



ANNUAL MEETING

2023 CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

January 21, 2024



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Annual Meeting Agenda

January 21, 2024

Call to Order	Organizations
Opening Devotions	Altar Guild
Welcome	West Nidaros WELCA
Approval of Agenda	WELCA Treasurer
	Replica Church
	Hanson-Oyen Cabin
Approval of Minutes of January 2023 Annual Meeting	Elections
Approval of Reports	Nominating Committee Report
Pastor	Election of Council Members
Director of Faith Formation	Election of Nominating Committee
Office Administrator/Youth Coordinator	Election of Audit Committee
Director of Music Ministry	Election of Synod Assembly Delegates
Property Manager	Election of Endowment & Memorials
Financial Secretary	Presentation of 2024 Budget
Treasurer	Unfinished Business
Audit Committee	External Audit/Finance
	Future Ministry Opportunities
Ministry Teams	
Administration	New Business
Congregational Care	
Mission & Outreach	Approval of 2023 Budget
Worship & Evangelism	Closing Prayers
	Adjournment
Support Committees	
Cemetery/Church Grounds	

Updated:

2023 WEST NIDAROS LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

* = Committee Chairperson

** = Staff Member

2023 Council Officers

President: Mike Bemboom
Vice President: Jennie Criddle
Council Secretary: Becky Langloss
Treasurer: Lynette Kautz
Financial Secretary: Trish Olthoff

2023 Council Members

Cheryl Anderson 2025
Mike Bemboom 2024
Andy Carpenter 2026
Jennie Criddle 2024
Sheryl Engler 2025
Dean Fischer 2026
Ben Hasche 2026
Becky Langloss 2025
Chris Langloss 2024
Theresa Lien 2024
Jared Questad 2025
Janna Schneiderman 2026
Mike Wendland 2025

2023 Synod Assembly Delegates

Cindy Johnson, Lynette Kautz

ADMINISTRATION

Council Rep – Chris Langloss & Jennie Criddle

Properties

Jerry Petersen
Troy Thompson
Jason Carls*
Jeff Watkins
Chad Moeller
Jim Norgaard
Tim Tiaht
Dale Olthoff
Dean Fischer
Chris Langloss**
Jared Questad

Informational Technology

Darin Larson
Pr. Jared Rakness**

Endowment & Memorials

Jeff Oyen
Tim Renner – treasurer
Dawn Wendland
Trish Olthoff
Joan Fischer
Pastor (non-voting)
Council Rep (non-voting)

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

Council Rep – Janna Schneiderman

Christian Education

Kris Rise
Nicole Finnesand
Mindy Rezac
Caitlin Brackey
Jessi Rakness **

Youth & Family

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Council Rep – Theresa Lien, Becky Langloss, & Mike Wendland

Health Ministry

Jill Rye
Kristy Hazel
Joan Fischer
Lavonne Burns

Bereavement

Sharon Hoekman

Funeral

Phyllis Falconer
Leo Falconer
Pat Kayser

Caring Friends

Cheryl Anderson

Local Ministry

Shirley McCormick
Phyllis Falconer*
Pat Kayser*
Amber Kirkvold
Cheryl Anderson
Becky Langloss
Amy Oglesby
Pam Petersen
Janet Quaman

Stewardship

Theresa Lien
Mike Wendland

MISSION & OUTREACH

Council Rep – Mike Bemboom

Karin Renner
Nicole Questad
Cindy Johnson
Megan Faber*
Dana Sundal

WORSHIP & EVANGELISM

Council Rep – Ben Hasche

Worship Team

Kristi Stelter**

Membership

Jolene Wehde
Sharon Hoekman
Janna Schneiderman
Claudia Krumm
Heather Smith
Judi Egan

Home Communion

JoAnn Oyen
Ken & Patsy Burke
Cheryl Anderson
Glenna Swier
Pastor(s)

Volunteer Coordinator – Office Admin

Elise Hasche **

[Usher, Communion Set Up, Service Schedule
(Reader, Greeter, Name Tag)]

Hospitality

Audio Visual

Darin Larson

SUPPORT TEAMS

Council Rep – Sheryl Engler

Mutual Ministry

Office Admin

Sheryl Engler*
Lonnie Kocmick
Curt Hohman

History

Joan Eithreim
Gary Brendtro
Glenna Swier

Audit Committee

Jeff Oyen
Tim Tiaht

Nominating Committee

Dale Olthoff
Matt Meyerhoff
Kent Johnson
Nicole Questad

Library

Char Johnson
Joni Schuler

ORGANIZATIONS

*Council Rep – Chris Langloss, Dean Fischer,
Jared Questad*

WELCA

Chairperson: Jolene Wehde
Secretary: Lorraine Hafstad
Treasurer: Sharon Hoekman
Mission Growth: Joan Eithreim
Mission in Action: Jan Anderson

Cemetery

Dean Fischer*
Matt Meyerhoff
Robert Oyen
Jared Questad
Rob Whipple
Dale Olthoff
Kent Johnson
Doug Criddle
Wayne Laron, Sexton

Log Cabin

Vince Hanson*
Claudia Krumm
Gary Brendtro – Treasurer

Replica Church

Chris Langloss *
Robert Oyen
Vince Hanson
Kathy Neeb
Ken Burke
Gary Brendtro – Treasurer

Altar Guild

President: JoAnn Oyen
Secretary/Treasurer: Shirley Dunlap
Sheryl Engler
Arlis Fritz
Cindy Johnson
Claudia Krumm
Gidget McAreavey
Kathy Neeb
Alissa Nelson
Trish Olthoff
Jill Rye
Diana Swier

Scout Troop

Mike Bemboom

Annual Meeting 2021 Minutes

Sunday, January 23, 2023

Call to Order: Mike B at 11:42am

Opening Devotions: Pastor Jared

Welcome

Approval of Agenda: Motion/Second to approve agenda: Chris L/Jennie C motion carried

Approval of Minutes of January 2021 Annual Meeting Motion/Second: Jennie/Jared Q motion carried

Approval of Reports

Pastor Jared: Thank you to the congregation for the last year of ministry. It was nice to get beyond the pandemic, but still face challenges. Thank you for being here and being a part of our congregation. We voted last year to undertake a BIG project that's been on the wish list for decades. We finished it! How many other congregations can do that so quickly? We have it all paid for, a little to raise for the 10% benevolence. Wow! We completed 900,000 in maintenance and improvements. We are a DEBT FREE congregation. We look forward to the ministries ahead. We have a lot to celebrate. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your pastor.

Director of Faith Formation - posted in our booklet - no questions.

Interim Director of YF Ministry/Intern Pr. Director of Youth & Family Ministry Director of Music Ministry - posted in our booklet - No questions.

Property Manager - Chris L: Report includes properties committee's work as well. Looking at the past year, projects we completed- proud of all of those things! We got a lot accomplished. Looking at the next year and years, the HVAC system is aging quickly, we have had a lot of repairs this winter. There are some furnaces that may be ready to go, etc. We have line items in the budget for those things, but something that is on our radar. A priority for next year: getting the HDR wall taken care of. Bid was about \$30,000 last year, probably gone up over the last year. We don't want water problems down there! Covers old classrooms and HDR. That is the biggest priority, a need more than want. Another thing is the stained glass windows: they need to get vented out, so they don't bow or break. They are the biggest insurance item we have, but can't truly replace them or even repair them to the originals. Lastly - thank yous to: properties, sexton, cemetery, everyone who comes to help out when needed.

Financial Secretary - posted in our booklet. No questions. Lynette: Pg 18, actual YTD, December number is actually \$383,553.34

Treasurer - posted in our booklet. No questions.

Audit Committee - reported that everything was in balance, records are in order for this last year. No questions.

Ministry Teams - all reports attached in booklets. No questions.

Administration

Congregational Care

Mission & Outreach

Worship & Evangelism

*Donna: Endowment committee had 15 requests for about 41,000, approved 26,000 of requests. Average of 4% of the previous 12 quarters can be given.

Support Committees

Cemetery/Church Grounds

Organizations - all reports attached, no questions.

Altar Guild
West Nidaros WELCA
WELCA Treasurer
Replica Church
Hanson-Oyen Cabin

Motion to approve all reports presented: Tim T/ Jennie C. Reports are approved.

Elections

Nominating Committee Report: Nicole Q: One person to nominate: Andy Carpenter for council. Any other nominations? Motion for Nominations to cease/Cast unanimous ballot: Darin/Jared Q

Election of Council Members - Complete

Election of Nominating Committee - all volunteer to stay on one more year. Matt, Nicole and Dale.

Election of Audit Committee - Jeff O, Terry, Tim. Tim will stay on. Volunteers? Jeff will stay on, look for one more person possibly.

Election of Synod Assembly Delegates - Last year: Cheryl Anderson and Lynette. Lynette will do it again. Any others? June 2-3, 2023. In Sioux Falls at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Cindy.

Motion to add Cindy to assembly delegates: Jennie/Jared Q. motion carries.

Election of Endowment & Memorials- Trish will stay on, Joan will stay on as well.

Presentation of 2023 Budget - Not much to point out, we decided to add a 35% subsidy for staff positions. Brought us to a good projected income/expense ending. Salary increases - we did 4% last year, this year 4.5% increase proposed.

Unfinished Business

New Business

External Audit/Finance - church is growing well, money associated with that growth - we have been discussing an external audit. It is a lot for a few people to handle. We don't want to put ourselves in a situation where we would be not handling money professionally. We want to protect all people who handle incoming/outgoing money. Council wants to implement procedures that safeguard everyone involved. We want to reach out and form a task force with people with related expertise and knowledge. Looking for individuals to STEER a team, not to complete this audit themselves. Pastor Jared: Lynette, Vince and I have discussed that with all of our streams of income, we want to make sure everything is handled properly. We want to make sure the proper procedures are in place so that no embezzlements could ever happen. Lynette does a TON of work with our big projects, and our large income/expenses, it would also look at how can we operate our treasurer position in the best way. Maybe it is external. This is what we need from this task force. Any volunteers or anyone interested? Let us know, or let us know your ideas. Talk to Pastor, Elise, Mike, Lynette. We will be looking at getting this going soon.

Future Ministry Opportunities - Pastor Jared - Lots has changed after the pandemic. Things in our community, things in how people interact. Crooks is growing FAST, with lots of homes, apartments very close to us. Baltic is growing in a similar way. How do we reach out to those who are new to our community? It is up to us to reach out and invite people. Needs in our community are also growing. Services for families - preschool, childcare? Task force to identify ministry opportunities for our church that may be new and different. Ways to reach out and be a leading congregation in this area. As we regather and emerge from COVID, it is exciting to reach out and invite in visitors. It would be great to find ways that we can support people who are moving out into our area and provide

ministries to them in new ways. Suggestion: Preschool? New ways to do this.. We need a group of people to think about the future and plan reaching out opportunities. We are a congregation that leads, so let's lead and reach out. We can impact our community by sharing Christ's love in new ways. Questions/Comments: New committee? Yes - a new task force just to look at opportunities that we can start at WN. Cheryl: numbers of people we would want on the task force? Pastor: Let's gather names and then go from there. 5-6 people are interested in helping out that were present at the annual meeting. Comment: Gary B: Been here 60 years - seen a lot over the years. We supported families over the Vietnam war and they have never forgotten us. Sioux Falls has a lot of immigration, we have a lot of opportunities to support others.

Talk to council members if you have comments/questions.

Approval of 2023 Budget - Motion and second to approve the budget for 2023: Jennie C/Trish O. Any discussion? None. Motion Carries.

Closing Prayers: Pastor Jared

Adjournment: Mike B at 12:23am - Motion/Second to adjourn: Kent/JoAnne Motion Carries

Pastor Report Jared Rakness

Grace and peace to you from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

As we come to the end of another year of ministry here at West Nidaros, it's a good time to reflect on the past year while looking ahead to the new year. This past year was a busy year as we made our way out of the challenges from the pandemic.

After two plus years of serving and learning at West Nidaros, this year we said goodbye to our student pastor/intern Pr. Adam Guthmiller who received a call to serve in Lennox SD. It was great having him here and we were happy and sad to see him go. Even as we were saying goodbye to Adam, we welcomed Nicole Questad and her preschool The Growing Place to our building. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning we now hear the little voices and steps of her class.

Because of our generosity this spring we were able to close out our parking lot campaign through the giving of the 10% benevolence of this project. One of our focuses for this year was to get things back on track after the pandemic. Elise and the Membership team have worked hard to get the family life groups up and running again, and to fill those much-needed volunteer positions. We still have some work to do but we are off and running and making progress.

As we look forward to this new year we have at least one facility project on the list to complete. This spring we will have the west and south walls of the basement fixed so that our basement should no longer flood.

As I reflect on this past year and all of the years I've served as your pastor, I feel truly blessed to be in such a wonderful congregation. A congregation focused on our mission of Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. A congregation that is welcoming to all. A congregation that isn't afraid to try new things for the sake of our mission. Because of these things, I am excited about our ministry and what the future holds for us all.

Thank you for all of the ways you support the ministry and work of West Nidaros Lutheran Church!
Church!

In Christ,

Pr. Jared Rakness

Director of Faith Formation Report

Jessi Rakness

- Sunday school continued in January 2023 after a break for the holidays. Each month for the second half of the Sunday school year focuses on a different grade's milestone that they lead/present during 10:30 worship.
 - January: 1st grade leads the Lord's Prayer
 - February: 5th grade leads the Apostle's Creed
 - March: Kindergarten leads the Benediction
 - April: 2nd grade recites the Ten Commandments and 4th grade First Communion
 - May: High school Senior Recognition Sunday where students receive a quilt from the quilters. (THANK YOU quilters!)
 - June: 6th grade Confirmation camp at Okoboji
 - October: 3-year-old Prayer Pillows given at our first ONE worship service and potluck of the school year
 - October: Reformation Sunday is Confirmation Sunday at 10:30.
- I lead the children's messages at both worship services.
- I attended high school graduation parties in May.
- iFaith Summer Edition was a valuable this summer for 4th-6th grade students on Wednesdays in June and July. They did a service projects at church, in the community, and at Feeding South Dakota in the morning and then spent the afternoon at various fun locations in Sioux Falls – public pools, Thunder Road, and Wild Water West. We had 10-15 students attend each week.
- Planned Vacation Bible School with the Board of Education. This year we changed the bible school age to preschool through 3rd grade students (4th-6th grade students had Summer iFaith on Wednesdays that they could attend). This is the fifth summer we have created our own lessons, crafts, snack, and game based on our own theme, "It's a Miracle!" I wrote the bible lessons about miracle stories from the bible. THANK YOU to Caitlin Brackey for renting the bouncy house for us again this year!
- I ordered water bottle stickers for the Blessing of the Backpacks during Worship in the Park.
- Planning GIFT Sundays – GIFT stands for Growing In Faith Together. GIFT Sundays are for everyone of all ages in the congregation to come and learn together. On GIFT Sundays, instead of parents dropping off their student(s), they join them. There are not regular Sunday school classes on GIFT Sundays. Health Ministry also led a couple of GIFT Sundays.
- iFaith is an energetic ministry that I lead EVERY Wednesday after school until 5:00. It's great to get together after school every Wednesday for a bible lesson, snack, games, and memorizing an important bible verse. We have about 12 students who consistently attend.
- Sunday school started in September. We're continuing to use the Whirl Lectionary curriculum, which I ordered in August. We begin in the sanctuary each Sunday at 9:35 with songs, a video, and lesson introduction. There are 2 or more co-teachers for each grade with 7th and 8th grade student helpers. THANK YOU to all of our amazing Sunday school teachers! Our milestones this fall were:
 - September: 3rd grade students receive their Adventure Bible (THANK YOU to WELCA for purchasing the bibles)
 - October: 9th grade Celebration of Passage and Confirmation (THANK YOU to Elise for set up and music and to Kristi for music)
- New this year – I went back to leading High School Ministry on Wednesday nights. It's been a learning curve for me as I haven't led high school students in several years. It's been fun getting to know these students again as young adults instead of children. I'm very thankful for all Elise does on the administration side of high school ministry.
- Trunk or Treat was an outdoor event in the new Tri Valley Elementary school parking lot in conjunction with the Crooks Day Care fall fundraiser. THANK YOU to the cars who handed out candy and to Jason Carls for bringing the fire truck again this year!

- The Christmas program and hot cocoa bar were on December 10th! The students did a great job! We also had a student band again this year. THANK YOU to Kristi for picking out the music and for leading them. THANK YOU to the Board of Education for their work with the hot cocoa bar and the program!
- THANK YOU to Jennie Criddle for leading our Sunday school classroom renovations this summer! Bruce painted the downstairs rooms and hallway to match the Health Ministry room. New tables, colorful chairs, colorful drawers, and new dry erase boards were added to the rooms. THANK YOU to Chris Langloss and the Properties Team for moving furniture in and out!
- Write information for monthly The Reporter.
- Write a monthly council report.
- Communicate with parents and students on Facebook, through emails, phone calls, and texting. Send weekly emails to Sunday school teachers with information about the upcoming Sunday, supplies needed, and other events.
- Communicate Pastor Jared, Elise, and other people in leadership.
- Pastoral care of students and families.
- Give visiting families “The Jesus Storybook Bible”
- Write letters of recommendation for scholarships and jobs.
- The Board of Christian Education team is Caitlin Brackley, Kris Rise, Mindy Rezac, and Nicole Finnesand.

Thank you for valuing and being a part of Faith Formation and Christian Education at West Nidaros!!

Office Administrator/Youth Coordinator Report

Elise Hasche

- Added on the role of Youth Coordinator to my job. In that role, I am the communication hub for youth ministry as well as coordinating trips and camps.
- Create and update worship and announcement slideshow using the program Proclaim.
- Create The Reporter Newsletter each month to keep the congregation informed. Thankful for the ladies who help assemble it every month!
- Continue to update the church website weekly.
- Create weekly publications include worship bulletins, announcements, and the WN Weekly email.
- Continue to keep our Facebook page up to date with announcements, pictures, events, and other informative content.
- Created mailings and posters for children, youth & family, stewardship, WELCA, and anyone else who needs one. Continuing to make EDDM (Every Door Direct Mail) for big events like Easter, Christmas, and Fall Kickoff. Postcards are sent to everyone in the Baltic, Crooks, and Renner area.
- Working with the Membership team to get Family Service Groups in working order.
- Encouraging parishioners to start using the Church Center app where they can view the church calendar, directory, service groups, set up/maintain their giving and sign up for events or helping in worship.
- I reach out to potential new members who I have received a card about to welcome them and find ways for them to stay connected here.

Other Ministry

- Continue to help where needed in worship whether it be music, running slideshow or cameras!
- Continue to lead music with Sunday school students and for VBS.
- Help with funerals as needed (sound, music, etc).

In God's Grip,
Elise Hasche

Director of Worship & Music Report **Kristi Stelter**

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness.” Psalm 100:1

Thanks be to our faithful God for another year of gathering for worship and community at West Nidaros. We are so blessed that we continue to see consistent attendance and experience growth in our church community. This past year, we started the “One Worship” Sundays and had success in bringing our church family into a single worship time with fellowship following with the goal of building community and relationships within our congregation.

Worship is not something that just happens without the involvement and dedication of many individuals, both during the worship service as well as the preparations in advance of each worship service. It happens because of the endless work and dedication of many people; both by the West Nidaros staff as well as the many volunteers in our church community.

One of the main components of our worship is the music, and our congregation is so blessed to have our organists, Marge Hegge, Jill Rye, Barb Boone-Graves and Lavonne Burns offer their talents as graciously as they do. I also want to offer my gratitude to the members of our contemporary worship team for sharing their musical gifts and their leadership. We are blessed by the talents and dedication of all these servant musicians! Because of these musicians, we are able to provide a variety of worship styles with the use of our ELW liturgy, contemporary and blended style of worship. The frequency of these worship styles for 2023 is as follows: Traditional (ELW liturgy): 45 worship services; 9 Contemporary worship services; 4 Blended worship services (“Texas Kyrie” liturgy); 2 “Now the Feast and Celebration” liturgy.

My role and responsibilities as Director of Worship and Music for the past year have included:

- Collaboration with Pr. Jared and other staff to plan worship schedule
- Selecting hymns for traditional worship services
- Music selection and preparation for blended/contemporary worship
- Scheduling of organists
- Providing and assisting with worship accompaniment
- Arranging for special music and providing accompaniment for special music when needed
- Leading and accompanying the Adult Choir
- Recruiting and leading musicians for Easter worship services
- Email communication to all musicians of West Nidaros, providing hymn and song lists for upcoming worship services as well as general information for all who are involved in the music ministry
- Prepare monthly report for review by the church council
- Submit newsletter announcements

It takes the commitment of many to make worship happen, and worship is an integral piece to continue our mission of “Sharing Christ’s Love with All”. I am so very blessed to be a part of this ministry!

Prayerfully submitted,
Kristi Stelter,

Property Manager Chris Langloss

West Nidaros had another busy year with many projects and a few future projects that have been approved to include the waterproofing of the west wall of the basement and HDR kitchen. I would like to thank all of the folks on the properties committee for always being available when I have work to do that would be tough to accomplish by myself! Here is a list of the projects completed in 2023 (this list is not all inclusive).

- Installed lighting in the sanctuary and the main entrance area
- Installed the glass railing in the balcony
- Roof inspection was accomplished
- Painting completed in the classroom hallway in the basement
- Installed new tables, chairs, and white boards in all classrooms
- Bunn coffee maker was cleaned and serviced (FLC)
- Door inspection accomplished on our glass double doors (awaiting service and adjustments)
- Bid for cleaning of the gym floor and strip and wax of the FLC kitchen floor submitted

As I mentioned, this list does not contain the usual maintenance of our HVAC systems and other routine maintenance things. We turned in a budget of \$15,000 for 2024, this covers all of the incidentals, cleaning supplies, paper products that we use on a daily basis.

I would like to thank the cemetery committee as well, they do a lot of things around the Church and grounds!

As always, I would like to thank you all for this opportunity to serve as staff at West Nidaros. Please contact me if you have any issues and I will do my best to resolve them.

Chris Langloss

Property Manager

West Nidaros Lutheran Church Records & Statistics from 2023

Baptisms:

Rozilyn Ann LeBrun	Emery Ann Muston
Waycie Kaye Boysen	Louie Deane Brackey
Silas Baker Lopez	Levi John Mann
William Lee Whitsell	Theodora Rose Vosburg

Affirmation of Baptism:

Parker Atwood	Cole Hendrixson	Daniel Ramstad
Morgan Bunde	Brady Jewett	Mercedes Schulte
Owen Bunde	Chase Jones	Jackson Williams
Kadence Davey	Nina Keller	
Kendra Eggert	Layla Kirkvold	
Connor Glasford	Kendall McAreavey	
Mason Harstad	Bergan Rakness	

Weddings:

Paige Shatter & Connor Wendland

Deaths/Funerals:

Bill Boadwine
Bob Hempel
Marilyn Johnson

Transfer In:

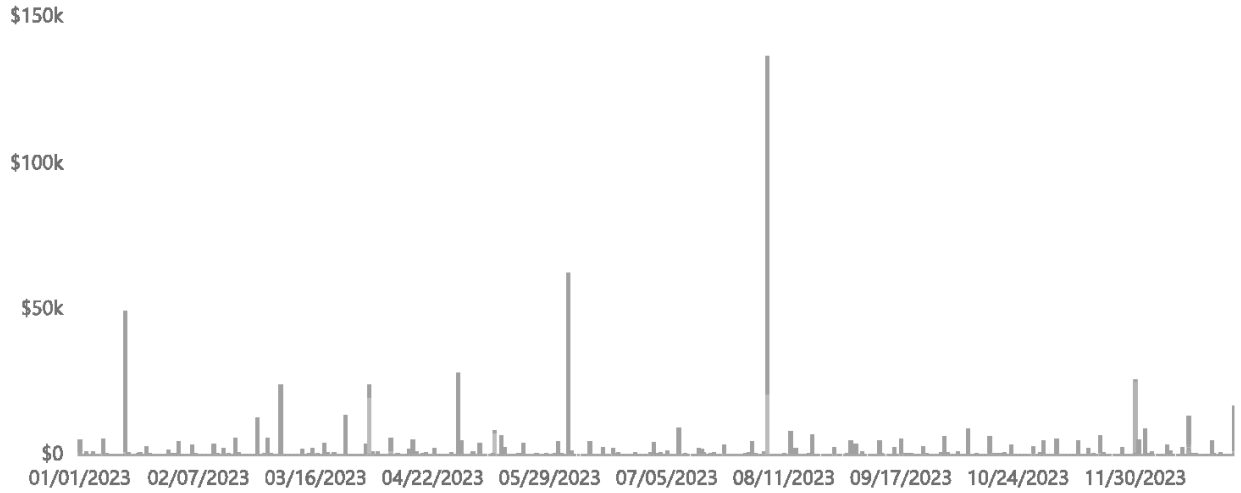
Nathan & Jodi Hoyt (Lincoln & Coulson)
Austin & Julianna Langemeier (Emma)
Chris & Renee Egan (Lucas)
Hayden & McKayla Kerkaert (Kaylor)
Gary & Michelle Black (Brooklyn, Dawson, & Tanner Houselog)
Ken & Holly Johnson
Danny & Paige Lueders (Leena & Patrick)
Jane & David Heard
Karla Nieman

Average Worship Attendance:

2013: 180	2016: 170	2019: 192	2022: 190
2014: 184	2017: 206	2020: 192	2023: 195
2015: 191	2018: 195	2021: 190	

Financial Secretary Report

2023 Donations: \$708,266.65



201 Donors

41

New Donors

56

Recurring Donors

1

Text Donor

2,414 Donations



Treasurer's Report

OPERATING AND SPECIAL FUNDS

December 2023

	Income	Expense	Totals
OPERATING FUND	(\$19,369.10)	\$51,523.45	\$36,760.77
SPECIAL FUNDS			
Altar Guild	\$4,190.54		\$4,190.54
Capital Improvement	\$19,030.95	\$2,000.00	\$21,030.95
Cemetery Fund	\$0.00		\$0.00
Cookie Jar Fund	\$403.71	\$907.86	\$296.16
Endowed Money-Undesignated	(\$32,228.29)		(\$32,228.29)
Endowed Money-Earmarked	\$750.00		\$750.00
Health Ministry	\$1,016.35		\$1,016.35
History Committee Memorial	\$0.00		\$0.00
Horizon Fund	\$820.00	\$349.97	\$1,169.97
Horizon Fund Grants	\$23,186.29		\$4,058.45
Mission & Outreach	\$2,514.66	\$1,215.00	\$244.45
Local Ministries	\$332.07		\$332.07
Log Cabin	\$270.00		\$270.00
Luther Youth Orgainzation	\$2,491.30	\$100.00	\$2,591.30
Misc	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Missionary Support	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Parking Lot	\$35,532.20	\$25.00	\$35,557.20
Replica Church	\$0.00		\$0.00
Special Project Missions	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00
Stained Glass Windows	\$0.00		\$0.00
Sunday School Offering	(\$26.43)		(\$26.43)
Thrivent	\$712.62	\$59.00	\$43.00
Undesignated Memorials	\$52,487.99	\$639.00	\$3,990.42
Balance on Hand All Funds	\$112,214.86	\$57,119.28	\$46,193.25
			\$123,140.89

Operating Fund 2023

Month	Actual Monthly Income	Actual Monthly Expenses	Actual Year to Date Income	Actual Year to Date Expenses
January	\$28,126.62	\$31,123.59	\$28,126.62	\$31,123.59
February	\$33,673.85	\$29,144.18	\$61,800.47	\$60,267.77
March	\$46,774.05	\$44,389.01	\$108,574.52	\$104,656.78
April	\$47,469.06	\$34,350.44	\$156,043.58	\$139,007.22
May	\$23,760.73	\$33,507.59	\$179,804.31	\$172,514.81
June	\$24,689.86	\$43,112.78	\$204,494.17	\$215,627.59
July	\$24,556.94	\$35,329.67	\$229,051.11	\$250,957.26
August	\$56,305.45	\$30,707.13	\$285,356.56	\$281,664.39
September	\$26,859.48	\$32,877.58	\$312,216.04	\$314,541.97
October	\$29,536.61	\$31,466.92	\$341,752.65	\$346,008.89
November	\$25,917.24	\$33,841.54	\$367,669.89	\$379,850.43
December	\$51,523.45	\$36,760.77	\$419,193.34	\$416,611.20

Name	Amount
Augustana University	250.00
Baltic Food Bank	250.00
Charis Ministry Partners	250.00
Crooks Volunteer Fire Department	125.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	500.00
ELCA World Hunger	500.00
Family Connection	150.00
Feeding South Dakota	250.00
Luther House of Study	10,000.00
Lutheran Social Services	750.00
Lutherans Outdoors	600.00
Missionary Support	1,500.00
Shetek Lutheran Ministries	600.00
South Dakota Synod	8,500.00
St. Dysmas	200.00
The Banquet	250.00
Tri Valley After Prom Party	125.00
West Nidaros Church Ministries	40,000.00
	\$ 64,800.00

Ministry Team Reports

Administration

ADMINISTRATION TEAM REPORT

No report submitted.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Jared Questad, Tim Tiaht, and Jeff Oyen reviewed the Treasures Books on 1/3/2024 with Lynette. We found the books to be in order and all of questions have been answered fully.

Respectfully Submitted

Audit committee

Jeff Oyen

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Property Manager report)

ENDOWMENT & MEMORIAL FOUNDATION REPORT

The West Nidaros Endowment & Memorial Board was created to encourage, receive and manage gifts from donors for the enhancement of the mission of West Nidaros Lutheran Church apart from the general operations of the congregation and to insure those gifts are used in accordance with donor wishes and Board policies. The members of the Endowment Committee are: Jeff Oyen, Trish Olthoff, Dawn Wendland, Jennie Criddle, Joan Fischer, Tim Renner, and Pr. Jared Rakness

This year the Endowment Committee voted to approve the following Horizon Grants:

WELCA School kits:	\$1000
WELCA Harvest Supper:	\$1500
Mission Outreach Horse Creek:	\$1500
Summer youth trip travel:	\$2000
Altar Guild Paraments:	\$3000
Folding Chairs dolly:	\$540
Outside light replacement:	\$750
Replacement sanctuary camera:	\$2800
TV's for Sunday school classes:	\$1500
Education bouncy house:	\$5000
Office equipment:	\$700
Lutheran World Relief:	\$500
Baltic Food Bank:	\$500
Local needs:	<u>\$2000</u>
Total Distribution:	\$25,290

Congregational Care

LOCAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Phyllis Falconer, Pat Kayser, Pam Peterson, Shirley McCormick, Jan Quamen, Becky Langloss, Amy Ogelsby, Amber Kirkvold, Cheryl Anderson

We didn't sell poinsettias this year. And going forward we will help organize the four potlucks that are held after services.

HEALTH MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Members: Deb Whipple, Kristy Hazel, Joan Fischer, Connie Holtz, Lavonne Burns, Cheryl Anderson, Sharon Hoekman, Jill Rye

Weekly Exercise Classes are led by Deb Whipple. Stretch and Pray sessions were led by Shirley McCormick. Additional equipment has been purchased for these programs as they grow. Thanks to Deb and Shirley for their commitment to this ministry.

Faith Family and Friend ministry is supported by Cheryl Anderson. She sends cards to elderly members of the congregation and those unable to attend worship regularly. Cards are sent for birthdays, get well, weddings, anniversary, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sharon Hoekman sends sympathy cards to members of the congregation who have experienced a death in their family.

Connie Holtz assists Pastor Jared in visiting elderly members, unable to worship in person.

Committee members organized 50 health kits to send to Horse Creek. Personal hygiene items were included in each kit.

The group worked with Pastor Jared and Jessi to provide education to the Confirmation students and their parents on the negative impact of addition to drugs and alcohol on personal and family relationships.

Two GIFT Sundays were sponsored by the committee. The first GIFT Sunday was spent coloring cards to be used by Cheryl and Sharon to send to members of the congregation. The second GIFT Sunday was spend describing the benefits of staying active at all ages. The children and adults then went sledding on the mountains of snow on the South parking lot. The time was enjoyed by all!

The committee members continued to monitor any changes in the COVID precautions for worship and gatherings. The Health Ministry Committee will continue to support the Church Council and staff on issues regarding any updates in Public Health restrictions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Rye

Mission & Outreach

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS REPORT

Members: Megan Faber (Chair), Karin Renner, Nicole Questad, Cindy Johnson, Dana Sundal
2023 Tasks Completed

- February 12th- Completed Soup Fundraiser for SOUPER Bowl, all proceeds went to local food banks.
- April 4th- Volunteered at Mobile Food to You Distribution with Benton Lutheran- Made \$500 donation to Mobile Food to You- to Fund Food in Giveaway Boxes for evening and also donated boxes of cereal to donate to distribution boxes as that was the food of the month
- June 5th- Volunteered at Banquet in Collaboration with Willow Creek, able to make 500 dollar donation to cover costs from evening as well as support banquet mission
- Added component into confirmation to require 1hr of volunteer opportunity of students choice each year, and submit report to Mission and Outreach group
- Fall- completed challenge within congregation and Sunday school groups for Samaritan Shoe Box Donations, able to over double pervious years shoeboxes!
- November 19th made winter trip for year to Horse Creek in collaboration with Benton Lutheran and Willow Creek- Provided Thanksgiving Dinner Meal Box to 75 families, as well as games for each family, presents for children of horse creek, health kits (Provided by Health Ministry Team) and some more donated goods from churches
- Continue to Donate Kids Offering During Church to Different Organizations Including Baltic Food Bank, Local Families, Camp Ministries, School Supply Kits, Horse Creek Mission, St Dymas, Global ELCA Missions, and Berakhah house

Respectfully Submitted,
Megan Faber

Worship & Evangelism

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Members: Janna Schneiderman, Claudia Krumm, Sharon Hoekman, Jolene Wehde

- Held Two new member information sessions followed by New Member Sundays, one each in April and October
- Revitalized Family Work Groups with updating and posting leaders and members
- Held information session for Family Group Leaders
- Switch to Church Center App needs members to input their own data. Elise is available to provide tech support to members
- Assisted with One Service Sunday potluck events
- Work with office to assign new members in Family work groups, take photos and current contact info.
- Prepared welcome bags to new members
- Replenish pew cards
- Prepare and submit budget for the year.
- Greet visitors and members to create a welcoming environment

Support Committee Reports

CEMETERY/CHURCH GROUNDS REPORT

The Cemetery and Grounds Committee in 2023 consisted of Dean Fischer, Matt Meyerhoff, Robert Oyen, Kent Johnson, Jared Questad, Rob Whipple Dale Olthoff and Doug Criddle.

Projects that the Cemetery and Grounds Committee undertook in 2023:

- We continue to over-seed gravesites as necessary.
- Sprayed grounds for weeds
- Trim bushes, trees and pull weeds
- Snow removal
- Had equipment serviced
- Recall on Quad fixed
- All of the mowing and edging of the cemetery is done by Superturf, LLC.
- Mapped and plotted the west section of the Cemetery for new sites
- Purchased survey pins for cemetery
- Had side door to garage removed and replaced

Goals for 2024 Include:

- Install a shut off valve/hydrant to turn water off to cemetery in the winter
- Repair concrete entrance to the garage
- Repair garage door
- Seek bids from other mowing companies

At the end of 2023 the balance in our 1st National Checking account was \$8104.51. We also have a Mission Investment Checking account and the ending balance was \$21,931.23

Our income for the year was \$3030.00

Our expenses for 2023 are as follows:

Mowing	\$9696.08
Quad maintenance	\$137.89
Survey Pins	\$106.20
Tractor service	\$218.22
Garage door repair	\$529.57
Total	\$10,687.96

If you have any interest in being involved with this committee we are always looking for volunteers. Contact anyone on the committee or any of the church staff.

Thank you to everyone who assisted our committee this past year.

Respectfully submitted, Dean Fischer & Matt Meyerhoff.

Organization Reports

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

Ours is a service of beauty for our church and a blessed one; a labor of love in the church.

Members: JoAnn Oyen, Pat Kayser, Cindy Johnson, Trish Olthoff, Dee Oyen, Allisa Nelson, Jill Rye, Arlis Fritz, Sheryl Engler, Gidget McAreavey, Kathy Neeb, Diana Swier, Shirley Dunlap (new member)

Members are assigned a month for which they are responsible for weekly duties and cleaning the altar and keeping the oil candles filled with oil as well as changing the altar paraments according to the church seasons, preparing for baptisms and providing baptism items. Members are also responsible for the smaller altar that is located in the Martin Luther room and also the altar used in the Family Life Center.

The Altar Guild provides a baptismal napkin, a baptismal candle, and card to each child baptized as a reminder of their baptismal day. We thank Kathy Neeb for making the napkins and Bob Hempel for personalizing each napkin with a cross. We also give each child a baptismal box which is made by Ron Hegge.

Flowers on the altar are also Altar Guild responsibility. We thank Sheryl Engler for making sure we have beautiful bouquets every week.

Altar Guild received \$3,500.00 from the Endowment Grant this year for which we are very thankful. We purchased a baptismal banner and refurbished candle sticks and candelabras. Also purchased new oil candles. This grant money is greatly appreciated.

Altar Guild continues to take orders for Easter flowers. Those purchasing plants are given the opportunity to give them in honor or memory of someone or for a special occasion. Thanks to all who support our fundraiser. This project helps to support the work of the Altar Guild which includes purchasing oil for the candles and baptismal napkins. We also purchase paraments, altar cloths, candles for Christmas service, flowers and other supplies as needed.

Officers: President – JoAnn Oyen
Secretary – Pat Kayser

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Kayser

WEST NIDAROS WOMEN OF THE ELCA REPORT (TPSY)

West Nidaros women continue as a dedicated, faithful, diverse group of ladies in 2023. We are known as **TPSY--Tack, Pack, Snack and Yak**--but our purpose remains the same as we Share Christ's Love with All. Each Tuesday about 20 or more women gather to work at putting quilt tops and backs together, tying the quilts, rolling bandages from cotton sheets, sorting items for all of our kits (baby, health, sewing) and getting all these items packed and ready to ship. We also enjoy great fellowship and friendship during our coffee and snacks--coffee time starts about 10 a.m.--so you are welcome to join us during this time if you wish.

We enjoy brunch followed by devotions and short business meeting including treasurer's report on second Tuesday of each month--short business meeting when needed.

Our monthly Bible Study is held 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in HDR --ALL are welcome to join us as we use the suggested Bible Study in our GATHER magazine for discussion.

Some of our projects we helped with this year were providing bars/cookies for Proclamation on the Prairie held in January; working with our youth going to Colorado to furnish food and help serve two Lenten suppers;

helped serve farewell brunch for Pastor Adam Guthmiller; furnished and served desserts for Crooks Food Truck Friday in May; and replenished our supply of frozen meals for our Meal Ministry.

Committee was formed to start looking for remodel ideas for our Heritage Dining Room kitchen to hopefully be started in the next year.

Shirley McCormick and Jolene Wehde were delegates at our Crossroads Conference Spring Gathering in April at Renner Lutheran Church. Our group supplied muffins and juice for morning coffee. Jolene Wehde was elected as Director of Stewardship for two-year term at this conference.

Jolene W. was our voting delegate at our Synodical Convention held in Rapid City in June-- their theme was "All are Welcome".

First Lutheran in Mitchell will host the convention in June 2024.

We recognized and presented 19 of our seniors with quilts made by our women and wished them well on their future endeavors.

Quilted items donated and made by Joan Eitheim were taken to Shetek Quilt Auction and sold for \$285.

Ten 6th graders attended confirmation camp at Okoboji in June and their entire campership funds were paid for by our women's group. We hope this camping experience enriches their Christian faith for years to come.

We sponsor several fundraisers thru the year to help pay for those camperships--Rolls and Cookies for Campers, Cans for Campers, Cookie & Candy Sale (December) and selling of HyVee and Walmart cards thru the year.

Our Harvest Supper held every September is OUR biggest fundraiser. Monies raised go towards these camperships and also other local and global missions. We appreciate everyone's support at all of these events. We served approximately 375 people at our Harvest Supper so it is always great to have the youth and adults help with this event each year. (Our Harvest Supper report can be found with our treasurer's report)

Our group purchases and presents Bibles to ALL third graders each fall; also purchase school supplies and have our 5th graders assemble these into school kits--we thank them for helping pack 139 kits this fall which are shipped thru LWR (Lutheran World Relief) for distribution.

In October, we hosted a Crossroads Conference Leadership Event with the theme "Build a Longer Table--Just Love" for WELCA women. We heard and shared ideas of how we can encourage more interest and involvement by women in our church in this busy world with many good ideas for the ladies to take back to their respective churches. Officers were given information related to their particular office and informational packets provided. Crossroads Conference Board members thank those ladies who brought bars for morning coffee and helped serve the catered lunch.

Thankoffering Sunday we display some of the quilts we work on during the year, collect a Thankoffering for Churchwide use, and this year gave away another quilt in a free drawing with Jim Zeisler as our lucky winner.

We also have a few days during the year "away" from church--this year we visited the quarry in Sioux Falls (offered by Siouxland Heritage Museum) on a bus tour; visited McCrossan Boys Ranch; and enjoyed some Christmas caroling and history of the store on our visit to Nora Store near Alcester. Several ladies also returned to McCrossan to wrap Christmas gifts for those living at the ranch.

We look forward to another busy but rewarding year in 2024.
God Bless and thank you again for Sharing Christ's Love with All.

Respectfully submitted by Jolene Wehde and Sharon Hoekman.

We send out this invitation for ALL women of West Nidaros to join us for our gatherings:

9 a.m. Tuesday mornings for projects with coffee at 10 a.m.

9 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month is our WELCA brunch with devotions (business meeting as needed)

10 a.m. the 4th Tuesday of each month--we help Elise with the mailings of our church newsletter--The Reporter.

1:30 p.m. on 4th Wednesday of each month--WELCA Bible Study in Heritage Dining Room--All are welcome! (dates may be adjusted when there is a holiday)

WELCA Donations 2023

Augustana University	\$ 100.00
LutherCenter	\$ 100.00
University Lutheran Center	\$ 100.00
Church on the Street	\$ 200.00
ELCA Good Gifts	\$ 500.00
Family Connection	\$ 200.00
Feeding South Dakota	\$ 500.00
1st Lutheran Media Ministry	\$ 50.00
Global Health Ministries	\$ 300.00
Heartland Ephphata	\$ 100.00
Human Services	\$ 100.00
Faith Radio KNWC	\$ 100.00
Luther House of Study	\$ 500.00
Lutherans Outdoors	\$ 325.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 450.00
Our Savior's Media Ministry	\$ 50.00
Shetek Lutheran Ministries	\$ 325.00
St. Dysmas	\$ 500.00
Union Gospel Mission	\$ 500.00
World Hunger	\$ 800.00
Missionary support	\$ 1,000.00
Disaster Relief	\$ 300.00
Call to Freedom	\$ 500.00
Tri-valley Angel Fund	\$ 500.00
Furniture Mission	\$ 300.00
Bread Break	\$ 200.00
Christmas gifts to inmates SDFCA	\$ 200.00
Dakota Lion's sight	\$ 200.00
Baltic Angel fund	\$ 500.00
WELCA Katie's fund	\$ 200.00
Total	\$ 9,700.00

**WEST NIDAROS WOMEN OF THE ELCA
Harvest Supper, Sept. 23, 2023**

INCOME:

Craft Sale, Bake Sale, Produce, leftover	\$1,240.81
Cash Donations	\$2,635.00
Meal Tickets	\$6,000.00
Horizon Fund Grant for Roast Beef	\$1,000.00
Thrivent Card for lefse & supplies	\$250.00
Thrivent card for Roast Beef	\$250.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$11,375.81

EXPENSES:

Advertising	\$50.75
Gravy, ketchup, cups (Walmart)	\$54.61
Ice	\$33.94
Corn	\$51.72
Bake sale card - Wooden nickel	\$128.00
Bake sale supplies (Potatoes, flour, cream)	\$113.04
Sam's club - coffee, paper products	\$123.32
Renner Locker (roast Beef)	\$1,714.27
Wooden Nickel - potatoes, buns	\$221.49
postage, & mailings	\$135.90
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$2,627.04

2023 PROFIT: \$8,748.77

WELCA MISSION ACTION REPORT

2023 West Nidaros kits and quilts

KITS

Personal Care Kits for LWR	24
Fabric Kit (Sewing kits) for LWR	10
Baby Care Kits for LWR	67
School Kits for LWR	139

QUILTS

Call to Freedom	10
Family Connection	10
Ronald McDonald House	12
Union Gospel Mission	14
Church on the Street	12
Children's Home Society	10
St. Francis House	15
Lutheran World Relief	49
Children's Inn	9
Berakah House	20
McCrossan's Boys Ranch	4
Horse Creek	23
Seniors - Class of 2023	19
Family in Lennox fire	4
TOTAL QUILTS	207

Pounds of Rolled Bandages	85 lbs. 14 oz.
Taken to Global Health Ministries	

WOMEN OF THE ELCA TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand, January 1, 2023		\$291.25
INCOME:		
Offerings, Bible Study & WELCA offering	\$1,941.00	
Horizon Fund Grant for Mission kits	\$1,000.00	
Craft & card sales	\$481.00	
Serving Funerals,	\$1,435.45	
Cookie jar (sept for school kits)	\$448.35	
Memorials and donations	\$205.00	
Interest income	\$27.35	
Harvest supper profit	\$8,748.77	
Thankoffering	\$1,429.00	
	<u> </u>	
TOTAL INCOME	\$15,715.92	
EXPENSES:		
WELCA Synod & conference gatherings & offerings	\$529.00	
2022 Budgeted donations	\$9,700.00	
LSS Memorials	\$50.00	
Christmas gifts to WN staff, love gifts, Nora store, Mid	\$820.12	
Thankoffering to Churchwide	\$1,429.00	
Transfer to campership fund	\$1,000.00	
Quilt & kit supplies	\$1,504.35	
Misc. expense for graduation, postage, etc.	\$311.11	
	<u> </u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,343.58	
BALANCE ON HAND Dec. 31, 2023		\$663.59
Balance in CAMBERSHIP Fund January 1, 2023		\$19,923.95
Donations	\$ 2,171.00	
Recycled Cans	\$ 226.00	
Transfer from General fund	\$ 1,000.00	
HyVee/Walmart Gift card sales	\$ 18,450.00	
Interest from Moe Endowment	\$ 936.22	
Rolls for Campers profit	\$ 673.91	
Dessert & Cookie bake sale	\$ 1,364.95	
	<u> </u>	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 24,822.08	
EXPENSES		
HyVee/Walmart Gift cards	\$ 20,940.39	
Camp fees	\$ 1,851.00	
	<u> </u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 22,791.39	
Balance in Camper Fund Dec.31, 2023		\$21,954.64
TOTAL WITH CARDS ON HAND OF \$4875		\$26,829.64
MISSION INVESTMENT FUND 30000172939		
Balance on Hand, Jan 1, 2023		\$20,768.22
Interest income	\$ 103.87	
	<u> </u>	
Balance on Hand, Dec. 31, 2023		\$ 20,863.25

REPLICA CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

No report submitted.

REPLICA CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

ASSETS:

WN Replica Church ELCA Endowment Fund

Beginning balance 11/30/2022	\$127,066
Plus interest earned and Fund growth	\$ 8,367
Less 2023 transfer to Replica Church checking account	\$ 2,000
Balance as of November 30, 2023	\$133,433

**WN Replica Church Checking Account
First National Bank, Baltic, SD**

Balance on hand December 31, 2022 \$ 1,220

Fund	2023	Deposit	from	ELCA	Endowment
		\$ 2,000			
Total funds to be accounted for				\$ 3,220	

EXPENSES:

True Green Lawn Care Services	\$ 439
WN Cemetery/Grounds (2022 & 2023) commercial lawn mowing service	\$ 1,925
Total expenses	\$ 2,364

**WN Replica Church Checking Account Balance
as of December 31, 2023**

\$ 856

**Gary Brendtro
WN Replica Church Treasurer**

Other committee members:

**Chris Langloss, chairman; Kathy Neeb, Ken Burke, Vince Hanson,
Cheryl Anderson, Robert Oyen.**

HANSON-OYEN LOG CABIN REPORT

No report submitted.

West Nidaros Lutheran Church Proposed Operating Budget 2024

			Actual Amount Paid by Endowed Funds 2023	Proposed 2024	Proposed Amount Paid by Endowed Funds 2024
<u>Missions</u>	Budget 2023	Actual 2023			
Augustana University	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
Baltic Food Bank	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
Banquet	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
Charis Ministry	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
Community Activities	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$250.00	\$125.00
Crooks Fire Department	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$250.00	\$125.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Family Connection	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$150.00
Feeding South Dakota	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
Lutherans Outdoors	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$600.00	\$1,200.00	\$600.00
Luther House of Study	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00	\$750.00
Missionary Support	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00
Shetek Bible Camp	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$600.00	\$1,200.00	\$600.00
South Dakota Synod	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$8,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00
St. Dymas	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00
World Hunger	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Total Expenses M&E	\$42,600.00	\$42,600.00		\$42,600.00	
<u>Administration</u>					
Conventions	\$700.00	\$450.00		\$700.00	
Council Orientation	\$100.00	\$0.00		\$100.00	
Faith Formation Cont Ed	\$500.00	\$444.73		\$500.00	
Faith Formation Mileage	\$500.00	\$531.53		\$500.00	
Financial Secretary	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00	
Music Ministry Continuing Ed	\$500.00	\$0.00		\$500.00	
Office Manager Mileage	\$50.00	\$0.00		\$100.00	
Organist	\$3,000.00	\$2,050.00		\$3,000.00	
Pastor Base Salary	\$54,741.00	\$49,971.38		\$57,353.00	
Pastor Contingency	\$1,500.00	\$297.16		\$1,500.00	
Pastor Continuing Education	\$1,200.00	\$1,019.21		\$1,200.00	
Pastor Housing Allowance	\$27,371.00	\$32,000.16		\$28,677.00	
Pastor Mileage	\$6,000.00	\$4,748.75		\$6,000.00	
Pastor Pension & Insurance	\$44,051.00	\$44,025.05		\$45,400.00	
Pastor SS Reimbursement	\$6,282.00	\$6,271.25		\$6,581.00	
Pastoral Supply	\$1,000.00	\$528.60		\$1,000.00	
Treasurer	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00	
Youth & Family Continuing Ed	\$500.00	\$0.00		\$500.00	
Youth & Family Mileage	\$1,000.00	\$242.35		\$1,000.00	
Total Expenses Admin	\$152,995.00	\$146,580.17		\$158,611.00	
<u>Committees</u>					
Administration-office	\$16,636.00	\$14,603.55		\$16,000.00	
Endowment	\$100.00	\$0.00		\$100.00	
Faith Formation Ministry	\$7,000.00	\$6,683.68		\$6,500.00	
Grounds	\$500.00	\$0.00		\$1,000.00	

Health Ministry	\$1,000.00	\$467.86		\$750.00	
Local Ministry	\$600.00	\$463.51		\$600.00	
Meal Ministry	\$275.00	\$267.61		\$300.00	
Membership	\$1,200.00	\$1,207.25		\$1,200.00	
Mission & Evangelism	\$2,000.00	\$627.76		\$1,750.00	
Properties	\$13,500.00	\$15,995.32		\$15,000.00	
Stewardship	\$750.00	\$300.00		\$500.00	
Worship & Devotional Life	\$1,500.00	\$1,405.26		\$1,500.00	
Youth & Family Ministry	\$5,000.00	\$3,652.49		\$5,000.00	
Total Expenses Committees	\$50,061.00	\$45,674.29		\$50,200.00	
Utilities					
Audio Visual/IT	\$2,500.00	\$1,841.86		\$2,500.00	
Custodial Supplies	\$1,750.00	\$1,238.70		\$1,750.00	
Electricity	\$8,500.00	\$8,895.00		\$9,000.00	
Fuel	\$20,000.00	\$20,267.79		\$18,000.00	
Garbage	\$950.00	\$1,169.01		\$1,200.00	
Insurance	\$12,000.00	\$16,071.20		\$16,000.00	
Janitorial Services	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$5,000.00	
Kitchen Supplies	\$400.00	\$551.73		\$500.00	
Snow Removal	\$500.00	\$0.00		\$500.00	
Telephone/Computer	\$6,000.00	\$5,227.00		\$5,500.00	
Water	\$1,000.00	\$1,359.50		\$1,500.00	
Total Expenses Utilities	\$53,600.00	\$56,621.79		\$61,450.00	
Employees					
Payroll Fees	\$350.00	\$383.59		\$1,080.00	
Intern Pastor	\$14,500.00	\$11,520.81	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	
Director Music Ministry	\$16,040.00	\$9,871.36	\$5,500.00	\$14,035.00	\$7,018.00
Custodial Staff	\$16,950.00	\$4,328.29		\$5,460.00	
Office Manager	\$33,440.00	\$42,205.81		\$35,070.00	
Dir of Youth and Family Ministry	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,500.00	\$25,000.00	\$12,500.00
Director Faith Formation	\$35,085.00	\$43,876.27	\$12,100.00	\$36,840.00	\$18,420.00
Properties Manager	\$27,170.00	\$27,121.17	\$9,100.00	\$28,529.00	\$14,265.00
Payroll Tax Expense	\$11,800.00	\$10,627.65		\$11,088.00	
Total Expenses Employees	\$180,335.00	\$149,934.95		\$157,102.00	
Total Operating Expenses	\$479,591.00	\$441,411.20		\$469,963.00	
Total paid from Endowed Money			\$64,800.00		\$78,503.00

Projected 2024 Income

Congregational Giving	\$360,000.00	Endowed Money Received 2023	\$114,686.93
Endowed Income Used	\$78,503.00		
Total Projected Income	\$438,503.00	Remaining Endowed Funds	\$36,183.93

Dependent on Congregational giving

(Total operating expenses - Total from Endowed Money)

\$391,460.00

Residual/Deficit

(Projected Congregational Giving - Dependant on Congregational Giving)

-\$31,460.00

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

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



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Triune God!

On behalf of your close to 200 partners across the South Dakota Synod I come to you to say *thank you*. *Thank you* for your generosity! Your benevolence to the ministry of the South Dakota Synod doesn't just keep the lights on and pays salaries, but mainly supports ministry on the ground. Please take a look at the "2023 South Dakota Synod Ministry Celebrations" insert included in this annual report. You will notice that YOU showed up in many and various spaces. Sometimes your presence was felt close to home through a grant you may have received or a synod staff that came to visit. At other times your presence impacted ministry in other parts of the world, such as our companion partners in the Lutheran churches in Nicaragua and Cameroon. *Thank you* also for your generosity above and beyond your benevolence. Our partners in Cameroon appreciated the synod's \$52,000 gift to support putting roofs on churches. The generosity of the congregations in the synod never ceases to amaze me, and I give thanks for your continued generosity as we journey together in Christ!



While many places celebrated an abundant year of ministry, I also want to acknowledge that for other ministry sites 2023 has not been as hoped for. Our mission statement commits us to "Journeying Together in Christ" and is based on Luke 24:13-34. Two disciples are on the road post resurrection and ponder in disbelief all the things that have happened before their eyes. They were overwhelmed and didn't know what to make of it all. I have heard from many ministry sites a similar account about 2023. "Bishop, things in 2023 were not as we had expected and hoped for. What do we do now?" In Luke's story Jesus, unrecognized by them, joins them and walks alongside to listen and remind them of the promises in scripture. But it isn't until they sit down at the table, and Jesus breaks bread that their eyes are opened. They recognize who he is and that the 'holy heartburn' they had experienced along the way was a sign that their love for Jesus and the way he calls them to live has changed them forever.

How about your community of faith? Where do you hear the promises of scripture assure you that God's got a plan for you and your ministry? Where are you called to follow the 'holy heartburn' God's Spirit ignites in you as you are fed at the table of love? I pray that your annual meeting will be an experience where you can voice what you had wished for as well as lament the unmaterialized hopes. And at the same time, you can hear where God promises new life and renewed faith in your very own midst.

Your South Dakota Synod staff and partners across the church are committed to accompany you in your ministry ventures, whether it means to take small courageous steps or giant leaps of faith. We are here to journey with you in Christ. Therefore, it is with great joy and delight that I am announcing to you that we, the South Dakota Synod, are a recipient of a \$1,137,384 grant Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative. Details about the grant can be accessed through the synod's website www.sdsynod.org as well as through the synod office. The STAR (Small Town and Rural) Table also offers two types of grants, which are only possible

through the generosity of the people and congregations of the SD Synod when we gather for rural ministry fundraisers. Again, details about the grant opportunities, and how you can apply for a grant are found on the synod's website www.sdsynod.org.

Last but not least, I would like to invite you to the 2024 Synod Assembly on May 31st and June 1st at Our Savior's in Sioux Falls, SD. We will gather under the theme of "(Re)Connect." It will be a celebration of the partnerships we share across the synod and the wider ELCA. Stay tuned for more information about the business coming before the assembly and the fun opportunities. I hope to be able to welcome you to the assembly in person, be in conversation with you and hear about ministry in your world and how you might best be accompanied as well as accompany your fellow members of the SD Synod and the ELCA.

Journeying with you in Christ,



Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Proposed Mission Plan
02/01/2024 - 01/31/2025**

	Adopted 2023	Revised 2023	Proposed 2024
Revenue			
Mission Support			
Undesignated Mission Support	1,870,465	1,750,576	1,803,094
SD Synod Mission Support	25,000	28,675	28,675
Total Mission Support-Congregations	1,895,465	1,779,251	1,831,769
Program Ministry Income			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Income	45,000	45,000	45,000
Total Program Ministry Income			
Other Income			
DEM Support Staff Income	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	10,000	10,000	10,000
SDS Travel LLC Income	5,000	5,000	5,000
Misc Income	1,000	50,000	1,000
Total Other Income	26,000	75,000	26,000
Total Revenue	1,966,465	1,899,251	1,902,769
Expenses			
Churchwide Ministries	43%	43%	41%
Churchwide Support	804,300	752,748	739,269
Region III			
Region III Support	7,260	8,004	8,004
South Dakota Ministries			
South Dakota Partnership Ministries			
SD Ministries Support	10,750	12,330	11,757
Luther Seminary	74,492	69,925	71,989
Church Colleges (ELCA Pool)	6,445	6,049	6,228
Lutheran Social Services	74,492	69,925	71,989
Campus Ministry	131,356	123,302	126,942
Lutheran Outdoors	37,151	34,873	35,903
South Dakota Supported Ministries			
Heartland Ephphatha	6,445	6,049	6,228
Youth Ministry	3,600	9,600	7,200
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	0
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Woyatan Lutheran/Wambli Ska	19,000	19,000	19,000
Lutheran Planned Generosity	58,300	58,300	58,300
Total Shared Ministries	423,063	410,385	415,538

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Proposed Mission Plan
02/01/2024 - 01/31/2025**

	Adopted 2023	Revised 2023	Proposed 2024
Executive Leadership			
Bishop	96,675	99,034	102,005
Assoc/Director of Ev Mission	6,375	10,533	10,849
Assoc-Mobility/Candidacy	79,909	82,132	84,596
Executive Staff Benefits	106,192	86,940	89,546
Exec Travel/Continuing Ed	34,800	36,800	36,800
Program Ministries			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center-Director	98,872	96,302	99,257
Youth Gathering Synod Coordinator	6,959	0	0
Companion Synod Coordinator	15,839	18,008	18,521
Support Staff and Office			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefit	167,359	171,874	176,980
Synod Office Expenses	69,264	70,681	66,791
Augustana University Occupancy Fee	27,876	30,108	30,108
Synod Committees			
Synod Council	3,000	6,000	5,000
Support to Ministries Committee	2,100	3,100	3,100
Candidacy Committee	2,250	7,000	6,000
Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee	1,550	1,000	1,000
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	200	200	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,500
Mission & Outreach			
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	4,000
Mission Strategy Table	2,000	2,000	2,000
Contingency	5,122	902	1,705
Total South Dakota Ministries	731,842	728,114	739,958
Total Expenses	1,966,465	1,899,251	1,902,769
Net Total	0	0	0

2023 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 2023. **Journeying together in Christ as the South Dakota Synod, in 2023 we:**

- Applied for and received a grant of **\$1,137,384** from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative for new initiatives that are not included in the Synod's Mission Plan. Please reach out to Synod Staff for **more information!**
- Completed explorations for two new potential church plants, with plans to start a worshipping community in **Box Elder** and **Shepherd's Table in Sioux Falls**.
- Walked with the **40** people in various stages of **Candidacy** and have **4** new entrance interviews scheduled in 2024!
- Received **3 new first call candidates**.
- Completed **23 Ministry Site Studies** and extended **28 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 **\$77,137** to date through the Seminary Debt Reduction Program.
- Granted **\$123,000** in scholarship funds to seminary students, **\$11,400** in internship site assistance, and **\$82,990** to Luther and Wartburg Seminaries, for a total of **\$217,390** in support of seminary education.
- Created a **pilot rural J-term** program with Wartburg Theological Seminary, which will begin in January 2024.
- Received **\$113,635** in grants from ELCA Christian Community & Leadership.
- 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.
- Supported the congregations and ministries of the synod through **visits** by synod staff, both **digital** and in-person.
- Hosted a "**Lay Leader Night**" to support congregational lay leaders and supported rostered leaders with regular **in-person and virtual meetings**, such as monthly rostered minister virtual check-ins, Synodically Authorized Minister, Senior Pastor, and Interim Pastor check-ins, and a First Call and Senior Pastor Retreat.
- Pr. Alan Blankenfeld, Synod **Rural Ministry Liaison** continued to journey with our rural ministry sites. In the past year, Pr. Alan has worked directly with **34 communities and congregations in transition**.
- Continued the work of the Rural Ministry Table, which is currently working on **Small Town and Rural (STAR) grants**, grants funded by the generous donations to rural ministry in the Synod.
- Partnered with **Bergen Lutheran** to hold a **Threshing Bee** which resulted in gifts of **\$51,324** to support rural ministry in South Dakota.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported the ministry of the South Dakota Synod 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 2024 and beyond!

In the fall of 2019, the South Dakota Synod engaged in an intentional listening and learning process.

Here is a brief summary of the results:

What gives you joy?

- Music
- Multi-generational ministry opportunities
- Purposeful gatherings
- Purposeful volunteering
- The Gospel

What keeps you up at night?

- Economic hardships
- Polarization in our society
- Mental Health
- Fear for the future of "the Church"

How do you envision your relationship with the synod staff?

- Resources
- Relationships
- Programs
- Communication
- Faith formation

"Fitting who we are into pews made for who we were."

- Participant from 2019 Listen, Learn, Care Event



These results shape our strategic vision and mission.

Why even be "synod?"

We are synod because we are called to journey together in Christ. - Luke 24:13-35

How will we journey together in Christ?

- Relating with intentionality
- Networking across the church
- Equipping leaders for ministry
- Sharing leadership

With confidence in Christ's Love for All.

What we do together:

- **Intentional Accompaniment**
 - In transitional times for ministry sites and leaders
 - through the Rural Liaison
 - through disaster response
 - through a West River Liaison
 - digital sermon resources
 - Digital Ministry Task Force
- **Networking Across the Church**
 - First peer mentor groups
 - regular Zoom gatherings for lay and rostered leaders
 - connecting with our ministry partners
 - J-Term practica with Augustana University and Wartburg Seminary
 - Rural strategy conversations
- **Equipping Leaders for Ministry**
 - "A Life of Faith" video series
 - E-learning and resource hub
 - Story Junction Pilot Project with LEAD
 - Mental Health First Aid
 - Psychological First Aid
 - Sprinkles of Grace grants for early childhood ministry
- **Sharing Leadership**
 - opportunities to serve on synod committees and task forces
 - permission-giving leadership

Let's imagine every moment as a classroom, an opportunity to learn, grow, adapt, and lean into the vision God has for the church of today and tomorrow. - Bishop Constanze Hagmaier



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Five-Year Journey for the South Dakota Synod, ELCA



An Introduction to the Journeying Together in Christ Grant from Lilly Endowment

As we announced earlier this month, the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has been awarded a grant of over \$1.1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative.

The grant will be used by the Synod to live fully its vision of “Journeying Together in Christ,” by relating to congregations with intentionality, equipping leaders for ministry, networking across the church, and advocating for shared leadership, especially among our rural congregations.

The Synod developed the work of this initiative in response to three critical questions posed by Bishop Constanze Hagmaier and her staff in 2019 at statewide “Listen, Learn and Care” events: “What gives you joy?” and “What keeps you up at night?” and “How will we journey together?” One person’s poignant response resonated deeply: South Dakota ELCA churches are struggling with “fitting who we are into pews made for who we were.”

This grant will be used in two focus areas. First, it will be used to engage both lay and rostered congregational leaders by leveraging digital technologies to create *Connect*, a Synod-wide community hub for learning, resources and conversation. Next, it will be used to engage congregations with innovative Rural Immersion Ministries which will create congregational learning experiences designed to recognize and bridge the rural/urban cultural divide.

These projects are being funded through Lilly Endowment’s Thriving Congregations Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to encourage the flourishing of congregations by helping them deepen their relationships with God, enhance their connections with each other, and contribute to the vitality of their communities and the world.

The work of this grant award will be closely aligned with the Synod’s existing and emerging resources, expertise, and experience. However, it is important to note that this grant is funding **work outside of the 2024 Mission Plan approved by the 2023 Synod Assembly. Therefore, it is critical that congregations and organizations continue their mission support to the South Dakota Synod to ensure that the regular and essential work of the Synod continues.**

If you would like to find out more about the work that the grant award will enable, there will be two virtual informational meetings on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024** that will be open to all members of the South Dakota Synod to attend - one at **12:30pm CT** and one at **7:30pm CT**. Both sessions will include time for attendees to ask questions about the grant. More information on how to attend these meetings will be provided in the Synod’s weekly e-newsletter and the Synod website (www.sdsynod.org).

“How Much Is Enough?”

That's a bold question to open an annual report to all of those congregations whose generous mission support is an essential reason that planned giving ministry recognized its **40th anniversary** in the South Dakota Synod this year. We celebrated all of those who have been a part of Lutheran Planned Generosity and its predecessor organizations at the 2023 Synod Assembly, and issued a challenge to identify **40 gift plans to honor 40 years of generosity**. It's not too late for you to be a part of the celebration--just contact us and let us know that you have made a gift in your will or through a beneficiary designation, or would like to do so. For all of those who are a part of this history and continue to generously support ministry in the Synod and around the world, **thank you!** You are making a difference!



Back to that opening question. Relax and breathe a sigh of relief. We're not going to give you rules or scripture verses to calculate the expected size of your gifts. Rather, it's an invitation to each of us to better understand **"How much is enough FOR ME?"** In a world that tells us we should constantly strive for a bigger bank account, a larger home, a newer car, a longer vacation and the next promotion, it's easy to get lost and overwhelmed in the striving and never know when we've reached the point that we have enough. Because God entrusts us as stewards and caretakers, not owners, of all that we have, maybe an understanding of what that number is would be helpful for each of us. **What if** God continues to place more resources under our management to allow us to **simplify our lives by supporting ministry and serving our neighbors** instead of adding another zero to the balance sheet?

If you've never thought about your "enough" and how God might be calling you to make a difference through generosity, **we're inviting you to the conversation**. LPGSD is here to help you think about how your life can make a difference for your loved ones, your church, your community and all of those in need around the world.

It might be a gift in your will, or as a beneficiary designation from your IRA or investment account or life insurance policy. Or maybe using a tool that creates tax savings and income for you today AND a gift to ministry later.

In addition to this work with individuals and families, LPGSD also walks alongside congregations hoping to create or revitalize their own legacy through an **endowment fund**, offering members the opportunity to share in the ministry and outreach of their Christian family. Did you know that **more than \$650,000** was distributed to ministry from South Dakota endowment funds held at the ELCA Foundation in 2023? Your personal legacy plan might even include a family endowment or a gift to establish an endowment at your own congregation.

How much is your ENOUGH? If you discover that God is calling you to generosity beyond that number, LPGSD would be honored to explore the options and help you design a plan that takes advantage of the right tools to benefit your family and support God's work.

Contact Kathy McHenry at **605.274.5030** or **kmchenry@sdsynod.org**.
Visit our website at **www.lpgsd.org** or find us on Facebook.

your life can make a difference

LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA



2023

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you, to all of the individuals and congregations that supported the ministry of Lutherans Outdoors(LO) with financial gifts. Also, thank you to all of the individuals who attended summer camps, retreats, and travel experiences. LO cannot be the ministry that welcomes all to explore and experience Christ's love in community and creation without you!

REIMAGINING LUTHERANS OUTDOORS

The Board of Lutherans Outdoors emphasis in 2023 was the **REIMAGINING** of Lutherans Outdoors. Eight Task Forces have met, and continue to meet, diving into eight audits of the ministry. These eight areas are Philosophy, Finance, Financial Development, Marketing, Governance, Facility, Program, and Staffing. Results so far include the development of new Core Values where we promise to **EXPLORE FAITH, WELCOME ALL, BUILD LEADERS, and CARE FOR ALL CREATION.**

There are nearly 100 recommendations that have resulted from these eight audits. The recommendations will provide guidance for the Strategic process LO will develop for the next several years. The final results of the **REIMAGINING** will be presented to the Board of Directors at their January meeting, with a presentation to the voting members at the LO 2023 Annual Meeting in June 2024.

STAFF UPDATES

During 2023, Lutherans Outdoors said goodbye to Teri Gayer, who served many roles with LO during the past 30-plus years, most recently as the Director of Klein Ranch. During the celebration of 50 years of ministry at Klein Ranch last July, Teri was recognized for her ministry.

In May, LO said hello to Skylar Schwab, who assumed the Program Director position at Outlaw Ranch. Klaire Hudson resigned earlier in the spring from this position after serving in this role. Skylar jumped right into a busy summer and we are very excited she has joined the LO family!

SUMMER 2023 | SUMMER 2024

Our summer camper attendance increased by 15% as a whole in 2023. Outlaw Ranch saw a 22% increase boosted by nearly 100 more Family Campers. Klein Ranch saw a 19% increase. NeSoDak saw a 4% decrease in campers. The total camper number was nearly 1,350.

Our Adult Travel Experiences had over 60 participants to our two destinations: Holden Village and Branson. In 2024, Experiences will be to Minneapolis for a theatre event in April, to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in September, to the Smokie Mountains and Dollywood in October, and a return to Branson in November.

The new Horse Corral at Outlaw Ranch was completed in 2023. This great addition provides a wonderful place to care for the horses and a safe place for campers to begin their horse care education and rides each week.

**Join Lutherans Outdoors for Summer 2024 "Created To Be!" Register at losd.org.
"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well" Psalm 139:14**

In the Hills. On the Prairie. At the Water.



Shetek Lutheran Ministries

14 Keeley Island Dr.

Slayton, MN 56172

(507)-763-3567

camp@shetek.org

www.shetek.org

Executive Director - Marv Nysetvold

Program Director - Lexie Blaschko

Greetings from your camp - Shetek Lutheran Ministries!

This summer we served 770 total campers, which includes our youth campers, cross-generational campers and our SOS campers. We are close to serving as many campers as before the pandemic. 2023 was a 24% increase in camper numbers over 2022 and about 94% of the campers we had in 2019. One of our greatest challenges continues to be finding young adults who are willing to serve for the summer. Our summer ministry team of 20 young adults served faithfully this summer and grew in their faith and in their leadership skills. We were blessed with 7 international counselors this past summer from the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Zambia, Mexico, Zimbabwe and two from South Africa. Shetek will be inviting several international counselors in 2024 also.

Our "Building on the Foundation" capital campaign continues with primarily the congregational phase. Several congregations have run successful campaigns in their congregations so far. We will be contacting all our 100 member congregations to give them the opportunity to participate. We continue to visit with prospective major donors, those who give or pledge \$5,000 or more for the campaign. We have met our phase 1 goal of \$1,500,000 and our total so far in cash and pledges is about \$1,613,000 as we work towards our challenge goal of \$2,000,000. The new lodge is done and is being used by a variety of different groups from scrapbooking groups, Scout groups, family gatherings and college students. The Property Committee and Board are working on plans for the first new cabin and we hope to begin construction in the spring.

Some improvements in 2023 - we upgraded the sound system in the chapel, replaced the reverse osmosis system in the Dining Hall, had to replace the motor on the pontoon, repaired the east wall of the chapel and painted it, painted 3 cabins along with the office, and removed several trees.

I am thankful for our year round staff who continue to work as a team to serve our guests and campers and provide great hospitality. Shetek welcomed Gaelyn Gernentz in March to our Housekeeping team, Deb Ness in June to our Summer Food Service, Joe Koenigs in June to our Maintenance team, and Alexandra Cowell began in September on our Housekeeping team.

We are so grateful for the many campers and guests that came this year. Shetek has impacted so many lives over the years. One of our Counselors in Training (CIT) had this to say about last summer.

"I feel closest to God when I am at camp. I consider camp to be my second home during the summer. This summer, I felt called and was able to have the opportunity to spend about 6 weeks volunteering at camp and I learned a lot. I learned how to respond to stressful situations better, I was able to make, renew, and grow friendships, and I strengthened my leadership skills by helping lead activities like games, worship, reading scripture, and more. I feel that I grow in my faith on a deeper level and grow closer to God everyday there."

Shetek continues to receive estate gifts periodically, which we are very thankful for. Over the years, these thoughtful gifts have really benefitted the ministry at Shetek. If you're interested in finding out more about how to support Shetek in this way, please let us know. We have access to a gift planner at no cost to our donors.

Thank you for your support and prayers!

Marv Nysetvold, Executive Director

Shetek's Board of Directors in 2023 - Ashley Benson, Lindsey Cartwright, Tyler Egge, Pastor Bailey Landa, Logan Gooch, Sarah Kirchner, Pastor Jeanette McCormick, Leon Mortland, Pastor Elizabeth Pagnotta, Pastor Juanita Parker, Pastor Michael Stangeland.

Shetek's staff in Dec. 2023 - Lexie Blaschko, Sandy Carlson, Tom Carlson, Katie Chapman, Alexandra Cowell, Nora Dahlhoff, Michelle Flanagan, Gaelyn Gernentz, Sharon Haugen, Mike Kastner, Joe Koenigs, Jean Larson, Deb Ness, Marv Nysetvold, Jessica Van Dam, Jane Wahl.

Pioneer Cemetery Association

Annual Treasurers Report for the year 2023

This year Joseph F. Ausan, Shari Lynn Fowlds, Anna "Ann" Seely and Gerald Hartnett joined others in eternal rest in Pioneer Cemetery. May they rest in peace.

The Annual Memorial Day Service conducted by the Baltic American Legion was held on Monday May 29th. We would like to extend our gratitude to all that made this ceremony happen, as well as to all of those that attended.

The Emerald Ash Borer continues to be a threat to our ash trees that border the cemetery and any that remain within. To date, no trees have been lost to this threat. I am happy to report that the ash trees survived the year 2023 without loss. The board continues to closely monitor this situation.

The cemetery continues to be maintained by volunteers. In today's world, it has become apparent that it is more difficult for all the volunteers to arrange schedules that allows a scheduled time that fits all volunteers. With this in mind, as well as the busy future the next generation(s) may face, we have been blessed to have Doug and Carol (Ausan) Uthe establish an endowment fund through the Sioux Falls Area Foundation to address these future needs. Doug & Carol have the goal to fund this endowment fund with the necessary funds to generate available earnings annually to hire a professional lawn service to mow, trim, fertilize, and maintain weed control for the future ahead. As to date, Doug & Carol have donated \$97,000.00 to this endowment fund. **WE ARE TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE SUCH A COMMITMENT MADE BY DOUG & CAROL!! THANK YOU!!!**

We will continue to seek out volunteers to help with the lawn maintenance until the above goal is reached. If you, or anyone you know would like to help at the cemetery please reach out to one of the board members and let them know. **YOU ARE NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!!**

Attached you will find the year end financial reports for the operations of the cemetery during the year. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Last, I certainly appreciate the Nidaros Congregation allowing me to be on the board of the cemetery and act as the treasurer for another year.

For The Board

Daniel D. Uthe
Treasurer

Pioneer Cemetery Association
Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2023

	Dec 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	3,158.34
Total Checking/Savings	3,158.34
Total Current Assets	3,158.34
Fixed Assets	
Land	5.00
Total Fixed Assets	5.00
Other Assets	
Other Assets	
Certificates of Deposit	5,411.24
Mutual Funds	62,020.51
Uthe Endowment Fund	
Available Funds	1,997.95
Total Uthe Endowment Fund	1,997.95
Total Other Assets	69,429.70
Total Other Assets	69,429.70
TOTAL ASSETS	72,593.04
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	80,869.68
Net Income	-8,276.64
Total Equity	72,593.04
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	72,593.04

Footnote to Balance Sheet

Not included in this balance sheet is an endowment fund established with the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation entitled **UTHE FAMILY PIONEER ASSOCIATION ENDOWMENT**.

This fund was established in 2005 for the benefit of Pioneer Cemetery. The funds in this account have been excluded from the balance sheet as the "ownership" of this account belongs to the Sioux Falls Area Foundation. Annually, on a fiscal year ending June 30, the Foundation determines what amount from this fund is available for distribution to the cemetery. I have included the **Available Spendable Balance** as other asset on the balance sheet entitled "Uthe Endowment Funds – Available Funds".

During the year 2023 Doug & Carol Uthe contributed an addition \$ 62,000.00 in corpus.

The balance as of December 31, 2023 in The Uthe Family Pioneer Association Endowment equals **\$97,912.74**.

2:19 PM

01/03/24

Accrual Basis

Pioneer Cemetery Association
Profit & Loss
January through December 2023

	<u>Jan - Dec 23</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Burial Permits	600.00
Grave Site Sales	500.00
Memorials & Gifts	2,005.00
Setting Permit	200.00
Utthe Endowment Fund Distributio	2,001.00
Total Income	<u>5,306.00</u>
Expense	
Bank Charges	6.00
Grave Marker Repair	7,932.94
Grave Staking	750.00
Liability Insurance	275.00
Road Repairs	1,060.27
Safe Deposit Box Rent	15.00
Sign Repair	458.86
Trees and Supplies	2,109.11
Total Expense	<u>12,607.18</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-7,301.18
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Income	53.10
Realized Gain (Loss) on Investm	30.68
Unrealized Gain(Loss) on Invest	801.76
Total Other Income	<u>885.54</u>
Net Other Income	<u>885.54</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-6,415.64</u></u>



all healthy
all safe
all accepted



all with

2023 Annual Report to Congregations

All With Your Partnership in Healing Outreach

Runaway & Homeless Youth have brighter futures. 93% returned to their family or transitioned to a safe living environment and 100% enrolled in school or a GED program at discharge.

Children & teens are healing from trauma. 89% of youth in Foster Care and 91% of youth in Residential Treatment showed reduced trauma symptoms over the course of their time with LSS.

Mentors are making a difference. 97% of high school mentees are on track to graduate with their class in May and 92% indicate they have improved self-esteem.

Families are safer. 65% of individuals in family violence intervention demonstrate a reduction in criminal thinking. This is a staggering increase of 29% from when the program was transitioned to LSS.

LSS Strategic Plan In Action

This year marked the first year of our new strategic plan in action. Our board of directors, executive team and leadership developed a four-year strategic plan and line of sight that guides our work toward making the greatest contribution to accomplishing our vision that all people in South Dakota will be healthy, safe and accepted.



Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen
President/CEO

We continue to identify areas for positive impact through listening to unmet community needs, collaboration and strategic priorities that are family-centered and ensure equitable access for those we serve.

Our operational strategies prioritize workforce & inclusivity within our organization and communities, financial viability of the agency and our services, and sharing the positive impact our work makes in the community through storytelling.

This Year At A Glance

Expanded Mentoring Services to serve youth in more communities throughout the state

Strengthened efforts to prioritize family role in an individual's success by elevating youth & family voice

Implemented Strengthening Families, a curriculum that helps build strong communication between parents and their children and helps families navigate conflict

Resettled 197 refugees through traditional resettlement and 290 Ukrainian refugees through Uniting for Ukraine pathways. We are expecting an additional 400 traditional and 50 U4U.