



CONGREGATIONAL
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**
Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

A NEW NATIONAL BISHOP

This past summer, delegates at the 2025 ELCIC National Convention elected Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer to serve as National Bishop.

"Dear friends, hope, faith and love, these are the tools of our calling," Kochendorfer said following the election. "We don't know the future, but we have what we need. Jesus is feeding us; we have bread, we have wine, we have the scriptures, we have each other. We know that we will not get to where we're going without going together and with others."

Kochendorfer is the ELCIC's fifth National Bishop, joining Donald Sjoberg (1986–1993), Telmor Sartison (1993–2001), Raymond Schultz (2001–2007) and Susan Johnson (2007–2025).

Kochendorfer most recently served as interim pastor at Our Redeemer, Penticton, B.C., as well as assistant to the bishop in the British Columbia (BC) Synod. He most notably served as Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories from 2012–24, and previously worked in congregations in Dickson, Lethbridge and Edmonton, Alberta.

Having served the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as a council member from 2017–23, Kochendorfer is currently chair of the LWF's Mutual Responsibility Task Force and was recently co-chair of the Lutheran portion of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission.

The ELCIC gathered on September 27 in worship and celebration for Bishop Kochendorfer's installation in an ecumenical gathering filled with the beauty of prayer, worship and song. Scripture readings from Isaiah 43, Psalm 46 and Ephesians 4 were shared, with former ELCA Archbishop Linda Nicholls preaching the sermon. Lutheran and interfaith pastors and bishops in attendance robed in red vestments and processed in and out of the sanctuary.

Kochendorfer has been married to his wife Cathy for 42 years, and the two have raised four children together. •



Bishop Larry Kochendorfer (centre) at his installation service.



FACING TODAY – DREAMING FOR THE FUTURE

Facing Today – Dreaming for the Future is a three-year church engagement project that officially began in July of 2025 and is aimed at guiding positive transformation within the ELCIC's national and synodical structures.

The initiative will consider current financial realities and the evolving landscapes of congregations across the country, while creating space for meaningful conversations about what it means to be church in the years ahead.

A steering committee of 12 members, including two representatives from each of the five synods (one lay, one rostered), National Church Council representatives, and a five-member consulting group have been formally engaged in the process.

At convention, delegates engaged in table discussions, prompting key themes of resilience after crisis, youth involvement, experimentation in worship, lay-led initiatives and leadership shortages.

"We want to hear from everyone," said steering committee member Rev. Katrina Vigen of Redeemer, Vancouver on the committee's call to action. "What are we facing today and what can we dream of together for our future? We have started a journey, and we don't know where God is guiding us, but we know and we trust that God is leading us, that the Holy Spirit is ahead of us." •

OUR FRIENDS IN THE ELCJHL

ELCIC members are asked to continue praying for peace for the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), as heightened conflict continues.

The past two-and-a-half years have been extremely challenging for the people of the ELCJHL. The growing conflict and tension continues to take a toll on many church members – our global mission partners in the East.

In early-April, National Bishop Susan Johnson travelled to Jerusalem alongside Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a solidarity visit to ELCJHL Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar. The visit served as a reminder to the people of the ELCJHL that they are not alone.

"For me, the hardest thing to witness was the increased lack of hope," Johnson shared. "That the war will end. Hope that there will be a place for Palestinians within the Holy Land. A huge concern is that the presence of the indigenous Christian church will be lost. More and more Christians are giving up and leaving. Will there be a Christian presence other than that of tourists in the future?"

In July 2025, the ELCIC National Office and the Eastern Synod announced the launch of the ELCJHL Appeal to support the ministries overseas with a goal of raising \$50,000.00.

"Your support is meaningful for us, it will help us continue to minister, to be with the people, to continue opening our schools and giving severance to our teachers," said ELCJHL Bishop-elect Imad Haddad. "But at the same time, it will help us help families who are in very bad situations because of the current political circumstances that we are going through in the Holy Land." •



ELCJHL Bishop-elect Imad Haddad.

CLAY 2025: ROOTED AND RISING



Youth gathered to deepen their faith at CLAY 2025.

The theme of the 2025 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering was *Rooted and Rising*. The national gathering of the ELCIC and Anglican Church of Canada takes place every two years. This past summer in Saskatoon, SK, over 360 youth, young adults, leaders, volunteers and bishops from across Canada gathered for four days in the prairies with a focus on deepening faith, digging deeper roots and enjoying time participating in group activities with fellow like-minded youth. Rev. Jordan Cantwell, former moderator of The United Church (2015–18), served as the keynote speaker for the five large group gatherings.

Additionally, in conjunction with the 2023–25 National Youth Project, *More Precious*, which stems from Isaiah 43:4, participants at CLAY learned more about the trauma and tragedy surrounding human trafficking. The National Youth Project is introduced biennially, seeking to encourage youth participation on a current social justice issue.

At the conclusion of the event, it was revealed that the next CLAY will take place in 2027 in Nanaimo, BC. Learn more about the next event at ClayGathering.ca. •



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2025 Annual General Report Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan

Annual General Meeting: March 15, 2026

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, March 16, 2025

1. **Opening** - Cam Broten opened the meeting with land acknowledgment, prayer, reading, and litany.
2. **Call to Order and Roll Call** - Chairperson Nathaniel Gibson called the meeting to order at 11:55 am. with the following in attendance: Munye Mtata, Cam Broten, Marty Willick, Joel Burns, Karen Harilstad, David Thieme, Carol Brandt, Gary Brandt, Chris Tucker, Kara Erickson-Tucker, Edna Neighbour, Doris Teszeri, Ruth Eliason, Elke Mau, Brett Szuba, Lynn Szuba, Matthan Gibson, Robert Taylor, Darlene Taylor, Charmaine Hrynkiw, Nathan Elke, Maureen Desjardins, Don Slind, Doris Slind, Melody Fornwald, Aaron Fornwald, Bruce Sestak, Ruth Sestak, and Katie Elke.
3. **Adoption of Agenda** - Moved by Karen Harilstad; Seconded by Lynn Szuba; Carried.
4. **Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2024 AGM** - Moved by Maureen Desjardins; Seconded by Chris Tucker; Carried.
5. **Reports**
 - a) **Pastor's Report** - Pastor Munye thanked the Church Management team, the office administrator Corla McGillivray, ushers, lectors, communion assistants, music leaders, Sunday School and youth leaders. He then continued on to discuss how participation by congregation in the church is generally encouraging, but room for growth and a need to have others take on rolls still exists to help distribute the load.
 - b) **CMT Chair Report** - Nathaniel Gibson took this time to thank Marty Willick in all he does in his many roles especially as treasurer and support team leader. He then thanked Nathan Elke for his dependability and his many contributions to Sunday worship. As well a thank you to Kara Erickson-Tucker and Katie Elke for leading Sunday School and Youth. Finally, a thanks to the whole team that worked towards the many building improvements completed in the previous year. Nathaniel then shared that in the previous year the congregation celebrated seven baptisms, added four confirmands, performed four weddings, and welcomed nine adults and five children as new members.
 - c) **Ministry Reports**
 - i. **Worship** - Nathan Elke
 - An ongoing plan for worship volunteer teams to rotate through the different weekly duties to hopefully operate without Corla having to do much of the coordinating.
 - Worship recording will continue to evolve and will soon have additional cameras to improve online experience
 - Thanks to Ruth Eliason for doing much of the music performing and coordinating in Anna Scott's absence

- ii. **Learning** - Katie Elke
 - Sunday School has 25 registered students and generally strong attendance
 - A cooperative model where parents share the teaching duties for Sunday School has been successfully implemented since September
- iii. **Witnessing** - Doris Slind
 - Our relationship with Nest Saskatoon continues. Elaine Carter has provided a comprehensive report in the print out.
 - Health and Wellness group meets on the third Sunday of each month to provide support to one another through discussion and prayer
- iv. **Service** - Cam Broten
 - Fundraising done through LutherCare for Telemiracle
 - Clothing and food donations collected at the church were directed to Wildwood School and the foodbank
 - Donations collected to assist a refugee family were passed to the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) who took the lead in bringing the family to Canada and getting them established. The refugee family arrived in the summer and are now settled in Saskatoon.
 - A concert was held February 1 to collect donations of both money and clothing to go towards helping the unhoused in Saskatoon
 - The Good Shepherd pictorial directory is finally complete along with an updated list of current members
- v. **Support** – Marty Willick
 - New shingles were installed on the church Spring 2024
 - A few work bees were held in the fall where the sanctuary fans were replaced, one of the projectors were replaced, a number of burnt out bulbs were replaced in the sanctuary and the walls used for projecting were painted white
 - Some plumbing issues were addressed including a leaking water heater

6. Treasurer's Report – Marty Willick

a) Review of 2024 Audited Financial Statements

- i. Assets in the bank accounts were roughly \$25,000 at the beginning of 2024 and were down to about \$6,000 by the end of the year. This is due mainly to the \$35,000 spent on having the church shingles replaced.
- ii. Rental income has been increasing now that Covid is over.
- iii. Total income from donations and fundraising amount to about \$198,000
- iv. Major expenses include
 - Pastor and administrator wages
 - Insurance
 - Utilities
 - Accounting fees
- v. Net income was roughly -\$29,000 for 2024, but taking into account the \$35,000 invested into the shingle project, the funds are actually about \$6,000 in the positive
- vi. After paying for the roof, the funds available are low, so cash flow has been a challenge. A strategy of borrowing money from the savings account to cover monthly cash flow has been used to ease this issue.
- vii. A question from the floor was raised as to why the whole roof was done and not just the most urgent patches. Marty explained that it was more prudent to do the whole roof instead of some now and more again in a few years

- viii. One unforeseen cost was the replacement of the fire panel. It was less expensive to put in a new system than repairing the old one
- ix. Another question asked about how much PAR brings in each month. The number is always changing as members adjust their levels of giving, but roughly \$6,000 is collected from PAR each month

b) Presentation of the 2025 Budget

- i. The only major increase in the budget is the 3% increase to the Pastor's salary
- ii. With the newly updated member list, the benevolence to the Synod number has been adjusted based on the guidelines down from \$1,500 to \$1,350 per month
- iii. Snow clearing is the largest yard maintenance cost, and this has been reduced by limiting snow clearing to only the North parking lot
- iv. Music director costs have been decreased due to the current vacancy in the position
- v. The 2025 budget has a projected income of \$65

Motion to approve the 2024 financial statement made by Chris Tucker; Seconded by Aaron Fornwald; Carried.

Motion to approve the 2025 budget as presented made by Marty Willick; Seconded by David Thieme; Carried.

Motion to appoint Heagy LLP as Auditor for 2025 made by Marty Willick; Seconded by Karen Harilstad; Carried.

7. Approval of Church Management Team members for 2025

- a) Expiring members who renew for another two-year term are Marty Willick, Lynn Szuba and Karen Harilstad

Motion to renew Marty, Lynn, and Karen as CMT members made by Chris Tucker; Seconded by Aaron Fornwald; Carried.

- b) One new member joining the CMT is Juliet Ikoyo

Motion to add Juliet as a CMT member made by Cam Broten; Seconded by Nathan Elke; Carried.

Motion to allow CMT to add members to the CMT any time after the AGM made by Maureen Desjardins; Seconded by Bruce Sestak; Carried.

8. Question and Answer Session – none

9. Other Business – none

10. Adjournment – Nathaniel Gibson adjourned the meeting at 12:45pm

11. Closing Prayer – read by Cam Broten

Minutes taken by Joel Burns

1. Introduction

Grace and peace to the Church Management Team (CMT) and the Annual General Meeting of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

As we close the chapter on 2025, I submit this report with gratitude for God's faithfulness and a clear conviction about our future. It is quite clear that the post-COVID landscape has shifted significantly. **We are no longer the same church that we were pre-COVID.** The ways in which people connect, worship, and engage have changed, and the congregation has evolved with new members joining our fellowship. While 2025 was a year of steady activity, it has also highlighted the need for us to intentionally redefine our path forward.

2. Worship, Sacraments, and Membership

Despite the shifting landscape, the Spirit is moving among us, evidenced by new life in the congregation.

- **New Members:** We were blessed to welcome **new members** into the Good Shepherd Congregation. These new members have demonstrated that they are not just numbers; they are partners in this new chapter of our life.
- **Confirmation & Youth:** The Confirmation class continued steadily, with significant coordination from Kara, with the assistance of parents. These efforts culminated in a beautiful Affirmation of Baptism service on October 26th. **Six youth** were confirmed.
- **Youth Ministry Launch:** Building on the confirmation success, the Youth Ministry was launch on **December 18**. The youth have shown enthusiasm for questions of faith and active participation. This demographic represents a vital part of our future identity and must be central to our future efforts.

3. Pastoral Care and Ministry Support

Pastoral care remained a priority, though it required adaptation during periods of absence.

- **Coverage During Absence:** I extend my sincere appreciation to Pastor Harley, the CMT, and everyone who covered pastoral duties during my absence, on account of my trip to Zimbabwe. Coordination with Pastor Harley ensured that potential pastoral issues were managed smoothly.
- **Care facility Visits:** Efforts were ongoing throughout the year to catch up on care home visits to ensure our homebound members felt connected.

4. Community Partnerships and Outreach

Good Shepherd continued to look outward in 2025, collaborating with sister churches and supporting those in need.

- **Inter-Church Collaboration:** Meetings were held with the pastors in Saskatoon to continue exploring collaboration, particularly for summer months. While we are mindful of maintaining consistent worship opportunities for our congregation, we remain open to collaborative arrangements that support neighboring ministries during periods of pastoral transition.

5. Ministry

Several ministry matters were addressed to support the smooth discharge of ministry

- **Visitor Welcome:** A suggestion was raised to welcome visitors with brochures and booklets. The Church Management Team (CMT) received these items for review to ensure they are compatible with our denomination before distribution.
- **Small Group Ministry:** Regarding monthly meetings, attendance varied throughout the year (with three attendees at the last meeting). We are working towards a model where members can self-organize to ensure sustainability and engagement.

6. Proposal for Strategic Planning

In one of my update reports with the CMT in 2025, I suggested a 're-visioning' process to help the congregation adapt. Based on the developments throughout 2025, I am now formally proposing that Good Shepherd engage in an in-depth Strategic Planning Process in 2026.

- **The Context:** We welcomed new families and individuals in 2025, and our demographic is shifting. We cannot rely on pre-pandemic models to sustain this new reality.
- **The Objective:** To move beyond simple "re-visioning" into a structured strategic plan that aligns our resources, ministries, and mission with the current needs of our congregation and community.
- **The Request:** I would ask the congregation at this AGM to prioritize this process early in 2026. This will involve congregational input and leadership workshops to ensure we move from reaction to intentional action.

7. Conclusion and Call to Action

2025 was a year of steady progress, but also of realization. We confirmed new leaders in our youth, welcomed new families, and maintained partnerships. Yet, the context in which we operate has changed.

My primary recommendation for 2026 is the approval and initiation of the Strategic Planning Process. We have the energy (new members, youth) and the partnerships; now we need the map. By engaging in this process, we will ensure that Good Shepherd does not merely survive the post-COVID landscape, but thrives within it.

Thank you, children of God, for your continued trust, support, and dedication to Christ's mission throughout 2025.

In His Service,

Pastor Munye

Good Shepherd Congregation

Statistical Report

2025 WORSHIP SERVICES

*averages for each month

January – 58	July – 51
February - 64	August – 49
March – 70	September – 90
April – 74	October – 61
May – 58	November – 72
June – 54	December – 104

BAPTISMS (5)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Parents</i>
Anberlyn McLain	January 5, 2025	Brady Fornwald & JoAnn Rozdilsky
Dawson Fornwald	January 5, 2025	Brady Fornwald & JoAnn Rozdilsky
Benson Hahn	January 5, 2025	Tyler & Katie Hahn
Maisey Demmings	March 9, 2025	Ron & Alisha Demmings
Carter McNaught	October 3, 2025	Carissa McNaught

CONFIRMATIONS (6)

Will Burns	Sarah Knutson
Karsten Johnson	James Trygve Johnson
Matthan Gibson	Dalton Tilk

WEDDINGS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Brooklyn Bergen & Reid Holland	September 5, 2025	Elkridge, SK

FUNERALS (2)

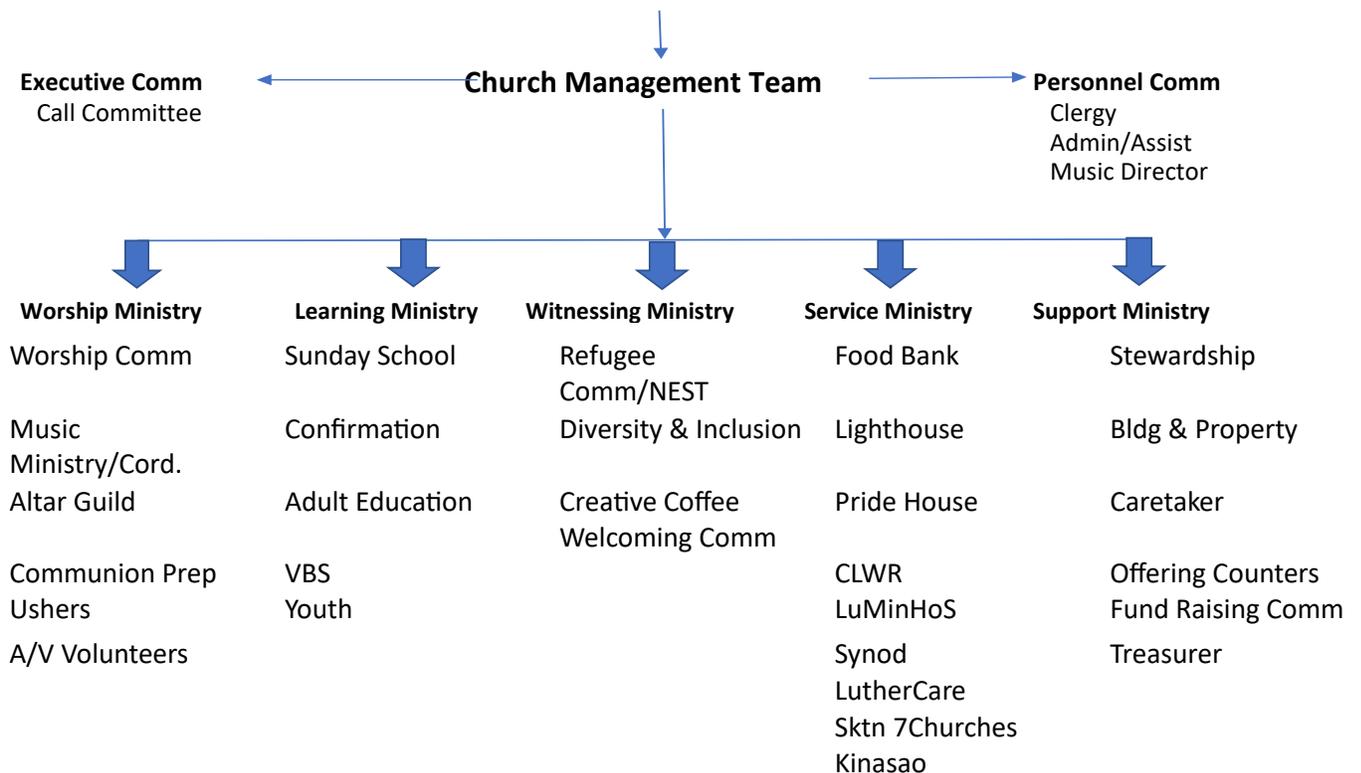
<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Elma Rose Brenna	May 29, 2025	Acadia - Saskatoon
Thomas Airey	April 24, 2025	Fotheringham-McDougall - Watrous

Non-audited Historical Comparison of Average Attendance and Worship Service Offerings

Year	Avg Attend/Sun	Avg Offer/Sun
2020	37	2579
2021	40	2629
2022	48	3167
2023	68	3718
2024	63	3739
2025	67	3668

*2020 and 2021 were affected by COVID closures

Good Shepherd Organizational Plan Congregational Members



Congregational Chairperson's Report:

As we gather for this year's Annual General Meeting at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, I am grateful for the opportunity to reflect on the life we share as a congregation. Over the past year, our community has continued to grow, with new faces joining those who have been part of our congregation for many years. We are encouraged by the changes taking place at Good Shepherd, and it is our hope that more people will continue to find a home within this community of faith.

We are blessed with an active Sunday School, and we have a renewed and revitalized youth ministry that is helping to connect young people with one another and with the life of our congregation. As we move forward, it is our hope that we can continue to strengthen these connections and foster an even deeper sense of community among all who call Good Shepherd their church home.

I want to express my deep appreciation for the many individuals who give their time, gifts, and care to help Good Shepherd thrive. Our congregation depends on the dedication of countless people, often working quietly behind the scenes. I am especially grateful for Pastor Munye, whose leadership, passion, and teaching continue to guide and inspire us. Thank you to Corla for her steady and diligent work in the office, and to Nathan Elke for ensuring our worship services run smoothly each week. My thanks also go to Katie Elke and the parent volunteers who support our Sunday School, and to Chris and Kara for their ongoing work with our building and their leadership in our youth programs. Thank you as well to Ruth Eliason for all the work she has put into coordinating the music ministry over the past year.

Finally, I want to thank my fellow CMT members for the commitment and care they have shown throughout the past year. As we look toward the future, we do so with confidence, trusting that the One who began a good work among us will bring it to completion in Christ Jesus.

In Christ,
Nathaniel Gibson
CMT Chairperson

Worship Ministry

Members: Nathan Elke, Pastor Munye Mtata, Anna Scott, Doris Slind, Emma Erickson, Lijah Behnke - Thank you to Emma and Lijah for joining our team this year!

Thank you, also, to Karen Harilstad, who has left the Worship Committee to focus on other areas of work at Good Shepherd.

Purpose of the Worship Ministry Team:

From the Constitution: *This congregation, remembering God's mighty acts in the past, celebrating God's abiding presence, and moving toward God's promised fulfillment, will*

listen to the Word of God in Scripture and preaching, receive the Sacraments, and respond with confession, prayer, praise, thanksgiving, and with these and offerings. In order to assist members to acknowledge God's rule over their lives, their own unity as Christ's body on earth, and to express their relationship with God in public and in private, the congregation shall gather for worship regularly and, in accordance with the traditions of the Lutheran Church, recruit, equip, and support members for leadership in worship, use appropriate worship materials, and make certain that worship has a place in other functions of the congregation.

The Worship Committee plans Worship Services, interacts with people and groups who wish to make presentations during worship and helps co-ordinate music with the Music Director - "Thank You" to Ruth Eliason for continuing to work as interim Music Director.

Worship: Our attendance is steady; obviously not at pre-COVID levels, but generally steady.

This year, we tried to get an aspect of the pre-COVID days back, by having a roster of people signed up for various Worship Duties (*Lector, Prayer Reader, Usher, Greeter, PowerPoint, Sound Board Communion Server & Communion Prep*), and get a regular preplanned schedule going. Unfortunately, that didn't succeed; I guess it just isn't how things can be done nowadays. That said, we do have rosters of people who have said they can be called upon to do various duties when there hasn't been someone to sign up for a particular week, and we are very grateful for your service!

Video Recording/Streaming: We continue to livestream the services on Facebook, and record the services to be uploaded to YouTube.

This year we made many changes to the live streaming of our services; new software, some additional pieces of equipment and using cell phones' cameras to record the service. There have been hiccups, of course, but things are beginning to flow well.

A big "thank you" to those who donated cell phones for us to use; we have four cameras we use on a regular basis:

- In the Sound Booth filming the band
- By the Pulpit for the readings/prayers/sermon
- In the balcony to get a "congregation-wide" shot,
- Behind the altar to show the congregation, primarily during "Sharing of the Peace"
- In addition, we have a couple spares, one of which we'd use during a Baptism (haven't done that, yet).

Future plans are to stop livestreaming on Facebook, as things have changed so that you must have a Facebook account to view things there. We will change over to streaming on YouTube; at this point, I'd guess we'll do that sometime in Spring. We'll be looking for people who are interested in working the Sound Board and/or the computer in the Sound Booth now that we have the system pretty much stable.

Other:

- The monthly Potluck Meal after the service on the first Sunday of the month has proven to be quite popular...it's great to see people visiting over a shared meal!

- As mentioned at the beginning, we have a couple new members on the Committee; we could always use a couple more. I've been here for a long time, and I'm thinking it is probably time to move on...at the very least, for someone else to be chair. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the church.

- If anyone has questions, comments or suggestions about Worship, please talk to one of the committee members or leave a message/email through the church office. We're always interested in what people have to say.

- Thank you to the people performing Worship Duties, to the musicians/bands, to the Altar Guild...there are always a whirlwind of things going on behind the scenes to make the Worship Experience memorable, and we couldn't do it without all the support and volunteers!

In closing, please remember that, as usual, we are all the best "advertisers" for our services...invite friends to come worship at Good Shepherd! Maybe invite them to come on the first Sunday of the month for our Potluck Meal...they'll definitely remember getting fed!

Nathan Elke

Altar Guild:

A big thanks to our faithful members serving on our Altar Guild committee for the past years are Melody Fornwald, Richard Schneider, Darren Ulmer.

We are in desperately in need of some extra help to serve on the Altar Guild.

Any new members young or older would be greatly appreciated. No experience needed.

A great big Thanks to the few are now helping out as their help is greatly appreciated.

Many Thanks, Angeline Demkiw

Music Ministry:

I am pleased to provide the Music Ministry Report for the past year. I have been serving in a music coordination role since Anna Scott stepped down as director.

I would like to thank the other musicians in the congregation who have led music during our worship services. These organizing musicians include: Carol Brandt, Angela Friggstad, Elke Mau, Anna Scott, Stefan Scott, Karen Linsley and Aaron Zepick. Thank you also to other members who have participated on the worship teams.

We have had special musical contributions throughout the year. Thank you to Anna for organizing the church choir and men's choir for several special events. Thank you also to Janine Brilz for musical contributions during the offertory, as well as Soren Gibson, Matthan Gibson and Davi Burns and the Kaja, Viola and Liv Zepick.

For the annual Sunday School Christmas program, Leah Zepick and Anna Scott, with the support of Katie Elke and behind-the-scenes volunteers organized an enjoyable pageant. This year's play was written by Viola Zepick.

If anyone is interested in helping with the Music Ministry, please know that more support is needed. We always welcome people who want to join in music-making, or those who want to lead music during Sunday services. For those who may be considering leading for the first time, support and direction is provided. As well, it would be ideal to have the position of music director filled, as I am not able to take it on. If this is of interest to you, or you know someone who would like to learn more about what it entails, please reach out to me or the CMT.

Ruth Eliason

Learning Ministry

Sunday School

This past year has been a wonderful one for our Sunday School program. We currently have around 20–25 children registered, with an average of about 15 attending each week. We were especially excited to welcome several new families to our church community this year.

Throughout the year the children explored a variety of Bible stories, crafts, and activities. One of our larger learning themes focused on Lake Chad through Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Through these lessons, the children learned about how climate change is affecting communities around the world and how Christians are called to care for God's creation. We talked about how Lake Chad, once one of Africa's largest lakes, has shrunk dramatically due to changing climate and rainfall patterns. Together we learned how churches can help support farmers and families in the region by restoring land, planting trees, and protecting water sources. (Canadian Lutheran World Relief)

A special highlight this year was our Christmas play, which was written by one of our own Sunday School students, Viola. The kids had an absolute blast bringing the story to life and, as always, their creativity and enthusiasm were incredible to watch.

A special thank you goes to Leah and Aaron Zepick for their work on the production of the play, and to Anna for all the time and effort she put into teaching the children the music and actions. Your support helped make the performance such a wonderful success.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Sunday School program and the children who bring so much joy each week. We look forward to seeing what the next year will bring!

Blessings, Katie Elke

Youth

Last year, it was our hope to revise the more traditional fixed 2-year confirmation class. To create a more constant foundation not only to serve alongside others in our church but also to foster more lasting relationships with those they have grown up with from Sunday School to what will soon become young adults.

It has been exciting to launch the new youth initiative to reformulate learning into discipleship ministry. This is to allow an intentional youth ministry focused on spiritual growth in their everyday lives.

Currently, we have integrated our youth fun nights and learning sessions into one Friday a month that allows us to gather families for supper while discussing our daily lives and recenter our perspective with bible verses that allow more deeper conversation amongst our peers. This includes separating our youth from the parents to have a more relevant conversation and still allowing these thoughts to be translated back to the home for more discussions. Then we will have fun! One activity to allow everyone a chance to participate and find confidence with others

We conclude with worship and the closing to our evening.

The other scheduled youth ministry has been *Learning & Lunch*. On the Sunday that the youth can assist during the service, we then gather in the back. This captures more discussion and learning only with the youth and provides an opportunity to grow twice a month as we are able.

We have a strong family presence in our community. This new initiative will hopefully be long-lasting, even traditional as we move forward to build strength in our congregation.

I believe as everyone reads this, they can notice the amazing youth and young adults attending services supporting in their own way.

We are truly blessed! Kara

Witnessing Ministry

Purpose of the Witnessing Ministry Team

Constitution: This congregation, relying on the Holy Spirit, shall proclaim the Gospel by word and deed and thereby invite all people to repent and believe. This congregation shall recruit, motivate, equip and support its members to witness to their faith at every opportunity in daily life so that the Lord is glorified, the fellowship is strengthened, the lapsed are restored and new members are added to the congregation. It shall provide for the communication of the Gospel through partnership with the wider Christian community. It shall assure that all congregation functions witness to the faith of the church.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee

The EDI committee started in 2025 with nine members. We met four times in 2025. Some of our accomplishments:

- extending sharing of peace time to allow congregants to get to know each other
- added 10:00 a.m. coffee times for fellowship and getting to know each other
- "T-Shirt" holders over chairs for information, offering envelopes, coloring supplies, etc.
- added sanitizer at communion station
- congregation invited to wear orange shirts on September 28 with great response

Items we continue to work on

- working on "New Member" brochure with information about Good Shepherd
- aiming to have Good Shepherd land acknowledgement by June 2026
- will show latest Reserve 107 movie after service
- arranging for blanket exercise

Submitted by Karen Harilstad

Welcoming Ministry Committee

The Welcoming Ministry committee started in 2025 with two meetings held.

Good Shepherd's Welcoming Ministry is focusing on how to be intentional about welcoming visitors into our community. A small group of parishioners were asked to share a conversation on ways to welcome people who visit us on a Sunday morning. How do we welcome them?

How do we follow-up? How do we walk with those who come through our doors? Our mandate is to create a culture of invitation while building relationships with both new visitors and our established parishioners. Strong relationships build a welcoming church.

Our Welcoming Ministry and team of volunteers will be challenged to be the 'Eyes of the Congregation'. We have much to learn and we hope to include several members to walk with us as we move forward.

We have asked Bishop Ali Tote to join us on March 8 for a training session for any one to participate so we can learn together on how to be a welcoming congregation and inspire visitors to become members.

Submitted by Ruth Sestak and Karen Harilstad

"Benefiting the Unhoused" Partnership

And the King will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Matthew 25: 40

Good Shepherd partnered with Saskatoon Lions Club to host two concerts to benefit the unhoused—February 1 and November 28. There were well over 100 people attending each concert, raising \$600 in cash at each. We filled five SUV's with the "cost of admission" which were blankets, coats, winter gear, clothes, etc. donated by those attending. Stephen Maguire arranged for the artists to perform at no charge and hosted the evening. Members of Good Shepherd continue to gather items to be handed out, which is greatly appreciated.

As well, Good Shepherd members and the Saskatoon Lions members met the first Tuesday evening of each month from October to December, bringing and packaging items for the unhoused. Cereal, cookies, and crackers were bagged to be handed out with lunches in the next weeks. As well, health and beauty care items were bagged to make dispersing easier.

Our committee thanks all the volunteers who helped with this very important outreach.
Karen Harilstad

Creative Coffee Group:

Introduction

Creative Coffee experienced another banner year, successfully achieving its goals and continuing to foster connections within our community.

Spring Activities

We kicked off the Spring Season with a Coffee Meeting at Erons Coffee Shop in early May. A special request came from Kara Tucker, asking us to supply homemade baking for Father's Day, with proceeds supporting the Youth Conference held here in Saskatoon. As always, our participants responded enthusiastically, providing an abundant array of baked goods for this important fundraiser.

Summer Gatherings

Our summer schedule featured three additional monthly coffee get-togethers, as well as three luncheon occasions. The season culminated with our final luncheon at Smitty's in Market Mall on 14 October 2025.

Special Events

We also treated ourselves to a Broadway Theatre production performed by Saskatchewan Express, titled "LOST...the Musical." Good Shepherd patrons came out in force, filling an entire row for this special performance.

Participation and Mandate

It is always a pleasure to see such a great turnout of ladies at our monthly functions, with attendance typically ranging from 10 to 18 participants. Our ongoing mandate is to celebrate friendship, community, and fellowship in Christ's name.

Contact and Closing

Anyone interested in joining us is invited to contact me at Cheryl.mercier57@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Mercier

Wellness and Support Group:

The Wellness Support Group continued to meet at 1:00 pm the 3rd Saturday of the month at Good Shepherd. The group is intended for anyone in our congregation or beyond who is going through a difficult time and feels meeting in a small faith group to share burdens might be helpful.

Pastor Munye attends, when at all possible, to provide comfort and support through presence and prayer and the administration of communion.

Doris Slind

Service Ministry

Greetings from the Service Ministry. Thank you to all members of the congregation for your many acts of service over the past year.

As Lynn works with LutherCare Communities, we invited members of Good Shepherd to join us at the annual LCC Power Breakfast, which was very successful in raising funds to improve the lives of the people we serve.

This year, in addition to collecting for the Food Bank we have been gathering food resources for students in need at Wildwood School. At Christmas, our church organized hampers and gifts for 3 families that were identified by the school. Thank you to everyone who participated.

We were also pleased to partner with Lions Saskatoon in providing a venue for a fundraising concert to address homelessness. Thank you to Karen Harilstad and David Thieme for their leadership in this initiative. We have also allowed the Lions group to use our church for packing food items for the unhoused.

If anyone has any suggestions of any other projects we could look to help support, we would love to hear your ideas. Thank you.

Cam Broten & Lynn Szuba

Support Ministry

Purpose of the Support Ministry Team:

Constitution: Support – This congregation, in faithfulness to God, shall provide leadership, organizational structures, facilities and funds to enable fulfillment of its functions. It shall strive to maintain effective stewardship practices, recruit, equip and support members to provide for these activities while regularly evaluating its total life and ministry.

Members of the team – Marty Willick, Don Slind, Chris Tucker, Joel Burns, Marte McGunigal, Juliet Ikoyo

Stewardship Items:

- We have continued to receive offerings using Interac transfers, offerings during our in-person services, offerings dropped off at church, as well as the regular monthly donations through PAR. Managing cash flow through out the year has been the biggest concern and will continue to be going forward.
 - Some statistics for the year include:
 - 116 households donated to the church.
 - \$ 1,611.06 average household giving.
 - 75.33% of donations dollars given were from the top ¼ of the households.
 - With additional funds received from some within the congregation and a significant estate donation, we were able to meet all our obligations for the year.

Building and Property Items:

- There were no major capital projects this year. General maintenance and fixes included replacing a toilet in the lady's washroom with a comfort height one. One of the hot water heaters was repaired early last year. We also purchased additional signs for the parking lot. A new computer was purchased for the office to better assist with Corla's tasks.
- I would like to thank Chris Tucker for keeping the smaller things fixed, repaired and replaced as required. Thanks to all who assisted with keeping the grass trimmed as well as Marte McGunigal as my new snow blower man.

Caretakers and Staff:

- Kara and Chris have continued to do maintenance, painting and general repairs in the church which is appreciated by all the congregation.
- Corla McGillivrey has continued in her role as office administrator.

Treasurer:

- I have continued in the role of treasurer for the church to ensure that all requirements for CRA and ISC are submitted as required. We continue to engage Scott Ehrmantraut at Heagle LLP to review our books for 2025.
- Again, a special thank you to Corla, Kara and Chris for all the work they do to assist the Support Team do its job.

Sincerely, Marty Willick, Support Team Chair

CARETAKING

Our work has become relatively smooth and routine We continue to maintain floors, vacuum carpets and reorganize when necessary.

Last year the older cedar tree by the Education Wing was removed and the annual waxing of the floor was completed. This short insert highlights that everything is as it should be. Any other major items that may have been needed was supported alongside the Property Management Team.

Thank you for a good year!

Kara

OFFICE ADMIN

Just a quick final note from the Good Shepherd office admin. Thank you to all the staff & membership for continued support and help with keeping everything flowing for this congregation. You are all a JOY and very welcoming community. Pastor Munye is a calm presence under which to work, Marty keeps me on my toes and his tech support is above reproach. Very lucky to have my shadow support teams in place.

Thank you all,

Corla



Bishop's Letter to Congregations, Lay and Rostered Leaders of the Saskatchewan Synod gathered at Annual General Meetings

December 1, 2025

Dear sisters, brothers, siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As you prepare for your Annual General Meetings, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to every congregation, every pastor and deacon, every council chair, and all members of our Saskatchewan Synod family. Thank you for your dedication, your commitment, and the deep faith and faithfulness you continue to show in these challenging and ever-changing times. Your ministry in your communities, your care for one another, and your steadfast witness to the Gospel are gifts to the whole church.

As we look ahead to a new year of ministry, I encourage each congregation to make intentional room in your budget for strong synodical benevolence. Your benevolence contributions support the mission we share together across the province and beyond. Benevolence contributions by each congregation are part of our expectations of each other, that we would support the work of the church at the synodical level. They strengthen our capacity to equip leaders, accompany congregations, resource ministries, and participate in the work of our wider church. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

I am also pleased to share that starting January 1, 2026 we will be launching a new synod-wide strategy for children's ministry, youth ministry, and young adult ministry. This initiative has been shaped by the many conversations and longings expressed across our synod. Its purpose is simple: to support you, as you nurture the faith of young people, create spaces of belonging, and form the next generation of disciples. Resources, training opportunities, and ongoing accompaniment will be made available to congregations throughout the year.

As we step into this season with hope, I encourage each congregation to continue growing in a life of worship, prayer, discipleship, and stewardship. Rooted in prayer, we listen for God's leading. Through discipleship, we deepen our walk with Christ. Through stewardship, we respond with gratitude, giving generously so that ministry may flourish in the congregation and in every corner of our synod.

Thank you for the many ways you embody the Gospel. Thank you for your partnership, your leadership, and your trust. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the work ahead and fill your congregation with renewed vision and joy.

Abundant blessings in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Ali Tote
Bishop, Saskatchewan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

OPENING WORSHIP

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

You are encouraged to acknowledge Indigenous lands in a way appropriate to your context at the beginning of your annual meeting. The following words are provided as an example.

We acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the *[Name of Indigenous Peoples for where your community is located]*. We recognize and respect their enduring presence on this land and express our gratitude for the opportunity to live, work and learn on their territory.

Let us take a moment to reflect on the history of this land and to consider our roles in working towards reconciliation and understanding.

PRAYER

Leader: Gracious God, thank you for this opportunity to gather as your people. As we meet, may we be mindful of the mission and ministry to which you have called each of us. To share your love and grace with everyone we encounter.

All: Amen.

READING

Hebrews 10:23–25

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

HYMN – All Are Welcome, EvLW 641

LITANY

Leader: God's grace and unconditional love calls us to be a diverse, inclusive community.

All: We celebrate all and uphold life-giving relationships.

Leader: As we join together for this time of meeting, for the business of this congregation,

All: May we not only be mindful of this congregation, but remember the needs of the community beyond these walls.

Leader: Provoke in us your spirit of compassion, kindness and goodness.

All: So we might be your hands and feet in the world, to bring your love to everyone.

Leader: Be with us always. Remind us of your generosity,

All: So we may be signs of that generosity out in the world.

Leader: God of hope and love,

All: Amen.

CLOSING WORSHIP

Leader: Faithful God, as you have journeyed with your people throughout the ages, continue to journey with your people here and now. Thank you for our time together, to reflect on the mission and ministry of this place. May our hearts be renewed to be your signs of grace and love in our community.

All: Amen.

HYMN – God is Here Today, ACS 993

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

- Opening and closing worship prepared by Deacon Gretchen Peterson. -



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