2,400.00
464	Garbage	1,070.48	1,000.00	1,216.60	1,200.00
467	Piety St Curb & Gutter	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>13,051.77</b>	<b>14,100.00</b>	<b>11,620.47</b>	<b>16,100.00</b>
471	Custodial Supplies	221.70	500.00	516.58	500.00
472	Snow Removal/Sanding	4,995.00	4,000.00	2,020.00	4,000.00
473	Building Maintenance	1,790.33	2,000.00	1,531.00	2,000.00
474	Elevator Maintenance	2,040.04	2,000.00	2,385.70	2,500.00
475	Grounds Maintenance	1,995.00	2,000.00	1,803.00	2,000.00
478	Fire Alarm	0.00	125.00	0.00	125.00
479	Property & Liability Insurance	6,935.97	9,000.00	9,627.22	10,500.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>17,978.04</b>	<b>19,625.00</b>	<b>17,883.50</b>	<b>21,625.00</b>
480	Workman's Compensation	1,074.73	1,100.00	1,000.92	1,000.00
481	Data Base/Accounting	1,711.60	1,000.00	2,021.17	2,000.00
482	Office Supplies	1,625.91	1,800.00	2,154.44	2,200.00
483	Office Equipment Maintenance/	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
484	Postage	594.14	500.00	543.08	550.00
485	Copier Lease & Usage	2,307.57	2,500.00	2,883.38	3,000.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,313.95</b>	<b>7,100.00</b>	<b>8,602.99</b>	<b>8,950.00</b>

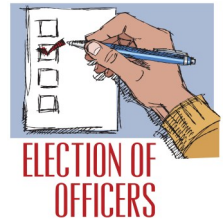
## 2024 General Fund & 2025 Proposed Budget

Line No.	Description	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed Budget
419	Pulpit Supply	600.00	1,000.00	875.00	1,000.00
486	Sundays and Seasons	419.00	450.00	419.00	450.00
487	Sheet Music, Music Supplies,	641.99	300.00	581.67	750.00
488	Copyright Lease	977.02	1,200.00	1,808.92	1,800.00
489	Altar Guild Supplies	477.09	700.00	937.51	1,000.00
490	Banners	0.00	200.00	92.88	200.00
491	Seasonal Worship Supplies	313.00	300.00	107.74	300.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,428.10</b>	<b>4,150.00</b>	<b>4,822.72</b>	<b>5,500.00</b>
492	Local Outreach	900.00	700.00	363.38	700.00
494	New Members	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
495	Portals of Prayer	169.00	250.00	419.25	350.00
496	Advertising & Website & Ext.	756.00	800.00	1,862.03	800.00
498	E-Giving Fees/Envelopes	1,524.52	1,300.00	977.84	1,200.00
499	Stewardship Committee	73.18	200.00	0.00	200.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,422.70</b>	<b>3,650.00</b>	<b>3,622.50</b>	<b>3,650.00</b>
503	Confirmation Curriculum/	251.59	500.00	491.16	500.00
504	Youth Activities/Events	213.07	200.00	136.03	200.00
505	Senior High Ministry	0.00	200.00	67.43	200.00
507	Adult Education	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
509	Milestone Ministry	151.68	200.00	0.00	200.00
511	Summer Youth Trip (form.	232.60	250.00	0.00	250.00
512	Children/Youth Event	18.10	100.00	0.00	100.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>867.04</b>	<b>1,550.00</b>	<b>694.62</b>	<b>1,550.00</b>
513	Miscellaneous Expense	675.00	250.00	428.00	500.00
514	Synod Assembly	150.00	200.00	326.24	350.00
515	Council/Leadership Education	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
516	Synod/Conference Dues	40.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>865.00</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>754.24</b>	<b>1,100.00</b>
	<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>205,337.69</b>	<b>219,000.00</b>	<b>228,364.4</b>	<b>230,000.0</b>
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>209,843.16</b>	<b>231,679.36</b>	<b>222,731.5</b>	<b>238,951.4</b>
	<b>Difference:</b>	<b>-4,505.47</b>	<b>-12,679.36</b>	<b>5,632.92</b>	<b>-8,951.42</b>

## Terms of Office: Preliminary Nominees for Election

**Notes:** Names of nominees are in **bold print**.

Nominees up for reelection are indicated with an \*.



### CONGREGATION COUNCIL (2 YEAR TERM)

Members whose terms expire January 31, 2025

Denise Hager, Greta Larson, Lynette Winger,  
Dennis Swanson

Members whose terms expire January 31, 2026

Jill Hague, Paul Tonsager, Mark Groen

Nominees who, if elected, will serve until January 31, 2027

**Cindy Baird, Danielle Chollett, Mike Harris**

### MEMORIAL AND GIFTS COMMITTEE (2 YEAR TERM)

Member whose term will expire January 31, 2025

**Jeannette Wright \*, Melanie Johnson\***

Members whose term will expire January 31, 2026

Kristi Lewis, Sue Myer, Dan Klaustermeier, Diane  
Wiskerchen

Nominees who, if elected, will serve until January 31, 2027

**Jeannette Wright \*, Melanie Johnson\***

### MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE (3 YEAR TERM)

Members whose term will expire January 31, 2025

Mary Sokolik, **Trina Groen\*, Warren Johnson\***

Members whose term will expire January 31, 2026

Traci Maxwell, Diane Wiskerchen

Members whose term will expire January 31, 2027

Dixie Basch, Kipling Gore

Nominees who, if elected, will serve until January 31, 2028

**Trina Groen\*, Warren Johnson\***

### SYNOD ASSEMBLY: NOMINEES TO BE VOTING MEMBERS (1 YEAR TERM) APRIL 26, 2025

Nominees who, if elected, will serve as ELC delegates

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (1 year term) NO LIMIT ON TERMS

Members whose term will expire January 31, 2025

Eric Van Nocker, **Melba Smith\***, Gary Brown

Nominees who, if elected, will serve until January 31, 2026

**Denise Hager, Greta Larson, Melba Smith**