



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Great Falls, Montana

2024 Annual Congregational Report

Called to Order—January 26th, 2025, 11:15 a.m.

Our Savior's Church Constitution says,

"The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held during the month of January.

The order of business at the annual meeting shall include:

- a. opening devotions*
- b. approval of the minutes*
- c. reports of the pastor, the church council,
the treasurer, committees, and others*
- d. elections*
- e. approval of budget*
- f. unfinished business*
- g. new business*
- h. closing prayer"*

This is the framework our heritage gives us to review our shared ministry of 2024 and imagine where God is calling us to be a people of faith in 2025.

Your voice is part of *Our Savior's*. In the *Body of Christ*, there are no only children, no solitary voices—but rather, one family brought together by the Holy Spirit with Christ as our Head. So come, listen, be open, be ready to serve!!!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

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.

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race.

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

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2024 Annual Report Contents and Agenda

January 26th, 2025

- 1) **Opening devotions** p. 2
- 2) **Adoption of the Agenda** p. 3
- 3) **Approval of the minutes** p. 6
- 4) **Regular Reports**
 - a. Bishop's Reports p. 4-5
 - b. Council President's Report p. 10
 - c. Pastor's Report p. 11
 - d. Financial Report of 2024 p. 7-9
 - e. Committee Reports
 - i. Education Committee p. 12
 - ii. Human Concerns Committee p. 12
 - iii. Parish Life Committee p. 13
 - iv. Property and Finance p. 13
 - v. Stewardship Committee p. 14
 - vi. Worship Committee p. 14
 - f. Congregational Ministry Groups
 - i. F.I.S.H. p. 15
 - iii. Prayer Shawl Ministry p. 15
 - iv. Love Quilter's p. 15
 - v. Thrivent Choice Dollars p. 16
- 5) **Nomination Report and Elections**
- 6) **Presentation of 2025 Budget Proposal** p. 18-19
- 7) **Unfinished business**
- 8) **New business**
- 9) **Closing prayer**

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

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

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5



January 1, 2025

Dear Siblings in Christ,

"... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things ... If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22-23, 25)

Why are you here? Most likely you're reading this at your congregations annual meeting. And perhaps you are pondering this same question: "why am I here when I could be doing something else that's more exciting than a boring church business meeting?"

But what if congregation annual meetings were seen as more than just a "business meeting?" What if we thought of our Annual Meetings as the exciting continuation of our year-long discernment about where God is calling our congregation to go AND, even more exciting, as taking the first and biggest step of the new year into the calling from God that we discerned together?!

Annual Meetings are the time, usually the only time of the year, when the majority of your congregation gathers to make important decisions about leadership for the congregation (president, council members), finances (the budget, compensation packages), and how the congregation hopes and plans to do its ministry over the next year and beyond.

These necessary decisions are hopefully ignited from the values and principles sparked by the Holy Spirit through spiritual discernment. They emerge from hearts and spirits made bold by the transforming love of Christ and empowered through by the Spirit's fruit in "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-

control." They come from a mutually discovered purpose (why are we doing this?) and vision (where is God calling us to go?) in conversation with one another and with God.

What if we entered into our Annual Meetings with the perspective of opportunity and the mindset of generosity rather than just one more church-thing to do on a Sunday afternoon in January that's keeping us from watching the NFL playoffs? Imagine what God could accomplish in and through us for the sake of Christ's congregation, Christ's Church, and the wider world!

Congregations are not the only part of the church that have annual meetings. The Montana Synod, composed of congregations from across Montana and Northern Wyoming will also be having its Annual Meeting (also known as the Synod Assembly) in Great Falls, MT on May 30-31, 2025. As a Synod, we will walk on Christ's way together to elect the synod's leadership including a bishop, manage with generosity the blessings God has given to this Synod, and equip each other for listening to the Spirit's guidance, proclaiming Christ's Gospel, doing Christ's love, and collaborating for Christ's ministry. The theme for the 2025 Montana Synod Assembly is "Equipping for Hope."

There is a third Annual Meeting that will be happening this year- the ELCA's triannual Churchwide Assembly will meet in Phoenix, AZ on July 28-August 2, 2025. As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, voting members will gather from diverse places across this country to discern the direction of the Holy Spirit in electing a new presiding bishop and new Churchwide secretary, managing the blessings the ELCA has been given, deciding how we will live as Christ's Church together, and how God is calling us as the ELCA to move toward God's future together.

In all of these opportunities to gather for "Annual Meetings" in the name of Jesus Christ, let us remember that we are each and all parts of Jesus' Church, the body of Christ, and let us be emboldened to live out our faith through the hope, love and joy poured into us by the Holy Spirit.

May your congregation be blessed in this New Year by the new life that comes to us only in Jesus Christ!

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Dr. Laurie Ingling
Bishop, Montana Synod, ELCA

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes - January 28, 2024

The annual meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church was called to order by Council President Joyce Morgan following service on January 28, 2024. Pastor Eric Finsand led the opening devotions.

The agenda was presented. Gloria Johnson moved that the agenda be accepted and Kathy Maynard seconded, the congregation voted to accept the agenda as printed.

Pastor's Report is printed. He brought attention to the Bishop's Reports both Church wide and Synodical. He also expressed his gratitude at being offered the opportunity to serve in ministry with this congregation.

Pastor Eric addressed the issues that we have experienced the past year in record keeping. After much work the Treasurer's report presented at today's meeting reflect accurate totals for the end of the year. Jan Dahle moved that the report be accepted and Nancy Traner seconded. The congregation voted to accept the Treasurer's report.

The President's Report is printed.

The ministry and committee reports are printed.

The Nominating Committee presented three candidates for the church council, Sanna Beerman, Doris Seaton, and Luana Brown. No other nominations were brought forward and the congregation voted to accept the nominees.

The decision was made to not replace the current elected members on the other committees this year. Pastor Eric thanked Jenny Kunka for her service as visitation minister.

The 2024 Budget was presented by Rich Hamill of the Property and Finance Committee. Questions were taken from the congregation. Kathy Maynard moved to accept the proposed budget, Gloria Johnson seconded, the congregation voted to accept the Budget for 2024.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Passing of the Offering Plates. Harold Spilde moved that we return to passing the offering plates, Jan Dahle seconded. The congregation voted to pass the motion that we again pass the offering plate with one opposed.

Gloria Johnson moved that we close the meeting and Nancy Traner seconded, all voted in favor. Closed with prayer

Submitted by Kerrie Ramstead - Secretary

2024 Treasurer's Reports

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

OFFERINGS, DISBURSEMENTS & BALANCES

as of December 31, 2024

General Fund	December	Year to Date	2023 YTD
Giving	\$ 35,587.31	\$ 208,522.19	\$ 163,822.26
Interest Inc	\$ 349.03	\$ 2,263.59	\$ 5,072.78
Expenses	\$ 21,122.85	\$ 231,582.13	\$ 217,594.95
Totals	\$ 14,813.49	\$ (20,796.35)	\$ (48,699.91)

Fund Balances

US Bank Checking	\$ 43,940.08	\$ 153,413.56
US Bank MM	\$ 100,086.33	\$ -
Endowment Fund	\$ 305,248.32	\$ 292,441.93
Memorial Fund	\$ 2,133.06	\$ 2,126.23
Mission Investment	\$ 21,470.72	\$ 20,881.82
Mewes Scholarship	\$ 95,940.59	\$ 80,012.30
Nelson Scholarship	\$ 38,469.13	\$ 35,708.56
Totals	\$ 607,288.23	\$ 584,584.40

Designated Funds

2nd Century Building Fur	\$ 119,249.23	\$ 118,603.98
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 4,072.42	\$ 2,362.63
Memorial Fund	\$ 10,108.13	\$ 9,048.13
Memorial Garden	\$ 4,400.28	\$ 3,489.78
Mt Synod	\$ -	\$ 600.00

Designate Ministries

Total (30 funds)	\$ 37,146.85	\$ 36,866.46
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Totals	\$ 174,976.91	\$ 170,970.98
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Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2024

01/09/25

Accrual Basis

	Dec 31, 24	Dec 31, 23
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
US Bank	43,940.08	153,413.56
US Bank MM	100,086.33	0.00
Total Checking/Savings	144,026.41	153,413.56
Other Current Assets		
Endowment	305,248.32	297,374.98
Memorial Fund	2,133.06	2,126.23
Mewes	95,940.59	80,012.30
Mission Investment Fund	21,470.72	20,881.82
Nelson Scholarship Fund	38,469.13	37,897.07
Total Other Current Assets	463,261.82	438,292.40
Total Current Assets	607,288.23	591,705.96
Fixed Assets		
15000 · Furniture and Equipment	0.00	6,627.00
Total Fixed Assets	0.00	6,627.00
TOTAL ASSETS	607,288.23	598,332.96
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
02 · Special Accounts		
Estate Fund	7,312.48	7,312.48
Memorial Garden Fund	0.00	1,464.78
Pastor's Housing Fund	21,683.33	21,683.33
02-01 · Change for change	150.38	442.61
02-02 · Coffee Fellowship	1,015.63	429.06
02-03 · Fair Trade Coffee	538.75	201.98
02-05 · FLBC Camperships	289.00	604.00
02-06 · Flowers	903.20	0.00
02-07 · Food Services	850.98	945.10
02-08 · Meals on Wheels 2nd QTR	0.00	537.00
02-10 · Pastors Community Assistance	219.23	219.23
02-11 · Pig Roast Account	0.00	33.70
02-12 · Pre-release 3rd QTR	2,915.90	2,503.55
02-13 · Can Do	620.00	270.00
02-15 · Young at Heart	0.00	84.00
02-16 · Youth	0.00	40.25
02-17 · Others	0.00	246.94
02-19 · Special Offering	0.00	35.26
02-20 · Toby's House 4th QTR	0.00	382.00
02-21 · WELCA	0.00	140.20
02-26 · Fish	0.00	135.00
02-28 · Poinsettias	0.00	275.00
Total 02 · Special Accounts	36,498.88	37,985.47
03 · DESIGNATED FUNDS		
03-01 · Memorial Fund	10,108.13	9,048.13
03-02 · Second Century Building Fund	119,249.23	118,603.98
03-03 · Memorial Garden Columbariums	4,400.28	2,025.00
03-04 · Thrivent Choice Dollars	4,072.42	2,362.63
03-05 · MT Synod	0.00	600.00
Total 03 · DESIGNATED FUNDS	137,830.06	132,639.74

10:11 PM

01/09/25

Accrual Basis

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2024

	Dec 31, 24	Dec 31, 23
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	650.69	0.00
300 · State Unemployment/Admin Payabl	-2.72	-2.72
500 · Accounts Payable	0.00	360.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	174,976.91	170,982.49
Total Current Liabilities	174,976.91	170,982.49
Total Liabilities	174,976.91	170,982.49
Equity		
Market Value Adjustment	75,533.48	36,522.28
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	328,993.94	328,993.94
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	48,580.25	107,492.21
Net Income	-20,796.35	-45,657.96
Total Equity	432,311.32	427,350.47
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	607,288.23	598,332.96

OSLC GENERAL FUND GIVING

January	2023	\$ 16,605.69
February	2023	\$ 11,707.01
March	2023	\$ 10,327.25
April	2023	\$ 15,429.76
May	2023	\$ 16,372.35
June	2023	\$ 9,896.14
July	2023	\$ 21,070.13
August	2023	\$ 9,606.62
September	2023	\$ 10,738.76
October	2023	\$ 13,170.81
November	2023	\$ 12,371.10
December	2023	\$ 16,526.64
TOTALS	2023	\$ 163,822.26

January	2024	\$ 20,279.42
February	2024	\$ 15,575.41
March	2024	\$ 22,425.44
April	2024	\$ 13,302.01
May	2024	\$ 17,788.52
June	2024	\$ 13,085.31
July	2024	\$ 10,678.42
August	2024	\$ 10,732.31
September	2024	\$ 25,572.31
October	2024	\$ 12,126.42
November	2024	\$ 11,369.31
December	2024	\$ 35,587.31
		\$ 208,522.19

Congregational President's Report—2024

It is with great humility that I thank the congregation for trusting me as their president for the past year. It is not a position I would seek out, as I am much more comfortable in the kitchen doing dishes than I am leading meetings or in front of the congregation. I would like to thank the rest of the council for the support and collaboration in guiding the decisions of the past year.

We have continued the work of updating the new software that will consolidate member information and streamline our bookkeeping processes.

I was able to attend the Montana Synod Assembly Meeting in Billings along with Pastor Eric. This was an educational year and the focus was on Doing Justice.

I am always so grateful to this congregation for their generosity. I believe we Do Justice in our community through our support of various organizations. We have supported the hungry through collections for FISH, Meals on Wheels, Alliance for Youth, 1st Methodist Lunch Program, St Ann's Soup Kitchen, ELCA World Hunger and the Great Falls Public Schools Food Pantries. Those that are homeless or in transition through Grace Haven and Great Falls Pre-Release Center and the Rescue Mission. Those experiencing trauma through gifts to Toby's House and our gifts of beautiful quilts that are given to various organizations in the community. WELCA also collects offerings in the form of a Harvest Offering and a Thank offering in the fall that they distribute to various organizations.

We have welcomed new faces into our midst through baptism and new members. And we continue to welcome new people into our community of faith to worship and share fellowship. We have also bid goodbye to cherished friends and family, some to life circumstances as they moved on to new opportunities in their lives and some that have gone before us to join the communion of saints.

I know I have missed many of our accomplishments as we continue to serve each other within these walls and outside the walls of this church.

We are truly doing God's Work through our hands.

Blessings

Kerrie Ramstead

Pastor's Annual Report to the Congregation

This past year marked our 134th year of ministry as Our Savior's Lutheran Church. While none of our original members are still with us, their legacy continues.

Like those who were Our Savior's before us, we are centered in worship. We listen to God's Word as we hear scripture, we receive God's Word as we receive communion, and we step from worship into service as the Body of Christ shepherded by the Holy Spirit in this time and place.

I've been in awe this year watching that ministry continue in many ways through many people. In profoundly effective and quiet ways, Christ's work has been flowing through our hands. I've watched the humble volunteers who step forward to make sure fellowship is hosted following services and after funerals. I've watched the awesome commitment of members to remember the hungry in our prayers, but then to staff the FISH outreach and fund community ministries through quarterly offerings. I've watched quiet volunteers tend the upkeep of our building, prepare the altar and host as ushers for worship. I've seen individuals blend their voices to enrich our worship as our choir. I've experienced groups gathering to remember their neighbors and their fellow members in prayer. I've listened to the stories of those who lived Jesus' words - actually going to those who are prisoners to bring books, share gifts at holidays, be signs of grace. I've stood near the pulpit and watched the caring "check-ins" that happen as people take their regular spots in the pews. I've watched Christ's love embrace and support people as Our Savior's have surrounded persons bearing grief or illness with visits and cards and expressions of consolation and encouragement.

This is what God has continued to do through Our Savior's in this past year. It is a heritage of discipleship that glows with living faith.

This is where we find ourselves as Our Savior's. We are heirs of a long tradition of faithful worship and service. We are the stewards of a building and traditions what give us a base in which to gather

and from which to reach beyond our walls. We are doing what God has called us to do - listen to God's Word, then follow where Christ leads to work humbly and gently in care for each other and in service to our neighbors.

I expect this coming year will see us continuing that steady journey. Christ is our Shepherd. The Holy Spirit flows among us. God's work flows through our hands.

As in every generation, there are challenges. We are aging. Some of us are startled to see our parents (or grandparents) in the mirror. But with aging come some slowing down, treasuring the time we have with each other, taking no one for granted. We are generous - but we face the challenge of funding building and programs and staff. One challenge in this coming year will be finding ways to better bridge the gap between offering and expenses.

By God's grace, though, we have a profound resource. We are free. We are not shackled to patterns or methods which have been effective in our past. We are free to take what is useful in "how we've always done it" in the past and adapt to present needs and gifts and abilities. We are not frozen to routine, but free as children of the Reformation to continue to clarify what is our center, prune what is overgrown, and focus our community and our ministry where it is needed today.

Who knows what this new year will bring! Those who watch society and economics and politics can't say for sure. Those who wonder what the Church will look like in a new generation can't yet see what is coming. But Paul's words to Jesus' first followers reach into our journey; he writes, ***"I am confident, that the one who began working in you will bring God's purpose to completion in Jesus Christ....."***

Thank you for your trust and support in this past year. Thank you for your partnership in the year ahead!

Pastor Eric

Education Committee Report

Committee Members: Kathy Maynard, Odetta Arcand, Michelle Bruner, Kayla Muston, Tina Price, and Pastor Eric Finsand

Council Representative: Tina Price.

Applicants for the scholarships offered by OSLC were Sofia Molyneaux, who will be attending University of Montana; Jackson Hamill, who will be attending Montana State University; and Ethan Kunka, who will be attending Luther College in Decorah, IA. Each received their scholarship this Fall from either the Nelson Scholarship or the Mewes Scholarship. We are so fortunate to offer these scholarships to our youth.

Sofia Molyneaux was honored as a High School graduating Senior on August 18th. She received a prayer shawl and a quilt. Congratulations to Sofia and good luck to her future endeavors..

On August 4th, from 1-4 p.m., OSLC held it's third annual Family Art Fair. Children ages K-6 and their families from OSLC, our neighborhood, and the community were invited free of charge. Numerous arts and crafts were available for the participates. Creative projects were taken home to share with family members. We hope to offer this activity again next year.

On March 10th, OSLC hosted a multi-generational Pretzel Making workshop. We made German soft pretzels from the recipe the medieval monks used to feed children, and talked about God's love in prayer. The activity was well attended by families of all generations.

On December 24, 2024, the Education Committee offered snack bags to the children attending the Candlelight Service at 5:00 p.m. The bags contained an ornament, fruit, and candy.

The Education Committee hopes to continue providing activities for the youth of OSLC to enrich their faith in the next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Odetta Arcand

Human Concerns Committee

HUMAN CONCERNS

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Inform the congregation regarding local, national, and international hunger, justice, and health issues.

PLEASE NOTE, H.C. COMMITTEE MEMBERS INVESTIGATE THE ABOVE ISSUES AND LOOK FOR WAYS TO HELP. WE PLACE BEFORE THE CONGREGATION MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO BE OF SERVICE OR GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT, KNOWING THAT EACH OF US WILL CHOOSE FROM AMONG THEM AS THE SPIRIT LEADS AND MEANS ALLOW.

- Communicate with the congregation on behalf of ELCA hunger appeals
- Support Helping Hands located at First English Lutheran Church.
- Support the Great Falls Pre-release Center – especially at Christmas
- Provides Fair Trade products for purchase and for use at Sunday Fellowship
- Advises the Council re: organizations to be considered for Quarterly Envelopes
- Advises the Council re: distribution of Change for Change
- Support Family Promise

HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE PROJECTS FOR 2024

The Annual Loaves and Fishes event was held this year and it was very well attended. Amount raised from the event was \$3,000. THANKS TO ALL OF THE SUPPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE AND FISH, WE HAVE RAISED over \$121,000.00 OVER THE PAST 23 EVENTS and we will host again in 2025• The Blue Plate Special was held this year, money raised went to Pre-release gifts. Over \$700 was raised at this year's event. There was enough in the account from previous successful events for us to provide Christmas packages to the men and women residents of the Pre-release Center. The gifts consist of gloves, winter hats, toiletries, for each person. Kerrie & Harold purchased the gifts with these funds and Jerry delivered them!

*Through Thrivent Grants, members of the committee supported Can Do, Pre-Release Center & FISH!

- *Proceeds from Change for Change 1st Qtr.-Alliance for Youth, 2ⁿ Qtrd-First United Methodist Lunch Bags, 3rd- Qtr. ELCA World Hunger 4th Qtr., St. Ann's Kitchen. and Quarterly Envelopes were distributed to 1st Qtr.- Grace Home, 2nd Qtr., Meals on Wheels, 3rd Qtr.- Pre-release and Toby's House (Crisis Nursey).*
- *The committee enjoyed continued participation in the "Can Do" Stewardship Drive.*

The H.C. Committee thanks everyone who supported our projects this past year. The committee is always willing to respond to other needs in the congregation and the community. If you would like to participate in the work of the Human Concerns Committee, there is room at the table. We meet from 1 to 2pm – on the second Monday of each month in Lunde Hall. New members are always welcome come to a meeting and see what it is all about! All these Events are only successful because of a Generous Congregation and by God's Grace. THANK YOU.

Committee members currently are: Judy Ericksen, Judy Ludtke, Harlan & Pat Orham, Jerry & Kerrie Ramstead, Harold & Judy Spilde, and Laura Vanni-Kelly. (Clarise Flanagan Council Representative)

Parish Life Committee 2024 Annual Report

The Parish Life Committee was able to be active in 2023. We did not meet in 2024 but generally the committee meets once a year in the fall to review the past year and plan for the upcoming year. All other business was taken care of through email and direct communication.

The committee deals with social activities in the church, most of which involve preparation and consumption of food.

We look forward to the time when we will be actively engaged once again in:

- Assistance with Fellowship Hour and arrangements for monthly coordinators
- Make arrangements for Wednesday Soup

Suppers during Lent

- Schedule Lenten Soup Suppers and provide one Soup Supper
- Provide Easter Brunch .
- Provide lunch following Annual Meeting.

A special "thank you" to all of the Sunday Fellowship Hour coordinators and Monthly Service Group members who assist with Fellowship Hour. It is an integral part of the life at OSLC.

The committee is always available to assist with any social events for the congregation.

Committee Members are: Jerry & Kerrie Ramstead, Judy Ericksen, Ellen Forslund, Harlan & Pat Orham, Dick & Nancy Doughten, Elaine Osborne, Dennis & Karen Andersen, Juanita Hogenson

New committee members and new ideas for ways the committee can be of service are always welcome.

Property and Finance 2024

Committee members: Bob Dickenson, Phil Dunham, Harlan Orham, Fred Martens, Rich Hamill, Don Marberg, Jim Ronshaugen, Luana Brown and Pastor. Eric Finsand. The following were the main accomplishments for 2024:

- Renewed contracts for Lawn Care, Snow Removal, Elevator Maintenance, Sprinkler System, Boiler System, and Security System.
- Fall cleanup outside Church with pruning of shrubs.
- Oversight of monthly income and expenses 2024.
- Planning of budget for 2025.
- Oversight in getting new pew pads.
- Supervision of counting weekly giving.
- Repair of break in sprinkling system.

The Property and Finance committee would like to thank members of OSLC for a successful 2024.

Bob Dickenson
Chairman

Stewardship Committee

Our Fall Stewardship Appeal began two weeks before Reformation Sunday.

Letters were sent out to all the 176 households who receive our monthly Newsletter—used this year as the community towards which to direct our appeal. Many of those households include persons who have either moved or who have not been present in worship in the calendar year. Nonetheless, it was the place where our Appeal was directed.

As of the end of 2024, we have received responses from **Fifty Three Households**. The pledges we’ve received so far **total \$128,136**.

However, in 2024 we have received contributions from **One Hundred Eight Households**. Those contributions totaled **\$208,522.19**.

From that data, we can see that members of Our Savior’s are very generous and very faithful in their financial support of our congregation. That commitment is strong. *Actual pledging*—that has received less of a response. In the end, Council has determined to use *Actual Giving* from 2024 rather than Pledges for 2025 in determining our 2025 Budget.

We continue to encourage responses! We have also included all Pledging information with our Council and our Property/Finance Committee so that they could make informed recommendations as the 2024 budget was being prepared.

Worship & Music Committee

Committee members: Jan Dahle, Pastor Eric Finsand, Ellen Forslund, Gloria Johnson, Kathy Maynard, Michelle Payton, and Kerrie Ramstead

There are many people involved in creating meaningful worship experiences for whom we are grateful: AV Techs, Altar Guild, Choir, Worship

Leaders, and Accompanists. During 2024, an abundance of worship opportunities were offered. In addition to weekly Sunday morning worship, services were held on Ash Wednesday, midweek during Lent, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Brass musicians contributed to Easter and Reformation services. We were invited to worship with the Congregationalists and Methodists on Maundy Thursday and we shared a Thanksgiving Eve service with our Presbyterian neighbors. Special litanies included a Back to School Blessing in August, Blessing of the Animals in October, and Remembrance of Saints and Blessing of Quilts and Health Kits in November. We look forward to growing in worship and service under his leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

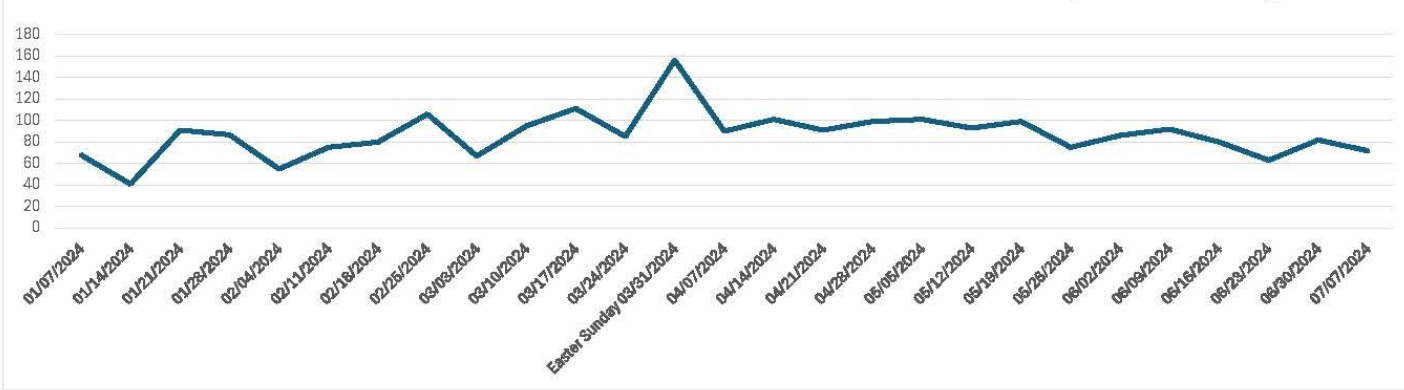
Ellen Forslund

Worship and Music Director

OSLC Worship Attendance during 2024

01/07/2024	68	07/14/2024	61
01/14/2024	41	07/21/2024	69
01/21/2024	91	07/28/2024	69
01/28/2024	87	08/04/2024	81
02/04/2024	55	08/11/2024	80
02/11/2024	75	08/18/2024	67
02/18/2024	80	08/25/2024	73
02/25/2024	106	09/01/2024	80
03/03/2024	67	09/08/2024	99
03/10/2024	95	09/15/2024	90
03/17/2024	111	09/22/2024	83
03/24/2024	85	09/29/2024	66
Easter Sunday 03/31/2024	156	10/06/2024	77
04/07/2024	90	10/13/2024	82
04/14/2024	101	10/20/2024	86
04/21/2024	91	10/27/2024	80
04/28/2024	99	11/03/2024	112
05/05/2024	101	11/10/2024	99
05/12/2024	93	11/17/2024	78
05/19/2024	99	11/24/2024	85
05/26/2024	75	12/01/2024	78
06/02/2024	86	12/08/2024	100
06/09/2024	92	12/15/2024	80
06/16/2024	80	12/22/2024	85
06/23/2024	63	Christmas Eve 5:00	177
06/30/2024	82	Christmas Eve 10:00	37
07/07/2024	72	12/29/2024	83

Our Savior's Worship Attendance during 2024



Reports from Ministry Groups within Our Savior's

Love Day Quilters – 2024

We just completed the first full year in our new space and are thoroughly enjoying having a place to call our own.

We meet the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 9:30 am to 12:00. Everyone is welcome to visit and join in the fellowship. Whether you want to tie a few knots, knit a prayer shawl, or just stop in, we would love to see you. Bev James and Sandra Huston are recent new members and we are enjoying getting to know them better.

We have decided to focus on local needs so no quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief. We still sent them School Kits, Fabric Kits and Personal Care Kits.

Quilts distributed:

- 5 - Grace Home
- 5 - Grace Haven
- 15 - Fire Department
- 4 - Alliance for Youth
- 6 - Veteran Center
- 13 - Yellowstone Boys & Girls Club
- 1 - Sold
- 1 - Loaves & Fishes
- 1 - Sophia Molyneaux
- 1 - Nancy Cook
- 1 - Madeleine Folkert

School kits sent to LWR: 17

We thank everyone who supports our group by providing contents for the kits sent to Lutheran

World Relief, sewing school bags, making quilt tops, fabric donations, and using your Thrivent dollars to purchase supplies. Your assistance is so much appreciated. Jan Dahle

FISH

Our Savior's is one of eleven churches and one service club that operates the emergency food program—FISH. FISH has NO paid personnel and is strictly run by volunteers.

Many hungry folks in our community were fed because of your generosity. In addition to purchasing food, other expenses are: rent, toiletries, insurance, telephone and equipment (refrigerator and freezer) replacement.

THANK YOU!!

Volunteers are always welcome. You need only work 2 hours every three months. You will find this volunteer opportunity satisfying.

Harold Spilde, Volunteer Director
Great Falls FISH

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry continues at Our Savior's. The prayer shawls are given to those needing comfort, graduating seniors, and recently we have donated some to Pastor Sara Branam who is the chaplain at the local Peace Hospice.

The knitters meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month with the quilters. A good time is had by all as we work on our projects. The shawls may be knitted or crocheted.

Please join us or if you wish, the shawl may be worked on at home. Directions and yarn is furnished to those wishing to make a shawl.

Please see Judy Spilde or any of the other knitters if you have questions.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Annual Report

Thrivent Choice Dollars from Thrivent Financial are designated by members who have Insurance or Investments with the Company. As a Non-Profit Company Thrivent gives back to communities through members! These funds once they are allocated to Our Savior's are deposited in a Choice dollars account. The Committee Members then designate these funds with guidelines that were set up when this started. They were to be used for non-budgeted items or community outreach focus. Ongoing funds for \$50 each month have been given to these nonprofits: GFPS Foundation for Food Pantries, Rescue Mission. The Balance of Choice Dollars as of December is \$4,163. The funds have been growing it is up \$1,571 since last year. This will help continue the stewardship of this outreach in the community. A Confirmation Reception has been given every year by Thrivent Members. There have been multiple request for projects from these funds over the years that have enhanced this congregation.

Thank you to Our Savior's Thrivent members who have designated our congregation to receive these dollars.

Also to the Committee members Juanita Hogenson, Carol Miller, Harlan Orham and Sue Dickenson for overseeing these funds.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Proposed Annual Budget for 2025

Line	Ordinary Income/Expense	Jan -Dec 24 Actual Receipts and Spending	2024 Annual Budget	UNDER/OVER BDGT	2025 Budget Proposed by Council
1	Income				
2	Income				
3	01 · General Fund				
4	01-01 · Contributions	\$ 181,823.38			
5	01-02 · Loose Cash	\$ 4,603.65			
6	01-07 – Christmas	\$ 3,398.00			
7	01-06 – Thanksgiving	\$ 100.00			
8	01-04 · Easter	\$ 2,420.00			
9	01-05 · Lent	\$ 739.00			
10	01-09 · Online pledges	\$ 15,038.16			
11	01-10 · Maundy Thursday	\$ 90.00			
12	01-11 · Good Friday	\$ 70.00			
13	4080 · Building Rent	\$ 240.00			
14	Total 01 · General Fund	\$ 208,522.19			
15	45000 · Investments				
16	45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	\$ 2,263.59			
17	Total 45000 · Investments	\$ 2,263.59			
18	Total Income	\$ 210,785.78			\$ 208,500.00
19	Expense				
20	01-5050 · Ministry of the Word				
21	01-5100 · Pastor Salary	\$ 58,927.92	\$ 58,928.00	\$ (0.08)	\$ 58,928.00
22	01-5110 · Pastor Housing	\$ 19,999.92	\$ 20,000.00	\$ (0.08)	\$ 20,000.00
23	01-5120 · Social Security Offset	\$ 5,575.92	\$ 5,576.00	\$ (0.08)	\$ 5,576.00
24	01-5121 · Pension/Medical	\$ 24,936.00	\$ 23,468.00	\$ 1,468.00	\$ 24,936.00
25	01-5124 · Add'l Pastoral Staff	\$ 600.00	\$ 700.00	\$ (100.00)	\$ 700.00
26	01-5129 · Pastor Mileage	\$ 1,056.99	\$ 700.00	\$ 356.99	\$ 700.00
27	01-5130 · Pastor Continuing Education	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ (600.00)	\$ 600.00
28	01-5131 · Pastor Books/etc	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ (50.00)	\$ 50.00
29	Total 01-5050 · Ministry of the Word	\$ 111,096.75	\$ 110,022.00	\$ 1,074.75	\$ 111,490.00
30					
31	01-5051 · Visitation Minister	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
32					
33	01-5500 · Ministries				
34	01-5510 · Organist Salary	\$ 4,636.66	\$ 7,568.96	\$ (2,932.30)	\$ 7,568.96
35	01-5515 · Choir Practice	\$ 950.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 750.00
36	01-5520 · Music Director Salary	\$ 7,583.04	\$ 7,583.00	\$ 0.04	\$ 7,583.00
37	01-5524 · Substitute Organist	\$ 2,875.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,825.00	\$ -
38	01-5525 · Guest Performers	\$ 850.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (150.00)	\$ 1,000.00
39	01-5530 · Music Supplies	\$ 636.81	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (363.19)	\$ 800.00
40	01-5531 · Piano/Organ Maintenance	\$ 1,666.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 166.00	\$ 1,500.00
41	01-5532 · Robe Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)	\$ 100.00
42	01-5535 · Staff Development	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ (50.00)	\$ 50.00
43	01-5538 · Worship Supplies	\$ 1,810.39	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 460.39	\$ 1,500.00
44	Total 01-5500 · Ministries	\$ 21,007.90	\$ 20,951.96	\$ 55.94	\$ 20,851.96
45					
46	01-5560 · Education				
47	01-5565 · Children's Resources	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)	\$ 100.00
48	01-5566 · Adult Education	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ (300.00)	\$ 100.00
49	01-5570 · Library	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ (50.00)	\$ 50.00
50	01-5580 · Assemblies & Retreats	\$ 1,242.66	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 242.66	\$ 1,000.00
51	01-5585 · Devotional Booklets	\$ 577.26	\$ 500.00	\$ 77.26	\$ 500.00
52	Total 01-5560 · Education	\$ 1,819.92	\$ 2,250.00	\$ (430.08)	\$ 1,750.00
53					
54	01-5610 · Youth Ministry				
55	01-5611 · Confirmation/Conference/Camp	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)	\$ 100.00
56	01-5613 · Scholarships	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	\$ 500.00
57	Total 01-5610 · Youth Ministry	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ (700.00)	\$ 600.00
58					
59	01-5620 · Public Relations & Outreach				
60	01-5621 · General Exp/Advertising	\$ 446.15	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (553.85)	\$ 800.00
61	01-5631 · Social Ministry	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ (50.00)	\$ 50.00
62	01-5641 · Fellowship	\$ 31.26	\$ 400.00	\$ (368.74)	\$ 200.00
63	01-5660 · Stewardship Ministry	\$ 657.29	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (342.71)	\$ 1,000.00
64	01-5662 · Materials/Supplies	\$ (44.80)		\$ (44.80)	\$ 50.00
65	Total 01-5620 · Public Relations & Outreach	\$ 1,089.90	\$ 2,450.00	\$ (1,360.10)	\$ 2,100.00

66							
67	01-5700 · Administration						
68	01-5710 · Admin Wages	\$ 8,005.00	\$ 14,172.00	\$ (6,167.00)	\$ 8,736.00		
69	01-5720 · Postage	\$ 1,165.16	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (334.84)	\$ 1,500.00		
70	01-5725 · Office Supplies	\$ 2,532.39	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 532.39	\$ 1,500.00		
71	01-5730 · Office Equipment Maintenance	\$ 5,430.33	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 430.33	\$ 5,000.00		
72	01-5735 · Software	\$ 82.99			\$ 1,000.00		
73	01-5740 · Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ (50.00)	\$ 50.00		
74	Total 01-5700 · Administration	\$ 17,215.87	\$ 22,722.00	\$ (5,506.13)	\$ 17,786.00		
75							
76	01-5800 · Property Maintenance						
77	01-5810 · Salary - Custodian	\$ 7,202.23	\$ 7,948.00	\$ (745.77)	\$ 6,240.00		
78	01-5820 · Supplies	\$ 630.37	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (369.63)	\$ 1,000.00		
79	01-5825 · Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 9,590.72	\$ 11,000.00	\$ (1,409.28)	\$ 11,000.00		
80	01-5830 · Insurance & Workers Compensa	\$ 10,924.62	\$ 12,000.00	\$ (1,075.38)	\$ 12,000.00		
81	01-5835 · Furniture & Equipment	\$ 587.25	\$ 100.00	\$ 487.25	\$ 300.00		
82	Total 01-5800 · Property Maintenance	\$ 28,935.19	\$ 32,048.00	\$ (3,112.81)	\$ 30,540.00		
83							
84	01-5880 · Utilities						
85	01-5881 · Gas	\$ 8,195.86	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (1,804.14)	\$ 10,000.00		
86	01-5882 · Electricity	\$ 6,934.46	\$ 7,000.00	\$ (65.54)	\$ 7,000.00		
87	01-5883 · Telephone	\$ 2,809.64	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (190.36)	\$ 3,000.00		
88	01-5884 · Garbage/Water/Taxes	\$ 5,132.34	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,132.34	\$ 4,000.00		
89	01-5885 · Alarm Maintenece	\$ 973.66	\$ 800.00	\$ 173.66	\$ 800.00		
90	Total 01-5880 · Utilities	\$ 24,045.96	\$ 24,800.00	\$ (754.04)	\$ 24,800.00		
91							
92	01-5900 · Missions						
93	01-5920 · Montana Synod/ELCA	\$ 12,996.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ (4.00)	\$ 12,000.00		
94	01-5925 · World Hunger	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00		
95	01-5930 · Flathead Bible Camp	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00		
96	01-5935 · Kogodus	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (200.00)	\$ 300.00		
97	01-5945 · Lutheran Social Services	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00		
98	01-5946 · Northern Rockies Inst	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00		
99	Total 01-5900 · Missions	\$ 15,796.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ (204.00)	\$ 14,800.00		
100							
101	66000 · Payroll Expenses	\$ 2,508.56	\$ 2,961.00	\$ (452.44)	\$ 2,457.79		
102	7000 · Accounting fees	\$ 5,000.04	\$ 5,153.00	\$ (152.96)	\$ 5,000.00		
103	8000 · Bank service charge	\$ 3,027.04	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,977.04	\$ 3,000.00		
104	8001 · Late Fees	\$ 39.00		\$ 39.00	\$ -		
105	Total Expense	\$ 231,582.13	\$ 240,107.96	\$ (8,525.83)	\$ 235,175.75		
106							
107	Net Ordinary Income	\$ (20,796.35)	\$ (240,107.96)	\$ 219,311.61	\$ (26,675.75)		
108							
109	Net Income	\$ (20,796.35)	\$ (240,107.96)	\$ 219,311.61	\$ (26,675.75)		

