

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2025



Clear Lake, WI





# **FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **Clear Lake, Wisconsin**

### **Annual Meeting**

**February 9, 2025**

(Reports given for 2024)

### **Table of Contents**

	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Agenda .....	2
Church Staff .....	3
Augustana District Service Coordinator Report .....	4
Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting.....	5
2024 Pastoral Acts .....	6
Pastor's Report.....	7-8
Council President's Report.....	9
2024 Church Council Highlights.....	10
2025 Council Elections .....	11
Prayer Shawl Ministry .....	12
Women of the Word (WOW) .....	12-13
Lutheran Men in Mission for Christ (LMMC).....	14-15
Education/Youth.....	16-17
WAPO Bible Camp .....	18
Worship .....	19
Outreach .....	20
Lifeline Food Pantry.....	21
Property .....	22
Finance .....	22
Memorial Fund.....	23
Treasurer .....	24-25
2025 Proposed Budget .....	26

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

February 9, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order
2. 2024 Minutes
3. Review of Reports
  - a. Pastor
  - b. President
  - c. Finance
  - d. Property
  - e. Other Reports
4. Council Elections
5. Proposed Budget
6. Other Business: Wednesday Youth and Family Activities
7. Adjourn

# **First Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff – 2024**

Pastor..... Bryan Anderson  
Sunday School Superintendent..... Patti Wyss  
Custodian..... Julie Barfknecht  
Office Administrator..... Terri Moe  
Financial Secretary..... Jennifer Munson  
Music Director..... Brian Wick  
Pianist..... Sherry Wirth

## **Church Council Officers – 2024**

President ..... Tim Wyss  
Vice President ..... Aaron Buhr  
Secretary..... Jackie Goodmanson

## **Church Council Members**

### Until 2025

Jackie Goodmanson  
Kevin Kamm  
Neil Larson  
Tim Wyss

### Until 2026

Aaron Buhr  
Anna Buhr  
Hannah Eckwall  
Kristin LaBeree

### Until 2027

Dan Cain  
Laura Lieftring  
Bill McIntire  
Open

# 2024 Augustana District Annual Report for Congregations

Dear Friends in Christ:

As 2024 comes to a close I've been hyper aware of all the transition stories we find in Scripture. Consider the stories of Abraham who is called to leave his homeland on an unknown journey, Joseph who is thrust into positions of leadership in Egypt after arriving there as a slave, Moses who shepherds God's people through the wilderness for 40 years, and the people of Judah who are led into exile in Babylon only to return 70 years later. These accounts are but a tip of the iceberg when it comes to characters of the Bible that find themselves in flux.

We have also found ourselves in a season of transition and flux here in the Augustana District throughout 2024. When the announcement came that Pastor Randy Freund was leaving the role of Service Coordinator, it was uncertain what the future would hold. Randy's absence leaves a hole in our district that cannot ever totally be filled, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for all the growth and stability he brought to us during his tenure. Not only do I want to thank Randy, but I also want to thank the Augustana District Council and the transition team that worked diligently to chart a path forward. Ultimately, the decision from these district leaders was to take the Service Coordinator position and divide it into 3 roles: the District Coordinator, the Theology Coordinator, and the Mission & Stewardship Coordinator. Why adopt this model? There are two reasons. First, to ensure that our core values of "church, theology, and mission" are well cared for. Second, rather than taking a full-time pastor out of the parish to fill Randy's shoes (which would only further add to the clergy shortage) this model allows pastors to stay in their pulpits while also serving the needs of the district. I was hired as the District Coordinator in September, followed by Rev. Dr. Marney Fritts as the Theology Coordinator and Rev. Nate Hanson as the Mission & Stewardship Coordinator in December.

As Marney, Nate and I meet, I only become more and more excited about the days that lie ahead for the Augustana District. The coordinator team is already dreaming up new ways we can support and nurture our district's congregations and pastors. After all, this is what districts are designed to do: encourage and surround you, the local body of Christ, and be a resource for any number of joys and concerns that arise in your faith community. I am available for consultation with congregational leadership and pastors on conflict response, church council retreats, and call committee coaching. Marney is available for questions on keeping good theology at the forefront everything you do in your church and is also working in tandem with the Board of Theology and Ministry to ensure we continue to have a strong pastoral endorsement process. Nate is passionate about domestic and international missions and will help you become connected with a ministry you can support, while also engaging with the Board of World Missions on how we can help fulfill the Great Commission globally.

All of this is to say, our God has been and continues to be faithful to the Augustana District as he was for Abraham, Joseph and Moses. God continues to match us step for step as we walk into this new season. The Creator of the universe, who hung the stars in place, and has numbered the hairs on your head, is a promise keeper, and his promise is to never abandon or leave his people. As new congregations join the district, and as you encounter new challenges and opportunities in your own congregations, Marney, Nate and I, along with the rest of the district staff, stand ready to answer the phone and be there for you.

In closing, I want to acknowledge Augustana District Office Administrator Wendy Magruder, Financial Coordinator Niki Pokornowski, Program Coordinator Rev. Becky Hand, and Webmaster Karen Eckstrom. Further, I am grateful for Todd Johnson, the Augustana District Council Chair, who has been an excellent leader during this time of transition. With a group of exceptional, dedicated individuals like this, an enthusiastic coordinator team, and the cross of Jesus Christ standing at the center, we are well equipped for whatever is coming in 2025.

In His Service,  
Rev. Aaron L. Deutsch Augustana District Coordinator  
2024 Augustana District

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 11, 2024**

Meeting called to order by Dale Wirth.

Motion made by Dick Becker to approve 2023 minutes, seconded by Bill McIntire.  
Motion carried.

Pastors Report: This is Pastor's 18<sup>th</sup> year with the congregation. Pastor made report on highlights of the past year and the state of the church.

Council elections: Five nominees to the council recommended for unanimous approval: Anna Buhr, Dan Cain, Linn Case, Laura Lieffring and Bill McIntire. Motion made by Aaron Buhr and seconded by Mark Gilbertson to elect with a unanimous vote. Motion passed. New Council members elected.

Finance: Council combined the Mortgage and General Fund together. This will allow better use of all funds. Motion made by Mike Johnson to approve the 2024 Budget and seconded by Aaron Buhr. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dick Becker to adjourn, seconded by Dale Wood. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Rosemary Johnson  
Council Member

# 2024 Pastoral Acts

## 7 Baptisms

Daxson Bignell	Collins Olson
Ada Brinker	Camden Schramski
Miles Johnson	Evan Solberg
Lennox Kuhn	

## 8 Confirmation Class

Devin Alvermann	Brennon Colbeth
Andrew Buhr	Miles Johnson
Seth Cain	Ben LaBeree
Jerret Case	Natalie Petersen

## 4 First Communion Class

Hazel Cain	Hunter Munson
Bennett Colbeth	Jack Sullwold

## 6 Funerals

Lyle Anderson	Harold Levendoski
Gail Clark	Steven Marg
Dixie Croes	Richard "Dick" Sullwold

## 1 Marriage

Kinzie Fleming & Joshua Kuhn

## 6 New Members Received

Delores Levendoski  
Matt Steffen & Angela Peterson (Camden)  
Ben Strobach  
Sally Wirth

## 20 Members Transferred Out

Connie Breeggeman (Mason, Aleena & Kiyah Krueger)  
Scott & Judy Jensen  
Rhonda McNamara (Easton, Bauer)  
Rachel Nuese (Easton, Savannah, Emery)  
Jane Prusak  
Tim Prusak (Lane, Lyle)  
Marrietta Schug  
Harold & Linda Tronrud



# **PASTOR'S REPORT**

Given February 9, 2025 summarizing January 1-December 31, 2024

Beloved in Christ, grace to you and peace. Thank you for our shared ministry as we enter our 19<sup>th</sup> year together.

## **WORSHIP**

This past year we averaged 28 people at the first service and 118 at the second for an average total worship attendance of 146. We continue to live stream on Facebook. Brian Wick deserves our special recognition for his musical leadership. Thanks to Jackie Goodmanson for preparing the projection for the contemporary service. The Council approved going to one service during the summer months this year with great success.

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Thanks goes to our Sunday school superintendent, Patti Wyss for her fine leadership of the program and her army of volunteer teachers, especially Theresa Anderson who led the Sunday school Christmas program to the delight of us all. What a joy to have over 100 kids participate in Community Vacation Bible School this year, hosted by United Covenant Church. We are always looking for volunteer Sunday school teachers so please consider serving.

This year our high school youth will journey to Kenosha, Wisconsin for a week of service and outreach. We continue to offer meals on Wednesday nights and the youth room is open and supervised by parents from 5:30-8:30 PM. Youth group has been meeting once a month for activities with family events sprinkled into the mix of programming. Special thanks to our parents who cook for the youth on Wednesdays. We will be considering additional youth and family programming on Wednesdays with the help of a committee of interested folks.

## **MISSIONS**

All of our mission commitments were met again this year. We celebrate the many quilts made and donated by our quilting group along with over 100 school kits sent around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Many local children were blessed by our annual Christmas toy drive in cooperation with the Methodist Church. Our Easter Egg Hunt Outreach was another great success along with our Red Cross Blood Drives. The Women's Event in February has become very well attended. All new movers to our area received a welcome postcard from the congregation. Don't forget to take a prayer shawl to those in need of extra support and thanks so much to those who make the shawls.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Currently our total membership is 587. We updated our membership list this year and we intend to complete our online photo directory. There is hope to transition into more electronic communication. Help us get your latest contact information updated with the church office. We grieve the loss of four members this past year: Gail Clark, Dixie Croes, Steven Marg and Richard Sullwold. Remember their families in your prayers and acts of love. Our greeter corps is now welcoming all who come for Sunday services. Consider how you might do your part to graciously welcome and receive visitors at worship.

## **FINANCES**

Thanks to our membership we have a financially stable congregation during trying times. That is no small accomplishment! Meeting all general fund expenses as well as a significant mortgage is a challenge. Remember the office has established an online giving portal on our church website as well as a QR giving code on Sunday bulletins. The proposed 2025 budget seeks to hold the line on expenses with a modest increase over last year. We had to rely on fundraisers to meet the shortfall to the General Fund but all bills and benevolences were paid.

Join me in prayer and hope as we strive to build up the body of Christ here at First Lutheran. Let's shine brightly for Christ as we seek to know Christ and make him known. As our mission statement says, "Growing God's Family by Serving".

Thanks Be to God!  
Pastor Bryan Anderson

# COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It was an honor and blessing to have served on your Church Council as President in 2024. The Church Council's twelve members along with Pastor Bryan provide leadership to handle congregational needs throughout the year. The leadership and spiritual guidance of our Council addressing the needs of the congregation is inspirational. Ten of the twelve Council members will be returning to their roles in 2025, so there will continue to be a strong leadership team.

First Lutheran has been richly blessed in so many ways again this year. One such blessing was decreasing the balance on our Bremer mortgage loan, but we still have a substantial balance due. We finished the year with a budget in the black and should take actions to bring that balance down more quickly.

We continue to expand our **outreach** programs in the community through activities like supporting the community's Vacation Bible School, supporting Lifeline Food Pantry and ministering to the Clear Lake community by hosting the annual women's event, the Easter egg hunt, the Red Cross blood drives, the Heritage Days worship service in the event tent, and other various ways.

Our **youth** play an active role in our church and in the community. They serve meals, assist with the Fall Dinner, attend Christian concerts, conferences and events and enjoy recreational outings together. The annual Mission Trip provides an opportunity for any increasing number of youth to be the hands and feet of Jesus doing service in a community outside of their comfort zone; last year in St. Louis and next summer in Kenosha. We need more opportunities on Wednesday nights for youth Bible study and opportunities for them to discuss topics that they pick out. Additional youth leaders are desperately needed so we can add programming to our Wednesday evening schedule.

The two **worship** services we offer each Sunday morning give our members a choice in worship style and time; one with more contemporary Christian music at 8:30, and the other with a traditional service with hymns. It is my hope that the fellowship time between these two services will grow and bridge the two worship services. You are welcome to come early for the second service and share fellowship with someone who worshipped at the first service. It's important to keep our congregation united as one body of believers. To that end we held our 'Summer of Unity' and offered only one worship service during the summer until Rally Sunday.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the congregation as president in 2024. It has been a growing experience for me. Thanks for taking the opportunity to be actively involved in your church and its ministry. Share the spirit with others and keep praying.

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.* Philippians 4:6

Tim Wyss  
Council President

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – 2024

- January** Investigated alternative insurance carriers for cost savings.
- February** Made revisions to facility use policies.
- March** Began process to update membership roster.
- April** Discussed repair or replacement of playground.
- May** Decided to replace can collection bin. Made plans for Summer of Unity joint worship service.
- Summer** No meetings in June or July.
- August** Approved crack seal of parking lot.
- September** Seeking bids for roofing of church and parsonage after hail damage.
- October** Approved new adult devotional, “Our Daily Bread”.
- November** Seeking a new fellowship serving list coordinator.
- December** Initial approval of 2025 projected budget.

We thank the following Council members for their service this past year:

Aaron Buhr (Vice-President)  
Anna Buhr  
Dan Cain  
Linn Case  
Hannah Eckwall  
Jackie Goodmanson (Secretary)  
Kevin Kamm  
Kristin LaBeree  
Neil Larson  
Laura Lieffring  
Bill McIntire  
Tim Wyss (President)

# 2025 COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Council is an elected body of 12 members serving 3-year terms on a rotating basis. The Council meets monthly to oversee the ministry of the congregation and its pastor. Each member also leads one committee and serves as an offering counter and communion assistant on a rotating schedule. A group of four comes up for election at each Annual Meeting. Nominations can be taken from the floor as needed:

<b>Term expires Jan. 2025</b>	<b>Term expires Jan. 2026</b>	<b>Term expires Jan. 2027</b>
Jackie Goodmanson	Aaron Buhr	Dan Cain
Kevin Kamm	Anna Buhr	Laura Lieffring
Neil Larson	Hannah Eckwall	Bill McIntire
Tim Wyss	Kristin LaBeree	Open

**Nominees/Incumbent\***

1. Jackie Goodmanson\*
2. Kevin Kamm\*
3. Neil Larson\*
4. Liane Petersen (3 year term)
5. Becky Schramski (2 year term)

## **SAMPLE COUNCIL BALLOT** **First Evangelical Lutheran Church – 2025** **Vote for 4 for a 3-year term, and 1 for a 2-year term.**

Jackie Goodmanson (3 yr.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Liane Petersen (3 yr.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Kamm (3 yr.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Schramski (2 yr.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neil Larson (3 yr.)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Do you enjoy crocheting or knitting but don't have an outlet for your craft? The Prayer Shawl group is always open to new members. We meet the last Wednesday of the month 9:00 AM-11:00 AM and share a cup of coffee and a snack and a little conversation while we work on our current project. Finally, we pray for all who have received a prayer shawl.

Maybe you don't have time for meetings. You are more than welcome to donate whatever you make. Just leave them with the office with your name attached.

Twenty-three prayer shawls were given out in 2024. If you know someone who could use the comfort of having a shawl with extra prayers woven into the pattern to help them heal, racks of available shawls are in the church entry. Take what you need but leave a name on the clipboard, so we can pray for the recipient.

Submitted by,  
Cindy Nelson, Prayer Shawl Member

## **WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW)**

Our first event of 2024 was a WOW potluck held on January 28<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Sunday school's "Bible Camp promotion" Sunday.

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual "women's event" outreach entitled, "Perfectly Loved" was held on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. We hosted approximately 130 guests. Special thanks to Laura Boche-Case, Emily Larson, Theresa Anderson and Patti Wyss who organized the event.

The "May Day" community dinner was held on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Special thanks to Jo Nilssen for handling the food menu.

The Fall Bible study has been chosen and the study will be "In Harmony With the Word".

A Pad Cutting Party was held October 6<sup>th</sup> after church. Thank you to Emily Larson for organizing.

The First Lutheran Fall Dinner was held on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The bake sale brought in.\$753.00. Women of the Word Sunday was held on November 24<sup>th</sup> (in Pastor's absence).

All women who are members of First Lutheran church are considered WOW members, and are placed onto one of our serving groups for funerals. Any member who is not sure of what group you are assigned to can contact the church office for that information.

Our current officer team consists of: Patti Wyss- president, Barb Anderson- treasurer and Tiffany Wagner-secretary.

Meetings are currently held as needed to prepare for upcoming events.

Submitted by,  
Tiffany Wagner, WOW Secretary

# FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN OF THE WORD TREASURER'S REPORT – 2024

## RECEIPTS

Cards, Napkins, Dishcloths, Beet Pickles	295.00
Smorgasbord Bake Sale and Other Sale Items	2,575.75
Circles and WOW Offerings, Book Reimbursements	111.00
Miscellaneous	7.29
Potluck for Campers	959.00
Contribution toward Campership	265.00
Campership Refund Due to 1 Student not Attending	130.00
Member Donation	5,000.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$9,343.04</b>

## DISBURSEMENTS

Reimburse First Lutheran – Trenton Mills	232.83
Reimburse First Lutheran – Current Card Order	53.26
Camperships	1,980.00
Transfer from Checking to 6 Month CD'S (2)	8,000.00
WOW Augustana Fall Gathering	50.00
Lifeline Food Pantry	150.00
Pastor Gift	200.00
Christmas for Children	250.00
Postage for Bakeless Mailing	68.00
Bike for Easter Egg Hunt	78.00
Parish Administrator Gift	150.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$11,212.09</b>

## CHECKING ACCOUNT

Starting Balance January 1, 2024	\$5,409.16
2024 Receipts Deposited	<u>+9,343.04</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,752.20</b>
 2024 Disbursements	 <u>-11,212.09</u>
<b>Checkbook Balance-December 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$3,540.11</b>

<b>Regular Savings Account</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>6 Month CD (1001) Balance</b>	<b>\$4,053.75</b>
<b>6 Month CD (1002) Balance</b>	<b>\$4,054.75</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Anderson, WOW Treasurer

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY**

The Lutheran Men in Mission for Christ (LMMC) has been the men's ministry at First Lutheran Church for 34 years. The group provides fellowship and spiritual growth through Bible study. The group meets on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month and any man is welcome. The group averaged ten to twelve men in 2024. The morning starts with coffee and breakfast served at 6:30 by one of the men and then follows with Bible study usually lead by Pastor Bryan from 7:00 to 8:00. In 2024, we have been studying the Gospel of Matthew. We generally read and discuss only one chapter of the book on a Saturday morning session, so studies are thoughtful and deliberate with a lot of time for discussion.

No prior Bible study experience is needed to fit in with this group. Any man who wants Christian fellowship with other men and wants to explore his faith through Bible study should join us. No reservations are needed; come when you can and leave when you have to.

To support church mission projects, in 2016 we began selling shopping cards to some of our favorite local merchants. The shopping cards are available at church each Sunday and are used like a debit or gift card. The men's group purchases the cards at a discounted price from the merchants and sells them to you at face value. You receive the full purchase value when you shop with our cards, you support the local businesses by using the cards and you support our church missions when you purchase the cards. We sell cards to Nilssen's Market, Clear Lake True Value and Kwik Trip.

Our first mission project was the purchase of the church's defibrillator in the gathering space and our most recent one was buying the chain-link kennel for aluminum can donations. Among the ongoing missions of the LMMC is monthly financial support of the Child Evangelism Fellowship – St. Croix Valley Chapter (CEF), located in the Clear Lake Area Community Center, where Pastor Bryan serves as a board member; the weekly Wednesday evening meals for the confirmation students and youth group members; the annual youth Mission Trip; the apples for the Sunday School Christmas program; and the cost for church lawn fertilization and weed control. The number of projects supported by LMMC will continue to increase as more funds become available through our offerings on Saturday morning and the proceeds from shopping card sales.

Tim Wyss  
LMMC President



# LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION FOR CHRIST

## TREASURER'S REPORT – 2024

### INCOME SUMMARY:

GIFT CARD TOTAL SALES	\$46,461.50	
ENDING VALUE OF GIFT CARD ON HAND	\$9,730.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$56,191.50</b>

BEGINNING GIFT CARD BALANCE	\$3,200.00	
GIFT CARDS PURCHASED	\$49,957.25	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$53,157.25</b>

PROFIT FROM SALES OF SHOPPING CARDS		\$3,034.25
OFFERINGS RECEIVED		\$659.00

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$3,693.25**

### DISBURSEMENTS

CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP	\$490.00	
BECKER LAWN CARE	\$318.08	
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM APPLES	\$84.00	
ALUMINUM CAN BIN PURCHASE	\$220.00	
GIFTS DONATIONS: BIKE FOR EASTER EGG HUNT	\$98.00	
CONF. & YOUTH GROUP MEALS	\$300.00	
GIFTS DONATIONS MISSION TRIP	\$1,000.00	
GIFTS - MISC	\$100.00	

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** **\$2,610.08**

**PROFIT: INCOME MINUS DISBURSEMENTS** **\$1,083.17**

### ASSETS

#### INVENTORY 12/31/2024

KWIK TRIP GAS	\$2,850.00	
KWIK TRIP FOOD	\$2,950.00	
TRUE VALUE	\$2,450.00	
NILSSEN'S	\$1,480.00	

**TOTAL CARD VALUE** **\$9,730.00**

CHECKBOOK BALANCE	\$7,705.97	
CASH ON HAND	\$778.00	

**TOTAL** **\$8,483.97**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Tim Wyss, Treasurer

# EDUCATION AND YOUTH

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are currently 41 children enrolled in our Sunday school program- ages 4 through grade 6. We continue to use “on-line” registration utilizing a “google form”.

First Communion for fifth-grade students was held on Maundy Thursday, March 28. The following students received their First Communion: Hazel Cain, Bennett Colbeth, Hunter Munson and Jack Sullwold.

First Lutheran Church continues to utilize a rotational model for Sunday school. “The Good News Bible” was distributed to the 4 Sunday School students entering third grade and is used through confirmation. “The Beginners Bible” is given to and used by children when they exit the cradle roll and is used through second grade.

The 2023-2024 scope and sequence of curriculum lessons used (published by Augsburg Fortress) included: “Creation”, “Baby Moses”, “Ruth “Mary and Martha”, “The Last Supper”, and “Fruit of the Spirit. Sunday, January 28 was utilized as Bible Camp Promotion Sunday. Ten First Lutheran Students attended WAPO Bible Camp last summer. The Women of the Word supported their attendance with a \$200 campership for each student.

Rally Sunday was held on September 10 as we kicked off the Sunday school year. A “pedal pull” family fun event was held after the chicken barbecue that day.

Theresa Anderson directed the Sunday School Christmas Program with the help of Laura Case, Lily Anderson, Tiffany Wagner and Lisa Anderson. This gift of song and story, “Around the Manger” was presented at the 10:00 service on Sunday, December 15.

The rotational model requires the commitment and involvement of numerous members of our church family. As teachers, they bring their talents, experiences and gifts to share with our children. We thank them and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to stir their hearts to stay involved with this very important work of the church. Theresa Anderson and Stacia Hoefflerle continue to write and perform puppet shows to introduce each rotation. We thank Brian Wick for helping with music during opening when possible. We also extend a special thank you to all who volunteer as teachers for their ongoing dedication to the Christian education of the children of First Lutheran.

Submitted by Patti Wyss, Sunday School Superintendent

## **A Great Opportunity**

Patti has informed Pastor and the Council that her time as Sunday school superintendent will be coming to an end in May with the conclusion of this Sunday school year.

This position has been a blessing for many years! The next superintendent will likely also experience an abundance of spiritual and personal growth with this opportunity. It is an answer to God’s call”. **“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” – 1Peter 4:10.**

Patti is willing to assist in the transition to a new Sunday school leader in any way. She has left a “job description” with Pastor and the church office. If you are interested in exploring the possibilities, please speak with Pastor or Terri in the office.

## **CONFIRMATION**

Eight 10<sup>th</sup> graders were confirmed on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>: Devin Alvermann, Andrew Buhr, Seth Cain, Jerret Case, Brennon Colbeth, Miles Johnson, Ben LaBeree, and Natalie Petersen. Confirmation instruction is held on Wednesday evenings for 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders. Tim Wyss and Theresa Anderson team teach the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. They study the Gospel of John. Pastor Bryan is the instructor for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. 8<sup>th</sup> graders are led through a Bible overview and the 9<sup>th</sup> grade works their way through the Small Catechism. Youth group and regular worship attendance are also encouraged. Each youth must turn in a minimum of 20 sermon notes a year and serve the congregation in some capacity. All Confirmands are also encouraged to attend a week of Bible Camp or a servant trip during the summers.

## **YOUTH**

The First Lutheran Church Youth group coordinates events with Pastor Bryan and other volunteers. The youth room is open and supervised by parents on Wednesday evenings. The youth continue with supper on Wednesday nights before confirmation classes. Activities in 2024 included ice skating, an apologetics conference, servant trip, bowling, Bible camp, a canoeing and picnic adventure on the Namekagen River hosted by the Nelsons, the Underground Adventure, pumpkin patch outing, See You at the Pole, roller skating, and Bring Your Bible to School. We are happily including our families at some of these events as well.

Submitted by,  
Pastor Bryan Anderson



**Lake Wapogasset**  
LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP, INC.



**Camp Wapo**



**Ox Lake**



**Wilderness  
Canoe Base**

715.268.8434

[lakewapo.org](http://lakewapo.org)

## Congregational Report 2024

**Thank you for being a Partner Congregation!** We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support and dedication of so many congregations that enable thousands of individuals each year to experience community and deepen their faith at Camp Wapo, Ox Lake, and Wilderness Canoe Base. We celebrate a year full of impactful moments with campers and retreat guests, and we are thankful for the generosity of our donors, the prayers of our supporters, and the commitment of YOU - our partner congregations.

**Summer 2024** This summer, we had the privilege of welcoming nearly 4,000 campers and families to Camp Wapo, Ox Lake, and Wilderness Canoe Base, and over 11,000 guests year-round. Our summer staff was exceptional - demonstrating flexibility, resilience, and taking on key leadership roles. They met every challenge with energy, grace, and servant hearts. We are always seeking passionate young adults to join our team, and we encourage you to send anyone who might be a great fit our way! We're now hiring for summer 2025—if you know someone who would be interested, please reach out! You can contact Michael at [michaelw@campwapo.org](mailto:michaelw@campwapo.org) or Mari at [maris@campwapo.org](mailto:maris@campwapo.org), or visit [lakewapo.org/employment](http://lakewapo.org/employment) to apply.

**Site Plans Strategic Initiative** We continue to make progress on our Strategic Initiative, centering on comprehensive site plans. This important work will guide our decision-making process and help us prioritize deferred maintenance and program development. We're excited about several projects scheduled for this winter and spring that will have an immediate impact on the upcoming summer. These plans are designed to enhance and support transformative outdoor ministry experiences for everyone who comes to our camps.

**Donor Engagement** In 2024, partnership giving remained steady, while annual giving fell short of our intended goal. However, designated giving saw an increase, leading to an overall rise in contributions compared to 2023. We are currently in the leadership phase of the Room for More campaign to complete the dining hall/meeting space project at Camp Wapo. Soon, we will launch a congregational effort, reaching out to you - our partner churches. Joel Abenth, Director of Donor Engagement, will be working closely with congregations, individuals, and families who wish to support the camp in various ways. If you'd like to explore how you can contribute, please contact Joel at [joela@campwapo.org](mailto:joela@campwapo.org).

**Retreats and Events in 2024** Our non-summer season has been filled with a variety of retreats. Notable highlights include hosting large groups of students from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and Wheaton College just before the summer season kicked off at Wilderness Canoe Base, as well as two big middle school fall retreats at Camp Wapo. We offer a range of options for both programmed retreats and facility rentals if you're looking to organize your own event. Retreat opportunities can be found at [lakewapo.org/news-events](http://lakewapo.org/news-events). For more details or to schedule your retreat, please contact Ryan at [ryanb@campwapo.org](mailto:ryanb@campwapo.org). Additionally, we welcomed over 500 guests for our Memorial Day Pancake Extravaganza, celebrated the 22nd year of the Wapo Golf Tournament, and hosted over 1,200 guests and volunteers during Advent, including 8 performances of the 35th annual Christmas Dinner Theater, "A Stranger for Christmas."

**Rhythms of Faith** This summer we were thrilled to be selected as an exemplary ministry site participating in the Rhythms of Faith Project, a nationwide research initiative seeking to use the camp experience as a catalyst for family faith practices. This project is coordinated by Wheaton College's Center for Leadership Development (HoneyRock) and Sacred Playgrounds, and funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. The results from our part of the research and across all the camps that participated are so affirming of the work we do in outdoor ministry and how it impacts families, churches and communities. We'll continue to share those results throughout 2025.

**2025 Theme** Inspired by Romans 15:13, our 2025 theme is **Breathe**. *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Whether it is singing around the campfire, in community with others, or in moments of quiet reflection, the Holy Spirit is our constant companion, leading us, comforting us, and helping us grow in faith and courage.

We look ahead with eager anticipation and a sure sense of hope. See you at camp in 2025!

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Our worship experience at First Evangelical Lutheran has always been rooted in the rich Lutheran liturgical heritage that was developed by Martin Luther at the time of the Reformation. We are believers who gather around the Holy Word and Sacraments, seeking forgiveness and renewal, to hear God's word proclaimed through scripture, sermon, and music. The one thing that we bring to the service is our sinful self and a repentant heart. We come to the service to hear and receive what God does for us. Our "School of Faith" is a time for us to refresh our souls and to prepare us to go out and be a witness of our faith.

We have been so blessed to have Pastor as our overseer in our worship experiences. The messages we hear are inspired words teaching us what God has done for us and what He has in store for us. Pastor delivers lessons for each and everyone of us that will bring us to a better and closer relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We are also thankful for the people who add their talents and abilities to make our worship a meaningful experience as we Grow God's Family Through Our Service. Special thanks to Jay Case for the great work he has done in our technology area. We share our worship experience as an outreach by broadcasting our services as a live stream on Facebook and YouTube along with the radio transmission at 87.9 FM. A link to these recorded services can be found on the church's web page and YouTube. We continue to offer the broadcasts to reach our members who are not able to be at service on Sundays. At the same time, our broadcasts have been a witness to those people outside of our church family. People have expressed their gratitude and we have received comments and thanks from people outside of our immediate area who have been able to watch one of our broadcasts. We are making a difference in peoples' lives with what we are doing here in our worship experience.

To God be the power and the glory for what He has done for us and enabling us to worship Him in a meaningful way. If you would like to be a part of any of the groups that is involved in the area of worship and music, contact me or the office and we will get you hooked up with the people involved with that particular group. It has been exciting to see the choir grow as we now practice after the second service on Sundays. We were able to have a very successful joint Christmas Concert Worship with the Methodist Bell Choir to cap off the Christmas season. Come and join us to "make a joyful sound".

Thanks be to God!  
Brian Wick

## **OUTREACH REPORT – 2024**

February 10<sup>th</sup> – Women’s Event- Perfectly Loved, (3 hours, 2 speakers, 1 purpose)

February 14<sup>th</sup>- Youth Spaghetti Dinner raising funds for summer servant trip

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Blood Drive

March 16<sup>th</sup> – Community Easter Egg Hunt outreach

March 24<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday Brunch Fundraiser for Summer Servant Trip

March 29<sup>th</sup> – Community Good Friday Service with collection for Lifeline Food Pantry

May 1<sup>st</sup>- May Day Community Dinner for Seniors

June 4<sup>th</sup> – Hope Alive Event in Amery

Shake Shack at Clear Lake Heritage Days with Sunday Worship under tent

July 7-12<sup>th</sup> – Youth Servant Trip to Indianapolis, IN

November 13<sup>th</sup> – Fall Dinner and Bake Sale/Raffle

November 27<sup>th</sup> – Community Thanksgiving Eve Service with collection for Lifeline Food Pantry

Ongoing all year: Prayer Shawl ministry, Quilting group, Compassionate Friends, Morning Grace Bible Study, Ridgeview Bible Study, Evening Grace Bible Study, Men’s Bible Study, Women’s Book Study, Little Dresses/Britches for Africa, Lutheran World Relief School Kit Collection, Community Toy Drive with Methodist Church, Gideon Bible Collection, and Christian Carpentry Mission visits with Rod Elbaor.

“In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.” Proverbs 3:6

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Jackie Goodmanson & Anna Buhr

# LIFELINE FOOD PANTRY – 2024

Another year has come and gone and with it came a lot of changes to the food pantry. Many of you may know, effective September 1, 2024, Diean Schramski and Gordon Weber resigned as directors of the food pantry. They were the heart and soul of the food pantry for many years and will be greatly missed. We thank them for their many years of service but understand it was time to pass the reigns on to someone else. We welcome Diane Vaiu as the new director and know she will do a great job! Thank you, Diane, for stepping up to direct this important ministry to feed the people in our communities. We also thank you for your patience during this transition time.

Once again through the generosity of the people in our communities working together, we have been able to offer food assistance to many families who are in need in the surrounding areas. Our donations come from Church groups, community drives, civic clubs, our schools, individuals and local businesses. We thank you all for your generosity. We have also received money from grants that helped subsize the food we received from the St. Croix Food Bank, located in Hudson, WI.

Lifeline Food Pantry is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible.

We are open for food distribution twice a week and are available for emergency food boxes or short-term service for anyone who needs extra food. Our contact information and hours are posted on the Clear Lake Community website along with the Facebook page for Lifeline Food Pantry.

Our numbers have started to increase due to the increase in the price of basic needs.

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Number of families	814	949	949
Individuals in these families	1657	2016	2016
Adults 18 & older	1389	1496	1496
Children under 18	414	520	520

The Lifeline Food Pantry would not be here if not for the volunteers and we have been truly blessed with many wonderful volunteers who unselfishly share their time, talents, and energy in picking up and helping to organize and distribute food. Thank you to all who offer help in any way. God bless you as you continue to support Lifeline's mission to fight hunger in our community.

Kim Patterson  
Administrator  
Lifeline Food Pantry

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT**

After another year with God the church is in pretty good hands with everyone on the Council. We have had a few issues but nothing serious, with a bit of hail damage we acquired a full new roof on the church and parsonage and this should last us for 30 years.

The playground equipment has done its part and lived a full life and it was time for a change and thanks to Dennis and Nancy Luehman's generous donation. We now have another playground to last another 25 years. We are still working on getting a quote for the painting of the church and the parsonage. This will be done in the springtime and we shouldn't have to worry about painting the buildings again for many years to come.

All in all it was a very calm year for the property committee. Bill routinely replaces furnace filters and lights. Thank you Linn Case for joining me with these responsibilities and we will see what the next year has in store for us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill McIntire and Linn Case

## **STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

By the Grace of God and the generosity of our congregation our financial obligations continue to be met over the past year. The Council suggested and the congregation voted last year at the Annual Meeting to combine the General Fund and the Mortgage Fund. This has given us the ability to funnel the funds into the areas of need without having to come to the congregation during leaner months. Our Church Financial Secretary and Administrator have served us well. Our church account is currently sitting on a surplus of funds that are designated for some painting from the hailstorm last fall.

The Finance Committee would like to thank our Financial Secretary, Jennifer Munson and our Church Administrator, Terri Moe for their continued hard work regarding all of the financial matters of our church. We appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to making sure our church financial obligations are met. They are a blessing to our congregation.

Respectfully submitted by Neil Larson and Aaron Buhr  
First Lutheran Stewardship and Financial Committee



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND REPORT

January 1, 2024– December 31, 2024

Type	Date	Number	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
First Lutheran Memorial Account	01/01/2024					<b>53,033.64</b>
<b>OUTDOOR SIGNAGE</b>	01/01/2024					<u>1,527.00</u>
Total Outdoor Signage	12/31/2024					<b>1,527.00</b>
<b>MEMORIAL GARDEN</b>	01/01/2024					3,737.00
Y-T-D Deposits					895.00	<u>4,632.00</u>
Total Memorial Garden						<b>4,632.00</b>
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	01/01/2024					3,934.94
Y-T-D Deposits					245.00	4,179.94
Check	03/07/2024	2513	First Lutheran Church	Sunday School Supplies	-125.19	4,254.75
Check	04/09/2024	2515	Kristin LaBeree	Sunday School Supplies	-20.22	4,034.53
Check	04/24/2024	2516	Kristin LaBeree	Sunday School Supplies	-20.92	4,013.61
Check	09/03/2024	2518	Compassion	Sponsorship	-172.00	3,841.61
Check	09/05/2024	2519	Patti Wyss	Sunday School Supplies	-182.13	3,659.48
Check	09/09/2024	2520	First Lutheran Church	Sunday School Supplies	-17.91	3,641.57
Check	11/07/2024	2523	First Lutheran Church	Sunday School Supplies	<u>-35.69</u>	<u>3,605.88</u>
Total Sunday School	12/31/2024					<b>3,605.88</b>
<b>UNSPECIFIED</b>	01/01/2024					40,476.66
Y-T-D Deposits					3,930.00	44,406.66
Check	03/14/2024	2514	Lutheran Men In Mission	Parsonage Washer/Dryer Parsonage Furnace	-1,066.85	43,339.81
Check	08/22/2024	2517	Pastor Bryan Anderson	Repairs	-835.00	42,504.81
	08/24/2024		Main Street Checks	Checks	-20.61	42,484.20
Check	09/26/2204	2521	Rainbow Midwest	Playground Deposit	-1,000.00	41,484.20
Check	10/14/2024	2522	Rainbow Midwest	Playground	<u>-16,336.00</u>	<u>25,148.20</u>
Total Unspecified	12/31/2024					<b>25,148.20</b>
<b>BUILDING</b>	01/01/2024					2,335.00
Y-T-D Deposits					635.00	2,970.00
Check	01/10/2024	2512	Mortgage Fund Bremer	Principle Payment	<u>-2335.00</u>	<u>635.00</u>
Total Building	12/31/2024					<b>635.00</b>
<b>FIRST LUTHEAN MEMORIAL ACCOUNT – OTHER</b>						<u><b>23.04</b></u>
<b>TOTAL FIRST LUTHERAN MEMORIAL ACCOUNT 12/31/2024</b>						<b><u><u>35,571.12</u></u></b>

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

for the year ended December 31, 2024

	TOTAL		
	Jan - Dec 24	Budget	\$ Over/Under Budget
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
<b>Income</b>	254,679.29	248,737.00	5,942.29
<b>Total Income</b>	254,679.29	248,737.00	5,942.29
<b>Gross Profit</b>	254,679.29	248,737.00	5,942.29
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Staff</b>	128,585.29	128,505.09	80.20
<b>Property</b>	38,201.05	43,750.04	-5,548.99
<b>Office</b>	7,732.12	6,700.00	1,032.12
<b>Worship</b>	3,922.99	2,800.00	1,122.99
<b>Education</b>	3,272.96	3,300.00	-27.04
<b>Missions</b>	3,701.00	3,500.00	201.00
<b>Outreach</b>	328.00	2,000.00	-1,672.00
<b>Miscellaneous Expense</b>	4,339.42	4,000.00	339.42
<b>Total Expense</b>	207,832.01	194,555.13	13,276.88
<b>NET GENERAL FUND</b>	46,847.28	54,181.87	-7,334.59
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Interest Income</b>	272.52	291.36	-18.84
<b>IBM Dividend Income</b>	200.10	198.90	1.20
<b>Total Other Income</b>	472.62	490.26	-17.64
<b>Mortgage Expense</b>			
<b>Bremer Principal Payments</b>	35,447.95	26,110.18	9,337.77
<b>Interest Expense-Building Fund</b>	27,773.35	29,340.14	-1,566.79
<b>Total Mortgage Expenses</b>	63,221.30	55,450.32	7,770.98

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Bank Account Balances As of December 31, 2024

Dec. 31, 2024

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets Checking/Savings

Pillar Bank Savings 105.35

Pillar Bank – General Fund 65,545.26

#### First Lutheran Memorial Account

Outdoor Signage 1,527.00

Memorial Garden 4,632.00

Sunday School 3,605.88

Unspecified 25,148.20

Building Fund 635.00

First Lutheran Memorial Account - Other 23.04

Total First Lutheran Memorial Account 35,571.12

Bremer Bank – Mortgage Escrow Fund 30,272.48

Total Checking/Savings 128,494.25

Total Current Assets 128,494.25

### TOTAL ASSETS

**128,494.25**

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

0.00

<b>Bremer Mortgage Note Payable Principle Balance Remaining \$617,018.68</b>
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## 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET (Rounded)

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed
<b>Staff</b>			
Pastor			
a. Base Salary	64,785	64,785	67,377
b. Social Security Offset	4,956	4,956	5,154
c. Pension	9,066	9,030	9,429
d. Disability	1,500	1,500	1,500
e. Continuing Education	600	895	600
Administrator/Secretary	29,490	29,490	30,670
Music Director	5,000	5,000	5,000
Treasurer	1,600	1,600	1,664
Custodial Services	7,000	7,000	7,280
Payroll Taxes	3,388	3,296	3,411
<b>Property</b>			
Insurance (Including Workers Comp.)	5,400	10,960	9,000
Communications (Phone/Internet)	3,200	3,185	3,200
Utilities	20,000	17,050	21,000
Maintenance (Parking Lot Light Upgrade)	15,000	8,039	8,000
<b>Office</b>			
Postage	1,200	1,470	1,500
Copy Machine	1,500	1,730	1,800
Office Supplies	2,000	1,649	1,600
Software License/QuickBooks	2,000	2,883	3,000
<b>Worship</b>			
Supplies and Music	2,000	3,115	2,500
Offering Envelopes	800	808	900
<b>Education</b>			
Cradle Roll/Sunday School/VBS	0	306	0
Confirmation & Youth	2,000	1,943	2,000
Adult Education/Library/Devotionals	1,300	1,023	500
<b>Missions</b>	3,500	3,701	3,500*
<b>Outreach</b>	2,000	328	1,000
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	4,000	4,339	4,000
<b>Minimum Mortgage Payment (\$4,621 x 12)</b>	55,452	63,221	55,452
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>248,737</b>	<b>253,302</b>	<b>251,037</b>

### MISSIONS

- Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ \$1,200
  - Augustana District \$1,200
  - WAPO Bible Camp \$500
  - Lifeline Food Pantry \$300
  - Child Evangelism Fellowship \$300
- \$300  
**\$3,500\***

\*More can be given should the offering income allow.