



2025 Annual Report

*Our 30th Year as a Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Please bring this document with you
to the Annual Meeting
on January 18, 2026 at 10:30am.

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church of the Verde Valley
330 Scenic Drive, Clarkdale, Arizona 86324
928-634-4102
www.sojaz.net
facebook: sojaz

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**Annual Meeting Agenda
Sunday, January 18, 2026
10:30am – Sanctuary**

Call to Order – President Kellie Sanders

Opening Prayer

Verification of Quorum (15% of Voting Members)

Acceptance of Minutes 2024 Annual Meeting (January 19, 2025)

Elections

Four, 3-year terms on the Council (Jan 2026—Jan 2029)

Three, 1-year terms on Audit Committee (Jan 2026—Jan 2027)

Two, 1-year terms Synod Representatives (June 2026)

2026 Proposed Budget

- Budget Presentation – Rich Alley
- Adoption of 2026 Budget

Announcement of Election Results

Adoption of Congregational Constitution

Additional New Business

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer



Council Members, Current Responsibilities, and Terms

Officers

Kellie Sanders
President

First term ends Jan 2028

Laura Stransky
Vice President

First term ends Jan 2026

Pam Moody
Secretary

Second term ends Jan 2027

Rich Alley
Finance Officer

First term ends Jan 2026

Council Members and Current Committee Liaisons

Bill Taylor
Property

Second term ends Jan 2026

Mick Shanahan
Faith Formation

Second term ends Jan 2027

Sue Bro
In-Reach/Outreach

Second term ends Jan 2026

Ex-Officio Council Member
Pastor Conrad Braaten (Interim Pastor)

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church of the Verde Valley ✠ Clarkdale, Arizona

January 18, 2025

Call to Order: President, Laura Stransky, called the meeting to order at 10:47 am

Opening Prayer: Vice President Kim Densmore led the congregation in opening devotions.

Verification of Quorum: The sign-in sheets totaled 40 voting members present. Quorum was met.

Adoption of Agenda: Ruth Graham moved that the agenda be accepted as corrected. Tom Atkins seconded and the motion carried

Acceptance of the Minutes: Pam Moody moved the minutes to be accepted as presented. Dee Suhr seconded. Minutes were accepted as presented.

Elections: Discussion on openings and volunteers for positions. Ballots distributed and completed by voting members. All positions voted on and ballots collected to calculate results.

Three, 2-year terms on the Council (2025-2027) – Kellie Sanders and Pam Moody. Open seat

Three, 1-year terms on the Council (2025) – Mick Shanahan and Laura Stransky. Open seat

One, 2-year term on Audit Committee (2025-2027) – Bill Matzke

One, 1-year term on Audit Committee (2025) – Russ Haslow

Two, 1-year term as Synod Representatives (June 2025) – Tom Atkins and Glenalee Atkins

2024 Proposed Budget: Finance council member Rich Alley thanked the council for creating a budget for the 2025 year by reviewing the revenue and expenses from 2024. Rich explained the expenses are tight, no extras. The pastor's salary has been left as is to roll over for the new pastor. The interim pastor will not be receiving as much being part-time. In the past Synod benevolence was \$3000 and is now increased to \$6000. There was a net operating loss from January through November 2024 but due to a large December donation, the 2024 budget improved to balance the budget. Therefore, to balance this year's budget, \$24000 has been added to the income. Rich moved to approve the 2025 Budget, Naomi Barcanic seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

Announcement of Election Results:

There were 36 ballots collected and the results were tabulated. All positions carried a majority vote and were approved.

Two, 2-year terms on the Council (2025-2027) – Pam Moody and Kellie Sanders

Two, 1-year terms on the Council (2024) – Mick Shanahan and Laura Stransky

One, 2-year term on Audit Committee (2025-2027) – Bill Matzke

One, 1-year term on Audit Committee (2025) – Russ Haslow

Two, 1-year term as Synod Representatives (June 2025) – Tom Atkins and Glenalee Atkins

Additional New Business: Judy Haslow requested more members attend the In-Reach/Outreach meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at 10 AM.

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer: Motion to adjourn by Naomi Barcanic and seconded by Becky Keck. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Bro

Secretary, Council member

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Spirit of Joy Church Family,

It is with deep gratitude and humility that I write this annual message to you as President of Spirit of Joy Church. To serve in this role has been a profound honor, especially during a year marked by both meaningful impact and real loss. From the moment I was welcomed into this congregation and into this role, I have been met with kindness, compassion, and an open mind; and for that, I am deeply thankful.

This past year, Spirit of Joy has continued to live out its name by being a tangible source of hope and care in our wider community. Through Joy Packs that support children and families, Green Bags that address food insecurity, our Shoe Drive, and our ongoing support of NELM and other mission partners, we have shown again and again that our faith is not confined to Sunday mornings. These ministries are not simply programs; they are expressions of love, dignity, and justice. Because of you, lives have been touched in quiet yet powerful ways, and Christ's presence has been made visible far beyond our walls.

At the same time, this has been a year of loss and transition. We have grieved together, honored what has been, and acknowledged the uncertainty that comes with change. As we continue in our transition process and await the calling of a full-time pastor, I am grateful for the resilience and faithfulness of this congregation. Rather than standing still, Spirit of Joy has leaned in by trusting God's guidance, listening carefully, and remaining committed to our shared mission.

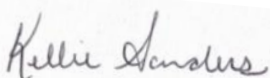
We have been richly blessed by Pastor Braaten's leadership in worship during this season. His steady presence, pastoral care, and faithful proclamation have grounded us week after week. We have also witnessed something truly beautiful: members of our own faith family stepping forward to lead worship, learning, and reflection. These moments have been powerful reminders that the church is not one voice, but many. We are each gifted, each called, each essential.

I am especially grateful for the dedication, wisdom, and discernment of our Church Council. Their willingness to ask hard questions, make faithful decisions, and keep moving forward with courage has been a steady source of strength for our congregation. I am also thankful for the Grand Canyon Synod, whose support has guided us in countless ways this year, most notably through their partnership and encouragement during the completion of our Ministry Site Profile. Their partnership has helped us prepare faithfully for what comes next.

As I reflect on this year, I am filled with hope. Not because the journey has been easy, but because we have walked it together with honesty, prayer, and trust in God's unfolding work among us. Spirit of Joy Church is a community rooted in love, generous in service, and courageous in faith. I am truly grateful for each of you and optimistic about the future God is shaping in and through this amazing place.

Thank you for your trust, your faith, and your continued commitment to Spirit of Joy Church.

Together in Faith,



Kellie Sanders, President, Spirit of Joy Church

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear members of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the privilege of walking with you in ministry during the past year!

My work with you began the first of February, when I was asked by your Council to be part time Interim Pastor in the context of a “Covenant” relationship between Christ Lutheran Church in Sedona and Spirit of Joy. This Covenant was initiated by the Grand Canyon Synod Bishop Deborah Hutterer because there were no full or part-time Pastors available to work with Spirit of Joy, and was confirmed by the Councils of both congregations. I volunteered to work with you as part-time Interim Pastor knowing that pastoral accompaniment on a continuous basis would be important for Spirit of Joy going forward. Pastoral continuity is important, and I hope I have brought some of that to the life of this precious congregation. We have challenges ahead if we are to reach our growth goals.

I’ve tried to focus on a number of aspects of congregational life and ministry. Very important has been nurturing our vitality as a welcoming worship community. We have experienced together some wonderful celebrative worship services during the year, and I am so thankful for the many people who have stepped up to make our worship sanctuary and our worship services an experience of Joy! I want to thank Christ Lutheran Pastors David Brandfass and Julie Gerrish for their six-week preaching series this summer on the Book of Revelation, along with Pastor Naomi and Tom Berlage for filling in while I was away this summer. Going into 2026 I am working on building a pastoral team from within the congregation to handle worship services in my absence. Some exciting things are going on.

A second priority has been nurturing Spirit of Joy as a “Learning Community, having a strong involvement by congregational members in learning experiences is critical to the growth and strong witness of a congregation. I am heartened by the response to the Spiritual Growth groups we have begun. We will keep working on learning opportunities into the next year, and I want to encourage our membership to take their Baptismal Covenant to learn and grow seriously. One of the exciting new steps for us is that we have a Confirmation Class for four of our youth beginning the end of January.

Finally, I want to give thanks to the Lord for the partnership of a Council leadership that has been a joy to work with, along with the other staff members: Rosie West, our Office Administrator, and Nancy Bright, our Music Director. They have put up with me and made working together, again, nothing but Joy. My gratitude for all who have contributed to the life of our congregation knows no bounds – they are listed over and over again in the 2025 Annual Report.

In Peace and Love,

Pastor Braaten

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church 2025 Statistics

Membership as of December 31, 2024	153
Members lost due to death	6
Members lost due to resignation or transfer of membership	0
Members received by Affirmation of Baptism or transfer of membership	11
Baptized members welcomed	0
Members received by Baptism	0
Statistical adjustment	0
Membership as of December 31, 2025 (baptized membership)	158

Members who Died

Yona Ash	Mary Ann Schulz	Nancy Sowarby
Kenneth Suhr	Carolyn Ward	George Wells

Members Lost Due to Resignation or Transfer of membership

None

Associate Members Lost Due to Resignation or Transfer (does not change statistics)

None

Confirmed Members Welcomed

Georganne Eibe	Hal Hatfield	Ronda Hatfield
Fred Huff	Sally Huff	Carol Naille
Barbara Piotrowski	Mike Piotrowski	Kellie Sanders
Ann Torruellas	Elizabeth Valenzuela	

Baptized (but not yet Confirmed) Members Welcomed

None

Members Confirmed in 2025

None

Members Received by Baptism

None

Associate Members Welcomed (does not alter statistics)

None

Official Pastoral Acts

Carolyn Ward Celebration of Life—June 7, 2025

Yona Ash Celebration of Life—October 28, 2025

Kenneth Suhr Celebration of Life—October 30, 2025

Membership Statistics

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Baptized Members	158	153
Total Confirmed Members	155	147

Worship Statistics

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Average Wknd Worship Attendance	68	65
Average Special Worship Attendance (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas)	44	

Giving Statistics

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Average Weekly Giving per Member To All Funds	\$30	\$27

CARE MINISTRY



Prayer Team Ministry

Currently, we have SIXTY-EIGHT people on the church Prayer Team who faithfully pray for others who request prayer support for themselves or family members or close friends.

120 Prayer Request emails were sent out in 2025 to our church Prayer Team. MANY THANKS TO EACH PERSON ON THIS CARING TEAM. (Please contact Laura Stransky if you would like to join or learn more about the ministry of this Team.)

Home Communion Ministry

SOJ began a Home Communion Ministry under the leadership of Interim Pastor Conrad Braaten. Pastor consecrates Communion BREAD and WINE, trains and sends SOJ members out from worship to serve Communion to our members who are homebound or in care facilities and are not able to physically come to worship.

Currently, we have TWO Teams of two members each who provide this ministry (Marianne Brennan, Lucy Acheson, Dee Codner, and Loren Pritzel) Bob Dickson had been on one Team, but he moved away. Also, Jan Knoblauch helped for a short time while others were away.

Card “CONNECTIONS” Ministry

“Thinking of you” cards are sent periodically to SOJ members and friends who are not able to come to church, i.e. members/friends who have moved away, but wish to remain connected with SOJ.

Get Well Card Ministries

These special cards are sent out to members on behalf of Spirit of Joy by Becky Keck and Becky Brakebill.

We as a church family, are all connected. “Like aspen trees, when one hurts, we all hurt.”- (Pr. Conrad Braaten). When one rejoices, we all rejoice!

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Stransky

Council Liaison for Care Ministries



Spirit of Joy's "Learning Ministries"

St. Paul writes in the second chapter of Ephesians: *"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope in which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe."* This is the heart of discipleship, our witness to the love and grace of God healing a broken world.

This doesn't happen by accident. According to the Gospel writer John, it comes from "making your home in [Christ's] word". This asks for intentionality, and a commitment to make the study of scripture an important part of your Christian journey. Learning is a joy that never ends. Taking learning seriously is the core of congregations that grow – it is the core of hospitality and community-building. People visit a congregation to find a place to worship and to find a place where they can grow spiritually. Both are important, but that doesn't happen unless this is what our congregation is about – what you are about, as you lead the way by your example.

This past year we started "**Spiritual Growth Groups**", where we work on the skills of 1. Listening to God's Living Word and each other, 2. The discipline of Prayer, and 3) the importance of taking responsibility for our own learning journey. We've read *Galatians* and *Ephesians* thus far, and we will be reading *Colossians* and other material in the coming year. Please consider being part of one – it is a way to get to know one another (and new people as well!).

Because of my schedule, **Wednesday nights** have become a joint **worship and Bible study** experience. We've been listening to presentations by Dr. Craig Koester, professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. He has been taking us on a journey through the Bible, building our understanding of Holy Scripture and its important themes. This course will continue into next year.

Finally, I want to thank the continuing efforts of **Pastor Naomi Barcanic** in leading Bible studies, for the leaders of our **Book Club**, for the Bible studies of **WELCA**, and for the Faith and Science series coordinated by **Andrea Meyer**. These opportunities to learn will continue into 2026.

Let me close by thanking all those who were involved in learning opportunities in 2025, and by asking each member of Spirit of Joy to participate in at least one learning opportunity in the coming year. You strengthen your own mind and spirit in this way, as well as contribute to the growth of our congregation going forward. St. Paul's prayer (above) is meant for us as much today as it was for Christians in Ephesus years ago.

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—continued

RELIGION AND SCIENCE LECTURES

"The annual Religion and Science Lecture Series took place in February with speakers covering a wide-range of interesting and informative topics. The lectures were free and open to the public and took place each Sunday from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall."

Feb. 2—"Sinagua Meteorites from Meteor Crater." Returning lecturer, Ken Zoll, Executive Director Emeritus of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center in Camp Verde and researcher in ancient astronomy, described his work in conjunction with ASU's Buseck Center for Meteorite Studies on meteorites found at Native American ruins in the Verde Valley and beyond.

Feb 9—"Yavapai-Apache Nation Culture and Casinos" presented by Maurice Crandall, an enrolled member of the Yavapai-Apache Nation and Associate Professor of History at Arizona State University. As an award-winning historian of the Indigenous peoples of the American Southwest and U.S.-Mexico Borderlands, he examined the roles played in their communities by Dilzhe'e Apaches and Yavapais who served as Scouts in the U.S. Army. Dr. Crandall also presented insights on Indian gaming and the role of casinos in Native culture.

Feb 16—"Harnessing Psychology to Promote Healing: Pathways to Recovery in Injury Rehabilitation". Sports Psychologists Dr. Judy Van Raalte and Dr. Britt Brewer brought their experiences working with elite athletes in suggesting ways that we can use our minds to lessen pain and heal our bodies after injury.

Feb 23—"What Works in Schools: Innovation and Tradition." Yavapai County Superintendent of Schools Steve King's presentation focused on how data and technology are best when working in concert with hands-on, real-world activities that stimulate kids to think and act for personal fulfillment and the common good.

Andrea Meyer is the chair of the popular series that was brought to Spirit of Joy by Pastor Ed Womack. The series is presented as part of the Clergy Letter Project, an association of religious leaders and scientists who believe that there is no necessary conflict between religion and science.

WOMEN'S GATHER BIBLE STUDY

This group meets monthly on the third Thursday at 2 pm in the Conference Room. It is led by one of the group. We invite all women to subscribe to the Gather magazine and participate in these very interesting and timely studies.

Columbarium & Memorial Garden



The garden continues to provide a beautiful and dignified resting place for the cremains of our departed members and a peaceful spot for loved ones to reflect and meditate. The Memorial Garden/Columbarium was dedicated November 24, 2013. The memorial garden and the structures themselves have been lovingly cared for by family members of the individuals who are honored and remembered in this peaceful place.

There are currently 21 niches that are in use or reserved in the Columbarium, up 4 since last year, and 13 plaques have been placed on the memorial wall, up one from last year. The existing columbaria structure contains 50 niches in which 29 niches are yet unassigned, and the memorial wall has spaces for 42 plaques on which 29 spaces are available. The Memorial Garden has room for 50 more niches to be added to the backside of the existing structure. Two additional columbaria structures could be added to the garden when needed, and the wall structure around the columbarium has room for mounting multiple additional plaque areas.

The Garden is self-sustaining, and receives no funds from Spirit of Joy's General Fund. All funds are kept in an account separate from church funds at OneAZ Credit Union. The columbarium bank account balances as of December 31, 2025 total \$41,386.36.

There are brochures in the church office describing the Memorial Garden and the cost of niches and plaques.

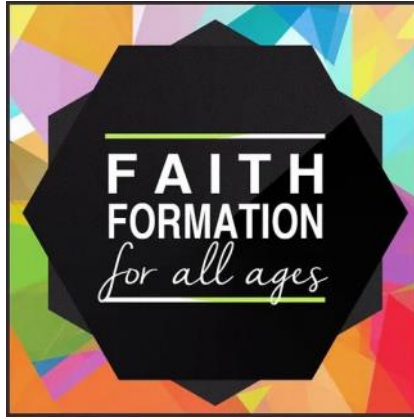
Thank you to the members of the Columbarium Committee:

Carl Mason
Micah Swenson
Marcia Shanahan

Each of the committee members are available to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,

Marcia Shanahan



INTERGENERATION FAITH FORMATION

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible study was established this year and meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday morning at Red Rooster in Old Town Cottonwood at 8:00 am. We have 4-8 men get together for breakfast and discuss the coming Sunday's scripture.

Youth Camp

Camp Legends was attended by Spirit of Joy members Mick Shanahan, Everett Hoedl and Linnea Simpson. The children camped with Pr. Diane Drach-Meinell in Mick's absence. Events such as crafts, climbing obstacles, group sports, short plays, singing and night time camp fires were some of the activities the children participated in throughout the week.

Christ Lutheran in Sedona Children's Camp

Christ Lutheran in Sedona had their annual (Wrapped in Mystery) camp for grades K-5. Spirit of Joy members Mick Shanahan, Lillia Simpson and her friend Sarah Smith attended. The children did various activities that included crafts, skits, singing and kick ball.

Confirmation Class

Spirit of Joy will be starting its first in a long time Confirmation program in January with 3-4 children attending. These are exciting times for SOJ.

Respectfully submitted,

Mick Shanahan

In-Reach/Outreach/Social Ministries Report



The celebration continues: Monthly focuses and events followed 2024's monthly schedule of activities for our Team. The focus and events meant particular items we wished to support along with celebration events including former pastor's visits. We also continued the usual features of In-Reach and Outreach activities. These include In-Reach Connections Care Ministry, Expressions of Faith (remembering the homebound, etc.), Welcoming New Members, and Connecting with New Visitors. Outreach activities include team projects such as NELM, Verde Valley Homeless Coalition (VVHC), Back-to-School Shoe collections and the very important Joy Packs Ministry.

January

Beginning the 2025 year we continued planning for the 30th celebration culmination of SOJ's chartering with the ELCA. We contacted former pastors to see who would be able to join us as this celebration continued. Our focus was boldness and we kept our Mission church, San Tan Valley Lutheran Church, in our prayers. We expressed concern we could not send them a monetary gift. Solveigh Muus from LAMA (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in AZ) joined us sharing their work within the AZ Legislature. The chili cookoff and sending Pastor Sharon off to retirement with a rousing appreciation party completed the month.

February

The Team heartily welcomed Pastor Braaten to begin a new phase for SOJ. The new anniversary mugs paid for with Pastor Sharon's Thrivent cards arrived. We also planned for another collection drive for NELM (Navajo Evangelical Mission). Support from SOJ members continued with the event calendar Rosie and Marie created. We expressed appreciation to the SOJ members who continue to deliver them. Former Pastor Bob Jones joined us for a weekend as part of the ongoing anniversary celebration. The month's focus demonstrated support for Patterson Yazzie and NELM through the presentation of their website video within a Sunday service. SOJ's newsletter published information about NELM's fund raiser for their arsenic problem (40-40-40) and opportunities for us to participate in school scholarships. We commended our faithful servant's successful work with the Science and Religion Series.

March

Our Saint Patrick's Day celebration meal and service again demonstrated SOJ's desire to celebrate with food. The meal's corned beef and cabbage connoisseurs again outdid themselves. Our trusty MC led us with the List of Honorees to be thanked in a follow-up program. As part of the anniversary celebration, Pastor Mary had hoped to join us this month but instead was occupied with her position advancement to senior pastor at her church in Las Vegas. Stand with Refugees was March's focus. This ELCA documentation provided an opportunity for SOJ to donate to this cause. The ELCA's article explained the initiative which was displayed on the narthex table. Items gathered for NELM concluded. Again, Tim Lowe, from Prescott Valley Emmanuel Church delivered them to Rock Point.

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In-Reach/Outreach/Social Ministries Report—continued

April

This very important month concluded the 30th Anniversary Celebration the Sunday after Easter with Grand Canyon Bishop Hutterer providing both the sermon and assisting Pastor Braaten with communion. We know SOJ celebrates these events with food! We skipped the usual Easter Brunch and had that meal with a follow-up program featuring a PPT slide presentation of pictures over the years while we ate. Our trusty MC led the follow-up program by introducing Bishop Hutterer and reading “memories shared” from Pastors and former members’ written letters and emails. We also happily enjoyed the early members’ stories. Our architect, Rennie Radoccia, and the Kinney Construction Company shared with us also. Rennie with his presence and Kinney Construction via written message. Thanks to Pastor Braaten we had a professional photographer from Christ Lutheran take candid photos of the event for our history books. This month’s focus: Spirit of Growth and Celebration.

May

With the 30th celebration behind us, we moved back into regular projects such as doing another fall drive for NELM. Pastor also shared the response to the 40-40-40 project raising money for the critical arsenic water problem. Because money donated went beyond the ELCA, he didn’t know the actual amount donated. Additional thank you notes were signed and mailed to the many who contributed to the celebration. Interviews for new members were being collected for a new bulletin board to be displayed in the future. We continue to thank the men’s group for ordering and delivering flowers for Mother’s Day.

June—No meeting

July—No meeting

August—No Meeting

Back to School Shoe Drive

On Sunday, August 3rd, Pr. David Brandfass blessed 161 pairs of shoes donated or purchased with your donations to our Annual Shoe Drive, exceeding the 130 pairs we distributed last year. Schools benefiting from the drive are Cottonwood Community, Clarkdale-Jerome, Beaver-Creek, Dr. Daniel Bright, Mountain View Prep, and Oak Creek School. Big 5 Sporting Goods in Cottonwood and Prescott contributed immensely this year by selling us shoes at cost. Thank you to all who make this yearly event successful!

September

A wish list was taken from the NELM website for needs for a fall delivery. Pastor Braaten felt we needed to make it less generic and more specific. Because he is on the board at NELM, he guided us and suggesting specific needs. The updated list was put in the October Newsletter. Also the Team decided we would do Christmas gifts for a latter delivery closer to Christmas. We decided to discontinue sending the updated bi-monthly newsletter to charter/former/current members. This was done during the celebration months of Nov 2024-May 2025. WELCA quilts graced the sanctuary before being blessed and delivered to Phoenix for worldwide distribution. Interesting facts from LWR: 315,818 were delivered world wide, 131,493 went to the Eastern, Central and Western USA. The balance were shared by 14 other countries. WELCA contributed 100. On Sept. 28 Rhonda from VVHC did a Faith in Motion presentation. Parents, children and other members help pack sack lunches for Rhonda to take to the homeless.

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In-Reach/Outreach/Social Ministries Report—continued

October

Fall collection for NELM concluded with a nice variety of items which the Haslows delivered to Rock Point. WELCA hosted the Quail Country Quilters bringing many to our campus and decorating the sanctuary and fellowship hall with their lovely creations. Our hardworking men, in addition to landscaping and building maintenance, were asked to mount a bulletin board in the narthex to display new members and new faces to help us learn more about the people in our midst.

Check it out! Our annual participation in the Cottonwood Fairgrounds Fall Fest was a blast. SOJ members shared info about SOJ, our brochures, and the history of Halloween and the new ELCA Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition documents. Thanks to our educators who provided kid's coloring activities and mask making, and our young artist and her mother for painting pumpkins for the pin-the-nose-on-the-pumpkin activity. Also, our trusty men who helped provide ramadas of shade for the volunteers who enjoyed the day! SOJ T-shirts were the style of the day! Again, our Reformation Sunday/German Oktoberfest potluck had two brat grillers, women who assembled the Kraut/Brat combination and all those potluck suppliers of German foods such as German potato salad, red cabbage, rye bread, apple strudel, and kuchen. Potlucks at SOJ are a hit!

November—meeting cancelled—usual happenings, All Saints Sunday, Veterans' Pie Sunday, Interfaith Sessions & Thanksgiving Service

December

Christmas gifts of scarves/caps/gloves for NELM staff were provided with a few cold weather items again delivered for us to Rock Point by Tim Lowe. Thank you Joyful Crafters for creating on the spur of the moment nice fleece scarves. Prescott Valley provided children's gifts.

Celebrations in song happened this month every Sunday thanks to our musical director and choir. There was a Community Sing-Along and Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols. And we had our final potluck on Christmas Day with a small but noisy bingo crowd. The fare was the usual—but not so usual—turkey/ham/mashed potatoes & gravy dinner. Turkey was expertly rolled: something new, a creation of a talented SOJ woman! There are expert chefs amongst us, who knew!

In conclusion: We had a very busy year. A year of many blessings. God's work is done by many people in the background for which we all should be forever grateful. Note the spelling. It should be graceful. Or maybe greatful. Much accomplished with grace and hard work. Thank you to all SOJ members who step forward when the I/O Team comes calling!

Team Members:

Roger Dunn (wished he could serve)

Marie Parkinson

Sue Bro (resigned)

Ann & Bill Matzke (winter visitors)

Judy Haslow (disappears in summer)

Pastor Braaten, ex-officio

WE NEED MORE MEMBERS!



Joy Pack Ministry

The Joy Pack Ministry provides Weekend Food Packs for low-income children, kindergarten – fourth grade, at Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School, Cottonwood-Oak Creek School in Cornville, and Dr. Daniel Bright School who are food challenged. These children qualify for, and rely on, the schools' free breakfast and lunch programs during the week but lack enough food on the weekend.

Each Joy Pack includes at least 13 items: 2 Entrees, 2 Breakfast Items, a Shelf Stable Milk, a 100% Juice Box, 2 Protein Items, 2 Individual Fruit Cups, an Individual Vegetable Cup, and 2 Snacks.

Thank you to the many generous supporters for helping with this important ministry: church members and friends, individual donations, Thrivent Member Action Team Sponsors, [Valley Neighborhood Green Bag Project](#) bi-monthly collection event. The ministry was blessed this year with grants from Arizona Community Grant Foundation, Arizona Community Foundation of Yavapai County, and Christ Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund.

Over eleven years, the ministry has grown from serving ten students per week to 52 students. Each year the need continues to grow.

Some items, shelf stable milk, 100% juice boxes, cereal, individual vegetables, and additional entrees must be purchased every month. Donations of these items and/or contributions toward the purchase are appreciated.

Volunteers pack 52 bags per week on Tuesday morning at 9:30 for 36 weeks during the school year. Bags are delivered to the schools on Wednesday and given to the students on Friday.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stelpstra



Property Report

The major achievements for the year 2025 are:

1. Completed multiple repairs on the irrigation system.
2. Extended the contract for the weed control company to control weeds over the entire church property.
3. Trimmed the shrubs and trees. Burned tree and shrub debris.
4. Conducted annual fire alarm, fire sprinkler, and fire exit light system inspections. Had fire suppressant deficiencies repaired.
5. All fire extinguishers were replaced because they all had expired.
6. Replaced chairs in the sanctuary with new chairs.
7. Had the parking lot sealed and painted.
8. Replaced the defective parking lot timer.
9. Replaced burned out parking lot lights.
10. Completed roof leak repairs.
11. Replaced stained ceiling tiles.
12. Completed annual HVAC inspection. Had repairs completed to the HVAC system.
13. Painted the maintenance shed.
14. Had repairs completed on the refrigerator in the fellowship hall.
15. Put up and took down Christmas decor.

Anticipated upcoming major projects are:

1. Do a complete checkup and repair on the irrigation system.
2. Add more solar panels to the roof.
3. Repaint gates.
4. Paint the interior rooms of the office and bible study rooms.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Taylor
Property Management

2025 WELCA Annual Report



WELCA membership includes all women of Spirit of Joy; including members, associate members and friends. We usually have 15-25 women attending monthly meetings which are held the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. We do not meet in the summer months of June, July, and August.

Co-presidents: Carol Schatz and Becky Keck

Co- Secretaries: Mel'O'Dee Gaber and Deanna Codner

Treasurers: Glenna Atkins and Loma Jenkins

It was another busy year, a year of reaching out, sharing and many blessings.

- We served Memorial/Celebration of Life luncheons for Carolyn Ward, Yona Ash and Ken Suhr.
- We helped with Pastor Sharon's retirement party and Chili Cookoff. Money raised went for Joy Packs and Lutheran Social Services.
- A class was held by Marilyn on making Lefse.
- Friday mornings, a group meets for quilting and crafting.
- The library was moved and a quilt room was set up to hold all the donated and purchased fabric and supplies to make our quilts for missions.
- We provided and served coffee, bars and cookies for the Religion and Science Lectures Meals were provided for ill and infirm members.
- Prayers shawls were provided to members in need.
- A Valentine's Day meal was provided for the homeless coalition.
- Many items have been donated to Laura's table with funds collected used for projects.
- Our 30h anniversary was celebrated with occasions throughout the year, culminating with a brunch in April attended by our Bishop Hutterer.
- We helped with a Celtic dinner with money raised for youth attending camp.
- Lenten soup suppers were served.
- Quilt Sunday featured all the quilts made by the quilters. They were blessed before sent to missions.
- We hosted a farewell for Jan and Paul Graham at fellowship.
- Sue Bro hosted a spring brunch at her home in April.
- Items for the kitchen were purchased and/or donated.
- Members met at a local restaurant during the summer months just for fellowship.
- Fellowship floor was professionally cleaned.
- Refrigerator malfunction was addressed.
- We provided the church's December \$2000 mortgage payment.
- We donated \$5000 toward the purchase of new chairs for the church.
- A noisy offering was collected and sent to the national WELCA office.
- Loma provided fellowship fare from Safeway during the summer months when no one signs up.
- We helped the local quilt guild with their 2-day display of their quilts in our church and provided coffee and cookies and a noon lunch for participants and guests.
- Reformation Sunday featured a German Fest meal.
- We served pies for fellowship on the Sunday near Veteran's Day.
- Several members manned a booth at the 2-day town fall festival.
- We Provided "thank you" gifts for pastor and others who helped us.
- We held our annual Taste of Christmas fund raiser that featured baked goods, arts, crafts, candies, sewing and cloth items. Along with all that, a quilt raffle was held. Quilters made Christmas aprons for the workers.
- Two members hosted the Verde Valley Voices dinner in our fellowship hall.
- The December meeting was a brunch held at Becky Keck's home with guests bringing a paper item for church.
- Two members hosted the blood drive held in the fellowship hall.

We thank all the ladies of Spirit of Joy for their time, help and support. God's blessings to you all.

2025 WELCA Financial Report

WELCA funds are separate from those of Spirit of Joy general funds and the finances are handled by an elected Treasurer, with input and approval by vote of WELCA members.

2025 Income Received:

Sunday Fellowship donations	\$ 785.00
Laura's Table donations	292.00
Monthly Meetings (donations)	346.00
Noisy Offering	745.73
Memorials and Direct Donations	470.00
Soup Suppers	143.00
Taste of Christmas	3,434.00
Rita's Art	335.00
Patio Sale	1,004.00
Verde Valley Voices	<u>300.00</u>

Total received \$ 7,854.00

2025 Donations and Expenses:

Pay It Forward—Pastor, Rosie, Nancy, Mary S.	\$ 1,000.00
Church Chairs	5,000.00
Summer Camp	200.00
Fellowship Hall Carpet Cleaning	400.00
Refrigerator Repair	160.00
Mortgage Payment	2,000.00
Ads for Taste of Christmas	76.64
Misc. Expenses	<u>439.62</u>

Total paid out \$ 9,276.26

Respectfully submitted,

Loma Jenkins & Glenna Atkins, Co-Treasurers



Grand Canyon Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

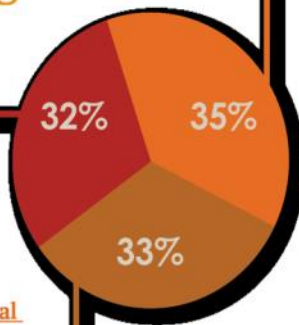


Grand Canyon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Where does my congregation's mission support go?

Communicate Jesus

- Funds the work of [Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Arizona](#) (LAMA) and [Lutheran Engagement and Advocacy in Nevada](#) (LEAN), and supports [Arizona Faith Network](#) (AFN)
- Contributes funds to [Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary](#), [California Lutheran University](#), and supports 3 [Lutheran Campus Ministries](#) ([UofA](#), [ASU](#), [NAU](#))
- Expands ministry and resources to **serve the poor and provide basic needs** to 70,000+ through partnership with [Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest](#) (LSS-SW) and [Lutheran Social Services of Nevada](#) (LSSN)
- Nurtures **companion synod relationship** ([Senegal](#)) and **develops new synodical relationships** (Mexico)
- Funds 22 **project grants** for congregations and organizations to better Communicate Jesus, Connect People, and Create Possibilities
- Supports [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) and [Lutheran World Relief](#)
- Supports ELCA membership in the [Lutheran World Federation](#): 145 members for ecumenical work and world service relief and development



Create Possibilities

- Supports & oversees 5 **congregational renewals** and 8 **new starts** across the synod
- Organizes **candidacy** process supporting 23 candidates in the process for ordination and 7 candidates in discernment
- Supports pastors and deacons in **mobility** and **leadership**
- Supports 17 **congregations in transition**
- Funds **ACTS grants** for 8 congregations under development and renewal, or strategic ministry
- Works in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Synod on [Lilly 3E program](#) ([Stewardship for all Seasons](#), [Beginning a Culture of Generosity](#), [Ministerial Excellence Fund](#), [Vital Right-Shaped Congregations](#))
- Applies funds from church property sale to encourage **diverse** and **new emerging ministries**

Connect People

- Shares **mission support** dollars with [ELCA](#) (churchwide) and [Region 2](#) (southwest)
- Provides a ministry of presence for congregations & pastors during **crisis & transition**
- Leads Convocation of **rostered leaders** (active and retired pastors/deacons) for theological discussion and fellowship, and supports the **retired pastors' retreat**
- Supports and helps lead [youth faith formation camp](#)
- Organizes [Synod Assembly](#) meeting and voting based on congregational identity
- Participates in [Churchwide Assembly](#), [ELCA Youth Gathering](#), and [Rostered Ministers Gathering](#) every 3 years
- Funds [Diakonia](#) lay leadership program, 3 cohorts
- Supports the work of [Phoenix Fusion](#) and [Northeast Valley Consortium](#) (collaborating initiatives)

Updated May, 2022

God's Work. Our hands.

2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Dear Friends in Christ,

As stated in the September newsletter, money is mentioned in the Bible over 2,000 times and Jesus mentioned money frequently. Here at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, we are not afraid to talk about money and/or the needs of our church. However, we may need to talk more often about them.

2025 was an amazing year for SOJ. We were able to do so many things for our church and our community like repairs to the parking lot, HVAC, roof, Joy Packs and Shoe Drive. It also taught us a lot about the financial health of SOJ, especially as we look forward to 2026 and beyond.

2025 was also a bit of an unusual year. For example, due to Pastor Sharon's retirement and Pastor Conrad coming on board, there was a salary saving of \$52,000. The difference was transferred into a Reserve Account for future unexpected expenses including money for the costs associated with calling a new full-time pastor.

Unless there is some unforeseen circumstance in December it appears SOJ will end the year with a positive bottom line. The 2025 operating budget was a breakeven budget at \$191,962. Projected income is \$210,000. Therefore, SOJ income over expense is \$18,000.

The 2025 Stewardship campaign was somewhat successful. The Intent card giving totaled \$155,414. This compares to last year's result of \$148,314.

Based upon the Stewardship campaign and the 2025 year-to-date giving the Church Council approved a 2026 operating budget of \$203,708. The budget allows for inflation increases like APS, staff salary increases, increasing benevolence to ELCA from \$6,500 to \$10,000, \$5,000 for a new (unnamed) special project, pastor recruitment and over \$14,000 for potential major repairs to the building.

On the surface this looks amazing. However, in all honestly this is not so wonderful. To say the least, what is not included is the salary and expenses associated with a new full-time pastor. The current expectation of an experienced, full-time pastor is roughly \$125,000. Again, to say the least, considering our current financial condition, Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church cannot afford a full-time pastor.

Our congregation has been extremely generous. The Holy Spirit is alive and well in all of us. And I am sure each and every one of us would want to give a little bit more if asked. But that is not the answer. In order to afford an experienced full-time pastor our budget must increase by roughly \$70,000.

So, our challenge as a congregation, church council and individual member of SOJ in 2026 and beyond is clear. WE must grow the SOJ membership.

Rich Alley



AUDIT REPORT

The Audit Task Force, authorized by Bylaw BL4.04.02 e., is comprised of three members of the congregation, elected by the congregation, who report directly to the congregation. Members of the Audit Task Force are not members of the Congregational Council, the Treasurer, or Financial Secretary. Each Task Force member serves a three year term, and the terms are staggered so that one member is elected each year to replace the outgoing member.

It is the responsibility of the Task Force to annually review the financial aspects of the church to be assured that the financial procedures, statements and results are accurate and correct.

Functions of the Audit Task Force include:

- Review of previous year financial statements, supporting reports, backup files, bank statements, and other information they deem is necessary to determine the accuracy of the reporting of the church's finances.
- Question the integrity of the handling and control of contributions and expenditures.
- Insure that the books are kept according to Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP).
- Insure that insurance contracts for worker compensation, loss and damages, and liability are adequate.

The members of the Audit Task Force performing the financial review of 2024 were:

- Ann Matzke
- Bill Matzke
- Russ Haslow

The Audit Task Force met in February with Treasurer Mary Stelpstra and Finance Officer Rich Alley to conduct the financial review. Results of their review are presented on the following page.

Respectfully submitted

Audit Committee Report for 2024

The Audit Task Force, authorized by Bylaw BL4.04.02(e), is comprised of Ann Matzke, Bill Matzke, and Russ Haslow.

The task force reviewed financial statements on Feb. 11, 2025 for the year 2024 including:

- Overview of Fiscal year 2024, review of the 2024 financial statements, insurance coverage, and discussion on accounting procedures.
- The insurance coverage was reviewed and found to be in good order with appropriate coverage.

To the best of our abilities, everything was found to be appropriate and accurate.

Ann Matzke Ann Matzke
Bill Matzke Bill Matzke
Russ Haslow Russ Haslow

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
Statement of Financial Activities
January—December 2025

Distribution account	Total
Income	
4100 Benevolence Offerings	
Offering Envelopes & Plate	185,261.40
Total for 4100 Benevolence Offerings	\$185,261.40
4200 Mortgage Fund	
Total for 4200 Mortgage Fund	\$33,706.20
4300 Restricted Income	
4310 Temporary Restricted Income	
In-Reach/Our-Reach	332.00
Joy Packs	2,770.61
SOJ Shirts	20.00
Youth	700.00
Total for 4310 Temporary Restricted Income	\$3,822.61
4320 Board Restricted Income	
Mortgage Principal Fund	3,195.00
Restricted Undesignated	5,000.00
Total for 4320 Board Restricted Income	\$8,195.00
4330 Special Projects	
Anniversary Celebration	20.00
Chairs	1,650.00
Shoe Drive	3,268.00
Total for 4330 Special Projects	\$4,938.00
Total for 4300 Restricted Income	\$16,955.61
4400 Interest Income	
MIF Interest	9.67
Total for 4400 Interest Income	\$9.67
4500 Other Income	
Donations, Gifts	1,045.00
Grants	4,926.00
Memorials / Bequest	360.00
Use of Facilities Donation	3,409.98
Total for 4500 Other Income	\$9,740.98
4600 Agency Pass Through	670.00
4700 Fundraising Income	
Fry's Community Rewards	97.89
In Reach/Outreach Events	220.00
Souper Bowl	661.00
Total for 4700 Fundraising Income	\$978.89
Total for Income	\$247,322.75

Statement of Financial Activities—continued

Expenses

6000 Utilities	
Electric	5,059.69
Gas	1,404.97
Water & Sewer	1,861.80
Total for 6000 Utilities	\$8,326.46
6100 Facilities	
Cleaning Service	3,120.00
Facility Repairs	
Facility Repair & Maintenance	1,273.29
Total for Facility Repairs	\$1,273.29
Fire Inspect./Security Monitor	1,210.00
Grounds Maintenance & Repairs	2,885.00
Janitorial Supplies & Equipment	178.00
Pest Control	1,440.00
Total for 6100 Facilities	\$10,106.29
6180 Insurance Expense	4,051.00
6300 Administrative Expenses	
Advertising	617.89
Badges	183.68
Church Signage	1,096.97
Conferences and Meetings	280.00
Copier	
Copier Copies	2,056.27
Copier Maintenance	125.00
Total for Copier	\$2,181.27
Dues and Subscriptions	129.80
Office Supplies	788.27
Service Charges	
Instant Church Directory	39.96
Servant PC Cloud	804.88
Total for Service Charges	\$844.84
Software & Technology	
Microsoft 365	234.14
Norton Anti-Virus	170.25
QuickBooks Online Plus	1,351.98
Total for Software & Technology	\$1,756.37
Telephone/Internet Expense	1,957.98
Total for 6300 Administrative Expenses	\$9,837.07

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
Statement of Financial Activities—continued
January—December 2025

6400 Payroll Expenses	
6410 Pastor's Salary & Benefits	
ELCA Benefits	606.09
Total for 6410 Pastor's Salary & Benefits	\$606.09
6420 Organist/Choir Director	
Salary	20,105.04
Substitute Organist	600.00
Total for 6420 Organist/Choir Director	\$20,705.04
6430 Administrative Assistant	
Salary	13,747.50
Total for 6430 Administrative Assistant	\$13,747.50
6450 Employer FICA	2,589.72
6470 Workman's Comp. Insurance	329.50
6480 Payroll Fees	21.42
Monthly Payroll Fees	307.21
Monthly Payroll Subscription	629.58
Total for 6480 Payroll Fees	\$958.21
6490 Payroll Supplies	69.52
Total for 6400 Payroll Expenses	\$39,005.58
6500 Guest Pastors/Speakers	
6510 Guest Pastors	
Compensation	1,650.00
Millage	172.24
Total for 6510 Guest Pastors	\$1,822.24
6520 Interim Pastor	
Compensation	23,833.37
Mileage	5,958.17
Professional Expenses	2,383.37
Total for 6520 Interim Pastor	\$32,174.91
Total for 6500 Guest Pastors/Speakers	\$33,997.15

Statement of Financial Activities—continued

6600 Ministry	
6610 Worship	
Altar Supplies	1,484.85
Music, Song Books, CDs	1,055.66
Organ / Piano Maintenance	700.00
Sundays & Seasons Subscription	449.00
Total for 6610 Worship	\$3,689.51
6620 Stewardship	
Offering Envelopes	327.09
Total for 6620 Stewardship	\$327.09
6640 Christian Education	
Adult Education	490.65
Devotionals	549.00
Science & Religion Lectures	
Speakers	450.00
Total for Science & Religion Lectures	\$450.00
Total for 6640 Christian Education	\$1,489.65
6650 In-Reach / Out-Reach	
Promotion / Advertising	298.69
Supplies	85.30
Total for 6650 In-Reach / Out-Reach	\$383.99
6660 Social Ministry	
Joy Packs	9,185.88
Special Projects	2,234.91
Total for 6660 Social Ministry	\$11,420.79
6680 SOJ Shirts	83.55
Total for 6600 Ministry	\$17,394.58
6670 Youth	
Camp Registration	1,050.00
Total for 6670 Youth	\$1,050.00
6700 Grand Canyon Synod	
Mission Pledge	6,000.00
Total for 6700 Grand Canyon Synod	\$6,000.00
6800 Mortgage	
MIF Mortgage Interest	4,577.25
MIF Principal	27,361.15
Total for 6800 Mortgage	\$31,938.40

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
Statement of Financial Activities—continued
January—December 2025

7100 Charitable Pass Through	1,326.00
7300 Major Repairs	
Building	18,192.73
Parking Lot	5,415.00
Total for 7300 Major Repairs	\$23,607.73
7400 Pastor Call Expenses	
General Expenses	200.00
Travel Expenses	116.56
Total for 7400 Pastor Call Expenses	\$316.56
Purchases	7,045.41
Total for Expenses	\$194,002.23
Net Income	\$53,320.52

Accrual Basis Thursday, January 01, 2026 10:05 PM GMTZ

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2025

Assets

Current Assets

Bank Accounts

1100 Cash & Securities

1110 Operating Funds Checking Acct.	0.00
General Fund	114,062.71
Mortgage Fund	7,270.41
Restricted- Agency Pass Through	5.00
Restricted Income	13,234.45

Total for 1110 Operating Funds Checking Acct.	\$134,572.57
--	---------------------

1120 Board Restricted Funds Checking	0.00
Building Fund	0.00
Landscaping Fund	0.00
Mortgage Principal Only	107.00
Organ /Piano Fund	2,300.87
Reserve Fund	41,683.44
Restricted Designated (Lattanzi)	0.00
Restricted Undesignated	5,516.37

Total for 1120 Board Restricted Funds Checking	\$49,607.68
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1130 National Bank - CD	10,000.00
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1140 Mission Investment Fund Savings	2,428.64
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Total for 1100 Cash & Securities	\$196,608.89
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Total for Bank Accounts	\$196,608.89
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Accounts Receivable

Other Current Assets

1200 Undeposited Funds	0.00
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QuickBooks Tax Holding Account	1,379.61
--------------------------------	----------

Total for Other Current Assets	\$1,379.61
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Total for Current Assets	\$197,988.50
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Statement of Financial Position—continued

Fixed Assets	
1500 Property, Building, Equipment	
1510 Land	150,000.00
1520 Land Improvements	
Columbarium	76,340.04
Drip System	8,620.00
Monument Sign	15,955.55
Total for 1520 Land Improvements	\$100,915.59
1530 Buildings	
Building	1,802,550.68
Storage Shed	6,022.87
Total for 1530 Buildings	\$1,808,573.55
1550 Building Improvements	
Solar Panels	33,858.34
Total for 1550 Building Improvements	\$33,858.34
1560 Furnishings and Equipment	
1565 Accumulated Depreciation (deleted)	-66,590.43
Rogers Organ Model 599	66,590.43
Total for 1560 Furnishings and Equipment	\$0.00
Total for 1500 Property, Building, Equipment	\$2,093,347.48
Total for Fixed Assets	\$2,093,347.48
Total for Assets	\$2,291,335.98
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2110 Direct Deposit Liabilities	0.00
2400 Payroll Liabilities	0.00
AZ Income Tax	115.83
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00
Federal Taxes (941/943/944)	1,263.78
Miscellaneous Deduction	0.00
Portico - Retirement	0.00
Total for 2400 Payroll Liabilities	\$1,379.61
2450 Portico Employee	0.00
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$1,379.61
Total for Current Liabilities	\$1,379.61
Long-term Liabilities	
2600 MIF Mortgage	99,993.82
Total for Long-term Liabilities	\$99,993.82
Total for Liabilities	\$101,373.43

Statement of Financial Position—continued

Equity	
3000 Opening Balance Equity	637,578.58
3200 Temp. Restricted Net Assets	
3210 Agency Pass Through	
ELCA World Hunger	5.00
Lutheran World Relief	0.00
Total for 3210 Agency Pass Through	\$5.00
3220 Ministry Programs	
AV Equipment	0.00
Christian Education	0.00
In Reach/ Out Reach	1,332.40
Joy Packs	9,969.35
Matthew 25	0.00
SOJ Shirts	0.00
Worship/Music	899.61
Youth	0.00
Total for 3220 Ministry Programs	\$12,201.36
3230 Special Projects	
Anniversary Celebration	0.00
Shoe Drive	1,033.09
Total for 3230 Special Projects	\$1,033.09
Total for 3200 Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$13,239.45
3300 Board Restricted Net Assets	
Building Fund	0.00
CD	10,000.00
Landscaping fund	0.00
Mission Invest. Fund Savings	2,428.64
Mortgage Principal Only	107.00
Organ Fund	2,300.87
Restricted Fund	41,683.44
Restricted Undesignated	5,516.37
Total for 3300 Board Restricted Net Assets	\$62,036.32
3100 Unrestricted Net Assets	1,396,426.53
Net Income	80,681.67
Total for Equity	\$2,189,962.55
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$2,291,335.98

Financial Report for December 2025

Operating Fund

December Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Restricted Fund Transfer	Net Adj. Income
\$ 28,848.16	\$ 15,390.72	\$ 0.00	\$ 13,455.44

Year-to-Date (Jan.-Dec.)

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Restricted Fund Transfer	Net Adj Income
\$ 237,477.75*	\$ 157,249.09*	\$ 41,683.44	\$ 38,545.22

*Fundraising Income \$ 775.95
 Youth \$ 700.00
 Shoe Drive \$ 3,268.00
 Joy Pack Grant \$ 3,926.00

** Youth \$ 800.00
 Shoe Drive \$ 2,234.91
 Mortgage Principal \$ 3,000.00

12/31/2025 Ending Balance

General Fund	\$ 114,602.71
Mortgage Fund	7,270.41
Restricted Ministries	13,234.45
Agency Pass Through	<u>5.00</u>
	\$ 134,572.57

Board Restricted Fund

December Income	Expenses	Restricted Fund Transfer	Net Adj. Income
\$ 41.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 0.00	(\$ 3,959.00)

Year-to-Date (Jan.-Dec.)

Income	Restricted Fund Transfer	Expenses	Net Adj. Income
\$ 9,845.00*	\$ 41,683.44	\$ 36,753.14 **	\$ 14,775.30

Thrivent Choice Dollars \$ 1,195.0
 WELC for Chairs \$ 5,000.00
 Donation for Chairs \$ 1,650.00
 Restricted Fund Transfer \$ 41,683.44
 WELCA for Mortgage Principal \$ 2,000.00

** Youth Camp Fee \$250.00
 Piano Tuning \$700.00
 Building HVAC \$ 9,145.73
 Roof Repair \$ 9,047.00

Parking Lot \$ 5,415.00
 Landscaping \$ 1,100.00
 Chairs \$7,095.41
 Mortgage Principal \$ 4,000.00

12/31/2025 Ending Balance

Mortgage Principal	107.00
Organ/Piano Fund	2,300.87
Reserve Find	41,683.44
Restricted Undesignated	<u>5,516.37</u>
	\$ 49,607.68

Bank 11 month CD \$10,000

Mission Investment Fund Savings Balance \$ 2,428.64

Mission Investment Fund Mortgage Owed \$ 99,993.82

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church 2026 Budget Summary

Ordinary Income / Expenses

Budget Income

4100 Benevolent Offerings	158,064	172,000
4200 Mortgage Offerings	25,000	25,000
4310 Restricted Income (SOJ Ministries)	1,500	3,500
4320 Board Restricted Income		1,200
4400 Interest Income	10	8
4500 Other Income	6,500	2,000
4700 Fundraising Income	500	
Total Income	191,574	203,708

Budget Expenses

6000 Utilities	6,500	10,560
6100 Facilities Maintenance	11,440	11,992
6180 Facility Insurance	4,048	4,400
6300 Administrative Expenses		
Advertising	100	100
Badges	500	300
Conferences & Meeting	1,000	600
Copier (copies & maintenance)	1,615	2,225
Dues & Subscriptions	145	150
Office Supplies	700	1,000
Service Charges	780	960
Software & Technology Subscriptions	2,548	1,899
Telephone & Internet	2,568	2,388
<i>Total Administrative Expenses</i>	9,956	9,622
6400 Payroll Expenses		
6410 Pastor's Compensation & Benefits	78,103	22,500
6420 Organist Compensation	20,105	22,605
Substitute Organist	400	400
6430 Administrative Assistant	14,820	16,640
6440 Bookkeeper	0	0
6450 Employer FICA.	2,540	3,320
6470 Workman's Compensation Insurance	307	400
6480 Payroll Subscription & Fees	840	924
6480 Payroll Supplies	20	20
<i>Total Payroll Expenses</i>	117,135	66,809
6500 Guest Pastors/Speakers		
6510 Guest Pastors	1,400	1,400
6520 Interim Pastor		31,250
<i>Total Guest Pastors/Speakers</i>	1,400	32,650
6600 SOJ Ministries		
6610 Worship Supplies	1,640	2,150
6620 Stewardship	480	350
6640 Christian Education	1,225	1,200
6650 In-Reach / Outreach	200	0
6660 Social Ministry	7,000	14,400
6670 Youth	0	0
<i>Total SOJ Ministries</i>	10,545	18,100
6700 Grand Canyon Synod Benevolence	6,000	10,000
6800 Mission Investment Fund Mortgage		
Interest	5,458	4,488
Principal	19,480	20,450
<i>Total MIF Mortgage</i>	24,938	24,938
7300 Major Repairs / Maintenance		14,637

Total Expenses

191,962

203,708



Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA.
A portion of your offering, called Mission Support,
advances the ministry of our church,
helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders,
serve our neighbors and strive for justice.
Read stories and learn more at **[Living Lutheran.org/SOFIA](https://www.lutheran.org/SOFIA)**.

NOTES

