

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Holway

2025 Congregational Annual Report



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

**Congregational Meeting
December 7, 2025**

Annual Report of 2025

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to order – Opening Prayer

Agenda Approval (Establish a quorum – 25 people)

Minutes from December 1, 2024

Annual Meeting Reports

SAM, Council President, WELCA

Cemetery Association

2025 Pastoral Acts

Memorial Fund

Old Business

New Business

2026 Budget

Council Elections

President, Vice President, Secretary

Synod Assembly Delegates

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December 1, 2024, Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date 12/01/2024

Meeting called to order by President, Mike Kesling at 8:38 a.m. with a quorum of at least 25 members present.

Opened with prayer by Barb Krug, SAM

Motion to approve the revised agenda made by Jason Borman and seconded by Rod Adams. Motion carried

Motion to approve the minutes from Dec 10, 2023, made by Ed Rowe and seconded by Mike Lindau. Motion carried

Motion to approve the council president, SAM, WELCA and cemetery association reports as printed made by Carol Lekies and seconded by Ed Rowe. Motion carried

Motion to approve the 2024 pastoral acts made by Ed Rowe and seconded by Marian Nernberger. Motion carried

Motion to approve the memorial fund report made by Marian Nernberger and seconded by Ed Rowe. Motion carried

Motion to approve the financial report of WELCA and Cemetery made by Jason Borman and seconded by Paula Stroinski. Motion carried

No Old Business

New Business

Motion to approve 2025 Budget made by Jason Borman and seconded by Elaine Hallgren. Motion carried

Motion to approve changes made to Bylaws made by Marian Nernberger and seconded by Juanita Krug. Motion carried

Motion to approve researching of the leak problem in the basement made by Ed Rowe and seconded by Gayle Hamman. Motion carried

Elections

2024 Officers:

President Mike Kessling

Vice President Andrew Krug

Secretary Meagan Neitzel

Treasurer Nancie Adams

Nominations for congregational Representatives

Clarice Zenner - accepted

Echo Buller - accepted

Nominations approved by congregation

Motion to approve Mike Kesling as President made by Paula Stroinski and seconded by Julie Janke.

Motion carried

Motion to approve Meagan Neitzel as secretary made by Heidi Bower-Kesling and seconded by Nancie Adams. Motion carried

Nomination for Jason Borman for Vice President made by Marian Nernberger and seconded by Carol Lekies.

Motion to approve Jason as Vice President made by Paula Stroinski seconded by Rod Adams

2024 Elections Results:

President: Mike Kesling

Vice President: Jason Borman

Secretary: Meagan Neitzel

Member Representatives: Paula Stroinski, Echo Buehler, Clarice Zenner

Synod Assembly Representatives

Marian Nernberger made a motion with a second by Pastor Bob Giese to nominate Jim and Clarice Zenner as Our Saviour's 2025 Synod Assembly representatives. Motion carried

Nancie Adams made motion to adjourn and seconded by Gayle Hamman. Motion carries

Ended with Closing Prayer at 8:55 a.m.

Submitted by Meagan Nietzel, council secretary

2025 SAM REPORT

God's blessings as another year comes to a close and a new year is soon to begin. I have been blessed with the opportunity to lead worship at this, my home congregation. Exciting things continue to happen here.

Our pulpit has been filled with experienced Pastors, Nancy Amacher and Bob Giese, who say they are retired but according to Merriam-Webster, retirement means: "*withdrawal from one's position or occupation or from active working life.*" We are blessed they haven't done that yet! Mike Kesling, our Lay Leader and I lead worship, as well. Our accompanists, Nancy Jones, Misty Hartman and Bob Giese fill our services with beautiful music.

Bishop Martin Halom has lead worship at our congregation and will be back to our area on May 3rd for what he is calling, Dish with the Bish. You'll hear more about this in the coming months.

Some needed building repairs and maintenance have been done to keep our beautiful church dry and brightly lit for many years to come. There is still more to do, but our workers are diligently and faithfully working and donating their time, when their schedules allow it.

Our council members are active and engaged in the ministry and purpose of Our Saviour's.

Our youth are being led by Jason Borman, Brenda Nernberger, Heidi Bower-Kesling and Meagan Neitzel. The lessons being taught are allowing our students to be "in the Bible" more with activities, games, hikes, crafts and more. Wednesday and Sunday school classes continue and are going well.

Lay School and the Continuing Education classes are continuing. Mike Kesling graduated in May. Heidi Bower-Kesling is in her second year and Dawn Harder from St. Paul's is in her first year. Attending Lay School does not mean you need to become a SAM. It is an amazing opportunity to grow in your faith. If anyone is interested, please reach out to one of us. Our Saviour's helps with some of the financial burden of attending classes.

WELCA is very active and have begun meeting for lunch or dinner throughout the months. The conversation at those events is fun and lively. The Anniversary Dinner was once again a tremendous success and profits from that will continue to help with various church expenses as well as support the missions that our WELCA has committed to. It has been wonderful having Amie, our youngest member, as treasurer. She is learning a lot about the relationships in our church – just ask her who is related to whom someday.

We have said goodbye to some life-long members of Our Saviour's as well as some young people with family affiliates to our congregation. Grieving and sorrow never go away, but with the support of this church family, the pain and loneliness can be lifted somewhat.

Throughout the year, I have been involved in various groups and trainings within our synod. There are monthly SAM support meetings or get-togethers, and the Chequamegon Conference rostered leaders and SAMs meet monthly for worship and support. I am privileged to be a part of the Evangelical Leadership Commission. This Commission distributes available funds to education debt relief applicants and reviews the salary standards for the synod.

Work has begun with the CaSTLE (Country and Small Town Lived Ecclesiology) project and Pastor Bob, who is very involved and was instrumental in getting the grant money for this, is the mentor for the SAMs in our area.

Boundaries Training is a requirement for leaders and was held on November 6th in Eau Claire. Synod Assembly was held in April in Rice Lake. This beautiful church filled with Pastors and lay people that sing boldly is the best part of any synod gathering (for me anyway).

I continue to be blessed to serve as the administrative SAM and I thank God for this calling and you, the members of Our Saviour's, for the opportunity to serve you.

God's Blessings,
Barb Krug - SAM

Council President Mike Kesling 2025 Report

As I complete my second term as Council President, I want to thank you for all the support you have given me. I think the Council has worked through some difficult times and kept our Church and our congregation's welfare clearly in focus. We have prudently managed our financial resources and continually maintained the physical well-being of our 140+ year old church structure. I must urge you all to keep focused on the facility, as we meet the needs of our various missions.

The Council worked hard to keep the members and the physical structure of our Church leaning forward in these challenging times in the world around us.

Financially

The Council diligently and deliberately maintained a tight rein on our expenses. Constantly, seeking and discussing potential opportunities to improve the well-being of our congregation, our physical church and the very positive and beneficial community missions the Our Saviour's congregation has undertaken.

Spiritually

The Council has made several worthwhile and continuing investments for our Youth and Adult Spiritual Education. We have set aside potential funding assistance for Camp Scholarships, so that our youth can attend Synod Youth gatherings and Camps. The Council also provides financial assistance for adults to attend the Northwest Wisconsin Synod Lay School.

I end my term and step away to hopefully become the second SAM in our congregation. Our first SAM has set some pretty high standards for me to follow. I truly hope I am up for the task.

Sincerely,
Mike Kesling

2025 WELCA Year in Review

In 1988, three Lutheran Churches joined together to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA, of which Our Saviour's is a part. These churches were the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America. During the Civil War, women in these churches supported soldiers by sewing and providing supplies and were commonly referred to as "Ladies Aid" societies.

After the churches formed the ELCA, the "Ladies Aid societies" became known as the Women of the ELCA, WELCA for short. As Our Saviour's grew, the ladies were divided into Working Circles and met monthly in member's homes.

Ladies aid sums up what we do today as WELCA. We support the church and community through charitable activities, fundraising, fellowship, and spiritual growth. WELCA meets the first Wednesday of the month at church except for June, July, December and January. In addition to our monthly business meetings:

- In March, Barb Krug and Marian Nernberger participated in "World Day of Prayer."
- In April, members attended the Spring Rally, "Singing in the Rain" in Loyal.
- Honor's Sunday was the second Sunday in June with 2 graduating seniors.
- The 2025 all conference WELCA Retreat was held on June 4 & 5 at Luther Park Bible Camp.
- A Joint Worship Service and potluck lunch with St. Paul's was held on June 29 at the Holway Town Hall. Breaking Chains, a musical group, lead worship that day.
- In August, a child's dinosaur quilt, made by Janet Cypher, was donated to the Heart for Luther Park fundraiser. It raised \$250.00.
- The Anniversary Dinner was a success and is planned again for October 2026 with a few minor changes. Thank you to the planning committee and all who donated and helped. This event is the major fundraiser of the year.
- On November 16, members presented their Thank Offerings during worship lead by women.
- In December, Our Saviour's WELCA will sponsor the St. Paul's food pantry in Medford.
- Members helped plan and facilitate the upcoming photo directory.
- Donations were taken to Rescued and Redeemed, Eau Claire, throughout the year.
- Christmas ornaments featuring pictures of Our Saviour's were created and made available.
- Ladies' Luncheons: New this year where members met every other month for lunch and fellowship at different restaurants in the Medford area.

Making quilts and sewing backpacks are ongoing projects for the group. If you would like to get involved contact Karen Frosch. Quilts are shipped to LWR, donated locally and given to veteran's organizations. Participation has been the key to a productive busy year. Thank you everyone. In addition, special thanks to our members serving on the Altar guild, our President Echo Buehler, and Amie Marzinske treasure.

We mourn the loss of Janet Cypher who passed away earlier this year.

Submitted by Carol Lekies, Secretary

WELCA Stewardship Action 2025 Report

Lutheran World Relief

65 backpacks – school kits

10 quilts

Beds from Christ – Medford United Methodist Church

21 quilts

Hope Hospice & Palliative Care

41 lap robes

Homeless veterans – Hands Foundation

38 quilts

18 boxes of clothing and shoes

5 bags of coats

Rescued & Redeemed – Eau Claire

7 truck loads of clothing & houseware (approximately)

Miscellaneous

10 quilts – Fall Dinner, donations, etc.

Total quilts – 79

We continue to have a very small, fun, dedicated group of ladies who are passionate about this stewardship project! We are grateful for all the generous donations that make it possible to do God's work.

Submitted by Karen Frosch 11/18/2025

Holway Lutheran Cemetery Minutes of Annual Meeting

March 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. People present were Rod Adams, Paula Stroinski, Echo Buehler, Kurt Neibacher, Ken Nernberger, and Steve Hamann.

President Rod Adams called the meeting to order. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

The election of trustees was held. Rod Adams and Ken Nernberger were each re-elected to a three-year term. Steve Hamann shared that after holding the position for the last twelve years, he wanted to pass on the responsibilities of the secretary/treasurer. All were unanimously elected for a one-year term.

The minutes of the 2024 annual meeting were reviewed and accepted. The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Plans for the Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 20, were discussed. Assignment of duties were discussed and finalized. The greatly increased cost of eggs was discussed. It was shared that the eggs were being donated. Set up will be on Saturday, April 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Lawn mowing for the 2025 season was discussed. The only bid was received from Central Lawn and Fencing. All felt that they did a good job again this past year. Their bid of \$5,640 was accepted.

Cemetery maintenance was discussed. Rod will schedule a day for cemetery maintenance once the lawn dries up. Rod shared that the culvert at the entrance to the cemetery is crushed and will need to be replaced. Gravel would also be needed.

The head stone for Veteran Cornelius Olson as it will differ from the other ones in the cemetery. Once it is received and we have the opportunity to see what it exactly looks like, we will set it.

Discussion was held regarding the bench proposed for the cemetery. It was agreed upon that a cement pad would be needed for the bench to set on. Types of benches available were viewed and discussed. Rod would reach out to get a better understanding of the bench desired and the corresponding cost.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Kurt Neibacher

Pastoral Acts for 2025

Baptisms (2): Ashton Harold Pinter, Reese Joy Pinter

Confirmation (5): Xander Cynor, Stormie Dums, Braxton Larson, Coraline Neitzel, Jay Worden

First Communion (1): Caleb Crabb

Transfers out (1): Teresa & Gary Gretzinger

Deaths (5): Mike Selby, Derek Hanson, Edith Minshall, Janet Cypher, Doris Blume

Our Saviour's Memorial Fund 2025

	Beginning Balance	\$ 8,190.70
Income		
Paul Carlson	Carol Jari	\$ 400.00
Bev Utke	Endowment	\$ 100.00
Julie & Mark Hoffman	Altar Paraments	\$ 250.00
Gwenith Lavin	Howard Lavin	\$ 600.00
Barb & Ed	Donation	\$ 1,000.00
Deb Gaffney	Gary, Jane, Tami	\$ 300.00
Barb Krug	Memorial Garden	\$ 1,000.00
Interest	\$ 0.95	
	Total	\$ 3,650.95
Expense		
Sure Dry	Basement	\$ 7,156.80
	Total	\$ 7,156.80
	Ending Balance	\$ 4,684.85

WELCA Financial Report 2025

WELCA Annual Report		Year: 2025	
Beginning Balance:		\$ 8,329.52	
Income:		Expenses:	
General Meeting:	\$ 308.00	Janitor	\$ 3,131.36
Fellowship		Backpack supplies	\$ 235.35
Dinner	\$ 975.00	WELCA	\$ 440.00
Bake Sale	\$ 325.00	License	\$ 50.00
Raffle	\$ 414.00	Luther Park	
Donations	\$ 475.00	SS Bibles	\$ 261.93
Food Sales	\$ 4,319.00	Synod Water is Life	
Funerals	\$ 450.00	QP Raffle Tickets	\$ 128.70
Basket Raffle	\$ 412.00	Ads	\$ 66.00
Thank Offering	\$ 401.97		** Brenda took cash from sales to pay for gift cards
Spec Donations	\$ 191.00	Raffle Prizes	
Spring Rally		Fall Retreat	\$ 240.00
Interest	\$ 32.82	vacuum	
School supply donations	\$ 34.00	Thank Offering	\$ 402.00
		Spring Rally	\$ 130.00
		Gifts	\$ 400.00
		Dinner Expense	\$ 31.20
		Sewing Supplies	\$ 140.00
		Jean Czerniak/Gratuity	
		Aspirus/lites of love	
		Broadway Theater/Conf Class	\$ 120.00
		Food Pantry	\$ 400.00
		Good Gifts Purchase:	\$ 500.00
Total Income:	\$ 8,337.79	Total Expenses:	\$ 6,676.54
Ending Balance:		\$ 9,990.77	
** As of 10/31/2025**			
Submitted by Arnie Marzinske, Treasurer			

Holway Lutheran Cemetery Association Financial Report 2025

Holway Lutheran Cemetery Association as of November 17, 2025

Checking Account Beginning Balance	\$ 25,638.24
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INCOME

Plot purchase	\$ 2,800.00
Burial fee	\$ 2,900.00
Interest on Checking Account	\$ 60.30
Easter Breakfast	\$ 3,161.00
Memorials	\$ 1,100.00
Donations	\$ 505.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 10,526.30

EXPENSES

Lawn care	\$ 5,430.00
Driveway upkeep & culvert	\$ 2,500.00
Grave prep. (urn)	\$ 300.00
Easter Breakfast supplies	\$ 104.65
Transferred to CD	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,334.65

Checking Account Ending Balance	\$ 17,829.89
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Certificate of Deposit Balance 11/17/2025	\$55,118.02
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Our Saviour's 2026 Annual Budget

2026 BUDGET - Our Saviour's				
INCOME	2024 Actual	2025 through 10/31/2025		
	60,661.92		48,764.27	
Total General Income	60,661.92			
EXPENSES	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 thru 10/31/25	2026 Budget
Benevolence	2,411.11	3,000.00	1,935.06	3,000.00
Internet Service	743.28	750.00	619.40	750.00
Phone	619.65	725.00	305.89	725.00
Electricity	1,940.32	2,000.00	1,460.82	2,000.00
LP Gas	3,054.00	4,000.00	2,860.00	4,000.00
Dumpster	789.85	700.00	361.41	700.00
Holding Tanks	0.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
Snow Plowing	356.25	1,200.00	562.50	1,200.00
Janitor Supplies	261.94	225.00	174.29	225.00
Clear Country Water Solutions	45.00	225.00	0.00	225.00
Building Repairs/Maintenance	5,839.04	1,000.00	1,477.86	1,000.00
Worship/Devotionals/Resources	875.54	600.00	136.73	600.00
Organ/Piano Maintenance	0.00	300.00	115.00	300.00
Insurance	5,431.16	6,100.00	5,091.00	6,100.00
Office & Computer Supplies/parts/ink	149.15	300.00	678.64	300.00
Postage and Stamps	68.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Computer Maintenance/Repair	175.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Treasurer Supplies	170.91	100.00	87.59	100.00
Newsletter Postage	418.62	450.00	340.85	450.00
Copier Lease	1,488.87	1,500.00	1,287.40	1,500.00
Supply Pastors	6,836.45	7,200.00	5,243.48	7,200.00
Conference Dues (Paid up for 3 years)	34.10	40.00	0.00	40.00
Assembly Delegates	500.00	500.00	150.00	500.00
Joint Account** see notes below	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Payroll-Secretary-Property Manager	7,757.38	7,800.00	5,941.77	7,800.00
Website	155.88	200.00	155.88	200.00
Music Fund	3,209.80	3,900.00	2,884.52	3,900.00
Leadership Training	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Education (Adult, Confirmation, Sunday School, VBS)	528.38	1,000.00	375.91	1,000.00
Background Checks	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Camping Funds	400.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
Pastorial Admin	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,000.00	2,400.00
Miscellaneous-Special Events	167.58	500.00	780.08	500.00
** Upon calling a pastor, joint account budget would be \$50,000				
Cleaning	\$3,000 estimated cost currently paid for by the women of the church			
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$47,327.26	\$49,365.00	\$35,026.08
				\$49,365.00
Non Budget Items: 2024				
	Income	Expenses		
Hunger	\$4,510.00	\$4,510.00		
Scrip	\$28,160.00	\$26,971.99		
Change The World/Special Offer.	\$7,923.10	\$7,622.72		
TOTAL	\$40,593.10	\$39,104.71		
Nicolet National Bank - Savings Account (Thrivent Choice Dollars):			10/31/2025	\$8,859.39
Summary of Our Saviour's Investments (Mission Investment Fund):				
Term Investment Fixed 4 Year CD	Matures 9/23/2029	Rate: 4.329%	Balance 10/31/2025	\$17,127.95
			Total Investment Balance:	\$17,127.95
			Submitted By:	Nancie Adams, Treasurer

Council Elections for 2026

The council is made up of the pastor, president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and members of the congregation. At Our Saviour's council terms are 1 year except for the treasurer who serves a 3-year term. Members are limited to no more than 3 consecutive terms. Terms begin at the end of the annual meeting. The president, vice president, secretary positions are open and will need to be filled.

In addition to the officers, members of the congregation are needed to voice the congregation. Any voting member may be elected, this includes youth that have been confirmed.

Positions to be elected by the congregation are:

President—

Vice President—

Secretary—

Member Representative (2) -

Nominations will be taken from the floor.

Synod Assembly Delegates

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is holding their Synod Assembly in June 2026.