

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Annual Congregation Report Annual Meeting, November 16, 2025

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Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Congregational Annual Meeting Agenda
November 16, 2025 at 11:45am

Call to Order

Devotion – Intern Pastor David Ingram

Qualifications for a Quorum

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting – Rebeca McElveen

Financial Year-end Statements – Mary Mills

Recognition of those concluding council service in 2025

President: Rebeca McElveen

Vice President: Brent Strickland

At Large Member: Eric Peterson

Recognition of those continuing council service in 2026

Secretary: Ranae Browning

Treasurer: Mary Mills

At-large member: Evan Keil

At-large member: John Dart

At-large member: Margi Ungrodt

Financial Secretary: Carol Dahl

Nomination Committee Report -

President:

Vice President:

New Business:

Election of 2026 Church Council Members

Approval of 2026 Budget- Mary Present

Suggestions for 2026 Local Mission Support

Appointment of Auditing and Nominating Teams

Auditing Team:

Jo Small (2 year term)

Samantha Aleshire (1 year left)

Nominating Team (3 people, 1 outgoing council member, 1 yr term):

Appointment of Delegates to Synod Assembly, April 2025

Adjournment and Benediction

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes

November 24, 2024 at 11:30am
Zoom Conference Meeting

Quorum – 27; 25 present and 2 online

Call to Order 11:43 a.m.

Devotion – Prayer – David Ingram

Review and approval of the November 2023 Annual Meeting minutes

- Motion to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes as written - Eileen Dubowski
- Seconded – Margi Ungrodt
- All in Favor – Motion passed

Recognition of those exiting council Leadership

- Chris Blais - Secretary – Stepped down November 11, 2024
- Kevin Powers – Member at large – will be off council at
- Dianna Lindhag – Treasurer – Termed out

Continuing Council Members:

- Becky Peterson – President
- Carol Dahl – Financial Secretary
- John Dart, Evan Keil, Brent Strickland, Heather Markel – At large members

Unfilled Council Positions:

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Nominations for open positions:

- Vice president - None
- Treasurer – Heather Markel
- Secretary –
Cheryl Park – Cheryl declined the nomination
Renee Browning

Motion to approve the nominations as listed by Jo Small (Treasurer – Heather Markel, Secretary – Renee Browning).
Seconded by Margi Ungrodt. All in Favor – Motion passed

Financial Report – Presented by Dianna Lindhag – Treasurer. All present members reviewed the Financial Report as written. Dianna stated there are thousands of in-kind donations that do not hit our budget. It is a very bare budget. Dianna explained the budget columns.

Eileen Dubowski - Question regarding Adopt a family, do funds go into the designated account? Yes, these do go into a designated checking account. Anything that goes into savings or designated we do not pay the 10% benevolence on.
Motion to accept the 2023 Financials by Janis Robertson. Seconded by Jo Schackman. All in favor – motion passed.

Approval of the 2025 Budget proposed/presented to Congregation: Dianna Lindhag - This budget is what we have done in the past/recently and this is what we are going to propose. We came up with a Vision Growth fund to work towards having a full-time pastor in the future. These are for funds set aside for when we are ready to call a full-time pastor. \$8,800 is the 10% of the benevolence owed to the Alaska Synod, based on projected operating.

Pastoral – Part time pastor salary: ELCA Gives us a guideline and it is adjusted for living in our area. Contract started July 1, 2023. We give him the annual raise on July 1 (1/2 of 2024 and ½ of 2025). IRIS allows them to pay part of the salary

as housing allowance, which is not taxed. Other ½ of SECA is reimbursed to Pastor. \$41,531 per year. Program – includes the Vision/Growth. Admin/General. Significant increase to Insurance from \$6000 to 9000. Payroll/Expenses

Discussion - Eileen Dubowski - What are dues and Subscriptions \$2,000? CCLI – Music Subscriptions to stay legal – Copyright. Eileen Dubowski – There is nothing on here as a supply pastor. This is correct – we typically pay about \$100.00 and typically not more than \$500/year. Evan Keil – Where are the cell phone and computer expenses listed? They are listed under utilities. Eileen Dubowski - Is the supply pastor under professional services - \$500.00? Under professional services the piano tuner is in there. I would need to confirm. Sam Aleshire – we did not have Supply pastoral expenditures in 2024, in 2023 we did have a supply pastor expenditures. Brenda Sadler – Are we seeing a savings for changing over to natural gas? Dianna – it is not more - \$5966 as of November, last year \$7,900.

Dianna – Needs to know if we want to carry on with the 4 local charities, do you want to reduce, increase? Jo Schackman – Consider 2 charities and giving each \$1,000K then rotate. Jo Small – Motion to donate \$1,000 to 2 charities the first year and alternate to the other 2 the second year. Romouna Sandbo – Would like to keep it the 4 charities as they all benefit. Eileen Dubowski – Amend the motion to select two charities, to give \$1,000 and decide what we want to do next year. Motion failed.

Motion - Continue the pattern of 4 charities (Fairbanks Rescue Mission, The Door, Helping Alaska, Fairbanks Foodbank) \$500.00 each by Margi Ungrodt. Seconded by Ramouna Sandbo. Motion passed

Motion to pass the budget as is made by Curt Renner. Motion to utilize a portion of our growth and vision fund give an additional \$200.00 to each of the 4 charities a total of \$700.00/total \$2,800 by Evan Keil. Seconded by Eric Peterson. Motion passed.

Auditing and nominating team.

- Jo Small/2 year term – has 2 more year
- Samantha Aleshire – going off of the team
- Ramouna Sandbo

Dianna Lindhag – will replace Samantha Aleshire. Motion to Add Dianna Lindhag to the Auditing and Nominating Team by Roberta Sandbo. Samantha Aleshire seconded

Nominating Committee - Current

- Lynn Skjefte
- Jo Schackman

Renominate 3 people to reactivate the committee. Motion to nominate Margi Ungrodt, Eileen Dubowski and Jo Schackman. Seconded by Jo Small.

Appointment of Delegates to Synod Assembly, April 2025. Assembly is at no cost to you, attend meetings/workshops, hear the bishop's report of the Synod and Churchwide.

- Curt and Margi Ungrodt
- Becky and Eric Peterson alternates

Motion to accept the appointed delegates by Jo Small. Seconded by Samantha Aleshire. Motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn – Dianna Lindhag. Seconded – Eileen Dubowski. Meeting adjourned.

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Balance Sheet

As of September 30, 2025

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10000 Undesignated Checking - 0026	1,825.57
11000 Designated Checking - 3594	538.03
11004 Natural Gas	2,162.69
11006 Education	923.21
11016 Sunday School	48.55
11019 Youth	4,135.61
11020 Misc - Short Term	4,739.61
11021 Loving Families	1,544.66
11022 Grant	2,892.75
11023 50th Anniversary Fund	280.00
11024 Memorial Fund	865.00
Total 11000 Designated Checking - 3594	18,130.11
12000 Debit Card Checking - 3607	2,130.01
13000 Savings - 0862	46,435.54
Total Bank Accounts	\$68,521.23
Other Current Assets	
15500 Prepaid Insurance	0.03
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.03
Total Current Assets	\$68,521.26
TOTAL ASSETS	\$68,521.26
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 Accounts Payable	2,219.39
Total Accounts Payable	\$2,219.39
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 Payroll Liabilities	-716.60
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ -716.60
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,502.79
Total Liabilities	\$1,502.79
Equity	
30000 Opening Balance Equity	30,060.06
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	37,713.30
Net Revenue	-754.89
Total Equity	\$67,018.47
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$68,521.26

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Profit & Loss

January - September, 2025

	TOTAL	
	JAN - SEP, 2025	JAN - SEP, 2025 (YTD)
Revenue		
41000 Designated Income		
41006 Education	48.29	48.29
41011 Memorial Fund	275.00	275.00
41013 Savings	18,600.00	18,600.00
41019 Youth	96.58	96.58
41020 Misc - Short Term	355.00	355.00
41021 Loving Families	486.37	486.37
41023 50th Anniversary Fund	250.00	250.00
Total 41000 Designated Income	20,111.24	20,111.24
49501 Tithes - In Person	47,497.07	47,497.07
49502 Tithes - Online	16,033.11	16,033.11
49503 Thrivent Grant	140.00	140.00
Total Revenue	\$83,781.42	\$83,781.42
GROSS PROFIT	\$83,781.42	\$83,781.42
Expenditures		
60700 Benevolence Giving		
60703 ELCA Mission Support	6,306.47	6,306.47
Total 60700 Benevolence Giving	6,306.47	6,306.47
61800 Conferences and Meetings		
61802 Conference Travel	908.90	908.90
Total 61800 Conferences and Meetings	908.90	908.90
62000 Continuing Education/Collegium	1,560.00	1,560.00
62400 Designated Expenses		
62418 Worship & Music	89.07	89.07
62419 Youth	645.03	645.03
Total 62400 Designated Expenses	734.10	734.10
62500 Dues and Subscriptions	2,928.35	2,928.35
62501 Accounting Software Fees	1,716.53	1,716.53
Total 62500 Dues and Subscriptions	4,644.88	4,644.88
63300 Insurance Expense		
63302 General Liability Insurance	4,751.12	4,751.12
63304 Worker's Compensation	534.00	534.00
Total 63300 Insurance Expense	5,285.12	5,285.12
63800 Misc Expenses	195.63	195.63
64900 Office Expense	922.79	922.79
66000 Payroll Expenses	1,260.50	1,260.50
Taxes	2,454.00	2,454.00
Wages	45,924.54	45,924.54
Total 66000 Payroll Expenses	49,639.04	49,639.04

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Profit & Loss

January - September, 2025

	TOTAL	
	JAN - SEP, 2025	JAN - SEP, 2025 (YTD)
67200 Facility Maintenance & Supplies	3,687.15	3,687.15
68600 Utilities		
68601 Electric	2,403.00	2,403.00
68602 Natural Gas	5,254.30	5,254.30
68603 Cellular Phone	2,690.48	2,690.48
68604 Internet Access & Land Line	336.40	336.40
Total 68600 Utilities	10,684.18	10,684.18
Total Expenditures	\$84,568.26	\$84,568.26
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -786.84	\$ -786.84
Other Revenue		
70200 Interest Income	31.95	31.95
Total Other Revenue	\$31.95	\$31.95
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$31.95	\$31.95
NET REVENUE	\$ -754.89	\$ -754.89

	Actuals 12.31.24	2025 Approved Budget	2025 Actual to 09.30.25	2025 Estimated Budget to 12.31.25	2026 Proposed Budget
INCOME: DESIGNATED OFFERING	36,540.99	30,000.00	20,476.24	27,301.65	28,666.73
GENERAL OFFERING	85,601.64	88,000.00	64,737.37	86,316.49	90,632.31
REBATES		0.00	0.00	0.00	
VISION/GROWTH FUND	0.00	11,200.00	0.00	0.00	
Total:	122,142.63	129,200.00	85,213.61	113,618.15	119,299.04
EXPENSE:					
Mission Support (Benevolence)					
ELCA Mission Support	7,287.69	8,800.00	6,306.47	8,800.00	9,240.00
Local/Other (cong must vote)	2,000.00	2,800.00	2,100.00	2,800.00	2,940.00
Total:	9,287.69	11,600.00	8,406.47	11,600.00	12,180.00
PASTORAL:					
Salary	0.00	15,806.31	11,908.92	16,140.54	18,891.26
Housing Allowance	0.00	18,000.00	13,846.20	18,461.60	19,014.83
SECA	0.00	2,586.14	1,989.40	2,652.53	2,732.11
Pension/Health/Disability	0.00	2,183.55	1,084.42	1,445.89	1,489.27
Health Stipend	0.00	1,500.00	1,153.80	1,538.40	1,584.55
Continuing Ed/Travel/Collegium	0.00	1,455.00	1,560.00	2,080.00	2,142.40
Mileage Reimbursement - IRS RATE	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Total:	0.00	41,531.00	31,542.74	42,318.97	45,854.42
PROGRAM					
Vision/Growth	0.00	11,200.00		0.00	1,500.00
Education	802.50	200.00		0.00	200.00
Evangelism	0.00	1,000.00		0.00	1,000.00
Missions & Social Ministry	0.00	100.00		0.00	100.00
Stewardship	0.00	100.00		0.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Youth Program	400.00	250.00	645.03	860.04	250.00
Worship & Music	0.00	600.00	89.07	118.76	600.00
Total:	1,202.50	13,450.00	734.10	978.80	3,750.00
ADMIN & GENERAL					
Advertising		0.00		0.00	
Facility Maint/Janitorial/Supplies	5,038.36	5,519.00	3,687.15	4,916.20	5,162.01
Insurance - Liab, Prop, Work Comp	5,595.36	9,000.00	5,285.12	7,046.83	7,399.17
Mortgage / Line of Cr + Int / Debt		0.00		0.00	
Office Expenses	871.11	1,000.00	994.89	1,326.52	1,392.85
Conferences / Meetings	994.94	150.00	908.90	1,211.87	1,272.46
Utilities	16,124.59	15,000.00	10,894.18	14,525.57	16,500.00
Professional Services		500.00		0.00	
Miscellaneous	250.00	5,038.36	223.51	268.21	550.00
Dues and Subscriptions	4,590.21	2,000.00	2,928.35	3,904.47	4,099.69
Acctg / Bank / On-Line Fees	464.10	2,000.00		0.00	2,100.00
Total:	33,928.67	40,207.36	24,922.10	33,199.67	38,476.18
Janitor	725.00	1,200.00	2,072.50	2,487.00	2,611.35
Nursery (1 Lead)	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Office Assistant	16,285.00	17,500.00	10,870.00	13,044.00	15,000.00
Pianist/Organist (\$125/Sunday - \$100/Sub)	2,800.00	3,500.00	3,375.00	4,050.00	4,050.00
Payroll Taxes	2,663.17	6,000.00	2,569.70	3,083.64	3,237.82
Treasurer (\$100/mo)	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Total:	22,473.17	28,200.00	18,887.20	22,664.64	24,899.17
Grand Total Budget (Expenditures)	66,892.03	134,988.36	84,492.61	110,762.07	125,159.78



TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

Although I haven't been treasurer very long, I have learned more than I could have imagined. I have previous accounting experience, but church accounting is a field on its own. Every month I sit down to reconcile the books and am excited to get all the transactions sorted and tucked away.

My appreciation for this congregation has grown with every question presented to me. You all have been very kind and patient while I learn the ins and outs of our books. I wouldn't say I'm an expert yet, but I'm on my way.

Just as the rest of the country is experiencing a cost of living increase, so is the church. Expenses are up and expected to rise even further. I believe the best way to combat this change is to work together to grow our congregation numbers.

We have an incredible opportunity in front of us. To be a beacon for the love of God to our community. Everyone is experiencing the ramifications of inflation, so it's especially important to reach out to those we haven't seen in a while and invite them back. To show those people that they are not alone.

The 2026 proposed budget reflects a global 5% increase. I am optimistic that this will cover the increases we are expecting.

I encourage anyone with questions, outside of the meeting, to reach out to me at the treasurer email address and I thank you all for your patience and encouragement.

Mary Mills, Treasurer

Intern Pastor's Report 2025

As I sit down to reflect on this past year, my heart is full of gratitude and joy for what God has done among us. This has been a remarkable and sacred season in the life of our congregation—a year marked by celebration, service, and the unmistakable presence of God's love at work in our midst. Three themes rise to the surface as I think about our journey: celebrating our 50th anniversary, living out God's mission to love our neighbors and worship our Lord, and giving thanks for the wonderful family we share in Christ.

This year, our church reached a milestone few congregations experience—our 50th anniversary. What a joy it has been to look back and remember all that God has done over these five decades! We are standing on holy ground, built upon the prayers, sacrifices, and faithful service of those who came before us. From the first handful of believers who gathered with a dream to the vibrant fellowship we enjoy today, we have seen how God takes small beginnings and multiplies them.

Our anniversary celebration was not only a time to reminisce but also to rejoice. The stories shared, the music lifted, the faces of generations gathered together—all reminded us that this church is more than a building; it is a living testimony to God's grace. As we celebrated, we also looked ahead with hope, trusting that the same Lord who has guided us for fifty years will continue to lead us in the years to come. Truly, “the Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy” (Psalm 126:3).

Our celebration would mean little if it didn't propel us into deeper mission. God has called us not just to gather, but to go—to love our neighbors, serve our community, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen this call lived out in so many beautiful ways this year. From the meals delivered to those in need, to the vibrant VBS, to the quiet, unseen acts of kindness among our members, we have sought to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Worship, too, remains at the center of our life together. Week after week, we have gathered in our sanctuary—sometimes weary, sometimes rejoicing—but always to meet with our loving God and one another. Through prayer, music, Scripture, and fellowship, we have been reminded again and again that worship transforms us. I am grateful for every person who helps make our worship life vibrant—our musicians, readers, greeters, and all who come ready to encounter God with open hearts.

Finally, I want to give thanks for the gift of our church family. In a world that can often feel divided and disconnected, our congregation has been a source of steadfast love and support. We have rejoiced together and we have also walked together through seasons of grief and loss, holding one another up with compassion and faith. What a blessing it is to belong to a church where people truly care for one another.

Each of you plays a vital role in the life of this congregation. Whether you serve on a committee, teach a class, help in the kitchen, or simply show up with a smile and a prayer, you are part of what makes this church a reflection of Christ's love.

With joy and thanksgiving,

Intern Pastor David Ingram

2025 President's Report

Another year has come and gone. It has been an exciting year with lots of changes. I have enjoyed the learning opportunities that I have gained from serving on council. This year, our church and its sponsored programs have experienced significant growth. Harvest Host is one example among several available. Our church has been utilized as a safe place for so many travelers, and I know will only continue to grow as the word gets out! Also, this year we celebrated our 50th. That is an amazing accomplishment for any church. We have only been able to accomplish this by every one of you along with the support of past members also. We look forward to continuing our years of dedicated service to God, our church, and our community. Finally, I want to thank every one of you for the support you have given me, while I served as your President. Even though I do plan to step down as your president I plan to continue to stay involved and help in any way I can.

Thank you and may God bless each one of you.

Becky McElveen

Audit Committee Report

This year was a year of transition as a new Treasurer took the reins and I [Dianna] transitioned back into the auditing role. We are headed in the right direction after a slow start to the year, but the audit committee met and reviewed the first half of the bank statements and will meet again in December/January. Looking forward to next year, we should review procedures again and make sure that we are doing our best to safeguard our church in light of being a small congregation. There are many resources available to guide us on the Alaska Synod website.

Dianna Keil-Lindhag, Jo Small & Ramouna Sandbo

Member at Large Report

Heavenly Father, guide us in the upcoming year to work on growth and inclusion of the needy in our community. Let us be mindful of your everlasting grace. Give us the strength to maintain our faith. With your guidance, lift up our members to rise to your calling and serve in capacities necessary for our congregation. In Christ's name, Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
John Dart, Member at Large

Office Manager's Report

It's been a good year for Lord of Life! I'd like to provide an update on two programs begun last year.

The **Little Free Library** is bursting with books, and many thanks to everyone who has donated. The stand didn't survive the winter very well and had to be repaired. The library should be used more, and we welcome suggestions for that.

Harvest Hosts ran very smoothly. Our first RVers arrived in April and the last ones in September. There were 59 stay requests and 1500+ page views. We've been "favorited" 42 times. Our review rating is 4.84/5 stars. Many reviewers noted how peaceful and beautiful the property is. The only negative mentioned was traffic noise, which we can do nothing about. Donations were in excess of \$1200, more than double what we received last year.

We still have a great deal of **firewood** on site, meant to be donated to families in need through Helping Alaska (fka Love Inc.), now closed. Christ Lutheran Church in Fairbanks recently asked what we intend to do with our wood, as they, too, donated wood through Helping Alaska and have wood on site (they are donating it through a local agency). Our options: sell it, work with an agency, or evaluate families for need ourselves. Council decided that working with another agency was the best option and they are following up with the Salvation Army.

In preparation for the 50th anniversary, it was agreed to buy a much-needed rolling rack to store folding chairs and sell 8 of the old, heavy 8' tables. These two simple things will help reduce clutter.

Finally, although hired for 20 hours per week, my workload hasn't supported that since the pandemic. Most weeks I work 10-15 hours and take Fridays off, except during the Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas seasons. Since I am an hourly employee, this has saved on payroll.

It's a privilege to work here (7 years now)!

Jo Schackman, Office Manager