



Report to the Congregation January 29, 2023

trust **let GO!**
GOD!
rise **UP!**



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Connecting Faith to Everyday Life.

Dear Partners in Ministry:

Happy New Year! As we enter 2023, we are even further down the road from the pandemic that has changed our lives, our world, and our church. Our Savior's continues to rebuild our sense of community and we look forward to what is to come as the Holy Spirit guides us with a sense of hope and renewal.

Many exciting things have happened in this last year. Despite passing a ministry plan with an operating deficit last July at our congregational meeting, we have managed to make some strides financially. One of our biggest accomplishments, thanks to Bob and Joan Thimjon, has been to sell our rental properties. We have assisted some first-time homeowners in making their dreams a reality while also unburdening us from the tasks and expenses associated with property management. This has been a win-win and definitely worth celebrating. We will explore ways that we can be fiscally responsible with the proceeds from the sale of the homes to continue God's work and to secure the future of our church.

An additional effort to address the financial strains produced from the pandemic was our Fall Generosity Revival. Each member was called upon to consider prayerfully increasing their investment in the ministry we share. The response to this appeal has been significant: 79 households increased their ministry investment by 21.4%, which equals \$56,371 of additional revenue. We could not be more grateful for the generosity and support with which our members have responded. Thank you.

This past year the Governing Board has embraced the strategic planning process and our writing teams have been hard at work to develop initiatives and action steps centered on our three strategic goals: 1. Build Our Savior's identity as a church of substance; 2. Prioritize financial stability and capacity to achieve the vision; and 3. Increase meaningful membership growth, retention, and engagement. There has already been a lot of hard work completed and we look forward to carrying out these goals in this next year and beyond.

Finally, we pivoted from hiring a fourth pastor to concentrating our efforts on finding a Director of Youth Ministry. We have been actively interviewing candidates and hope to have an exciting announcement to make soon as we remain committed to this important part of our ministry. Once again, the flexibility of our congregation is our strength and we are so grateful for the grace and understanding of our members.

God continues to bless us with guidance for doing the ministry we are called to do. Each member contributes to the success and future of our church and we are so grateful for your partnership and support.


Alison Sahly
Congregational President


Randall E. Gehring
Senior Pastor

AGENDA
Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Sioux Falls, South Dakota
29 January 2023 | 12:30 P.M.

- 12:30 1. Welcome
- 12:32 2. Spiritual Direction
- 12:36 3. Adoption of Rules
- 12:39 4. Adoption of Agenda
- 12:40 5. Approval of Minutes
- a. Annual Meeting, 30 January 2022
 - b. Special Congregational Meeting, 12 June 2022
 - c. Mid-year Congregational Meeting, 31 July 2022
- 12:45 6. Ministry Updates
- a. Ministry Celebration – Sale of Rental Houses
 - b. Committee Updates – see handouts
 - i. Policy and Leadership Development
 - ii. Stewardship Development
 - iii. Finance
- 1:00 7. Election of Leaders – see ballot
- a. Governing Board
 - b. Synod Assembly Voting Members
 - c. Resolution of gratitude for outgoing board members
- 1:05 8. New Business
- a. Affirmation of strategic plan
 - b. Distribution of house sale proceeds
 - i. Seminary scholarship fund per previous agreement
 - c. Adoption of proposed amendments to constitution & bylaws
- 1:28 9. Announcements
- 1:30 10. Adjourn

Minutes of Annual Meeting
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
January 30, 2022 | 12:30 P.M.

1. **Welcome**

The 76th Annual Meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church was called to order by President Alison Sahly at 12:30 P.M. Alison welcomed those in attendance and announced that Dennis McFarland would serve as parliamentarian and Janelle Hoven, Governing Board Secretary, would be recording the minutes. Alison noted that Pastor Randy Gehring and Pastor Justin Kosec were unable to attend the meeting and that Pastor Randy would be available telephonically. She further noted that the Annual Meeting of the Our Savior's Lutheran Church Foundation would immediately follow the congregational meeting.

2. **Spiritual Direction** – led by Shawn Pritchett

3. **Adoption of Rules**

Alison announced that the meeting would be governed in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

She also proposed the following additional rule:

“When debating an item on the floor, speakers will alternate between those speaking for the motion and those speaking against the motion. Debate will be limited to three speakers for and three speakers against, and each speaker's comments will be limited to two minutes. If an issue is contested and we sense that we need to discuss it further, a motion may always be made to allow more speakers for and against. We may alter our own rule if we need to, although it does require a two-thirds vote. Also we will only use the written ballots on the tables if we are unable to determine through the use of **Green** and **Red** voting cards the clear favor of, or opposition to, a motion.”

MSC¹ to adopt this additional rule.

4. **Adoption of Agenda**

MSC to adopt the agenda with the following change, Pastor Tim Lemme would be presenting Pastor Justin's Ministry Celebration.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **Annual Meeting, January 31, 2021** – The minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church were reviewed with no additions or corrections. MSC to approve as written.
- b. **Mid-year Congregational Meeting, July 18, 2021** – The minutes of the 2021 Mid-year Congregational Meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church were reviewed with no additions or corrections. MSC to approve as written.

¹ MSC = Moved, seconded, and carried

6. **Ministry Updates**

- a. **Ministry Celebration** – Pastor Tim shared Pastor Justin’s Ministry Celebration highlighting the Love in Action Core Ministry Team’s development of a mission partner program with Susan B. Anthony Elementary School. Special appreciation was expressed for Nancy Krueger’s involvement in implementing the program. The partnership has provided the students with over a thousand masks in response to the pandemic, conference meals for the teachers, books for the students, teacher appreciation, addressing student needs such as clothing, and mentors. The congregation celebrated this mission program with applause. The program is funded through the church’s ministry plan (budget) and special appeals. Opportunities to serve as a mentor are available and training is provided by Lutheran Social Services. Additional ways the congregation can help are to donate to the book drive and join a teacher appreciation team.
- b. **Committee Updates** – January 2022 updates from the Policy and Leadership Development, Stewardship Development, and Finance committees were included in the meeting packet.

7. **Table Talk**

Alison asked the individual tables to discuss what action is in the best interest of the congregation’s mission regarding the four OSL rental properties. Discussion on the floor followed and a motion was made to table the table talk until a recommendation was made by the Finance Committee. However, following an explanation noting that the purpose of the Table Talk was to provide the Governing Board with congregational feedback, the Table Talk discussion was held.

8. **Election of Leaders**

- a. **Governing Board** – Anne Rieck McFarland introduced the slate of candidates for the Governing Board. Opportunity was given for additional nominations from the floor; none were received. MSC to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot.
- b. **Synod Assembly Voting Members** – The SD Synod Assembly will be held at Our Savior’s on June 3–4, 2022. Our Savior’s is allowed nine adult voting members (ten if one is a high school student). At the current time, there are four volunteers: Anne Rieck McFarland, George Lee, Lynda Lee, and Deb VerSteeg. Tom Birkeland volunteered from the floor. MSC to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Additional voting members may be appointed by the Governing Board prior to the synod assembly in June.
- c. **Resolution of Gratitude for Outgoing Board Member** –Alison moved on behalf of the board a resolution expressing gratitude to Janelle Hoven, Secretary. The motion to adopt the resolution was seconded and carried by a show of applause.

9. **New Business**

- a. **Adoption of Proposed Amendments to Bylaws**
 - i. **Bylaws** – Alison read aloud a summary of eight proposed amendments to the bylaws as prepared by the Policy and Leadership Development Committee. The Governing Board, by their recommendation, moved the adoption of these amendments in a single group. A second was received from the floor, and the motion prevailed.

10. **Announcements** – Commissioning of the Governing Board will occur at all worship services on February 5–6, 2022.

11. **Adjourn** – Alison adjourned the meeting at 1:30 P.M. with the praying of the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Hoven, secretary

Minutes of Special Congregational Meeting
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
12 June 2022 | 11:45 A.M.

Alison called the meeting to order at 11:45. With 123 registered voting members in attendance, Alison announced that a quorum had been achieved. She offered an opening prayer.

Action Item for meeting:

On behalf of the Governing Board, Alison placed the following resolution on the floor for discussion and action.

Be it resolved that the four houses currently owned by Our Savior’s Lutheran Church be sold as soon as is feasible. This transaction shall allow current residents to remain in their respective homes through the end of their lease agreement.

Discussion ensued with several members speaking in favor of the resolution. Other suggestions regarding the logistics of selling the properties were made as well as a reminder to let our mission drive the transaction.

Those assembled voted by written ballot per the congregation’s bylaws. 120 votes were recorded in favor of the resolution. 0 votes were recorded in opposition to the resolution.

The meeting adjourned with the praying of the Lord’s Prayer at approximately 12:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni LeVasseur
Secretary

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Mid-year Congregational Meeting Minutes
31 July 2022

1. Alison welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that a quorum had been reached. She asked Dennis McFarland to serve as parliamentarian and Toni LeVasseur will be recording the minutes.
2. Shaw Pritchett led us in a time of spiritual direction.
3. Ministry Updates:
 - a. Ministry Celebration: Library Coordinator, Jana Keller, provided updates on the library ministry worthy of celebration.
 - b. Standing Committee Updates: Alison directed those assembled to read updates from the Policy and Leadership Development Committee, the Stewardship Development Committee, and the Finance Committee, which were provided in the packets distributed prior to the meeting.
 - c. Call Committee Update:
 - i. The Ministry Site Profile has been approved and the committee is hoping to start interviews by end of August.
 - ii. The committee will be using the Predictive Index, a tool that will help in the process of comparing candidates' gifts with what we are looking for.
 - iii. Any first call pastors will be interviewed on their own and not with more qualified candidates
 - d. Strategic Planning Update:
 - i. A vision statement has been adopted by the board.
 - ii. The board also adopted three primary goals: build OSL's identity as a church of substance; prioritize financial stability and capacity to achieve the vision; and increase meaningful membership growth, retention, and engagement. Writing teams have been formed to develop strategic initiatives and action steps for each of these three goals.
 - iii. A new strategic plan will be presented to the congregation at January Congregational Meeting.
 - e. Sale of Rental Houses:
 - i. The Board has decided to work with a realtor, who is a member of Our Savior's, to market the houses. However, an alternative plan has been submitted to the board. The board will be meeting with that individual this week to discuss the matter further. The board anticipates making a final decision after that meeting.
4. Table Talk
 - a. Alison invited those in attendance to spend fifteen minutes discussing three questions:
 - i. Have you ever helped serve communion during worship at Our Savior's? Why or why not?
 - ii. What obstacles exist at Our Savior's that prevent greater overall volunteer participation?
 - iii. What strategies would you suggest for eliminating these obstacles?
 - b. Groups were asked to record their responses on the form provided at each table so that their feedback could be considered by the board and the staff in the future.

5. New Business:

a. Proposed Amendment to Bylaws – **MSC**²

i. On a recommendation from the Finance Committee, the board moved the following resolution:

1. Be it resolved that the Bylaws of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church of Sioux Falls, South Dakota be amended in the following manner: Article 8.2.1.c.2 shall be amended to read, “Recommend selection of third party to conduct fiscal year reviews”; Article 8.2.1.c.3 shall be amended to read: “Review and approve financial reviews, which shall be conducted annually.; Article 8.2.1.c.4 shall be deleted; and the remainder of Article 8.2.1.c shall renumbered to accommodate this deletion.

ii. The resolution was briefly discussed with additional explanation offered by treasurer Joylynn Buus.

iii. The resolution passed unanimously.

b. Adoption of FY23 Ministry Plan – **MSC**

i. Treasurer Joylynn Buus presented the annual ministry plan.

ii. There were several questions and discussion regarding the proposed operating deficit.

iii. Following discussion, Alison called for the vote.

1. The FY23 Ministry Plan was adopted with one dissenting vote.

6. The meeting adjourned with everyone standing and saying the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni LeVasseur

² MSC is an abbreviation that denotes a proposal was moved, seconded, and carried.

Policy and Leadership Development Committee Update

January 2023

Members: Anne Rieck McFarland – Chair, Pastor Randy Gehring, Carrie Aaron, Ryan Oorlog

Committee Responsibilities

- **Size:** The Policy and Leadership Development Committee shall be composed of three (3) to five (5) members, including one Governing Board member not assigned to any other committee and the senior pastor.
- **Chair:** The chair of the Policy and Leadership Development Committee shall be chosen by the members of the committee at the first meeting of the committee following the annual meeting of the congregation.
- **Roles:**
 - Recruit and nominate members to the Governing Board, the Finance Committee, the Policy and Leadership Development Committee, and the Stewardship Development Committee.
 - Nomination for any office may be made by any member of the congregation from the floor at the annual meeting, providing that the nominee has agreed to serve if elected.
 - Provide orientation and training to governing board and committee members.
 - Oversee the development and annual review of the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual.
 - Recommend policies related to governance (i.e. Covenants, Governing Board Job Description, Conflict of Interest, etc.)
 - Conduct an annual review of the bylaws
 - Develop and facilitate a process for developing future church leadership.
- **Authority:** All decisions by the Policy and Leadership Development Committee shall be ratified by the Governing Board.

Committee Accomplishments for 2023:

The committee adopted the following Annual Work Plan to guide its activity and ensure the responsibilities for which it is responsible are accomplished. During the course of the year, it was identified that some additional policies need to be developed to aid the board and committees in doing their work well. These were added to the scope of work for this committee and are in process of being developed.

The items highlighted in yellow are new policies that are in the process of being developed. The item in red is a proposed policy that has yet to be initiated. The hope is to complete this policy in 2023.

PLDC Annual Work Plan

(Updated January 2023)

Task	Review Cycle	Month of Activity	Last Date of Completion	
Leadership Academy review	Annual	January	February'22	
Propose slate to congregation and governing board	Annual	January	January '23	
Identify synod assembly voting member nominations	Annual	January	January '23	
Recruit nominations for board; prepare ballot for board and congregation	Annual	October	December '22	
Recruit and nominate committee members to governing board	Bi-annual	May/October	Ongoing	
Governing Board Orientation process	Annual	November (review) February (orient)	When new members are elected	

Document	Review Cycle	Review Month	Last Committee Review	Last Board Approval
Position Statement on Governing Board Covenant	Annual	January		
Board Media Policy	Annual	March	September '21	March '20
Personnel Policy Manual Review	Annual	March	July '22	August '22
Board Governance Policy	Annual	March	May '21	July '19
Policy for Senior Pastor Evaluation	Annual	March	April '22	April '22
Board Policy Development	Annual	May	May '21	
Communication Strategy Policy	Annual		Not drafted	
Constitution <small>(requires congregational approval)</small>	Annual	December	January '23	January '23
Position Statement on Property	Annual	August	August '22	August '22
Position Statement on Strategic Planning	Annual	August	August '22	September '22
Bylaws <small>(requires congregational approval)</small>	Annual	October	Nov '22	January '23
Adhoc Task Force Policy	Annual	November	May '22	November '22
Membership Policy Manual	Annual	December	February '22	February '22

Memorandum of Understanding w/OSLC Foundation and Board of Directors	Annual	December	Nov '21	December '21
Use of Facility Policy	Annual	February	In process of drafting	
Policy and Procedures for Abuse of Vulnerable Adults	Annual	February	In process of drafting	
Policy on Governing Board Annual Self Evaluation	Annual	March	In process of drafting	

The above shows the activity of this committee over the past year and will drive the committee's priorities going forward.

Overall Rating of New Governance Structure – 10

We continue to believe that the new governance structure and the manner in which our pastors and staff have worked within this structure have been effective.

The committee would welcome new members at any time. If any congregation member has an interest in learning more, please contact one of the current members.

Submitted by Anne Rieck McFarland, Chair

Stewardship Development Committee Update

January 2023

Members: Dan Drenkow–Chair, Brad Green–Secretary, Anthony Pizer, Caroline Nyberg, Pastor Randy Gehring

Committee Responsibilities

- **Size:** The Stewardship Development Committee shall be composed of five (5) to eleven (11) members, including one Governing Board member not assigned to any other committee and the senior pastor. (Dan Van Schepen the Governing Board representative on the Stewardship Development Committee.)
- **Chair:** The chair of the Stewardship Development Committee shall be chosen by the members of the committee at the first meeting of the committee following the annual meeting of the congregation.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Develop a culture of stewardship and relationship development that creates an on-going spirit of giving and generosity.
 - Coordinate and conduct the annual stewardship appeal.
 - Provide ongoing stewardship education to the congregation.
 - Centralize all church appeals, financial and in-kind, for awareness and coordination.
- **Authority:** All decisions by the Stewardship Development Committee shall be ratified by the Governing Board.

Committee Accomplishments

- Continued to meet monthly since July 2022.
- Continued to follow our Stewardship Development Calendar as a guide to help us more fully carry out our role of developing a culture of generosity at Our Savior’s.
- Continued the video message during communion for our online audience thanking them and recognizing them as part of the worship and inviting them to become sustaining partners.
- Continued to schedule quarterly educational events on stewardship (though attendance has been low).
- Continued a quarterly sermon emphasizing stewardship.
- Planned stories and videos highlighting “Your Gifts Are Making a Difference”
 - October: Confirmation video with students sharing what they gained through the experience was well received.
 - December/January: We highlighted that, as a congregation, we donated 205 gifts to the Volunteers of America and Community Outreach, who has a store for the gifts. In addition, we delivered 115 Blessings bags to homebound members and raised approximately \$1,200 in lefse sales, which was split three ways.
- Received and shared Generosity Stories from members in August and November.
 - August – video featuring Eli Wagley, Odell Davis, and Emma Boyens, who are all youth that are involved with Celebrate worship.

- November – Hawthorne Elementary milk project. The impact from the Noisy Offering. Video highlighted the Noisy Offering and the children who participated in collecting it.
- In August, committee members made 86 personal “Thank you for your support” calls and handwritten thank you notes to members who were historic givers but had not returned an Estimate of Giving for the 2022 campaign.
- This fall, we organized and coordinated our first Fall Generosity Revival; a mid-year opportunity/reminder emphasizing that we do not want to reduce our impact in the community and that many hands make light work.
 - Letters were sent Monday Nov. 14, just in time for Thanksgiving.
 - 89 households responded with an average increase of 17%.
 - Our giving remains strong for the end of the year.
 - In January, the committee is sending thank you notes and making phone calls thanking this group.
- In December we began brainstorming our yearly campaign (scheduled to begin after Easter and culminating on Mother’s Day weekend).
 - A key emphasis will be on updating and improving our donor portraits database.
 - Over Christmas we read and studied the book “Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate” and brought ideas from it to our January campaign planning session.



Committee Priorities

- Develop and nurture relationships and the culture of generosity with OSL donors.
- Develop the 2023 stewardship appeal personalizing it for a diversity of donors.
- Build and develop OSL’s Donor Portraits.
- Continue using and developing our year-long approach to stewardship and development.
- Grow financial support from TV, online, and other media audiences.

Overall Rating of New Governance Structure – 9

This committee functioned well throughout the year. We added one new member and lost four since July. The new governance structure continues to function well, especially when we have one or two governing board members on the committee. The new Fall Revival campaign is an example of how we are continuing to nurture and grow an abundance mindset in the congregation. We are excited to learn from the new Branding Writing Team’s work and to align our work with OSL’s vision for ministry.

Submitted by Dan Drenkow, Chair, on behalf of the committee

Finance Committee Update

January 2023

Members: Brian Sittig, Donna Jipp (ended December 2022), Kristina Jeremiason, Dean Buckneberg, Pastor Randy Gehring, and Joylynn Buus, Treasurer

Committee Responsibilities*

- Review and monitor monthly financials
- Recommend selection of third party to conduct fiscal reviews
- Review and approve fiscal review which shall be conducted annually
- Report the results of all fiscal reviews to the members of the congregation
- Prepare a ministry plan that includes all project expenditures, including capital expenditures
- Review and monitor debt management strategies and make recommendations for change as needed
- Recommend policies related to purchasing and sound financial practices

*All recommendations or decisions made by the Finance Committee must be approved and ratified by the Governing Board.

YTD Financial Report – Based on December 2022 Financial Statements

- Expenses currently unfavorable to Ministry Plan (Plan) by \$53,000 or 5%; expect to finish fiscal year at or slightly less than Plan.
- Revenues including Foundation funds are currently higher than Plan by \$97,000 or 9%; project to finish fiscal year at Plan revenues.
- Actual offerings & contributions compared to Plan are over by \$30,000 or 3%; anticipate it will meet Plan by June 2022 year-end.
- Current on Mortgage Principal and Interest
- Total Cash – \$952,745 (includes approx. \$581,000 in net proceeds from home sales) compared to \$462,350 at December 31, 2021.

Committee Accomplishments

- Updated measures and targets for financial dashboard.
- June 2021 review completed; June 2022 review in process.
- FY 2023 Ministry Plan approved with loss of \$89,000 plus coverage of principal payments requiring \$141,000

Committee Priorities

- Examine and review financials as to offer suggestions and analysis to Governing Board.
- Continue to ensure backup for Business Administrator (Barb Haugan).
- Work with Pastor Randy and Governing Board to develop five-year capital budget and priorities.
- Ensure congregational decision on house proceeds is properly executed.

- Work with Financial Stewardship Strategic Planning team and Governing Board to assist, execute and/or advise on initiatives.
- Track performance to plan and projections as develop FY 2024 Ministry Plan.

Overall Rating of Governance Structure – 9

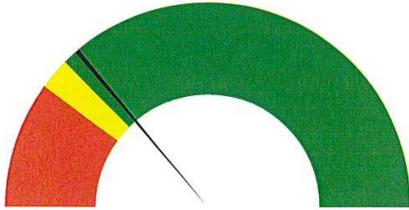
The governance structure continues to provide the flexibility needed to maintain the operations of OSL safely, efficiently, and effectively while still providing more than adequate financial review and oversight. As with all committees, communication to the church membership needs to stay a priority, whether it's directly from myself, through the President or Sr. Pastor, or even one on one conversations.

Submitted by Joylynn Buus; Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair

Financial Dashboard

Six months ending 31 December 2022

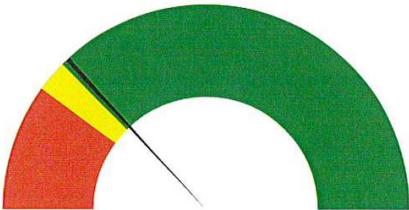
Revenue YTD



Revenue YTD	Projected YTD	Percent of Projection
\$1,176,680	\$1,080,106	108.94%

Includes pre-paid offerings and cap campaign funds released from restriction.

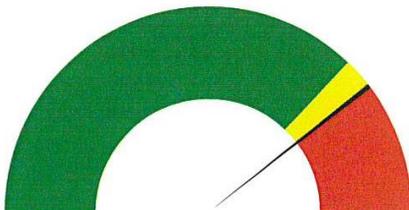
Offerings to Budget



Offerings YTD	Projected YTD	Percent of Projection
\$986,498	\$956,606	103.12%

Includes pre-paid offerings and cap campaign funds released from restriction.

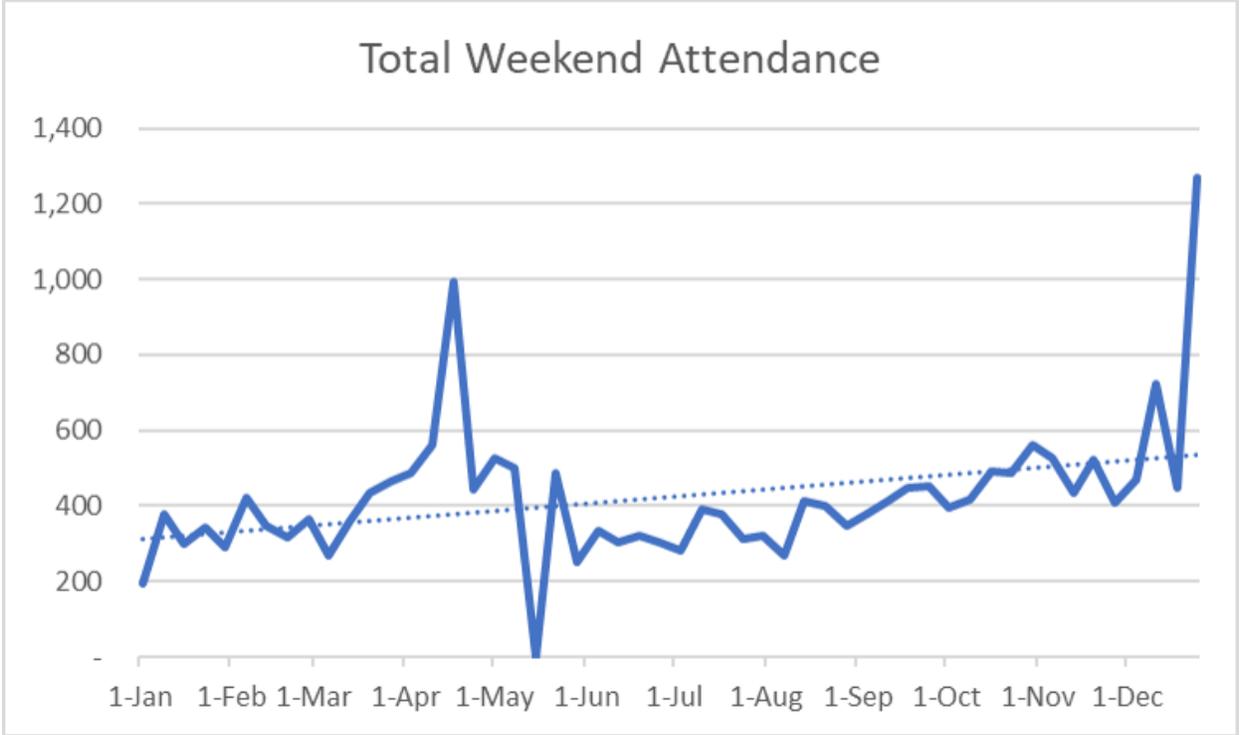
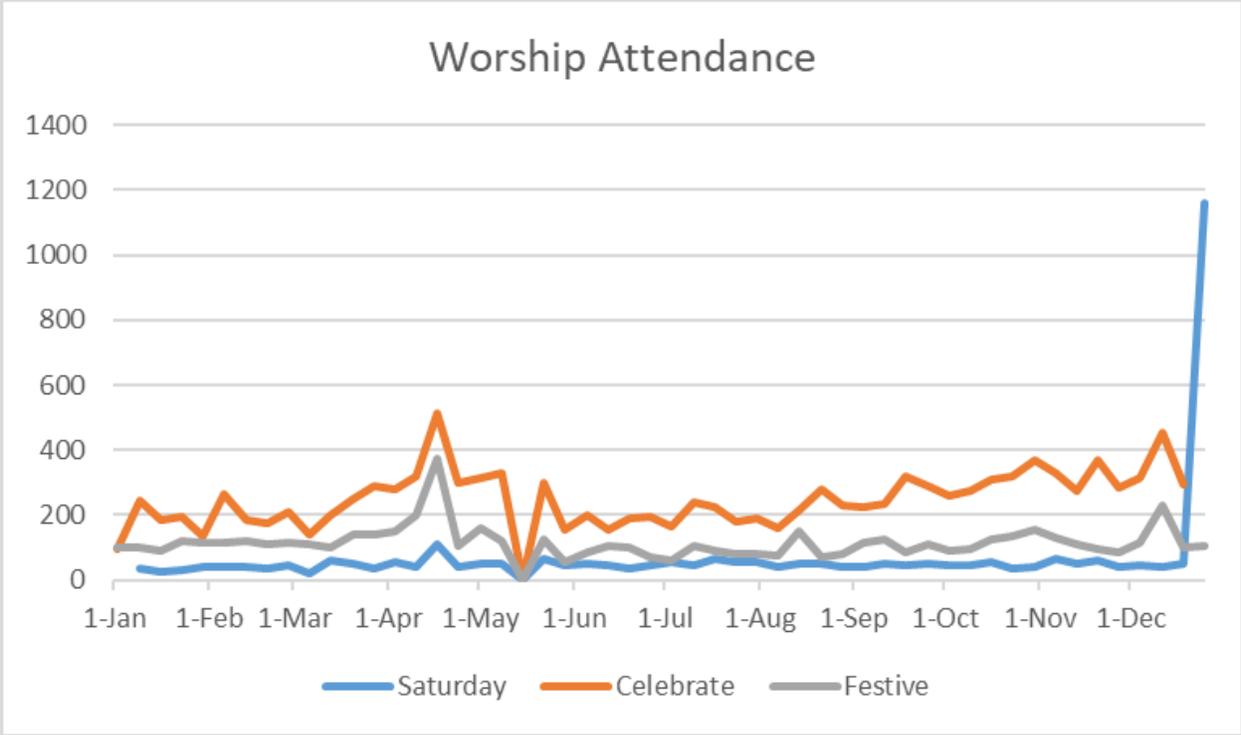
Expenses YTD



Expenses YTD	Projected YTD	Percent of Projection
\$1,177,505	\$1,124,843	104.68%

Does not include Depreciation & Amortization.

Worship Attendance 2022





South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! On behalf of the 200 partner congregations and worshipping communities in South Dakota, your two companion synods, Cameroon and Nicaragua, and your 64 synod partners across the ELCA, I would like to thank you for your partnership. Together we have faithfully shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with “all nations” (Matthew 28:19).



Please know that your local ministry has touched people's lives and hearts. Every item you donated to your local food ministry, every Sunday school lesson you prepared and taught, every quilt you assembled, every cup of coffee you poured at a funeral luncheon, and every other way you served your neighbor in Christ's name has touched someone else in Christ's name. You may not think much of it, but be assured that every kind gesture, every caring act, and every kind word is a faithful response to the faith God's Holy Spirit ignites in you. Thank you, for living out your faith in these various ways in your local context.

Together with the 200 partner congregations and worshipping communities in the South Dakota Synod, we also continue to be able to reach even farther than anyone's own local context, and, together, make a positive impact in Christ's name in all parts of our Synod. Please take a look at the “Ministry Celebration” insert that was included in our annual year end mailing. It will give you a numerical snapshot of the many things we have accomplished together as the South Dakota Synod. Thank you for being a partner in this journey.

Personally, I am grateful for your support of my rural ministry emphasis. Because of your generosity and your synod council's courage, I was able extend a call to Pastor Alan Blankenfeld to serve as the first “South Dakota Synod Rural Liaison”. This position is not funded through the synod's mission plan but instead through your generosity and in part through “Listen God's Calling” capital campaign resources. Because of your generosity, Pastor Alan has impacted and continues to impact rural communities in big ways. You may want to be careful if he asks you out for coffee, though, because he is known for planting and cultivating the seed of answering the call to ordained ministry.

We are also able to look back on a successful inaugural “Farm to Table Dinner,” at which we raised over \$100,000.00 for Rural Ministry support. Through these gifts, and your synod council's support of Pastor Greg Johnson in his sabbatical project, we are now also able to offer you a free five-part study called “A Life of Faith,” which can be used in a variety of ways. You can check out the series on the synod's webpage www.sdsynod.org. And finally, I am delighted to announce to you that, because of a generous donor, the South Dakota Synod was able to establish the first “Rural Ministry Sustainability Endowment.” As it grows, it will assure that the Gospel of new life in Christ can be shared for generations to come.

In closing, let me share with you my deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity to serve the synod as your Bishop with a deep passion for rural ministry in times such as these. I am grateful for the call, your partnership in ministry and the grace of God, which sustains us in our daily life. Thanks be to God!

Journeying with you,

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

2022 MINISTRY CELEBRATION



Our Synod's vision of Journeying Together in Christ has continued to focus our work. We invite you to take a few moments to review the list below which celebrates some of the ministry we shared together in 2022. **Journeying together in Christ as the South Dakota Synod, in 2022 we:**

- Walked with a new start congregation, **Spirit of Hope, in Scotland, SD**, called their mission developer and found a site to worship, as they had outgrown their house.
- Continued to partner with the **McLaughlin Community Alliance Group**, a non-profit utilizing the building of Redeemer Lutheran Church for the empowerment of the community.
- Began exploration for two new potential church plants, with **Box Elder** and **Shepherd's Table in Sioux Falls**.
- Walked with the **30** people in various stages of **Candidacy** and have 3 new entrance interviews scheduled in January 2023!
- Received **9 new first call candidates**.
- Completed **28 Ministry Site Studies** and extended **41 calls!**
- Ensured that nearly every congregation has a called pastor, interim pastor, Synod Authorized Minister, or lay leader to care for God's people (thank you to all of you who are helping out with area congregations and filling in!)
- Distributed **\$60,201** through the **Seminary Debt Reduction Program**.
- Granted **\$124,290** in **scholarship funds** to seminary students plus **\$20,000** in **internship site assistance**.
- Received **\$102,000** in grants from ELCA Christian Community & Leadership.
- Distributed **37 disaster recovery micro-grants for \$18,800** to congregations in need of repairs or community relief after natural disasters. In addition, Beaver Valley Lutheran Church received **\$22,000** from Lutheran Disaster Response and **\$10,000** from Synod Storm Recovery funds for tornado recovery.
- Held a **Synod Assembly**, where we gathered again as a community to conduct the business of the synod.
- Hosted **Spring** and **Fall Theological Conferences**, where we continued to support the continuing education of our Rostered Ministers either online or in-person.
- Continued to invest in **FaithX**, a community mapping tool for congregations to see hard data about their neighborhoods and learn more about their neighbors.
- Supported the congregations and ministries of the synod through visits by synod staff, both digitally and in-person.
- Created **new synod staff** positions including a **Rural Ministry Liaison** to journey with our rural ministry sites. In the past year, the Rural Ministry Liaison has worked directly with **10 communities** and **19 congregations**.
- Held an inaugural **Farm to Table Dinner and Auction** which resulted in gifts and pledges of almost **\$100,000** to support rural ministry in South Dakota.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported the ministry of the South Dakota this past year! God has called us to be the body of Christ together, and this is an active and healthy body. We look forward to continuing our journey with you in 2023 and beyond!



ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately **\$1.75 billion** in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their **congregations**, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local **synod** and the national **churchwide organization**.

This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget.

Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide ministries:

Grow the ELCA in the United States



Plant and support 357 new congregations.

- **Enable congregations to renew their ministries** and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- **Work together** with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina members to develop networks and resources for ministry.
- **Develop and share resources** for faith, discipleship, prayer and worship.

Grow the Lutheran church around the world



Send 230 missionaries in more than 48 countries, and more than 84 Young Adults in Global Mission in 11 country programs.

- **As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, we're in communion with 145 member churches** and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.
- **Accompany new Lutheran churches**, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.

Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries



Maintain constituent database, including 1.1 million records of rostered and lay leaders, members, donors and congregations.

- **Preserve and maintain archives and historic records** of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies.
- **Provide office space, equipment and human resources** for staff and operations.
- **Process 150,000 gifts** to ELCA ministries.
- **Equip congregations and synods** with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters.

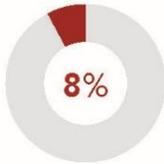
Support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA



Recruit, prepare and implement a system for the assignment of 9,900 rostered ministers.

- **Support the work** of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.
- **Identify, connect and provide** ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.
- **Offer events and leadership opportunities** for youth and young adults.

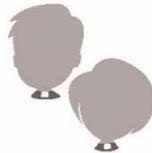
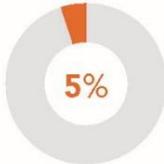
Invest in **technology** and **communications**



Design and maintain communications tools to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission and ministries.

- **Connect members with one another** through new technology and systems.

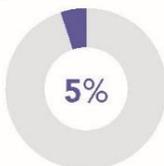
Provide **governance** and **leadership**



65
Coordinate meetings and support for 65 synodical bishops.

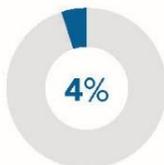
- **Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve** on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

Grow and sustain financial resources



Develop and promote efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

Address social issues and **work for justice**



1 in 50
Support social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Services in America, to impact the lives of **1 in 50** Americans.

- **Engage** in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.
- **Equip** members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace.

Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response provide additional funds annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering around the world.

Engage in **research** and **strategic planning**



Research and analyze trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.

Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith relationships**



Facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.

- **Seek unity in faith and life** with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.

LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA



2022

CONGREGATIONAL
REPORT

WELCOME, NEW STAFF!

Lutherans Outdoors welcomed some new faces to our staff during 2022.

We welcomed Marti Knudsen as the Camp Director of NeSodak in November. Marti brings many years of experience in Outdoor Ministries at Upper Missouri Ministries in North Dakota. She has three daughters and a husband; Pastor Josh Knudsen serves at Grace Lutheran in Sisseton.

Klaire (Hudson) Decker was welcomed as Program Director at Outlaw Ranch in late spring 2022. She was on summer staff in 2018 and 2019. Klaire and her now husband Noah were married in October.

SUMMER 2022 | SUMMER 2023

Over 1,250 campers experienced God's Boundless Love during the summer of **2022** at NeSoDak, Klein Ranch, and Outlaw Ranch! This was an approximate 15% increase from the Summer of 2021. It is approximately 75% of the number of campers attending the camps in 2019, previous to the Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the last week of summer camp at Outlaw Ranch needed to be canceled for safety reasons as several staff members tested positive for Covid.

WONDER Summer 2023

During the summer of **2023**, campers will explore the wonders of creation, the gift of grace through Jesus, and how we steward these gifts. Campers will look down, look up, look around, look in, and look out to examine the precious gifts of community and creation.

**Registration is currently open so reserve your spots today at losd.org.
We will see you at CAMP in 2023!**

REIMAGINING LUTHERANS OUTDOORS

Staff and Board members of Lutherans Outdoors, along with many of you that are interested in the future of Lutherans Outdoors, will begin a REIMAGINING of the ministry during 2023. New Core Values will be announced early in the year.

Deep dive audits will begin looking at Program, Governance, Marketing, Finance and Budgeting, Staffing, Facilities, and Financial Development. This REIMAGINING will create what Lutherans Outdoors will look like for the next 30, 40, or even 50 years and will be presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting taking place in June 2024. Please contact the Lutherans Outdoors office if you are interested in helping with this REIMAGINING!

**Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota welcomes all to explore and
experience Christ's love in community and creation.**

LOSD.ORG



CHURCH ON THE STREET ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Dear Church on the Street Ministry Partners,

Your faithful generosity in prayer, kits, visits, quilt making, laundry pods, quarters, transporting donations, fundraising, Thrivent Action Teams, making and serving meals, telling the story, and making sure the good news of Jesus resurrection is known in hugs, tears, words, and clean laundry is remarkable. God's work is being done by a whole community by being Church together. Thank you for all so very much!

It is a joy for me to share what God is up to at Church on the Street, and I love getting to visit organizations and congregations all over the state and even in neighboring states! Frequently, a few lay leaders are able to join me. After a visit this summer, one of them leaned over and said, "I love hearing our story." And, in case you didn't know it, our story includes you! It is a story of God calling together a community that worships, serves, and walks together with those experiencing homelessness and poverty in Sioux Falls.

Here is a snapshot of who we are and what we do as a church:

- We worship monthly (6 months in the park & 6 months in the Multicultural Center)
- Our Laundry with Love ministry provides free laundry for families, a meal, new underwear, and fellowship
- We provide pastoral care at the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, weekly
- We take countless walks to meet people where they are
- We ensure that folks are fed through our pantry and Fruits of the Freezer
- We collect, and pray over prayer requests are shared and prayed over and send them out to partners like you (email me chris@churchonthestreet.org to join those who pray for our individuals)

Because of you, we can better meet the growing needs in our community. We're relocating our annual Health and Healing event to include more ways for people to experience wellness through screenings and checks - in addition to feeling a bit more dignity through haircuts and new family photos.

We continue to have excellent staff and regular volunteers who work hard and deeply love the Church on the Streeters. When we gather for worship, in the laundry mat, or even on visits, someone is always handing me a little bit of food they got from a food giveaway or some warm clothing they won't be eating or using and tells me to pass it along to someone who needs it. Generosity abounds at Church on the Street!

We say it often because it is true – It's great to be Church together!

Together we do God's work and reach out to one another with hope and love. This hard, holy work is a blessing to so many. Thank you.

God's blessings,
Rev. Chris Matson

Pastor & Mission Developer
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57103
Chris@churchonthestreetsf.org
605-215-1143



DONATE NOW



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Connecting Faith to Everyday Life.

www.oslchurch.com