

RESURRECTION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 9, 2025

9:30 a.m. Annual Meeting – Fellowship Hall

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2025 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – GRETNA, NE

I. OPENING PRAYER

II. AGENDA

RESOLUTION 1 – Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

III. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS

IV. REPORTS

RESOLUTION 2 – Acceptance of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION 3 – Acceptance of Reports

1. Pastor
2. Church Council President
3. Youth Ministry
4. Social Media
5. Treasurer
6. Endowment Board
7. Congregational Statistics
8. Ministry Teams

V. ELECTIONS

RESOLUTION 4 – Acceptance of Ballot and Elections

1. Election of Four Church Council Members (3-3-Year Term and 1-2-Year Term)
2. Election of Two Endowment Board Members (1-1-year term and 1-5-year term)
3. Election of Two NE Synod Assembly Delegates

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 5 – Approve the Call Team

RESOLUTION 6 – Acceptance of 2025 Constitution Updates

RESOLUTION 7 – Acceptance of Replacement Flooring in Fellowship Hall

RESOLUTION 8 – Acceptance of the 2025 Mission & Ministry Budget

VIII. LORD’S PRAYER / ADJOURNMENT

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

1. **RESOLVED:** That the proposed agenda be adopted as the order of business for our 2025 meeting.
2. **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting be accepted.
3. **RESOLVED:** That the reports of the Pastor, Church Council President, Youth Ministry, Social Media, Treasurer, Endowment Board, Congregational Statistics, and Ministry Teams be accepted.
4. **RESOLVED:** That the nominations in the annual report along with any nominations from the floor be the official ballot for the election of four Church Council members (3-3-year term and 1-2-year term), two Endowment Board members (1-1-year term and 1-5-year term), and two NE Synod Assembly Delegates.
5. **RESOLVED:** That the congregation approve the Call Team.
6. **RESOLVED:** That the Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church constitution be updated per Nebraska Synod recommendation and in accordance with Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church current operating procedures.
7. **RESOLVED:** That the congregation approve the repurposing of the remaining rental property proceeds to secure replacement flooring in Fellowship Hall.

Commentary – A recap. When the rental properties were sold in 2022, it was decided and approved by the congregation to allocate a portion of the proceeds, \$104,400, to the Property Team for various projects throughout the church. Five projects we identified as:

- Replace glass panels on the south hallway curtainwall and Fellowship Hall that had lost their seal. **Project Completed – Cost \$24,748.57**
- New LED lighting in the Fellowship Hall. **Project Completed – Cost \$52,829.00**
- Walkoff carpet at the north entry vestibule. **Project Completed – Cost \$0.00**
- Aluminum cladding on the exposed exterior wood trusses and eaves
 - Initial cost estimated at \$13,000
 - New cost estimates \$55,000
- Install resilient flooring in the food serving area of the Fellowship Hall
 - Initial cost estimated for resilient flooring only \$5,000
 - New cost estimate for carpet tiles and resilient flooring \$30,000

As of December 31, 2024, there is \$26,822.43 in unused funds to complete the two remaining projects.

Resilient Flooring – It has been recommended by the Property Team that the entire Fellowship Hall floor be replaced as the carpet is severely stained and worn after 20+ years of use. Carpet tiles would be used as a replacement along with installing resilient flooring in the food serving area. The balance of the needed

funds would come from the Memorial Account Discretionary Funds which are to be used at the Council's discretion.

Aluminum Cladding – It has been determined that the cladding project be put on hold until it can be determined if the project is necessary, what the best possible fix may be. If necessary, funding for this project will be determined at a later date.

8. **RESOLVED:** That the 2025 Mission & Ministry Budget be approved.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL
VOTE FOR THREE (THREE-YEAR TERM)
VOTE FOR ONE (TWO-YEAR TERM)

Patti Blau
Three-Year Term

My name is Patti Blau, and I would like the opportunity to serve RELC as a member of the church council.

My husband Brent and I began attending services at RELC in December 2023, and made the decision to become members in March. Previously we were members of the Lutheran Church of the Master on West Center Rd. since 1984. We have lived in the Springfield area since 2001, but recently moved to Gretna.

Both Brent and I are approaching retirement. He has worked at First Data/Fiserv since 1990. I was employed with TD Ameritrade/Schwab since 1999, until I moved to LPL Financial this April for a new role. Brent loves to golf, and enjoys being outdoors. I also enjoy the outdoors, gardening, cooking and recently have gotten more involved with crafting projects.

As we move away from the corporate world, I'm looking for ways to serve our church and the community. Gretna is evolving and growing exponentially, and with it comes great opportunity for outreach to incoming families, and a way to share the love of God.

I know we appreciated the friendliness, inclusiveness, and the desire to serve our community within this church. We've been grateful for the welcoming attitude of its members. It would be an honor to be able to share that same grace and acceptance with others.

I would appreciate your consideration as a member of our church council.

Jerry Layher
Three-Year Term

I am Jerry Layher and I am a candidate for church council.

Our family joined Resurrection shortly after moving to Gretna in July of 1999. Patti and I, like most young couples who move into the area, had no idea about local churches or who to turn to for help - but only one day after arriving with our moving trucks, members of the Resurrection family were there to help us get unpacked. Needless to say, we didn't visit any other churches.

Over the years, our children all came through confirmation and as we gained more time and opportunity, we all have become very embedded in the music ministry of the church. Since we are empty nesters, we have some time take a turn at assisting with the leadership of the church.

Resurrection has a powerful presence in the Gretna community and is poised for tremendous growth. I am humbled to have the opportunity to help guide that growth, and explore how we can better serve our local community.

Lee Kolbo
Three-Year Term

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve our church as a member of the Church Council. My history as a member of Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church goes back to my childhood – I was baptized and confirmed in this church, as were all my siblings. My family's legacy in this church goes much further through my mother, Earlynn Peterson Kolbo, who was raised in faith at Resurrection Lutheran Church, along with all her siblings, and was a lifelong member. In fact, before my mother's time both my grandmothers were in the Confirmation Class of 1922.

After moving back closer to the area in fall 2023, I decided to renew my membership with the church of my youth. I had been away since joining the U.S. Military in 1977, which became a 21-year period of service in the Army, followed by completion of a second career with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. I recently retired from Federal Service, and have since been active with several volunteer groups; including the Nebraska Chapter of Honor and Remember, and the West Point Society of Nebraska. I had been a regular volunteer with churches I attended previously, doing a variety of things such as grounds maintenance and youth coaching for years while my children were growing up.

I now have more opportunity to spend time with my five children, and five (plus one due in March) grandchildren. I also have time to offer for more voluntary activities. I recognize how blessed my life has been, and am in wonder reflecting how God has now brought me back to this community where I can once again serve.

Linette Jahn
Two-Year Term

Hi, I am running for the Church Council. I am a life-long member of Resurrection Lutheran Church. I have been an active member of the church all my life. Besides my family, this is where I learned about my love for God and his love for me. I taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School for many years. I am an active member of the Health Ministry Team. I have 2 children Tyler and Kelsey, who were brought up in the Church. I am a Nurse at Nebraska Medicine in the Orthopedic Clinic.

I love RELC and I enjoy helping any way I can.

NOMINATIONS FOR ENDOWMENT BOARD

VOTE FOR ONE (ONE-YEAR TERM)
VOTE FOR ONE (FIVE-YEAR TERM)

Kris Wagner
One-Year Term

My family (Becky, Lexi and Landen) have been members of RELC since 2005. I have served in a few leadership roles at church during my time here including one Church Council term (Treasurer for two of those years) and one Endowment board term (Chair for four years). I'm currently a member of the Property & Vitality teams, serve as an usher at early morning service, and always heavily involved with the Resurrection Run breakfast during Gretna Days.

Professionally, I've worked for Wells Fargo in their commercial banking office for 23.5 years, holding a number of different roles during my tenure.

Thanks for your consideration.

Kris

Anne Brodin
Five-Year Term

My husband, Alan, and I joined RELC in 2004. We've been married for 30 years. Our son, Ben, was born in 2005 and was baptized, took first communion and was confirmed at RELC. For his sixth-grade cross project, Ben and his mentor, Bill Schwarten, made the cross that hangs in the Fellowship Hall above the altar. I have served on Outreach for approximately 10 years and currently co-chair Outreach.

I grew up in Omaha and have a degree in Management Information Systems from UNO. However, I have been in non-profit management for 28 years. I'm currently the Executive Director at United Cerebral Palsy of Nebraska, where I've been for over 20 years. I love helping people and serving individuals with disabilities. Alan and I are adjusting to our new role as "empty nesters".

Thank you for your consideration!

Anne Brodin

DELEGATES FOR 2025 NEBRASKA SYNOD ASSEMBLY
May 30-June 1, 2025 – KEARNEY, NE
VOTE FOR TWO

Kevin Karas and Linda Biel Karas

We are long time members of the RELC congregation. Linda was baptized and confirmed here, and they were married in 1989 by RELC Pastor William Koeber. Over the past 12 years, both Linda and Kevin have served on the Church Council and as Treasurers for RELC. Kevin also served on the SLRP and Stewardship teams and last year ended his term on the Endowment Board. Linda and Kevin have also attended the past two Synod Assemblies in connection with Kevin's role as chairperson of the Nebraska Synod Budget and Finance Committee. We would be honored to be selected as the delegates for RELC for the 2025 Synod Assembly.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Call to order at 9:34 a.m. by Becky Wagner. Pastor started us in prayer.

II. AGENDA

RESOLUTION 1 – Adoption of Meeting Agenda

President Becky Wagner opened the floor to make a motion to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting agenda. Motion so moved by Rich Armstrong, seconded by Richard Ayer and resolution adopted.

III. VITALITY INITIATIVE AND CALL PROCESS

Vice President Deb Wallman discussed the Vitality Initiative. Members include Lexi Wagner, Lydia Stednitz, Beth Rippe, Kris Wagner, Jim Murray, Steve Bergman, Pastor James Lindberg, and Deb Wallman.

The team started the process of looking at past history. They are now moving on to interviews with current members. Discussed where we struggle as a congregation and how to outreach to the community. This process takes time, and we need to work on this before we start the call process. One of the changes has been to Sunday School and it's going well. Deb discussed the Bishop coming to see us and how Pastor is helping us through this transition process and it's ultimately in God's hands.

IV. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Vice President Deb Wallman opened the floor to make a motion to approve that the congregation expresses its deep appreciation to the following retiring church council members: Becky Wagner, Evan Koch, and Shelley Schram. Becky Wagner also recognized Kevin Karas on Endowment.

V. REPORTS

RESOLUTION 2 – Acceptance of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

President Becky Wagner opened the floor to make a motion to approve the 2023 annual meeting minutes. Motion so moved by Bill Schwarten, seconded Ryan Bergsten and resolution adopted. Jimm Murray, page 8, 4th paragraph, there is an error as two people's names are blended together. In 2023 meeting minutes, it is Steve Bergsten and should be Steve Bergman, Del Armstrong approved motion to update name and vote was aye to approve by congregation.

RESOLUTION 3 – Acceptance of Reports

1. Pastor
2. Church Council President
3. Children's Ministry
4. Treasurer
5. Endowment Board
6. Congregational Statistics
7. Ministry Teams

President Becky Wagner opened the floor to make a motion to approve the reports of the Pastor, Church Council President, Youth and Congregational Life Director, Treasurer, Audit, The Endowment Board, and Ministry Teams. Motion so moved by Jimm Murray, seconded Linda Karas and resolution adopted.

VI. ELECTIONS

RESOLUTION 4 – Acceptance of Ballot and Elections

1. Election of Three church council Members (3-3 Year Term)
2. Election of One Endowment Board Member
3. Election of Two NE Synod Assembly Delegates

President Becky Wagner opened the floor to make a motion to approve the slate of candidates: Council Members, Marilyn Ellingson, Loren Foged and Jeremy Reece. The Endowment Board is Desiree Stedtitz. Synod Assembly Delegates Jerry and Patti Layher. Motion so moved by DeeAnn Hartman, seconded Brian Roeber and resolution adopted by the congregation.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

RESOLUTION 5 – Acceptance of 2024 Ministry and Mission Budget.

President Becky Wagner opened the floor to make a motion to approve the 2024 Mission and Ministry Budget. Motion so moved by Katherine Iske and seconded by Deb Schwarten.

Treasurer Andy Stednitz discussed the budget and how we split the proceeds from the sale of real estate. Overall increase by 7% in giving. Some members have shifted giving funds from the Building Fund to the General Fund. They replaced a furnace, and Bill Schwarten is now in the office. We lost Hannah Grove last summer. On the current Fund balance, the mortgage is doing well. The Memorial fund is set up well and the balance on the Mission Fund is in good shape. Admin Expenses are higher than 2023 because we are more staffed. We are putting a pause on hiring a youth director in 2024 since we have volunteers doing that work for now. Andy discussed how our congregation has stepped up as needed. No questions. Pastor added that Kim Medford has helped with Middle School, Tammy Williams with High school, and Julie Reece for Outreach with Youth Ministry.

Vote all ayes by congregation.

XI. LORD'S PRAYER/ADJOURNMENT

Margelle Bergsten moved to end the meeting and Dave Schram seconded. We adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Schram, Church Council Secretary

PASTOR'S REPORT

2024 Annual Report

To the Congregation of Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church

"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." - Jeremiah 3:15

Dear Members and Friends of Resurrection,

As I reflect on my work as your Transitional Pastor this past year, I witnessed a profound shift in focus during the fall of 2024. This transformation came about through the establishment of the Ministry Site Profile Writing Team and the Vitality Initiative Team's presentation of the results of their 15-month strategic listening and discernment process. It was at this time that our congregational focus shifted to calling a new pastor.

My pastoral role shifted as well, from creating stability and managing change to encouraging the congregation to embrace the upcoming call process with peace and confidence. It is exciting to see you embrace this new phase of ministry, even if for a short season, and experience the energy that comes from the discernment process. I trust that 2025 will be a year of joy and celebration as you welcome a *shepherd after God's own heart* to Resurrection—one *who will feed you with knowledge and understanding*. I pray these last two years of preparatory work have laid the groundwork for a long and fruitful relationship with your newly called pastor.

Beyond my regular pastoral responsibilities in 2024, these have been important areas of my focus:

1. Recommending and onboarding three new staff members: Leann Eggen as interim Contemporary Worship Service Music Director, Becky Wagner as Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator, and Lydia Stednitz as our High School Youth Ministry Associate
2. Organizing an end-of-year stewardship campaign to raise \$13,000 for a new video system to livestream our contemporary service
3. Working with Sheri Feala to further establish the Kindness Crew as they provide regular Communion visits to our homebound members
4. Serving as coach of the Vitality Initiative Team and the Ministry Site Profile Writing Team
5. Teaching a Lenten adult education class on the parables of Jesus and a fall course on the Old Testament Prophets
6. Helping our congregation to host two major worship events - the Ordination of Erick Hill and the Nebraska Synod Chrism Mass

As you look toward welcoming a called pastor in 2025, I feel the energy and excitement the call process is bringing to Resurrection. I believe that Resurrection is an active, vibrant, and healthy congregation. Under the guidance of your new shepherd, you will continue to live out your mission to Share God's Word, Show God's Love, and Serve God in Gretna and the world.

God has a heart for the people of Resurrection, and so do I. Thank you for your kindness, support and partnership in ministry.

James C. Lindberg, Transitional Pastor
Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gretna, NE

CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

2024 Annual Report Reflection and Vision

As I was reflecting on an Advent devotional, I was reminded of the important role Joseph played in Jesus's life. Joseph served God faithfully and did what was right without seeking recognition. His quiet, steadfast commitment made me think about our congregation and our own acts of service. Like Joseph, we don't serve for the credit—we serve because we love God, and it's one of the ways we show His love to the world.

Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that God is in control and has good things in store for us. And indeed, this year, we've witnessed the fruits of that promise. Over 600 people came through our doors for the *Road to Christmas* Advent event. We had 125 runners in the *Resurrection Run* and served 1050 pancakes. We sent over \$6,000 to the synod to aid the tornado victims in Elkhorn, and we collected cleaning supplies for Dana Village to fill an entire van. The contemporary music team has expanded, and we've added more musicians and singers. We've updated the lighting in the Fellowship Hall and replaced damaged windows in the addition from the monies from the rental property sales. The projectors in the fellowship hall have been replaced. The sound system in the sanctuary has been updated and a new Clavinova piano was replaced through the generous donations by members of the congregation. God has certainly been at work through our congregation, and we are excited about all that's yet to come.

Proverbs 3:5 encourages us to "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." As the Council has navigated some challenging decisions, we've seen God's guidance through the Strategic Long-Range Plan (SLRP), the Vitality Process, the streaming initiative, and the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). We've spent many hours discussing and updating the SLRP, and this plan will be finalized when we call our new pastor, as some areas are either outdated or already complete. The Vitality Process has been incredibly insightful and has laid the groundwork for the MSP. Completing the MSP by early 2025 will allow us to form a call team and begin the final phase of hiring a full-time pastor.

One of the most exciting discussions has been about streaming our services. It's clear that we have a significant opportunity to reach beyond our walls. While the logistics of streaming are being worked out, the council has focused on creating a high-quality service without the need for a full production team. We hope to have this up and running by early 2025.

Looking ahead, 2025 is shaping up to be a pivotal year for Resurrection. With God's guidance, we'll be in a strong position to start the call process and hire a pastor who will lead us into the next chapter of our journey together. Let us continue to trust that God has good things in store for us.

It has been a true honor to serve as your Council President. Thank you for the opportunity to walk alongside you in this ministry.

God bless, and may we continue to trust in the Lord with all our hearts!

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wallman, Council President

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

2024 Annual Report

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND VBS

"Children: A Blessing and a Gift"

As we gather each week, let's remember that the children in our care are not just students—they are gifts from God. Psalm 127:3 reminds us, "*Children are a blessing from the Lord; they are His precious gift to us.*" This truth shapes how we teach, how we love, and how we invest in their lives.

The plan to move Resurrection Kids during the services has been received well by our congregation. The teachers enjoy getting to sign up for the Sunday that works for their calendar. We try to mix up the lessons with a Bible story, fun games, or crafts to create a sense of excitement for the students. We averaged between 10-12 students per Sunday.

This summer, we had the privilege of partnering with **Gretna Methodist Church** for an unforgettable VBS experience. Our theme was *Scuba*, where approximately 75 students and 50 volunteers dove deep into God's Word together. Over four exciting days, we explored the depths of Scripture, discovering the treasures of God's love and truth.

The energy and enthusiasm were contagious as both kids and volunteers learned about the "underwater" depths of faith, while creating lasting memories and building relationships. Whether it was through fun activities, worship, or Bible lessons, we witnessed God at work in powerful ways. It was a joyful reminder of the importance of community and teamwork in sharing the message of Christ.

As we reflected on this special week, we were grateful for all who volunteered, and for the opportunity to partner with another church to bring God's Word to life in such a meaningful way.

This fall, as we rolled out our new format and sent home lessons with each child, we have the incredible opportunity to partner with God in shaping young hearts and minds. Each lesson we share is more than just a teaching moment; it's a chance to nurture and guide the future generation in their faith.

To end the year on a high note, our children's ministry came together for a heartfelt Christmas program, featuring a beautiful play titled "*Glory to God in the Highest.*" Around 25 students took part, bringing the Christmas story to life with passion and joy.

The play was a true celebration of God's greatest gift to us, as the children shared the story of Jesus' birth in a way that touched the hearts of everyone present. From the music to the acting, it was a morning full of wonder, reminding all of us about the true meaning of Christmas and the joy of giving glory to God.

We are so proud of all the children who worked hard to make the performance a success, and grateful to our volunteers who helped guide them along the way. It was the perfect way to close out the year—celebrating the love of Christ and the gift of community.

This was a great way to show how our ministry is growing and evolving, while also reflecting on the joyful moments we've shared. We embrace the joy and responsibility of this calling, knowing that every child we touch is both a reward and a blessing from Him.

Respectfully submitted,
 Deb Wallman, Resurrection Kids' Coordinator

2024 FAITH STEPPING STONE STATISTICS

2024 Confirmation Service

Twelve (12) confirmands celebrated their three-year confirmation journey and were formally recognized on Sunday, May 12, 2024. The 2024 Confirmands were: Madelyn Rose Abbott, Cole Robert Gissler, Bella Leigh Grof, Myla Rae Johnson, Reese Monique Johnson, Brooks Michael Klug, Claire Margaret Palser, Anthony Edwin Rongisch, Landon Michael Shea, Chloe Jean Voss, Lexi Dawn Wagner, Garrett Dutch Wegener.

Confirmation Summer Camp

Two (2) confirmation students participated in confirmation camp at Carol Joy Holling during the week of June 23 -28, 2024.

Faith Milestones

Several youths participated in milestones during October 2024. In addition to being recognized in service, children and their parents/grandparents also participated in a short class to prepare for the milestone.

3 YO Bibles Sunday, October 6	3 rd Grade Bibles Sunday, October 6	1 st Communion (5 th Grade) Sunday, October 27
2	8	3

Confirmation Programming

The Confirmation journey at RELC is a three-year process beginning with the 6th grade mentoring year. This year we have four (4) students working through “Echo the Story” with their mentors. This is a self-study course in which each mentoring pair can work at their own pace and concludes with the traditional Cross Project presentation in April.

The 7th & 8th grade year of Confirmation includes in person Wednesday evening classes with the pastor. We currently have twelve-7th graders and eleven-8th graders participating. The fall semester included 10 Wednesday sessions and one off site service event. Seven Confirmands participated in the fall service event with Least of My Brethren. We surprised the kids with a fun night of “Minute to Win It” game night one Wednesday and concluded the fall semester with a Confirmation Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 4th. The 10-session winter semester resumed on January 22, 2025.

A meal is provided for the students each Wednesday ahead of their class. The meal is either a church-wide midweek meal OR a Confirmation specific meal paid for by the free will offering gathered during the monthly midweek meal.

Parents are asked to periodically volunteer as a class table helper, assisting pastor with crowd control, and/or to bring or purchase a dessert for the meal.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Wagner, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

From September until now I have had the amazing opportunity to lead Youth Underground alongside our interim pastor James Lindberg. This year we have had, on average, 10 students every Wednesday night for youth group. I am extremely grateful for Pastor James' leadership in devotional discussions and for the students' flexibility with my adjustment into this role.

Through these few months, the youth have engaged in several activities and service projects. In October, 6 students were able to enjoy a night of outdoor pickleball at Smash Park(La Vista). In November, 7 students and adults were able to join us at Heartland Hope to help distribute Thanksgiving meals to folks in need to prepare on the holiday. To wrap up the year, we had a Christmas gathering with crafts, cookies, and a White Elephant gift exchange.

Plans for spring 2025 include another service project with Least of Our Brethren and two or more fun events. Thank you for your continued support of RELC's Youth Ministry!

Respectfully submitted,
Lydia Stednitz, High School Ministry

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT 2024 Annual Report

Strengthening Our Social Media Engagement

Joining the RELC team this year has been a blessing, offering me the chance to enhance our social media presence and deepen connections within our growing community. With over 30 years of experience in Corporate Communications, it's refreshing to use my skills to serve God's people and our wonderful community.

Our first major project was the creation of a new website, which we soft-launched in January. This revamped site has become a central hub for information and engagement. Its modern, user-friendly design and regularly updated content have attracted almost 8,600 unique visitors this year, averaging 715 monthly. These updates have fostered deeper connections with our current members and made it easier for newcomers to engage with our church. If you haven't visited it yet, please go to: www.relcgretna.org.

Next, we focused on increasing social media engagement through Facebook and Instagram. By sharing highlights, promoting events, and showcasing various ministry initiatives, we've engaged both current and potential church members. Key community events, such as the Resurrection Run and Breakfast and the 'Road to Christmas' events, extended our reach within our community.

Our Facebook audience (538 followers) is more active than our Instagram following (81), but both platforms show great potential for increased user engagement. I hope our followers have found value in the promotional posts, inspirational messages, and ministry stories. We've seen greater participation in community events, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who supported our efforts this year. Your participation, feedback, and enthusiasm have been crucial to our digital engagement success. As we move into the new year, we look forward to continuing this journey together, deepening our connection as a family, and spreading the love of Christ through every post, share, and like.

I welcome ideas and feedback as we aim to expand our storytelling through social media channels, spreading the message of faith and hope throughout the community.

Thank you for being an essential part of our mission. Let's continue to spread hope and faith in 2025!

God's Blessings to You,
Bridgid Agosta

TREASURER REPORT

2024 Annual Report

2024 Operating Results

We set an optimistic target of \$380,000 for local offering, which is our primary source of income. While this reflected a substantial 7% increase over giving totals of 2023, the congregation accepted the challenge and exceeded the lofty goal!

Offering to the Building Fund remained strong and has reached the point where the fund's balance exceeds the principal on the mortgage. This leaves RELC positioned well to pay off the mortgage and focus on future capital-intensive projects that revitalize the space and project a thriving church.

2024 was challenging and exciting throughout the year as the church prepared to call the next pastor. The congregation enthusiastically rose to every challenge and excelled across every endeavor!

Annual Giving	Building	Offering	Total	Year End Loan Balance
2022	\$99,436.46	\$332,745.38	\$432,181.84	\$334,587.69
2023	\$79,694.50	\$355,108.00	\$434,802.50	\$129,822.59
2024	\$54,012.82	\$408,278.00	\$462,290.82	\$57,949.46

We exceeded our offering goal of \$380,000 by a comfortable margin and realized an overall increase in giving of nearly 15%. The Resurrection Run & Breakfast netted \$3,742 and income from hall rental was \$5,225 which were both an increase compared to 2023.

An admirable increase in giving, successful fund raising and hall rental opportunities, combined with actual expenses landing 9.5% below budget, translates to a solid year. Our overall net income was \$46,000 for the year, after accounting for the \$100,000 funds transfer to open the Pinnacle Bank CD. We were ahead of our budget, invested available funds to achieve a higher interest rate, hired four staff members, and gave to the synod and multiple charities at historical levels.

2024 Fund Balances

With our monthly mortgage payments and continued giving to the Building Fund, our Mortgage/Building Fund position poised for paying off the mortgage balance in 2025. Our fund balance is \$65,574.73 and our loan balance is \$57,949.46. While the loan is due in June 2029, we are on pace for paying off the loan balance in December 2025 because of previous years' prepayments and continuing to pay on time each month.

The Memorial Fund is in good shape with a balance of \$93,614.25. The fund is holding a balance of \$26,822.43 for facility improvements. An additional \$25,919.41 is designated for implementing an internet streaming capability in the Fellowship Hall. During the past year, the Memorial Fund replaced the sanctuary's rapidly failing sound system, replaced multiple windows, installed new window blinds, and upgraded lighting in the Fellowship Hall.

The General Fund remains strong with a balance of \$193,234.53. Due to the robust balance early in the year, we moved \$100,000 into a certificate of deposit with an improved rate of return. Keeping the General Fund strong remains particularly important as we embark on the call process in 2025. Having the capital reserve will help ensure stable presence of our fantastic office staff who continually support our congregation, daily activities, transitional minister, and eventually our new pastor.

The Mission Investment Fund or MIF that was put in place using funds from the 2023 rental property sales have a combined balance of \$89,504.88. This remains an important contingency fund to recover from a sudden disaster where our wind/hail damage insurance deductible rocketed up to more than \$72,000.

Fund Balances	Building	Memorial	General	Mission Investment Fund	Total Fund Balances
2022	\$106,993.48	\$33,338.65	\$230,185.03	\$0.00	\$370,517.16
2023	\$101,142.28	\$122,643.40	\$227,088.11	\$85,040.85	\$535,914.64
2024	\$65,574.73	\$93,614.25	\$193,234.53	\$191,674.80	\$544,098.32

2025 Budget

We are setting an offering goal of \$408,000, which is holding steady at the local offering from 2024. This figure reflects the level of support necessary to maintain RELC’s physical assets and continue our mission. The generosity of our congregation has always been amazing and remains important for meeting our goals.

Budgeted expenses for 2025 are +11% or \$45,000 higher than 2024. The budget includes a full year of staffing which includes Pastor Lindberg, office staff, music directors, and a part-time web/social media specialist. The insurance cost increased by 18%, facility maintenance costs are estimated to increase by 14%, and utilities are projected to increase by 8%. Additionally, the 2025 budget includes raises for our staff.

We have stretched where we can while we keep moving forward and rely on the continued generosity of our congregation. Our 2025 budget, reflecting a net income of -\$38,430, enables us to maintain our donations locally and continue supporting the synod while faithfully carrying out our mission of Sharing God’s Word, Showing God’s Love and Serving God.

Closing

Thank you for the honor of serving as your treasurer this year. We finished the year financially strong and are well-positioned to withstand whatever lies ahead. Because of the generosity of our congregation, RELC has a very bright future, as we ***Share God’s Work, Show God’s Love, Serve God. Amen, Alleluia!***

Justin Pedersen, Treasurer
2024 RELC Congregational Council

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

2024 Annual Report

General Fund

Beginning Balance (01/01/24)	\$277,111.49
Inflows	\$488,803.83
Outflows – Inc. \$100,000 CD Investment	\$522,680.79
Ending Balance (12/31/24)	\$193,234.53

Memorial Fund

Beginning Balance (01/01/24)	\$122,743.40
Inflows	\$46,845.07
Outflows	\$75,974.22
Ending Balance (12/31/24)	\$93,614.25

Building Account

Beginning Balance (01/01/24)	\$101,142.28
Inflows	\$54,012.82
Outflows	\$89,580.37
Ending Balance (12/31/24)	\$65,574.73

Youth Account

Beginning Balance (01/01/24)	\$9,025.89
Inflows	\$2,150.00
Outflows	\$340.95
Ending Balance (12/31/24)	\$10,834.94

Church Loan Information

Principal Balance (12/31/24)	\$57,949.46
Interest Rate	4.75%

Church Investment Information

	<u>Balances as of 12-31-24</u>
Mission Investment Fund–(Matures 1/26)	\$39,930.22
Interest Rate	3.94%
Mission Investment Fund–(Matures 7/25)	\$49,574.66
Interest Rate	4.67%
Pinnacle Bank CD–(Matures 7/25)	\$102,169.93
Interest Rate	4.10%

ENDOWMENT BOARD

2024 Annual Report

Board Members:

Tammy Williams	Secretary	5 th Year
Open		4 th Year
Mark Grimm	Treasurer	3 rd Year
Jon Gross	Chairperson	2 nd Year
Desiree Stednitz		1 st Year
Deb Wallman	Council Liaison	

The Endowment Fund was established in 1990. The Endowment Fund's principal has been funded by charitable contributions from members of the congregation and proceeds from the sale of church rental properties. The purpose of the Fund is to distribute the available investment income each year to enhance the mission of RELC apart from the general operations of the congregation for the following purposes as described in the Endowment By-Laws:

- a) For major capital improvements, debt reduction, or building programs of RELC.
- b) For scholarships or grants to members of RELC for the purpose of attending college, seminary, nursing or medical school; for church related camping or leadership conferences; or such other training which enables members of this congregation to grow in Christian faith and service to God's people.
- c) For outreach into the community including, but not limited to, grants to ELCA colleges, seminaries, social services agencies, institutions and agencies to which this congregation relates and to special programs designed for persons in our parish area who are in need.

Since its inception, the fund distributions have been exclusively used to fund scholarships. In the future, as the fund grows, more investment income will be available to potentially support other approved purposes. Below is a summary of the current Endowment Fund balance and disbursement activity.

2024 Financial Highlights:

Fund Principal (since inception):	\$334,491.48
Fund Balance as of 11/30/24:	\$418,755.21
2024 Disbursements (as of 11/30/24)	\$ 15,376.68

Summary of 2024 Cash Disbursements:

Tuition Scholarships	\$ 14,350.00
Camp Scholarships	\$ 1,026.68

The following table shows historical annual Endowment Fund distributions:

Historical Fund Distributions							
		2018	\$15,519	2009	\$ 6,538	2000	\$12,325
		2017	\$11,495	2008	\$ 7,720	1999	\$13,031
		2016	\$ 6,833	2007	\$10,068	1998	\$37,835
2024	\$15,376	2015	\$16,669	2006	\$ 7,345	1997	\$10,201
2023	\$12,349	2014	\$14,409	2005	\$ 8,307	1996	\$16,872
2022	\$19,112	2013	\$14,109	2004	\$ 8,531	1995	\$13,502
2021	\$17,266	2012	\$13,970	2003	\$ 8,518	1994	\$ 8,080
2020	\$22,810	2011	\$21,725	2002	\$10,046	1993	\$13,897
2019	\$17,540	2010	\$13,404	2001	\$ 9,698	1990-92	\$21,294
Total distributions since inception \$456,394							

Notable items in 2024:

- Conducted the annual Investment Performance Review with the fund management team from Core Bank. The portfolio allocation continues to align with our investment policy target allocation of 75% equities and 25% fixed income.
- One contribution to the Endowment Fund principal balance totaling \$20,000.00 was received in 2024.
- In October, Jeremy Reineke resigned from his position on the board. This has created an opening for a one-year term.

Please keep in mind that a gift to the Endowment Fund makes a long-lasting contribution to the church and its programs. The Board welcomes the input of the congregation regarding gifts and disbursements. Please contact a Board member with any suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Gross, Chairperson

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

2024 Annual Report

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
BAPTIZED	665	676	691	531	550
CHILDREN	193	183	173	139	154
CONFIRMED	452	459	478	378	396
COMMUNING	287	351	374	336	374
COMMUNED & CONTRIBUTED MEMBERS	174	201	218	195	223

CURRENT YEAR – 2024

MEMBERS RECEIVED

Baptized	6
Transferred In/Profession of Faith	6

MEMBERS REMOVED

Died	9
Transferred Out/Moved/Request	6
Statistical Adjustment-Removed Inactive	67

CONFIRMED THIS YEAR 12

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

	<u>2020</u> Pre- COVID	<u>2020</u> COVID	<u>2021</u> COVID	<u>2021</u> Post- COVID	<u>2022</u> Post- COVID	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
SATURDAY 5:30pm	37	16	27	25	29	n/a	n/a
TRADITIONAL 8:30am	73	n/a	n/a	53	61	61	55
CONTEMPORARY 10:00am	103	34	71	80	78	79	90
AVERAGE WORSHIP TOTALS	206	54	103	146	157	135	145
ONLINE	n/a	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	34	n/a	n/a

2020 Note: Regular services were held until March 8th. Restricted COVID services were initiated June 27th and held through the end of the year. Virtual services were recorded/posted during COVID, but no attendance was recorded. The only communion recorded after March 8th was for Christmas Eve services.

2021 Note: Restricted COVID services were held until May 30th. Regular services were resumed June 6th and held through the end of the year. Virtual services were recorded/posted during COVID. June 6th through the end of the year Online attendance was recorded. (Attendance = YouTube views 8 days X 2, per Synod guidelines).

2022 Note: Saturday Services were held January through May.

BENEVOLENCE & MISSION TEAM

2024 Annual Report

Team Members:

Del Armstrong (Chairperson)

Jimm Murray

Jim Eichner

Kyle Slusher (Secretary)

Sue Lobsiger

Rich Armstrong

Council Liaison: Justin Pedersen

Nebraska Synod/ELCA Mission Share:

8% of our offering each month goes directly to the Nebraska Synod/ELCA

Total for 2024 = \$32,662.27

Other Giving:

2% of our offering is distributed to local charitable programs quarterly

Total for 2024 = \$16,247.19

- We have committed to give \$850 per year for the next 3 years (2022-2024) to Gretna Neighbors to be used towards their rental obligation. Our \$212.50 quarterly commitment will come off the top each quarter.

1st Quarter - \$2,261.57

- \$ 212.50 Gretna Neighbors 2022-2024 Rental Commitment (\$850/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$ 500.00 HETRA
- \$ 774.54 Heartland Hope
- \$ 774.53 NE Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

2nd Quarter - \$8,645.64

- \$ 212.50 Gretna Neighbors 2022-2024 Rental Commitment (\$850/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$6,631.00 NE Tornado Disaster Relief – **Special Offering**
- \$ 600.00 Heartland Hope
- \$ 600.00 RELC Good Samaritan Fund
- \$ 602.14 Lutheran Family Service – Dana Village

3rd Quarter - \$1,332.27

- \$ 212.50 Gretna Neighbors 2022-2024 Rental Commitment (\$850/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$ 648.50 Gretna Neighbors Thanksgiving Turkey Breasts
- \$ 471.17 HEAL Omaha

4th Quarter - \$4,007.71 (\$1,340.62 SPECIAL OFFERING Rec'd from Road to Christmas)

- \$ 212.50 Gretna Neighbors 2022-2024 Rental Commitment (\$850/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$1,500.00 Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry
- \$2,295.21 Project Hope

Lenten Offering - \$6,261.10

Lenten Offerings		
Lift Up Sarpy County	Offering Throughout Lent	\$3,130.55
Project Hope	Offering Throughout Lent	\$3,130.55

Total Team Giving for 2024 (M&B + Lent) = \$22,508.29

Grand Total RELC Distribution for 2024 (ELCA + M&B + Lent) = \$55,170.56

Respectfully submitted,
Benevolence & Mission Team

HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM

2024 Annual Report

Blessings to you from your Health Ministry Team!

Your Health Ministry Team is comprised of trained Faith Community Nurses and several dedicated health professionals and lay health leaders who have an interest in health promotion and wellness.

Diabetes Risk Awareness – The Health Ministry Team received a grant from UNMC's Nebraska's Health Matters program to provide education on prediabetes and provided all adults at church an opportunity to complete a brief prediabetes risk test. Any adult completing the risk test received a \$10 gift card to Fareway. The opportunity to participate was offered:

- October 27th – Greet & Treat - Health Ministry offered healthy treats for kids and an opportunity for adults to learn about diabetes and complete the risk assessment
- November 16th – Education packets were provided for individuals picking up food at the Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry
- November 18th & 20th – Participants at Tai Chi class were provided information about diabetes risk and invited to complete the assessment
- December 1st – Attendees at Sunday service were provided information about diabetes risk and invited to complete the risk assessment.

This year, 124 Prediabetes Risk Assessments were completed. Forty six percent of scores indicated an increased risk for prediabetes. Those at increased risk for prediabetes were referred to their healthcare provider. In addition, 21 families at Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry received packets of information about diabetes, the risk assessment, information about area support resources and healthcare providers, and information about how they can reduce their diabetes risk.

Medical Supply Closet – The Medical Equipment Closet has moved to the room on the northwest end of the education wing. If you need like-new medical equipment, you can borrow any item from the closet at no charge for as long as you need it. You are now able to check out equipment on your own. Step-by-step instructions are provided. You can also donate your gently used equipment for others to use. In 2024, over \$2,200 of medical equipment were loaned at no cost to members of our congregation and community! Contact Linda Anderson if you have any questions or are not seeing equipment that you need.

AED & First Aid Kits – The Health Ministry Team maintains the AED and First Aid Kits at Resurrection. The team also coordinates regular CPR/AED training for ministry leaders and staff at Resurrection. A big Thank You to LaRene Walker for providing this instruction for us!

Peace & Love Stitchers (PALS) – The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Resurrection has been renamed the Peace & Love Stitchers, reflecting the varied gifts that are stitched with love.

Our ministry has grown to include a group of individuals in the community who love to stitch and share their creations with those in need. Of note:

- Over 50 prayer shawls and lap robes have been distributed throughout the year to members and loved ones in our congregation, individuals in area hospitals, and veterans and others who are receiving hospice care.
- Approximately 100 sets of wash cloths and hot pads were made and donated to Least of My Brethren and other organizations supporting the underserved.
- A dozen baptismal blankets were given to the pastoral care team at Children's Hospital, to be shared with infants and children experiencing serious illness.

Feel free to stop by the office anytime to pick up a prayer shawl, prayer square, or lap robe for someone who is going through a difficult time. The group is currently meeting monthly to stitch together. If you would like more information, contact Karen Hitz.

Physical Activity Classes

- **Tai Chi Class** – We continue to offer two Tai Chi sessions a year on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00-9:45 a.m. The average daily attendance at our tai chi class is thirteen. We concluded our Fall session on Wednesday, November 27th, and plan on starting the Spring session on Monday, February 3rd. The class is free for participants. Please join us...and bring a friend!
- **Falls Prevention Awareness** – National Falls Prevention Awareness Week is recognized each year on the first day of fall. This year, the Health Ministry Team partnered with the Nebraska Older Adult Falls Coalition to raise awareness about this important health issue. On Wednesday, September 25th, our tai chi class attendees provided a tai chi demo in Peterson Park, to educate the public that tai chi is a best practice to reduce fall risk in older adults. There were 13 in attendance at the event, including several members of the community who came to learn more. Everyone enjoyed the event, and we hope to plan another Tai Chi in the Park opportunity in the coming year.
- **Low-Impact Exercise** – We also provided free Low-Impact Exercise class on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Attendees exercise together at their own pace. Friday Exercise will be on hiatus beginning in January 2025. The Health Ministry Team will assess interest in other physical activity offerings in the coming months.

Blood Pressure Screenings – The Health Ministry Team is currently providing monthly blood pressure screenings between services on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Come and see us in the office between services, and get a gold star for taking charge of your health!

Road to Christmas Event – The Health Ministry Team provided an Advent craft activity for kids attending the Road to Christmas event on 12/8.

As always, if you have any health-related questions or concerns, please give us a call. We are here to serve you! Also, if you have an interest in joining our Health Ministry Team, please contact Nicki Ayer or call the office.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicki Ayer

LOCAL AND WORLD SERVICE

2024 Annual Report

Areas of Focus:

Gretna & Sarpy County:

- *Provide gift cards for food or gas for people in times of need. The policy was revised this year to increase amount of gift cards due to increase costs in addition to increased need.
- *Continue to raise funds for the Good Samaritan Fund and student sponsorships through TAGG.
- *Helped decorate at HETRA for Blue Jeans and Dreams event.

Greater Omaha area:

- *Coordinated Lenten Gift bags –filled with household items for those in need – Provided to Project Hope.
- *Coordinated a collection of household cleaning supplies for Dana Village.
- *Coordinated collecting travel-size hygiene items for our hospitalized military veterans.
- *Collected food to meet the basic nutritional requirements of people who reach out to Project Hope. Also continue to accept clothing and personal hygiene items for Project Hope.
- *Provided Christmas gifts to 60 residents in the Douglas County Health Center.

World:

- *Sponsoring 2 primary students in the Nkuu Kati Parish in Tanzania.

The Local and World Service Team would like to thank everyone who continues to generously support our team's ministry to reach out and serve others in the name of Christ.

Serving on the Local and World Service Team for 2024 were: Nicole Slusher – Chair, Shelley Schram, Kari Bergsten, Sue Lobsiger, and Kathy Keasling.

NURSERY MINISTRY

2024 Annual Report

We are currently looking for a Nursery Coordinator for our Sunday morning worship services and various events throughout the year. Currently, our nursery is open for families to use with adult supervision. Please contact the church office if you are interested in this important ministry opportunity.

PRAYER TEAM

2024 Annual Report

1 John 5:14

"And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

Prayer is a cornerstone of our faith, and we are grateful to see it woven deeply into the fabric of our community. In 2024, we received over 60 prayer requests, and 55 members from our prayer chain prayed for these needs. Each request, big or small, is an opportunity for us to trust in God's will and His faithful listening.

This year, we also found creative ways to support and encourage one another in prayer. We distributed toy soldiers to remind us to pray for our military during Memorial Day weekend, handed out pencils with blessings for students returning to school, and shared cookies with teachers—because if you give a teacher a cookie, they'll probably want coffee! We passed out glow sticks at our Treat & Greet, symbolizing our collective light in the world. And we took time to remember and honor the members we lost during Pentecost.

As we look toward 2025, we are excited to continue growing our team and expanding our role in the life of the church. We pray that you keep pressing forward in your prayer journey, relying on the strength and guidance of the One who hears us always.

Respectfully submitted,
Prayer Team

KINDNESS CREW
2024 Annual Report

In the past, there have been many people and groups who have connected with congregation members who were unable to attend church, be it, those living in senior living homes or in their own homes. Covid presented a challenge to continue meeting the needs of our shut ins.

In April of this year, a small group of church members met to start back up a shut-in visitation team. A team name was chosen as the Kindness Crew. At this meeting, and subsequent ones, it was determined that the purpose of the team was to provide Communion, connection, and compassion.

The word was sent out to the congregation asking for anyone who would be interested in joining our team and becoming a Crew member. There are currently 15 Crew members.

We gathered information of those congregants deemed “shut-ins”, who would be interested in receiving visits from a Crew member. We currently have just under 20 people who receive visits, be it to their home or to a senior living facility.

Kindness Crew members try to visit their chosen shut-in in their home monthly to bring them encouragement and offer Holy Communion. The crew members may check in with them more often with a phone call or additional visits.

If you are interested in being part of the Kindness Crew, or know of a “shut-in” member who would like a visit, please contact Sheri Feala (402-658-9869) or the church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri Feala

OUTREACH

2024 Annual Report

Team Members:

Tom Ostdiek (Council Liaison), Marilyn Ellingson, (Council Liaison), Bill Schwarten (Co-Chair), Anne Brodin (Co-Chair), Ryan Bergsten, Wendy Hirschfeld, Eric Pinkall (Recording Secretary).

The Outreach team's purpose is to facilitate community outreach and events that introduce Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church and invite members of the community through the RELC website, social media, and marketing efforts. We also sponsor events that support member engagement.

The following activities were conducted by the Outreach team in 2024:

- The Resurrection Run and Community Breakfast was held on July 27th. This event is a great opportunity to showcase our church to the community. Again, the event was advertised as two separate events to bring in more runners and highlight the community breakfast. We served breakfast to a record number 370 people and raised nearly \$3,900 from the run and breakfast combined.
- The Road to Christmas was held on December 8th. The event included 8 craft stations, numerous nativities, trains and village displays, facepainting, live music, interactive wood instruments display, free coffee and hot chocolate, quilt raffle, and a bake sale. The event brought in over 600 people to our church and the bake sale raised \$1,070. The Outreach Team took the lead on this event but was assisted by numerous volunteers within the church for planning and implementation. Thank you to everyone who assisted with Road to Christmas.
- The Outreach Team creates the schedule and manages the greeters for service each week.
- The Outreach Team manages the Resurrection Café and assures the donuts and coffee are ready to go each week. This includes keeping the café stocked with supplies and staffed each week.

The Outreach Team continues to explore ways to ensure everyone feels welcome and engaged, along with looking for ways to include the community. Outreach is always looking for new members to join us! Please consider this fabulous team!

Respectfully submitted,
The Outreach Team

PROPERTY

2024 Annual Report

Team Members:

Bill Schwarten (Chairperson)
Brian Roeber (Council Liaison)
Miles McMahill
Jeremy Reineke

Steve Bergman
Dan Grove
Evan Peters
Dave Schram

Jim Haver
Dan Hokens
Bryan Ralston
Kris Wagner

As major projects within the church have been completed, the Property Team has been able to concentrate on more maintenance type projects in 2024 evidenced by the below list of completed projects. We want to extend our sincere thanks to those individuals who so willingly, throughout the year, gave of their time, talents and in several cases their financial resources to assist in the completion of these projects. The Property Team understands that the completion of some of these projects could not be done without the help of congregational volunteers.

As we move forward into 2025, only a couple “major” projects remain as you can see below. Although, as our properties increase in age, small projects can sometimes lead into major projects. We will continue to monitor and plan for such projects as we move forward. Since we are a team that thrives on communication, if you see a problem and/or a potential issue, contact one of us and we will do what it takes to get the problem or issue resolved. Thank You!

COMPLETED PROJECTS IN THE LAST YEAR

- Supervised carpet and hard floor cleaning in fellowship hall, kitchen, and surrounding areas
- Constant monitoring of all HVAC units (14 units) for proper functioning and filter changes
- **Spring/Fall maintenance on sprinkler system
- **Landscape maintenance including Spring & Fall Cleanup
- **Weekly church property mowing
- **Maintain mowing equipment
- **Assist in Christmas decorating and lighting of the church
- ***Continue the transition lighting from incandescent & fluorescent to LED as necessary or as current bulb stock is depleted
- ***Offices and office work area painting
- ***Completed the Fellowship Hall lighting

FUTURE PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION

- *******Installation of French doors between the Courtyard and Café
- ******Fellowship Hall, hallways, and classroom painting
- *******Install hard surface flooring in the Fellowship Hall where food is served
- *******Refinish/re-stain the outdoor exposed wood trusses or capping in aluminum
- *******Replace the Fellowship Hall carpet with carpet tiles
- *******Replace classroom carpets with carpet tiles

**** - Includes congregational volunteers and the Property Team**

***** Includes outside contractors**

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Schwarten

STEWARDSHIP
2024 Annual Report

The Stewardship Team is currently inactive. The future of this team will be determined by the Church Council and Resurrection's new pastor at a later date.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

2024 Annual Report

The year began with a transition in leadership with the resignation of Matt Hill. I accepted the role as Interim Contemporary Service Music Director in late February. This transition moved responsibilities of the previous role into new/different positions with Rev. Lindberg leading the worship outlines for 8:30 a.m. worship and Jerry Layher leading vocal and bell choirs. As Interim Contemporary Service Music Director my focus was on providing stability and continuity with the 10:00 a.m. service while strengthening the program. This included leading the replacement of the computer in the Fellowship Hall, crucial technology for the visuals used during worship, upgrading the video control system, updating to a new version of ProPresenter and the recreation of the song and media library within ProPresenter. I have additionally focused on building the bench strength of the worship team and broadening the worship song selection to introduce new songs to the congregation and keep worship fresh, engaging, and provide additional flexibility to match the scriptural themes. During 2024, we engaged, or reengaged, six new worship team members providing an important depth to our worship team. We've also added nine new songs or song arrangements to our regular worship library with intentions to continue introducing new songs into worship during 2025. When needed, I have played at the traditional services and provided accompaniment for the Easter and Christmas choirs.

I am grateful for the partnership and leadership of the Worship and Music Committee this year who have welcomed me into this role, joined me in worshipping with you weekly, and supported the growth of this ministry.

The next year will continue to bring growth and change in the contemporary worship service as the congregation looks towards expanding the welcome through the introduction of streaming technologies. This will bring new technology and new volunteers into our worship experience and provide an important avenue to expand participation in worship to online visitors, traveling, and homebound members of the Resurrection community. The transition to Director of Worship and Music will involve broader engagement in the coming year providing leadership to the 8:30 a.m. service and further responsibilities for volunteer and worship coordination.

It has been a blessing to our family to be a part of Resurrection and pray that our worship together helps each of us experience God's abundant grace, grow closer together as a community, and inspire us to love and serve our neighbors.

Blessings,
Leann Eggen, Director of Worship and Music

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

2024 Annual Report

Members: DeeAnn Hartman (Chair), Beth Rippe (Co-Secretary), Patti Layher (Co-Secretary & Altar Guild Lead), Leann Eggen (Music Coordinator), Deb Wallman & Jeremy Reece (Council Liaisons), Jerry Layher (Director of Choirs), Matt Layher, Pr. James Lindberg

The Worship and Music Committee continues to support the mission of Resurrection Lutheran Church. Our committee oversees several subcommittees coordinating much of the “behind the scenes” work for each worship service. We would like to thank all of our subcommittee leaders and our many volunteers for their willingness to serve in the mission of Resurrection Lutheran Church.

We are thankful for the musical talents of our Traditional Service accompanists, Cayce Wilkinson and Sheri Feala. In addition to our Contemporary Service Praise Band, we have a wonderful group of youth volunteers on our Screen Team who operate the screens each Sunday.

In March, our Music Director/Coordinator, Matt Hill, resigned from RELC but left us in good hands with his recommendation of Leann Eggen as Interim Music Coordinator. Leann happily accepted the challenge to accompany our Easter and Christmas Choirs. We are grateful for her ability and willingness to serve wherever needed. Leann has since accepted the Music Coordinator position, and we are excited to have her leading us each Sunday.

With the departure of Matt Hill, Jerry Layher graciously stepped in to direct our Easter Choir and Bell Choir for Easter services. Our music ensembles are so important to our worship, and we want to thank all of our ensemble members for sharing their time and talents.

Jerry has since accepted the position of Choir Director serving both the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir and we are grateful for his love of teaching! Under Jerry’s direction, the Bell Choir continues to share music on a monthly basis during the programming year and the Chancel Choir bi-annually.

On December 8th, the Bell Choir, Christmas Choir and Praise Band shared music at our musical Christmas Celebration in coordination with the Sunday School Christmas Program at both services. It was a collaboration of all ages, and the feedback was very positive.

The W&M committee continues to maintain and update the AV systems in the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary. We look to continue updating hardware and equipment to assist in the transition into livestreaming of our worship services. Thank you to Jeremy Reece and Jerry Layher for their work and research on this project. Thank you to the congregation for raising the funds needed for the system in only a few weeks of giving. We are being patient and respectful when spending these funds as we continue to move forward with the project.

As usual, if you have an interest in becoming a member of the W&M team, any of the music ensembles, or subcommittees, feel free to reach out to a team member and we will find a place for your talents.

Serving in God's Spirit,
Worship & Music Committee

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

2024 Annual Report

- Provided tech interface for the church website and ongoing MS365 subscriptions
- Manage email Distribution/Contact lists
- Numerous support calls were fielded
- Implemented Mail Chimp as new group email platform
- New Computer for sound booth

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Burson, Technology Team

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

2024 Annual Report

Women's Fellowship meets each month on the third Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and treats followed by a Bible Study. This year we are studying lessons from Gather Magazine. In July, we had brunch at First Watch restaurant in Papillion. In December, we had a salad luncheon at the church.

Five members of our fellowship group passed away this year: Karen Jahn, Jan Sharples, Sharon Barkley, Lorraine Norman, and JoAnn Glasshoff. We remember these ladies for their dedication to our church and Women's Fellowship.

Lutheran World Relief quilting group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1:00 p.m. In November, we sent 45 quilts to LWR. We were able to use Thrivent dollars to purchase batting for our quilts. Thank you to all who donated sheets and cotton fabric for use in our quilts. We welcome anyone to come and help us tie or sew tops for us at home.

The first Sunday in May we presented quilts to eleven high school seniors. We enjoyed working with each graduate and family and wish them well in their next endeavors.

Thank you to the funeral committee and all who sign up to work in the kitchen or bring desserts. The families appreciate your time and support.

Respectively submitted,
Judy Feit

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TREASURER REPORT

2024 Annual Report

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2024 **\$ 4,350.86**

Income:

Offering	\$ 374.00
Funeral Serving	\$ 700.00
Donations for Senior Quilts	\$ 155.00
Memorial from Birthday Bank	\$ 50.00

Total Income **\$ 1,279.00**

Expenses:

Senior Quilt Supplies	\$ 85.00
Misc. Expense (See itemization below)	\$ 906.73
Donations: New Audio System Drive	\$ 2200.00

Total Expenses **\$ 3,191.73**

Ending Balance - December 31, 2024 **\$ 2,438.13**

Miscellaneous Expenses:

Memorial – 3 Funerals	\$ 150.00
Kitchen Supplies – 2 Electric Roasters	\$ 246.79
Kitchen Paperware, Coffee, Lemonade	\$ 221.43
Fillings for College Baskets	\$ 140.00
Supplies for Blessing Bags	\$ 100.00
White Tablecloths for Funeral Tables	\$ 48.51
	\$ 906.73

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Westenberg

MISSION AND MINISTRY BUDGET 2025

	2024	2024	2025
	Budget	Actual Cost	Budget
Income			
COMMITTEE INCOME	\$ 500	\$ 425	\$ 1,000
HALL RENTAL	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,225	\$ 5,000
INTEREST	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,149	\$ 1,200
TOTAL LOCAL OFFERING	\$ 380,000	\$ 408,278	\$ 408,000
TOTAL FUNDRAISING	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,286	\$ 5,000
TOTAL MISSION - DESIGNATED	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,002	\$ 5,000
TOTAL SPECIAL EVENTS INCOME	\$ 700	\$ 1,288	\$ 700
Total Income	\$ 398,500	\$ 432,652	\$ 425,900
Expense			
ADMINISTRATIVE			
INSURANCE	\$ 19,000	\$ 20,280	\$ 22,500
MISC EXPENSE			
Pinnacle Bank CD	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 250
Council Admin Fund	\$ 500	\$ 142	\$ 250
Background Checks	\$ 100	\$ 8	\$ 100
Devotion Guides	\$ 200	\$ 333	\$ 200
Misc	\$ 200	\$ 280	\$ 200
Pulpit Supply	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,549	\$ 1,500
Synod Delegates	\$ 1,900	\$ 997	\$ 1,500
Vanco Services	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,813	\$ 1,808
Other Misc. Expense	\$ 0	\$ 75	\$ 0
Total MISC EXPENSE	\$ 5,705	\$ 8,857	\$ 6,100
OFFICE EXPENSE			
Recruiting Expense	\$ -	\$ 1,562	\$ -
Office Temporary Labor	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -
Office Supplies	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,466	\$ 1,750
Postage	\$ 1,000	\$ 358	\$ 500
SERVICES-Copier & Accounting Srvc.	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,423	\$ 4,200
Total OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 8,100	\$ 7,808	\$ 6,450
SALARY & BENEFITS	\$ 266,700	\$ 233,543	\$ 299,728
UTILITIES			
Electric	\$ 11,900	\$ 12,084	\$ 15,000
Natural Gas	\$ 10,800	\$ 5,690	\$ 10,000
Refuse	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,070	\$ 1,200
Telephone	\$ 4,100	\$ 6,227	\$ 4,100

	2024	2024	2025
	Budget	Actual Cost	Budget
Water	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,814	\$ 2,000
Total UTILITIES	\$ 30,000	\$ 26,885	\$ 32,300
Total ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 329,900	\$ 393,712	\$ 366,858
BENEVOLENCE			
Nebraska Synod 8% Mission Share	\$ 30,400	\$ 33,062	\$ 32,640
Local 2% Mission Share	\$ 12,600	\$ 10,556	\$ 8,160
Lenten Offering	\$ 0	\$ 6,262	\$ 5,000
Total BENEVOLENCE	\$ 43,000	\$ 49,880	\$ 45,800
LOCAL AND WORLD SERVICE			
Good Samaritan Assistance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,600
Total LOCAL AND WORLD SERVICE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,600
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
Confirmation	\$ 600	\$ 564	\$ 600
Faith Stepping Stones	\$ 125	\$ 220	\$ 250
Elementary Education	\$ 4,100	\$ 692	\$ 3,100
General Education	\$ 450	\$ 300	\$ 400
Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 5,275	\$ 1,776	\$ 4,350
HEALTH MINISTRY			
CPR/AED Training	\$ 200	\$ 120	\$ 200
AED Supplies	\$ 140	\$ -	\$ 100
Green Team Supplies	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -
Liability Insurance	\$ 280	\$ 139	\$ 280
Misc. Supplies	\$ 100	\$ 2,050	\$ 100
Total HEALTH MINISTRY	\$ 770	\$ 2,309	\$ 680
OUTREACH			
Resurrection Run & Breakfast	\$ 0	\$ 1,926	\$ 2,000
Marketing/Outreach	\$ 500	\$ 140	\$ 300
New Member Reception	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Resurrection Cafe	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,819	\$ 2,200
Road to Christmas	\$ -	\$ 191	\$ -
Total OUTREACH	\$ 2,700	\$ 4,076	\$ 4,700
PROPERTY			
Fire System Maintenance	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,993	\$ 2,000
Interior Maintenance	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,687	\$ 5,000
Exterior Maintenance	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,609	\$ 6,500
Janitorial	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,487	\$ 13,700
Test Lawn Sprinkler Backflow	\$ 300	\$ 254	\$ 300
Total PROPERTY	\$ 24,100	\$ 23,030	\$ 27,500

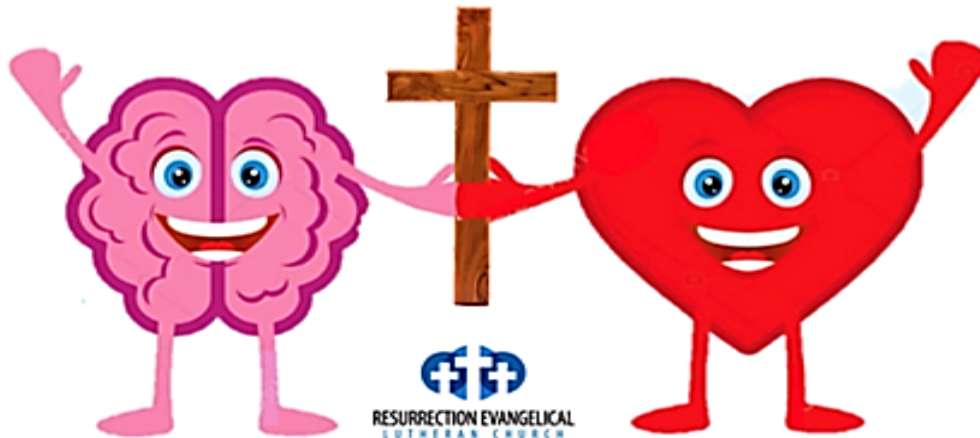
	2024	2024	2025
	Budget	Actual Cost	Budget
TECHNOLOGY			
Software	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,071	\$ 2,100
Computer Equipment	\$ 600	\$ 350	\$ 600
Web Hosting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120
Internet Service	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,663	\$ 2,125
Total TECHNOLOGY	\$ 3,900	\$ 5,083	\$ 5,064
WORSHIP AND MUSIC			
Altar Flowers	\$ -	\$ -216	\$ 500
Music for Choirs	\$ 600	\$ 114	\$ 500
Multi-Media	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -
Altar Guild	\$ 500	\$ 159	\$ 500
Choir Accompanist	\$ 800	\$ 100	\$ 500
Holiday Flowers	\$ 300	\$ 501	\$ 300
Service Accompanist	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,710	\$ 3,600
License	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,139	\$ 1,500
Maintenance/Repairs	\$ 500	\$ 556	\$ 700
Other-Pastor Service Fund	\$ 500	\$ 657	\$ 500
Total WORSHIP AND MUSIC	\$ 9,200	\$ 6,720	\$ 8,600
Total Expense	\$ 418,845	\$ 486,338	\$ 464,330
Net Income	\$ (20,345)	\$ (53,686)	\$ (38,430)

VITALITY TEAM UPDATE REPORT

2024 Annual Report

Encourage positive mental health

Support physical needs



... for those who are considered "invisible" in our Gretna community.

The Vitality Team was hard at work throughout 2024 with the ultimate goal of identifying our congregation's purpose, which could be infused into the ministry profile for the call process. In order to reach our goal, we spent time analyzing our history and strengths which included interviewing various members and also honed in on the neighborhood/community we primarily serve.

We also worked through our needs assessment which consisted of interviewing community leaders across all facets (government, education, healthcare, therapists/counselors, charitable organizations, law enforcement, etc.). Through these efforts, there was a lot of information we were able to gather, which essentially were grouped into two primary themes: Mental & Physical Needs.

As a result, we were able to identify our primary purpose at RELC which is the caring for the mental and physical needs of our congregation and the surrounding community.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Wagner, Vitality Team Member