

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Mount Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church

2830 18th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

Founded on Faith



1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creation Sings, 1048

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Mount Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rochester, Minnesota

65th Annual Congregation Meeting Agenda

Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 11:30 AM

- A. Call to Order – Mark Pasch
- B. Opening Liturgy – Pastor Lisa
- C. Approval of Minutes from the 2025 64th Annual Congregation Meeting
- D. Staff/Team Reports
- E. Financial Reports – Mark Masbruch
 - 1. 2025 Treasurer’s Report
 - 2. 2025 General & Building Fund Report
- F. New Business 2025
 - 1. Constitution and Bylaw Changes
 - a. Mount Olive Endowment Fund – chapter 6
 - b. C1.02, C5.04, C7.03, C9.02-a, b, C9.03-#8, C9.06, C9.15, C9.22, C9.23-c., C15.01-a,b,c,d, C16.02-b., C20.04, C20.05.
 - 2. Report of Nominating Committee – Deb Peterson
 - a. Election of Council Leadership and Voting Members – Mark Pasch
 - 3. Proposed 2026 Budget – Terry Krieger
 - 4. Adoption of 2026 Mount Olive Budget – Mark Pasch
 - 5. Expression of Gratitude for Service to Mount Olive
 - a. Michelle Thomsen – Service and Social Outreach Ministry
 - b. Regina Seabrook – Finance and Stewardship
 - c. Deb Peterson – Nominating Committee
- G. Olive Branch Update– Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
- H. Report of Directing Pastor – Pastor Lisa Janke
- I. Lord’s Prayer and Benediction
- J. Adjournment

Mount Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church
64th Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 26, 2025

A. Call to Order – Keith Hanson

64th annual meeting was called to order. A quorum of 96 members were present.
The meeting was called to order at 12:06.

B. Opening Liturgy – Pastor Glenn Monson

After the opening prayer, **Now Thank We All Our God** was sung. Volunteers, led by Jill Lundberg, who prepared and served the meal, were applauded. Thank you!

C. Approval of Minutes from the 63rd Annual Congregational Meeting of 2024.

- ❖ **Motion** to approve the 2024 annual meeting minutes was made by Mark Schoer and seconded by Stephanie Pasch. The motion was approved.

D. Staff/Team Reports

The staff team reports were included in the online 2024 Annual Meeting report available on the Mount Olive website and printed in the booklet report provided at the meeting. There were no questions or comments regarding the submitted reports.

- ❖ **Motion** to approve the reports as printed was made by Rob Nelson and seconded by Amy Determan. The motion was approved.

E. Financial Reports

2024 Treasurer's Report – Bob Nelson

Bob discussed the report and graphs as printed. The fund balances and cash reserves have remained stable. There was a need this past year to take funds from the capital reserve to replace an HVAC unit that had failed. This cost was in the range of \$32,000.

The mortgage is down to \$291,000, around a 6 or 7 year payoff.

This past year, our income exceeded our expenses. The general income/expense report was reviewed. The building and Olive Branch funds are now combined with one general fund.

The Benevolence/Missions details were reviewed. Over \$106,410 in benevolence was paid out this past year. A new line item under Mission/Outreach is a pastoral intern fund. A donation of \$50,000 was given as seed funding for a pastoral intern position in the near future.

There was discussion regarding benevolence/giving numbers in the reports in the financial report. It was pointed out that benevolence giving was \$133,000 in 2023 and \$106,415 in 2024. Bob indicated these numbers do vary from year to year.

- ❖ **Motion** was made by Dave Joyce to accept the 2024 Treasurer's Report. This was seconded by Luke Smith. Motion was approved.

F. New Business 2025

1. Report of Nominating Committee

Paul Johnsen reviewed the current council and leadership vacancies and then the ballot. All positions have been filled except for the Youth/Young Adult Representative to the Synod Assembly and the Youth/Young Adult alternate. There were no nominations from the floor for Youth/Young adult slots to the Synod Assembly.

Mount Olive Council Members and Leaders

Executive Committee:

President: Mark Pasch (2nd year of a three-year term)

Treasurer: **Open for Election**

Secretary: Loren Else (2nd year of a three-year term)

Endowment Fund Committee Chair: Don Halley (2nd year of three-year term)

Finance Chair and Stewardship Ministry Team: Regina Seabrook (3rd year, 2nd three-year term)

Facility & Grounds Ministry Team: **Open for Election**

Mutual Ministry Team: **Open for Election**

Full Council:

Adult Faith Ministry Team: **Open for Election**

Worship and Music Ministry Team: **Open for Election**

Service and Outreach Ministry Team: Michelle Thomsen (3rd year of a three-year term)

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Team: **Open for Election**

Youth Representative: **Open for Election**

Non-Council, elected leaders and offices:

Nominating Committee: **Open for Election**, Jolene Baker, Deb Peterson

Columbarium Committee: **Two openings for Election**, Mark Schultze

2024 Synod Assembly Voting Members: **Six openings for Youth/Young Adult & alternates**

Endowment Committee: **Open for Election**

Non-Council, appointed leaders and offices:

Finance Secretary: Don Halley

Accountant: Mark Masbruch

Mount Olive Council Nomination Ballot

The ballot was presented with a call for nominations from the floor. With no further nominations, the candidates are:

Executive Council

Treasurer: Bob Nelson (1st year of 2nd three-year term)

Facility and Grounds Ministry Chair: Dave Mickelson

Mutual Ministry Team: Becky Lashinski

Full Council

Adult Faith Ministry Team: Donna Miller

Worship, Youth, and Family Ministry: Nathan Mannix

Youth Representative: Luke Smith

Non-Council, elected leaders and offices

Nominating Committee: Kris Liedtke

Columbarium Committee: Renee Schaefer, Sharon Halling

Endowment Committee: Peter Heldt, Mark Masbruch

2024 Synod Assembly Voting Members: Connie Mudore, David Steenhoek

Youth/Young Adult Delegate: TBA

2024 Synod Assembly Alternates: Sally Fritts, Bob Thomsen

Youth/Young Adult Alternate Delegate: TBA

- ❖ A **motion** to accept the slate of candidates was made by Curt Britson, seconded by Mark Schoer. The motion passed. Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve in these positions

2. **Report from Pastor Glenn, Teaching Pastor:** Pastor Glenn shared that with the change in Pastoral roles this past year, he has been able to concentrate more on teaching, including preaching to pastors in Columbia,

our companion synod. Pastor Glenn thanked Pastor Lisa and all staff for embracing this change. Pastor stated his focus on teaching has been a blessing and quoted the 18th-century German poet Christoph Martin Weiland, who wrote, "For whatever a person has, is in reality only a gift."

3. Proposed 2025 Budget – Terry Krieger

The Council has approved this budget, and it was previously discussed at a recent budget forum. The general offering income is up due to a 10% increase in pledges, and the former building fund and Olive Branch fund are now included in this category.

Various discussions and figures were noted regarding budgeted expenses for 2025. Some figures were based on the previous year's expenses. Interest gained in 2024 was just over \$13,000, and 2025 interest is budgeted at just over \$10,000. Facility use income was \$51,000 last year and is budgeted at \$53,000 for 2025. Thrivent income is budgeted at \$3,000. Estate gifts are difficult to figure out, but we estimate receiving \$20,000.

The next category is Benevolence giving. We hope to offset some of the budgeted giving with donations from congregation members. The budgeted amount for 2024 of \$13,250 was exceeded; this year, the number will be increased to \$18,000 in 2025.

In the proposed budget \$5,000 will be drawn from undesignated memorials and \$10,000 from the youth account. We did not draw down from reserves but used some pre-giving funds to fill the gap in 2024. If needed, we have approval to draw down \$39,000 from reserves in 2025.

The final category is expenses. Costs like building insurance and trash service are expenses that increase every year. The Mutual Ministry category includes staff salaries and benefits, and this year, a 2.5 cost of living salary adjustment has been recommended.

Church operation costs can vary. The mortgage expense is now included in property. Benevolence is budgeted the same as last year at \$64,600. The direction of the budget is stable. The floor was opened for questions.

Question: Is Mount Olive at or above synod guidelines in staff compensation? **Answer:** Yes, above.

Question: If we gave \$106,415 in total benevolence in 2024, why are we only budgeting \$64,600 for 2025?

Answer: We have budgeted benevolence that we specifically give to, but then we receive continued funds for various other organizations or needs throughout the year. All money received is passed directly on to the organization or hardship it was given for. At times, the benevolence given will double the planned budget number.

Question: The parking lot will need repair in the future. Are funds for this project being planned for?

Answer: No funding in the 2025 budget has been set aside for parking lot work.

Question: Do mission partners receive a minimum of \$500, and if so, why would some organizations receive only \$200? An example is LIRS/Global Refuge. **Answer:** That particular organization is not one of our budgeted mission partners. If \$200 is received, it is shown as income, and the funds are passed on to them.

Question: \$500 was given to Reconciling Works. Does that mean that someone from our congregation donated this amount instead of from the budget? **Answer:** Yes, it could mean that. Pastor Glenn followed up. He stated under the % complete column on the budget graph, if it shows a N/A, this is a non-budgeted category. Every year, additional gifts come in for whatever reason, above the budgeted amount or for different organizations, and this money is passed on.

Question: With the continued increase in benevolence giving, why are we not increasing our budget/increasing a goal in this category? **Answer:** This would be a different way of evaluating our budget and this would have to be a more extensive discussion about benevolence. These emergent needs develop throughout the budget year and are difficult to project.

- ❖ After the discussion, there was a **motion** to accept the 2025 budget presented by Terry Krieger it was made by Mark Pasch and seconded by Rob Nelson. The motion carried.

4. Directing Pastor's 2024 Report – Rev. Lisa Janke

Expression of Gratitude for Service – Rev. Lisa Janke:

Pastor Lisa started out by saying thank you to the many whose term in leadership positions is ending, including:

Dallas Oudekirk, Kris Liedtke, and Stephaine Pasch who have served in positions for the past six years; Tony Maus, Paul Johnsen, Cathy Hanson, Gene Ostrom, and Nancy Toensing for their leadership roles; Jill Lundberg for her work as Sunday Fellowship Coordinator; and Keith Hanson for his outstanding work as Council President.

Thank you for the time, energy, and gifts you have shared with Mount Olive.

Storytelling Grant Report – Dr. Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Richard, Director of Spiritual Formation, discussed the grant we received from the Calvin Institute. In 2025, Mount Olive will welcome 4 experts to help us envision the future together. Richard briefly described the speakers and storytellers. The community will be invited to share these opportunities.

Directing Pastor's 2024 Report – Rev. Lisa Janke:

Pastor Lisa stated that nothing we strive to do is possible on our own but because we are a community grounded in the love of God inspired to work for the common good.

Our work is about relationships and connections at all levels. Our building allows others to connect in this space. Pastor Lisa highlighted Evan Fitzsimmon's work. When Evan arrived at Mount Olive, he brought a 'theology of relationship' that has been a gift for not only our youth, but all of us.

For the road ahead in 2025, Pastor Lisa discussed that we will continue with our visioning proposal. The focus is to listen carefully to the stories of this place that speak to who we are and what we're about. Through this, and our storytelling theme of "Discovery," we will seek to articulate what makes Mt. Olive Lutheran Church unique.

We need to continue to plan and work on caring for our aging facility. We will need help with this effort.

One new opportunity is for Mount Olive to become a pastoral internship site for a seminary student. A \$50,000 gift was given as seed money for this future endeavor. This gift was provided to help us share our climate of welcome and outstanding ministry. Additional donations to this effort are welcome. We may be able to consider an intern as early as this fall. Pastor Lisa is available for further discussion regarding this undertaking.

This year, the political climate influence what we may do in this place and how Christian values are perceived. Our individual needs may clash and our boundaries tested. We may need to lean into vulnerability and have hard conversations. Decisions will need to be made when the authority of the gospel conflicts with the authority of systems and people who hold power in our society. We are blessed to be able to do this together. May we continue to be grounded in a theology of relationship, trusting God's presence in our life experiences, strengthening us to expand in love. Amen.

5. H. Lord's Prayer and Benediction

- ❖ After the benediction by Pastor Lisa, President Keith Hanson called for adjournment. Regina Seabrook made the **motion** to adjourn. Luke Smith seconded this. The motion was approved

Directing Pastor's 2025 Report - Rev. Lisa Janke

To the church of God known as Mount Olive, to those called and gifted by the Spirit: Grace to you and peace from God our Source of Love, and from our Way and our Life, Jesus the Christ.

This is the type of greeting the apostle Paul would use when writing a letter to the communities he led. Early 2025, I had the privilege of visiting two such places – Corinth and Ephesus - during a pastor's trip to Greece and Turkey. These visits changed how I view Paul and his ministry, and have impacted how I understand my own call and ministry as well.

For the purposes of this report, I will keep it rather simple: I believe Paul cared deeply about the people he felt called to both serve and lead; that he wanted the best for these communities and believed the greatest gift he could share was his knowledge and faith in God and Christ.

I care deeply about Mount Olive and each person that gathers here – for worship, for work, for friendship and for play. I want the best for this congregation and our neighbors near and far, and I believe the greatest gift I can share is to remind you, again and again and again, that God is present in our midst, delighting in the goodness we share, and emboldening us for the difficulties we face.

This 2025 Annual Report is filled with a variety of accounts of the many incredible things we enjoyed and accomplished together over the past year. I hope you will have a chance to read them and appreciate them as I did. I hope you will recall with joy the storytellers and the celebrations. I hope you will recall with hope the challenges and farewells.

In 2025 we lived into our call to be God's people in the world with generosity, courage, and kindness. We built relationships with Head Start that are allowing us to show up as even stronger advocates in 2026. We immersed ourselves in worship, music and art, expanding our capacity to care for ourselves and one another. We learned and laughed together. We discerned together. We advocated for justice together. We sent a wonderful pastor off into retirement together.

As we look to 2026, we can trust that God continues to accompany us and equip us for all that lies ahead. Thanks be to God for each one of you, and for all those we are called to love and serve.

Pastor Lisa

Teaching Pastor's 2025 Annual Report – Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson

When I look back at 2025, I see a robust ministry that is growing and learning and striving to be faithful in so many ways. Let me name just a few:

- An active presence in the ISAIAH community in Rochester, continuing to believe that God calls us to actively pursue dignity and justice for all as part of our Christian calling.
- One of the first congregations in our synod to embrace the ELCA-wide Pray Without Ceasing invitation, where we pray weekly for our nation.
- Outstanding speakers and challenging discussions at Sunday Forums.
- An enthusiastic team of walkers for the NAMI walk, raising over \$4000.
- Generosity overflowing for everything from Family Promise to victims of disasters.
- Four pillar events through the Calvin Institute grant, giving us contact with wonderful artists, musicians, storytellers, and theologians.
- So much fun together in every aspect of our life together.
- Ongoing hands-on teams like our quilters and prayer shawl makers.
- Innovative yet grounded worship services, with wonderful music and liturgy, that touch people deeply, giving them hope and strength.
- Deepening relationships between children, youth and families, as even our youngest members are drawn more and more into the life of this community of faith.
- Capital Campaign process in place, discerning the needed repairs, updates, and renovations that will make our facility even more hospitable and safe for all.
- Innumerable community groups continuing to call Mount Olive their home for meetings, concerts, discussions, events, and celebrations.

What a fun, faithful, and lively community we are. We are blessed.

Finally though, it's not about programs, it's about people. As I said in my closing remarks at my retirement Open House: "I have learned so much in my nearly 35 years in ministry. I have learned from congregational members, from friends, from colleagues, from my wife and kids, from just about everyone.

And the thing I have learned is that ministry is not about getting the right mission statement, or having the best stewardship program, or being housed in the finest facility. It's not about making the right choices all the time or being able to read the culture around us. It's not even about religion.

It's about people. In a word, it's about love.

Thank you for your love. Thank you very much.

Pastor Glenn

Mark Pasch - Council President

People of Mount Olive,

As I was preparing to write my report, I recalled the words of Paul from Philippians 4.

“⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Mount Olive has put much into practice this last year, building on our foundation of the four pillars of worship, service, education and fellowship. We have cared as we looked to God with “Pray without Ceasing”. We have expanded our service as we continue to look for ways to care for the world and serve our community (State of the Olive discussions). We have expanded our understanding through our four “Our Stories, God’s Story” events thanks to the wonderful storytelling, song, and discussion skills of Ken Medema, Namoli Brennet, Valerie Tutson, and Brian McLaren. We have been blessed with the joy of listening to the insightful faith statements from our five confirmands.

As we look to the future in 2026, there is much to contemplate, celebrate, and discern. You will continue to have opportunities to participate in more detailed discussions as we continue to plan for our future facility needs. We will have opportunities to celebrate our congregation’s 65th anniversary. We will need discernment from all members of the recommendations from our Call Committee as we consider our pastoral staffing needs.

As 2025 closed, Mount Olive celebrated Pastor Glenn’s 10 years of service to the congregation and with much thankfulness (and some tears) his retirement at the conclusion of the year.

Upon his arrival with us in 2015, Pastor Glenn wrote: “We know that God is good, and God is leading us, and God will give us what we need to make this journey well. May God bless us as we continue this adventure together.” Those words are as true today as they were then. We have been blessed with a wonderful staff, and despite the staff changes in 2026, God will continue to bless Mount Olive.

Please read the staff and committee reports to learn and review what has, is and will happen in the life of our Mount Olive Congregation.

May our Lord continue to bless us and keep us,

Mark Pasch

Council President

Comparative Church Statistics: Mount Olive Lutheran Church

Categories	2022	2023	2024	2025
Worship Attendance				
8:00 AM Average:	52	64	90	77
10:30 AM Average:	84	93	101	120
Online Views Average:	87	71	58	68
Sunday Attendance Average:	218	223	222	241
Pray Without Ceasing:	N/A	N/A	N/A	15
Summer (Jun-Aug) Avg In-person:	106	120	116	134
Summer (Jun-Aug) Avg 4:00 Outdoor:	N/A	N/A	63	40
Summer (Jun-Aug) Avg Online views:	77	52	47	55
Lent Midweek Total In-person:	118	284	559	467*
Lent Midweek Noon:	N/A	N/A	81	N/A
Lent Midweek Total Online views:	N/A	113	331	408
Maundy Thur / Good Fri In-person:	84 / 90	84 / 117	85 / 98	NA / 91
Easter Vigil In Person:	92	64	78	84
Easter Sunday In-person:	303	337	334	389
Easter Sunday Online views:	225	407	93	204
Thanksgiving Eve:	52	103	85	96
Advent Average In-person:	49	52	40	46
Christmas Eve In-person:	308	362	384	484
Christmas Eve Online views:	90	72	215	138
Membership				
Adult (Confirmed):	444	442	450	433**
Education				
Sunday School Attendance Average:	25	32	26	24
Sunday Confirmation Total:	8	14	14	20
Adult Forum Average:	25	35	38	33
Changes				
Baptisms:	8	1	3	3
Confirmations:	7	5	3	5
Weddings:	1	0	2	2
Funerals:	9	13	16	6
Transfer Out:	4	6	3	10
Transfer In:	10	27	23	19

* One lent service cancelled due to weather ** 25 inactive members removed from rolls



2025 Annual Report: Olive Branch Community

submitted by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, Dir. of Spiritual Formation
with Rev. Lisa Janke, Directing Pastor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church

In 2025, Olive Branch offered worship on the first Sunday of each month. Our service features generous communion (real bread and sparkling cider— as much as you want!), music, Bible readings held in the great tradition of *midrash*, and meaningful conversation.

Most Monday evenings, we gathered for either Artist Studio, Off the Page text immersion, or Faith Seeking Understanding. Special events this year included Make It Clear, Rochester Pride, two dinner Meet-Ups, Easter Vigil, a Word-art Installation in Lent, and a Lord of the Rings Baggins Birthday Bash.

As Pastor Lisa's role developed as Directing Pastor, I took the lead in more program design. (Hence, things like a Lord of the Rings Baggins Birthday Bash found their way onto the calendar). We continue to be delighted, impressed, and proud of the depth of topics and conversation that the Olive Branch community explores.

A significant first in 2025: Lisa, Travis, and I were invited to present with Ken Medema at the Wild Goose Festival in North Carolina. We met people from all over the country and enjoyed the creativity of other theologians and artists.

Another consequential thing: Lisa and I were invited by Dr. Jan Schnell of Wartburg Seminary for the fifth year in a row to lead a session of her course called, "Living Liturgies for Resistance and Renewal in Church and Society." It's been deeply meaningful to have our work recognized at such a level, and we are pleased to be part of enriching seminary students on their journey to become pastors.

Apart from Olive Branch leadership in 2025, I offered musical renderings of the psalms in worship, sat with individuals for spiritual direction, and directed our Calvin Institute Vital Worship grant and its four pillar events. In October, I took a 6-week medical leave due to issues of function in my right hand and speech. I have been very grateful for the support of the congregation and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Director of Spiritual Formation

Children, Youth, Family Ministry Report

Evan Fitzsimmons, Director of Children, Youth, and Family

A New Group for Mount Olive Youth

Every Confirmation season is a new group, but the shift from 2024 to 2025 feels significant. Unique to previous years, our 5th graders who started Confirmation in the Fall have mixed exceptionally well with the current 6th and 7th graders. We also have a sound group of our eldest in the program who are continuing to show engagement on Sunday mornings at Sunday School, Breakfast Club, and Worship.

With a total number of 18-20 youth aged 6th grade – 12th grade in our program, it felt like a good opportunity for a Youth Retreat. We had our “1st Annual Youth Fall Retreat” at Good Earth Village in November. Our theme was “Belonging As One” printed on our lagoon blue long sleeve shirts including an inscription from Paul’s words to the Galatians: *For you are all one in Christ Jesus.* (Gal. 3.28) This event included 11 kids and 8 adults. Our time together was focused on “the groups we belong to”, ultimately naming and claiming what makes our church group unique and drafting a covenant of the things we wanted to include and exclude from our Youth Group at Mount Olive.

It seems apparent that our current Youth at Mount Olive value time spent together and making friendships as well as deepening in their understanding of who Jesus is and how God is calling us to live.

Sunday School: Teaching Teams & Ability to Rotate Leadership

What stands out in our Sunday School program is effective communication, teamwork from our teachers, and creating opportunities for leadership for our kids especially during “Service Sundays” and music. Our curriculum seems to keep expanding from the SPARK curriculum into something deeper and richer in theological exploration through an open dialogue about faith. Our teachers continue to exemplify a gentle touch (especially for our youngest theologians) in developing relationships with children and youth alike that instill a deeper joy and passion for scripture, life in the church, and engaging in community and friendships.

Summer Programming: Day Camps, Family Camp, and Opportunity for Future Events

Summers continue to have opportunities for Children, Youth, and Families to stay connected outside of the program year. Our two main events have been VBS Day Camp with Good Earth Village and our Family Camping Weekend. Another event our kids have participated in the past two summers is Peace United Church of Christ’s Music and Drama Camp, 9 of our kids participated last summer and Evan along with some of the parents got connected to help out during the week! It feels like it could be a positive mutual ministry partnership between our two churches. We have already scheduled our own VBS Day Camp Week to be the week after Peace UCC’s Camp, hoping that our kids could attend at least one of those camps but with the opportunity to do both if they wish!

Finally, looking ahead to summer 2026 means we are one-year away from the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN. We will be putting together a group of kids and adults to attend that next summer, and in the process, imagining future summers other trip possibilities or retreats.

Director of Worship, Music, & Arts Report

Deacon Travis Beck

Some highlights from our worship life together over the past year:

- Storytelling continues to be a well-received part of our Lenten journey. It's great to share worship leadership with our members, and their stories help us connect with them in new ways while giving us different perspectives on the spiritual quest.
- Evan calls the Easter Vigil "Mount Olive's best kept secret." If you've never attended our Easter Vigil, I highly recommend it. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll never hear these Bible stories the same way again!
- Humanity faces such profound challenges right now that a new word was invented to hold them: *polycrisis*. Pray Without Ceasing, our Monday evening service, helps us face the existential anxieties of these difficult times.
- We added a third Christmas Eve service so that our growing Mount Olive family can comfortably worship in the sanctuary and not feel forced to overflow into the Gathering Area.
- We celebrated Glenn's decades in ministry as he entered retirement and mourned the end of his time with us at Mount Olive. We bid him farewell at our lessons and carols service on December 28.

Looking ahead to 2026:

- I'll be taking over Glenn's role of facilitating the interfaith dialogues, and you'll get to hear me preach a bit more during this interim time as we search for a second pastor.
- As Pray Without Ceasing continues indefinitely, we may experiment with new and different formats. What might be useful or meaningful for you? More music? More silence? Or other options for creative expression? Let us know what would help you to be more resilient in facing the fears and frustrations of our time.
- I hope to continue to hone my teaching and facilitation skills through forums and conversations. Got a suggestion for an adult forum or class? Does your group need help planning an event or brainstorming ideas? Send me an email at travis@molive.org.
- The music and liturgy writing often gets put on the backburner. I want to carve out more time in 2026 for doing more work around worship renewal. If you're a wordsmith or poet and might be interested in writing prayers or lyrics, I'd love to hear from you!

Peace,

Travis

Church Administrator

Terry Krieger

I have enjoyed another year working with the caring, joyful, funny, competent, dedicated, and giving staff here at Mount Olive. As you may have heard, I will be leaving my position at Mount Olive this coming spring. My last day is March 31st, but I will be around to help train my replacement, Shiloy Baldwin. Shiloy (pronounced shi-LOY) will be joining us on April 1st, after she retires from her position as the full-time office administrator at Gloria Dei.

Once again in 2025, I filed stuff, paid bills, filled out forms, answered emails, counted the offering, took care of

insurance, worked with the payroll processor, figured out the budget, attended meetings, and otherwise tried to keep things organized around the office. I was able to implement several cost-cutting measures this past year that will bring down the cost of Internet, phones, waste disposal, and photocopying.

The Mount Olive building continues to be BUSY. There is so much happening here during the week. We have recitals, scout meetings, Bolder Options events, exercise classes, quilters, bible studies, concerts, confirmation, council meetings, keyboard club, Ripe Olive events, altar guild, circles, choir practice, bells, painting group, book group, prayer shawl folks, Al-Anon meetings, Moms Demand Action meetings, the Head Start day care, and so many other activities.

As I come to the end of my time on the Mount Olive staff, I am doing my best to create documentation and instructions for the regular tasks that I have been performing as Office Administrator. Hopefully, this will help Shiloy as she moves into her new role in the office.

Both Carrie and I will miss our friends at Mount Olive as we pack up and move to our place outside of Egg Harbor, in Door County, Wisconsin. Mount Olive will always be our church home. We are both so honored to have been part of the work that is done at Mount Olive.

Director of Congregational Life

Nancy Britson

Here are some of my reflections on the past year as the Director of Congregational Life:

- We had 19 new members join the congregation in May. As the year went on, we continued to have many regular visitors, but it did not work out to have another new member Sunday. We hope to this Spring. Please continue to seek out and share a warm welcome with our visitors and new members.
- Groups such as Monday Book Group, Ripe Olives, women's small groups, Bible studies, and Fellowship Tables continue to be well attended and serve as important points of connection for our community. I lead the Ripe Olives group, coordinate Fellowship Tables, and provide support as needed to the leaders who facilitate other small groups.
- I once again spent a lot of time working with our publications, social media, worship slides and mailings. A change this year was reducing greatly the number of newsletters and other mail to save paper and mailing costs. More and more people report that they read the newsletter online.
- I celebrated my 15-year anniversary on Mount Olive staff in October. I am very appreciative of all the well wishes I received as well as the cards and gifts. My role has changed a lot over the years. I was formerly very involved with the Lenten soup suppers and Sunday fellowship. I am very thankful to have David Steenhoek leading soup suppers and Renee Schaefer leading Sunday Fellowship. Both have brought great ideas and new life to these areas and I can't thank them enough.
- I'm also grateful to all the volunteers I am responsible for coordinating for worship, live-streaming, funerals, and other various tasks that come up. Thank you to everyone who shares their time and talents in these hands-on ways. Mount Olive volunteers are the best!
- One of the last things for 2025 was leading the group that planned for Pastor Glenn's retirement. One thing he taught us was to "say goodbye well" and we accomplished that with everyone's help. "Thank You" planning team and volunteers! On we go to 2026!

Service and Social Outreach Ministry (SSOM) Team

Council Rep: Michelle Thomsen

Current Team Members: Carrie Fletcher, Donna Grever, Sarah Jerde, Vicky Kubly, Elaine Monson, Rob Nelson, Erin Sinnwell, and Sherry Will.

I would like to thank all the members of the Service and Social Outreach team. Each one of them brings special gifts and talents. They help to provide several opportunities for the congregation to serve others. The team members include Jene Bodensteiner, Donna Grever, Sarah Jerde, Vicky Kubly, Elaine Monson, Rob Nelson, Erin Sinnwell, Michelle Thomsen, Sherry Will, and Ann Willis.

I would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Michelle Thomsen. Michelle faithfully served as the Council representative for many years. Thank you, Michelle, for your work representing the SSOM team. I would also like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Jene Bodensteiner. Jene faithfully served as Dorothy Day House representative for many years. Mark and Sarah Jerde have taken over as the new representatives.

Mount Olive Service opportunities during 2025 included: Dorothy Day Hospitality House, ELCA Good Gifts/God's Global Barnyard, The Landing MN, Global Health Ministries, Lutheran World Relief, Mount Olive Quilters, The Mitten Tree, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing.

Ongoing collections included: travel size personal care items for The Salvation Army, pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and used eyeglasses for the Lion's Foundation.

In 2025 the Sunday School children participated in several service projects including: assembling LWR Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits, rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries, filling hundreds of Easter eggs for the annual egg hunt, and assembling art projects for the homebound and others. At our annual "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, several volunteers accomplished 6 different service projects supporting a variety of organizations. In December, a group of Mount Olive volunteers rang the bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. Finally, every month of the year, volunteers prepared and served meals to guests staying at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House.

This is what our Service and Social Outreach ministry achieved this year: over 250 bandages rolled for Global Health Ministries, 95 Personal Care Kits and 101 Baby Care Kits assembled for Lutheran World Relief, many winter hats, scarves, and prayer shawls donated by the Prayer Shawl group, 12 monthly meals served for countless guests of the Dorothy Day House, 100 Snack Kits for the LSS Resource Center, 6 fleece blankets tied for The Landing MN, 50 toiletry kits for The Landing MN, 150 cookies baked for Family Promise, 20 kindness rocks painted, 60 Christmas tree ornaments made for the Hiawatha Homes Festival of Trees, several winter weather items collected for the elementary children of Elton Hills and Gage schools. The Mount Olive Quilters celebrated a milestone of over 1000 quilts made and donated in the last decade. The quilts were donated to various organizations in the local and global community.

In response to emergent needs for the Head Start families, Mount Olive started a food pantry. With generous donations from members and even non-members, we were able to provide shelf-stable food items. The pantry continues to be supported through monetary donations and food donations. Also, each of the families and staff members received a gift card to help with the holidays.

Mount Olive is committed to serving those in need in our church, local, and global communities, and even members of the animal world. We will continue to maintain our long-standing commitment to serving our neighbors in need and to find new ways for all Mount Olive members to be involved.

With gratitude,

Carrie Fletcher, Director of Service and Social Outreach

2025 Mutual Ministry Report

Chair: Becky Lashinski **Staff Liaison:** Pastor Lisa Janke **Members:** Loren Else, Naoko Vold, Linda Persson

The Mutual Ministry team continues to find great joy in supporting our talented pastors and staff. We've continued a monthly routine of providing treats to staff as well as check-ins and prayer. Cards and sent for special events, birthdays, and anniversaries. We found special joy in celebrating Nancy for 15 years on staff, as well as Pastor Glenn's retirement celebration.

2025 Personnel Committee Report

Committee Chair: Jay Myers **Council Representative:** Becky Lashinski

Members: Barb Sorensen, Jill Mickelson, Heather Klavetter, Serena Oudekirk

The personnel committee welcomed new members this year and completed their orientation onto the committee. We are currently working on a new, streamlined form for staff evaluations, and look forward to completing a full slate of staff evaluations in the spring and summer. We wrote and completed a work-from-home policy that was approved by the council and added to the staff handbook. We also completed an exit interview with Pastor Glenn.

Altar Guild

Altar Guild Coordinator: Denise Foy. **Members:** Don Doocy, Carrie Fletcher, Sharon Halling, Jim Halling, Pam Hundley, Jonathon Jackson, Stephanie Pasch, Shelly Sellnow, Michelle Thomsen, Ann Willis, and Pam Wright.

The Altar Guild continues their duty of preparing the sanctuary and altar for meaningful worship. We ensure the paraments, banners, and other elements in the sanctuary reflect the church season and special events. This also includes setting up communion bread and wine for services. We continue to coordinate with the Worship, Music and Arts Ministry Team for upcoming special services.

The Altar Guild would like to recognize Pastor Glenn for his support and leadership. Travis Beck will now be our liaison. We look forward to the new perspectives he will bring. This year, we began investigating alternatives to reduce the single use plastic waste from the communion cups. We hope to implement the use of glass cups this year. This will start on a trial basis to allow us to evaluate the impact.

Our meetings are usually at 9:30 am on the 2nd Saturday of each month. We are always looking for additional members so if you would like to join us, come to a meeting see what we are about or contact Denise Foy for more information.

Facility and Grounds Ministry Team

Council Representative: David Mickelson **Staff Representative:** Paul Schaefer

Team Members: Wayne Diercks, Steve Determan, Gene Ostrom, Jacob Dixon, and Jacob Rogers

The Facilities and Grounds Ministry Team met in person monthly during 2025, except the summer months of June, July and August. Various aging parts of the building, and technological updates and repairs kept us busy this year. Thank you to congregation members who helped with spring and fall yard work and other things. Also thank you to our snow plow drivers!

Following is our 2025 accomplishments:

- Added a second hard drive to the security camera system to expand its storage capacity.
- Completed weeding, mulching, planting, etc. of spring and fall yard maintenance.
- Removed overgrown shrubs in front of Fellowship Hall.
- Updated video feed from the sanctuary to resolve signal degradation.
- Rebuilt trash enclosure to accommodate a larger dumpster.
- Reconfigured fire alarms in education wing to prevent preschool kids pulling false alarms.
- Replaced aging gas supply line.
- Replaced one failing HVAC unit.
- Repaired four HVAC units.

Future projects for 2026 and beyond include:

- Implementing sound system upgrades.
- Addressing building security due to Head Start concerns.
- Pruning trees and possibly removing dying trees.
- Planting shrubs in front of Fellowship Hall.
- Filling cracks, sealing, and restriping the parking lot.
- Planning better accessible parking.
- Planning for more HVAC unit replacements.
- Planning for roof replacement.
- Planning to repair/replace aging and leaking pipes of the dry sprinkler system.

Stewardship Team

Chair: Regina Seabrook

Team: Keith Hanson, Rob Nelson, Nancy Walker **Staff Liaisons:** Pastor Lisa Janke, Pastor Glenn Monson
Don Halley (Endowment Team Partner)

Our theme for this year's stewardship campaign was Love Overflowing! Being God's steward is a role and responsibility to which one wholly and enthusiastically commits in response to God's goodness and grace.

Budget Year	Commitments Received	Electronic Givers No Commitment Received	Total Committed*
2022	128	32	\$601,200
2023	130	35	\$615,133
2024	121	38	\$607,318
2025	130	35	\$660,552
2026	124	44	\$678,285

* 2022 – 2024 totals include General, Building, and Olive Branch Funds.

Through faithful giving, the Mount Olive Lutheran Church congregation continues to be one of the most generous financial supporters of the SE MN Synod of the ELCA as well as the nation.

All praise and glory to God for allowing us to be faithful stewards!

Sincerely,

The Mount Olive Stewardship Team

Worship, Music and Arts Ministry Team

Council Representative: Lara Smoley

Staff Liaisons: Pastor Glenn Monson, Pastor Lisa Janke, Travis Beck,
Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, Nancy Britson

Members: Denise Foy, Nathan Mannix, Ruth Monson, Jason Sinnwell, Barb Sorensen

Mission Statement: To enhance the varying aspects of worship by visioning, communicating, collaborating, and engaging worship leaders and the people of God.

Our committee meets quarterly to fine tune, plan, evaluate, and create a vision for worship at Mount Olive.

Here are some worship highlights from 2025:

- 2025 Calvin Grant Events
 - Ken Medema - February
 - Namoli Brennet - May
 - Valerie Tutson - June
 - Brian McLaren - October
- Pray Without Ceasing - Mondays @ 5:30 PM
- Lent/Holy Week/Easter 2025
 - Soup suppers continued with David Steenhoek leading
 - Lenten Worship Storytelling was well received
 - Maundy Thursday Dinner Church - Good Friday Passion Drama
 - Easter Vigil service as well as two Easter festival services
- Summer 2025
 - One service at 9:30 AM
 - Outdoor worship on the first Sunday of the month
- Fall 2025
 - Confirmation/Reformation Sunday - Five confirmands
 - "Love Overflowing" - four Sunday stewardship moments by members
 - All Saints Sunday Nov. 2 - We remembered six members who have died.
 - Thanksgiving Eve worship & pie
- Advent 2025
 - "What Do You Fear" theme
 - Holden Evening Prayer mid-week services
 - St. Lucia Sunday
 - Longest Night: Blue Christmas service w/Peace United Church of Christ
 - Added a third Christmas Eve service: 3:00/5:00/7:00 PM
 - Lessons & Carols Service Dec. 28 - one service @ 9:30 AM
 - Pastor Glenn's Retirement Open House & last service

Adult Faith Ministry Team

Council Representative: Donna Miller

Staff Liaison: Pastor Glenn Monson

Members: Connie Mudore, Ann Discher, Kris Liedtke

Our Team met regularly and communicated often via group email on progress and confirmations of speakers for the Adult Forums. A high level of support, persistence and commitment helped us all complete our work. Initially I received helpful tips from Kris Liedtke and Pastor Glenn. Our Active team members were Connie Mudore, Ann Discher, Kris Liedtke & Pastor Glenn. We also have 2 members we communicate with via email but have not seen at a meeting due to scheduling conflicts. We look forward to the Winter/Spring forum Schedule which began on Jan 4, 2026. The last forum in May will be dedicated to congregational feedback and your recommendations for future speakers. We encourage your participation and want to hear your thoughts! Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have a pressing idea that must be shared!

Submitted with Joy and Hope

Donna R. Miller

Women's Ministry Team

Erin Sinnwell, Women's Ministry Team Facilitator

Facilitator: Erin Sinnwell **Assistant Facilitator:** Paula Roberts

Members: Jene Bodensteiner (until June 2025) Communicator, Nancy Wiitanen – Treasurer

Jill Lundberg, Kristine Wagner, Lola Bucio (Joined in August of 2025), Nicole Heinritz (Joined in August of 2025).

Pam Hundley (partial year), Helen Russell (partial year)

Mission Statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Purpose Statement: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

At Mount Olive there are 6 circles that meet monthly with over 70 total circle members. We are grateful to Pastor Glenn for guidance and leadership of the Bible Study leader meetings held the first Tuesday of each month.

The WMT of Mount Olive was blessed to have an over abundance of funds in 2025. Time was spent thinking about these funds and how to allocate them. Travis Beck was kind enough to offer his expertise and lead several meetings where his expertise helped guide thoughts and decisions. Because of this we were able to:

- Support the Lenten soup suppers
- Designate funds to cleaning of the kitchen floor
- Send funds to our local SEMN Synod
- Send funds to the ELCA church wide Women of the ELCA
- Support the pastor's discretionary fund
- Support local nonprofits
- Support the food shelf created at Mount Olive Lutheran Church
- Have extra funds to be used in 2026 for scholarships for the Triennial gathering and host a women's retreat in the spring

Several events happened throughout the year such as blind date with a book, a game day, the women's ministry team Sunday, the annual Christmas Party, and women's coffee once a month.

Thank you so much to our past and current members of the WMT and those that helped plan these events.

2025 Endowment Fund Annual Report

Council Representative: Don Halley

Team Members: Pastor Glenn Monson, Gene Ostrom, Peter Heldt, Mark Masbruch

The Endowment team pursued its mission in 2025 in the following ways.

Support Mount Olive's mission with endowed funds

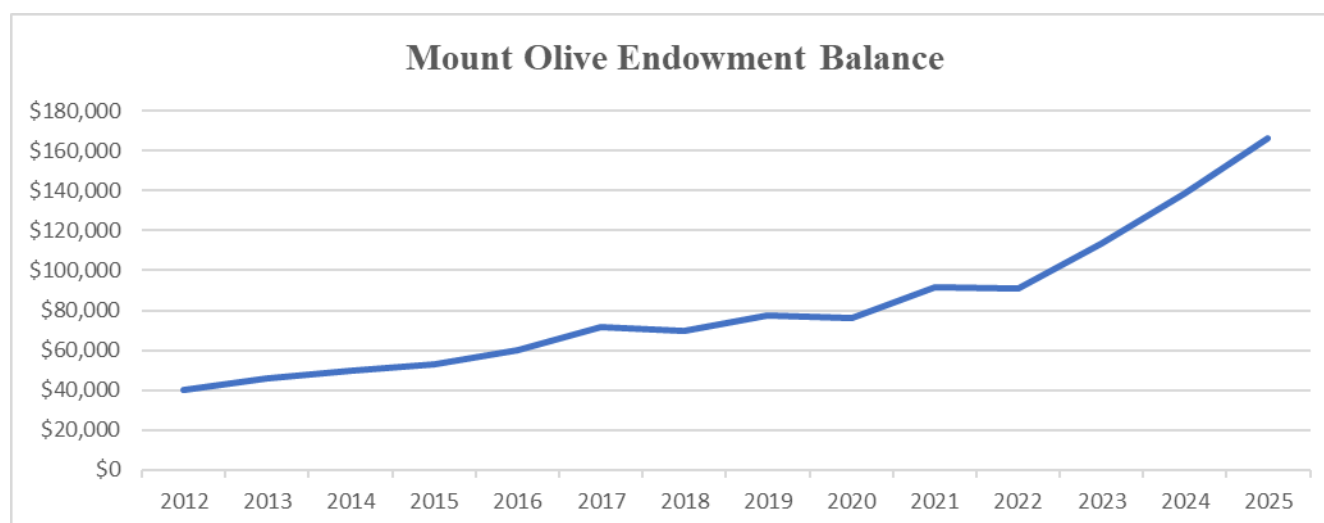
- Supported David Steenhoek's seminary application.
- Authorized six scholarships for Hull High School students.

Promote awareness and donations to endowed funds

- Identified over a dozen families who have included Mount Olive in their legacy giving plans.
- Provided newsletter articles about legacy giving (Jan) and Make-A-Will month (Aug).
- Endowment Sunday presentation in worship (April).
- Adult forum presentation by Tharan Leopold, ELCA Gift Planner (October).
- Updated form at <https://molive.org/wp-content/uploads/Legacy-Gift-Intent-Form.pdf>.

Oversee fund management

- The endowed funds are invested in mutual funds that emphasize sustainability and ESG (environmental, social, and governance) considerations.



Endowed Fund	12/31/2024 Balance	Principal Income	Principal Expense	Investment Growth & Income	12/31/2025 Balance
Unrestricted Endowment	\$18,934.76			\$4,927.36	\$23,862.12
Seminarian Support	\$37,824.83	\$3,012.75	\$2,912.75 ¹	\$4,927.35	\$42,852.18
Hull High School Scholarships	\$33,249.71	\$8,600.00	²	\$4,927.35	\$46,777.06
Columbarium	\$48,518.81	\$300.00	\$1,000.00 ³	\$4,927.35	\$52,746.16
Total	\$138,528.11	\$11,912.75	\$3,912.75	\$19,709.41	\$166,237.52

¹ \$1,000 was authorized from the endowment. \$1,100 of 2025 income remains to be distributed in 2026.

² \$3,300 was authorized, to be sent when the situation in Tanzania assures safe delivery.

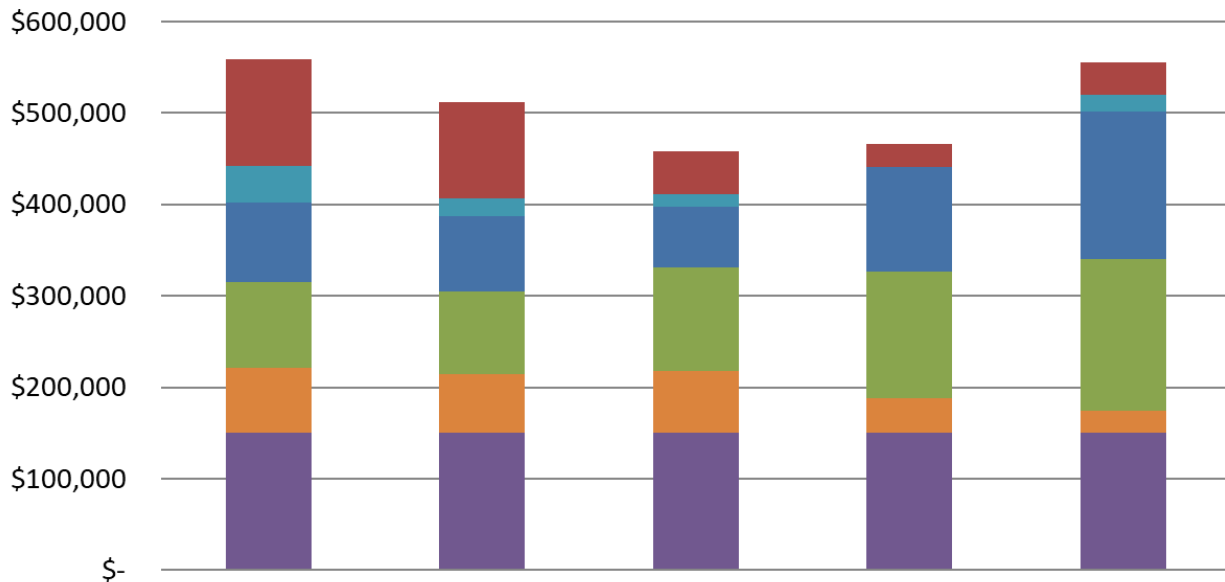
³ Return of a columbarium reservation fee.

2025 Treasurer's Report

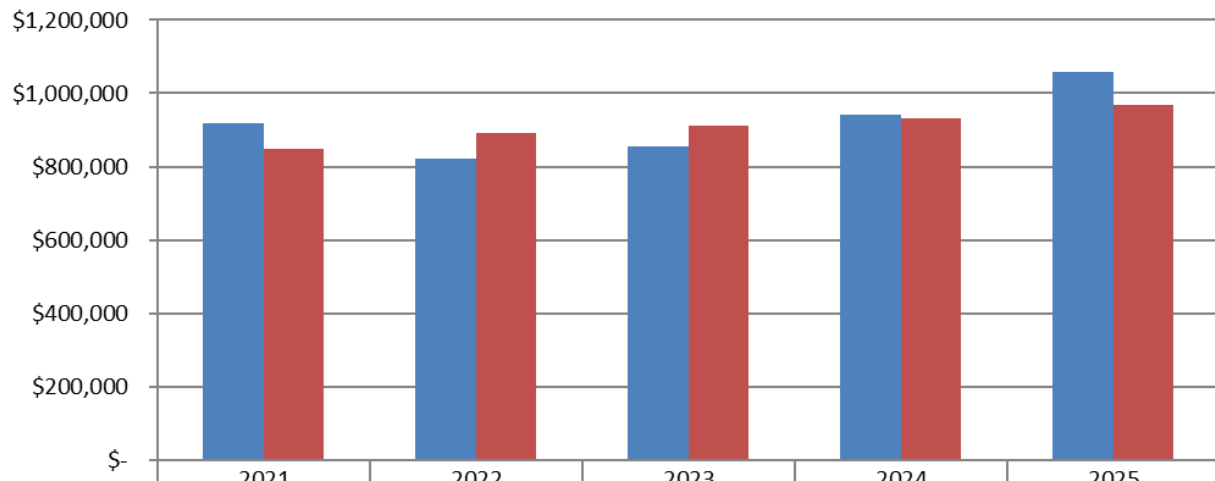
Balance Sheet

Current Assets		Dec 31, 2025	Dec 31, 2024	\$ Change
	Checking/Savings Accounts	\$ 85,652.49	\$ 336,678.12	\$ (251,025.63)
	Endowment Fund Account	\$ 158,837.52	\$ 129,268.11	\$ 29,569.41
	Fidelity Reserves	\$ 311,073.53	\$ -	\$ 311,073.53
Total Current Assets		\$ 555,563.54	\$ 465,946.23	\$ 89,617.31
Fixed Assets				
	Land	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ -
	Buildings and Contents	\$ 3,231,250.87	\$ 3,214,490.70	\$ 16,760.17
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 3,851,814.41	\$ 3,745,436.93	\$ 106,377.48
Liabilities				
	Mortgage	\$ 244,661.21	\$ 290,730.58	\$ (46,069.37)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ 244,661.21	\$ 290,730.58	\$ (46,069.37)
NET ASSETS		\$ 3,607,153.20	\$ 3,454,706.35	\$ 152,446.85

Current Asset Fund Balances



Total Income and Expense



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Income	\$919,314	\$821,227	\$856,154	\$940,873	\$1,056,960
Total Expense	\$848,012	\$892,034	\$910,046	\$932,532	\$967,343

General Fund Income and Expense

General Income/Expense	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Proposed Budget
General Offering	\$ 498,591.90	\$ 690,553.00	\$ 701,757.76	\$ 713,906.00
Loose Offering	\$ 3,006.29	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,262.35	\$ 4,000.00
Sunday School	\$ 13.53	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Seasonal Offerings	\$ 13,187.23	\$ -	\$ 9,991.75	\$ -
Initial Envelopes / Help online fees	\$ 85.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 123.00	\$ 100.00
General fund pregiving	\$ 28,570.00	\$ -	\$ 57,000.00	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income/Calvin Grant	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 25,216.23	\$ 500.00
Expense Reimbursements	\$ 9,119.81	\$ -	\$ 6,170.90	\$ -
General Designated Giving	\$ 52,945.59	\$ -	\$ 120,945.63	\$ -
Interest	\$ 13,213.03	\$ 10,147.49	\$ 18,499.85	\$ 9,000.00
Use of Facilities	\$ 51,777.68	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 47,074.00	\$ 50,000.00
Funerals	\$ 840.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 3,321.90	\$ 1,200.00
Weddings	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Thrivent Choice	\$ 2,911.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,857.00	\$ 2,500.00
Refunds	\$ 760.09	\$ -	\$ 1,782.50	\$ -
Olive Branch	\$ 51,253.39	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Building Fund	\$ 36,270.54	\$ -	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ 8,664.05	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
Benevolence Giving	\$ 9,991.19	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 8,970.75	\$ 13,000.00
Undesignated Memorials	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Youth Fund coverage of youth expense	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Drawdown of Reserves	\$ 29,885.00	\$ 39,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Carryover from previous year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total General Fund Income	\$ 871,085.32	\$ 854,700.49	\$ 1,042,973.62	\$ 819,506.00
Christian Education	\$ 6,718.12	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,915.05	\$ 3,050.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 752.65	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,757.24	\$ 1,000.00
Finance	\$ 17,524.28	\$ 20,196.00	\$ 22,607.45	\$ 20,648.00
Fellowship	\$ 2,302.89	\$ 400.00	\$ 827.67	\$ 400.00
Mutual Ministry	\$ 595,499.60	\$ 620,830.49	\$ 598,145.17	\$ 528,749.24
Church Operations	\$ 30,355.84	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 31,990.61	\$ 6,900.00
Evangelism	\$ 580.77	\$ 600.00	\$ 531.00	\$ 600.00
Property	\$ 99,458.14	\$ 116,124.00	\$ 147,241.21	\$ 125,619.00
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Executive Committee	\$ 1,097.97	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,194.09	\$ 5,250.00
Mission/Outreach (SSOM)	\$ 1,551.82	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 27,801.33	\$ 6,450.00
Benevolence	\$ 100,570.29	\$ 64,600.00	\$ 106,781.00	\$ 66,250.00
Worship, Music and Arts	\$ 9,326.61	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 11,746.98	\$ 7,200.00
Total General Fund Expense	\$ 865,738.98	\$ 854,700.49	\$ 958,538.80	\$ 772,116.24
General Income - Expense	\$ 5,346.34	\$ -	\$ 84,434.82	\$ 47,389.76

Benevolence / Missions Detail

Benevolence		2024 Carryover	2025 Budget	Budget Donation	% Complete	2025 Income	2025 Expense	Balance
Synod General Mission Support		\$ -	\$ 46,350.00	\$ 500.00	1.08%	\$ 500.00	\$ 46,350.00	\$ -
	Seasonal Offerings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 9,991.75	\$ 9,991.75	\$ -
	Soup Suppers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 1,921.00	\$ 1,921.00	\$ -
Bolder Options		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 304.00	\$ 304.00	\$ -
Campus Ministry		\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,291.00	76.37%	\$ 5,772.50	\$ 6,431.50	\$ 50.00
Channel One		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100.00%	\$ 5,649.70	\$ 5,599.70	\$ 50.00
Colombia Education Ministries		\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 1,546.90	\$ 5,546.90	\$ -
Colombia Emmaus Road Foundation		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 100.00	10.00%	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
ELCA AMMPARO		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Discretionary Fund for the Needy		\$ 4,241.98	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 3,989.50	\$ 6,391.81	\$ 1,839.67
ELCA Disaster Relief		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 7,885.00	\$ 7,885.00	\$ -
ELCA Good Gifts - Global Barnyard		\$ 2,147.75	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 2,006.55	\$ 2,020.00	\$ 2,134.30
General Benevolence Giving		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,002.75	N/A	\$ 2,002.75	\$ -	\$ -
Good Earth Village		\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 50.00	6.67%	\$ 807.00	\$ 1,507.00	\$ -
Habitat for Humanity		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Hearing Assistant Device		\$ 115.00	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 115.00
Isaiah		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Family Promise		\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 427.00	14.23%	\$ 437.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 10.00
Food Pantry		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 3,173.75	\$ 2,258.67	\$ 915.08
Landing		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -
LIRS / Global Refuge		\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 4,019.40	\$ 4,219.40	\$ -
Lutheran Social Services/LINK		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00	20.00%	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
Lutheran World Relief		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 890.00	\$ 890.00	\$ -
Mitten Tree		\$ 714.85	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 625.69	\$ 249.67	\$ 1,090.87
NAMI		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 2,140.00	\$ 2,140.00	\$ -
Next Chapter Ministries		\$ 20.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	100.00%	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 2,045.00	\$ -
Out Front MN		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 130.50	\$ 130.50	\$ -
Project Comfort		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 1,505.05	\$ 1,505.05	\$ -
Projector		\$ 77.06	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 77.06
Reconciling Works		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100.00%	\$ 822.50	\$ 822.50	\$ -
Tanzania		\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 500.00	25.00%	\$ 3,559.50	\$ -	\$ 5,559.50
Salvation Army		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Sanctuary Sound System		\$ 15,641.34	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 21,089.71	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 30,481.05
Technology Updates		\$ 3,917.80	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 7,917.80	\$ -
Women's Shelter		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -
World Hunger		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 1,688.35	\$ 1,688.35	\$ -
Total Benevolence		\$ 29,075.78	\$ 64,600.00	\$ 8,970.75		\$ 90,383.10	\$ 122,773.85	\$ 42,322.53
Mission/Outreach Program								
Storytelling Grant		\$ -	\$ -			\$ 26,135.56	\$ 22,680.47	\$ 3,455.09
Olive Branch - Self Defense		\$ -	\$ -			\$ 2,049.63	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 49.63
Pastoral Intern Fund		\$ 58,000.00	\$ -			\$ 55,000.00	\$ -	\$ 113,000.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry		\$ 98.13	\$ -			\$ 210.00	\$ -	\$ 308.13
Travel		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Mission/Outreach Program		\$ 58,098.13	\$ -			\$ 83,395.19	\$ 24,680.47	\$ 116,812.85
Endowment Fund Mission/Benevolence								
Beaver Scholarship - Seminarians		\$ 33,840.50	\$ -			\$ 6,997.08	\$ 2,912.75	\$ 37,924.83
Hull HS Scholarship - Tanzania		\$ 29,265.38	\$ -			\$ 12,584.33	\$ -	\$ 41,849.71

Council Members and Leaders and Annual Meeting Ballot January 25, 2026

Mount Olive Council Members and Leaders:

Executive Committee:

President: Mark Pasch (3rd year of three year term)
President Elect: **Open for Election**
Treasurer: Bob Nelson (2nd year of 2nd three year term)
Secretary: Loren Else (3rd year of three year term)
Endowment Committee Chair: Don Halley (2nd year of 2nd three year term)
Finance Chair and Stewardship Ministry Team: **Open for Election**
Facility and Grounds Ministry Team: Dave Mickelson (2nd year of three year term)
Mutual Ministry Team: **Open for Election**

Full Council:

Adult Faith Ministry Team: Donna Miller (2nd year of three year term)
Worship and Music Ministry Team: Lara Smoley (2nd year of three year term)
Service and Social Outreach Ministry Team: **Open for Election**
Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Team: Nathan Mannix (2nd year of three year term)
Youth Representative: **Open for Election**

Non-Council, elected leaders and offices:

Personnel Committee : Jay Myers, Barb Sorensen, Jill Mickelson, Heather Klavetter, Serena Oudekirk
Nominating Committee: **Open for Election**, Kris Liedtke, Jolene Baker
Columbarium Committee: Renee Schaefer, Sharon Halling, Mark Schultze
2026 Synod Assembly Voting Members: **Open for Election**
Endowment Committee: Peter Heldt, Mark Masbruch, Gene Ostrom

Non-Council, appointed leaders and offices:

Finance Secretary: Don Halley Accountant: Mark Masbruch

Mount Olive Council Ballot:

Executive Council:

President Elect: Kris Liedtke
Finance Chair and Stewardship Ministry Team: Rob Nelson
Mutual Ministry: Becky Lashinski

Full Council

Service and Social Outreach Ministry Team: Sherry Sanden Will
Youth Representative: Noah Mannix

Non-Council, elected leaders and offices:

Nominating Committee: Michelle Thomsen, _____
2026 Synod Assembly Voting Members: David Steenhoek and Connie Mudore
2026 Synod Assembly Alternates: Sally Fritts and Rob Thomsen
Youth/Young Adult Delegate: _____
Youth/Young Adult Alternate Delegate: _____

Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA 2025 Ministry Report



We gathered at **Council as Leaders** to think collaboratively and further equip ourselves for ministry as lay and rostered leaders.



Nuer Community Lutheran Church, a new worshipping community, was established! Rev. Yang Tut was ordained.



We had four new entrants to the **Candidacy** process! 13 were in process as '25 concluded. 19 attended the annual **Candidacy Retreat** at Good Earth Village.



A variety of **Power and Boundaries educational workshops** were offered to equip church council members, faith formation professionals, and rostered ministers for leadership.

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, **and that is what we are.**"
—1 John 3:1 (emphasis added)

Through Christ, we have been made children of God! What good news! It is out of this identity, the truest proclamation of who we are, that we live as followers of Jesus in this world.

As members of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA, we strive to *walk together proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ*. We live in this community of faith, across sixteen counties with 100,000 baptized members as the children of God. Because this is who we are, we celebrate all the ways God is at work in us and through us – not only in our own communities but throughout the synod and church - for the sake of the world.

Join me in celebrating all the ways God has been at work in our midst over the past year, and let's look ahead, together, with joyful anticipation for what God will yet do, in us and through us, for the sake of the good news of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Rev. Regina Hassanally

Bishop Regina Hassanally



Rev. Sarah Krolak was called to serve as pastor of **Connections Ministry/Shelter Church**, which is a Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry based in Mankato.



Synod members participated in the **Lutheran Church of Colombia's National Assembly** where Rev. John Rojas was elected as bishop.



About 140 ministry leaders attended the **Fall Theological Retreat**, which includes fellowship, education, and retreat. Rev. Leila Ortiz led the presentations and discussion on pneumatological estuaries, with the theme of Baptism in Muddy Waters.

We gathered under the theme "*Remember what God has done. Prepare for what God will do.*" at the **Synod Assembly**. Three resolutions were passed regarding *Support for the Least of These and the Ministries that Serve Them* and *Expanded Preaching and Teaching on the Stories of Women in the Bible and Use of Female Imagery of God and of God's Work in the World*. On the first ballot, Bishop Hassanally was elected to a second six-year term.



17 Rostered Ministers joined our synod!



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7

THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.

MISSION SUPPORT

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at [ELCA.org/subscribe](https://elca.org/subscribe).

Read about Mission Support and learn more at LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.

A YEAR OF PATIENCE, RESILIENCE, HOPE, & JOY

When we gather each January before the second semester, we write words on wooden stars during worship. We remember how God guided the magi to the Christ child in the shining of a star and ponder what God might be calling us to in the next year. I encourage the students to place their star where they might see it regularly. Last January, the word “patience” came to my mind, and I immediately wanted to run the other direction like the reluctant prophet, Job. *I don't want to have to have more patience! I've already faced too much uncertainty and upheaval following the fire at the LCC!* A friend and colleague gave another star to me the following week, this one labeled “abundance.” That sounded much better. Suspecting I might need both, though, “patience” and “abundance” have looked up at me from my table for the past year.

To tell you all the times and ways in which we had surprises and setbacks through the rebuilding process would take far too long. Suffice it to say, we have needed patience. The lot where the LCC building once stood still lies empty, waiting until warmer temps for us to break ground and finally, *finally* rebuild.

Dear ones, to tell you all the times we have experienced abundance in the past year would also take a long time. We have more first year students showing up for dinner, worship, Bible study, and other activities than I've seen in a while. They are earnest, engaging, full of wonder, joy, and beautiful questions and ideas. Our returning students have done an incredible job of welcoming--welcoming in a way that allows the newcomers to influence and change the community, too. Our student ministers, Elsie and Emma, listen well to their peers, preparing to offer more Bible study (per request!) next semester and nights of service for nursing students and others who want to be involved in community and world.

It continues to be a joy & honor to serve the LCC. God is leading us through the wilderness and teaching us what it means to hold patience, abundance, resilience, hope, and joy together. We trust that God is good, all the time. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your involvement and support in this time and always.

With patience and abundant hope, Pastor Corrine



Our new logo is based off the LuMin (ELCA campus ministry network) logo. This helps people recognize ELCA campus ministries nationwide. The rainbow portion represents our theological commitment to welcome & claim belovedness, esp. for our LGBTQIA+ siblings. The other colors represent the higher ed institutions in Winona-- purple for Winona State, green for Southeast Tech, and red for St. Mary's. The cross is our center and reaches out to the wider world.