

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



ST. MICHAEL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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,



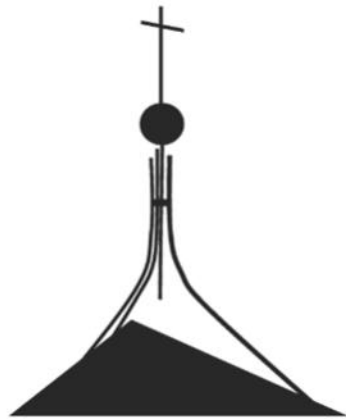
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL REPORT 2025



ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
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The Reverend Christopher Bruesehoff, Pastor
Mark Dishong, Director of Music
Danielle Korte, Office Administrator and Communications Specialist
Paul Makin, Custodian

Our mission is to celebrate and share
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AGENDA FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

- Opening Devotion
- Submission of Minutes from the February 2, 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting
- President's Report
- Pastor's Report
- Financial Review Task Group Reports
- Treasurer's 2025 Report
- Nominating Committee Report for Congregational Council
- Call for Nominations from the Floor
- Ballot for 2025 Congregational Council
- Resolution for Consideration
- Resolution 1: A Resolution to Complete the 2023-2025 Financial Reviews
- Resolution 2: A Resolution to Adopt the 2026 Rental Fund Spending Plan
- Resolution 3: A Resolution to Distribute the 2025 Memorial Fund Income
- Resolution 4: A Resolution to Approve 2026 Withdrawals from the Memorial Fund
- Resolution 5: A Resolution to Adopt the 2026 General Fund Spending Plan
- Election Report, if Required
- Acceptance of Committee and Team Reports
- Recognition and Thanks
- Closing Prayer

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.

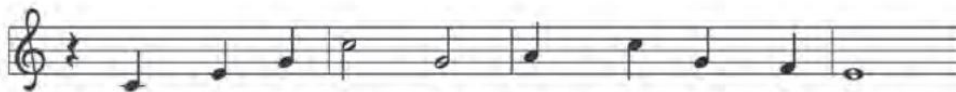
Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

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



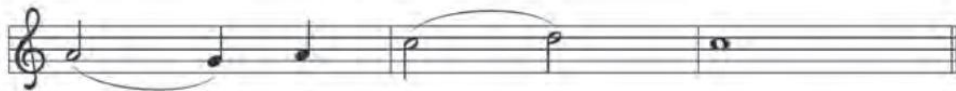
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow' red to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow' red 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
Text and music © 2017 Paul D. Weber, admin.
Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced by permission.

2024 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

11:34am Call to Order
Council President: 64 Voting members were in attendance
57 in person; 7 via zoom
Pastor: Opening Devotions and Litany
Testing of the voting process for in person and zoom was completed.

President: Submission of Minutes
The minutes from the January 28, 2024 Annual Congregation Meeting were previously reviewed and approved by the Congregation Council. Paul moved to approve. Dennis seconded. Vote - unanimous approval.

Reports: The following reports are contained in the 2024 Annual Report and were submitted to the record.

President's Report - Geof Castle.

- Report reviewed (page 9).

Pastor's Report - Pastor Chris Bruesehoff.

- Highlighted report (page 10 & 11).
- February 10th possible installation of solar panels.
- Contract for HVAC ready to sign.
- Question from Holly regarding the unlabeled red section on the pie chart. The red section is Growing in Faith together and Education Programs.

Financial Review Task Group Reports -

- No task force for this year due to the new financial system.

Treasurer's 2024 Report - Terri Erickson

- Reviewed report (page 15)
- Discussed Asset/Fund Balance on page 18. The Rental properties had many repairs this year. Each section reviewed. Question about what is included in the Dedicated (Restricted) fund. Family designated funds are for specific areas. (Examples include: youth, alter guild, Sunday school and Benevolence).
- Discussed costs of replacing broken air conditioner in Pastors office and the second set of double doors.
- Discussed rental and memorial funds to assist with balancing of the 2025 Spending Plan. Rental fund will also need to cover costs of updates needed for the rental properties (carpet & outside painting).
- Discussed PSE&G expenses. Cost was carried over from last year, Solar savings were not factored in, waiting until solar is turned on. Should cut the costs in half.

Financial Secretary Report - Kim Billet

- Report is on page 14. Kim recommended everyone review report.
- St Michaels church management software was updated in 2024. Old system was Shepard's Staff, new system is Church Trac. Kim provided a

presentation of the Church Trac System. Tim Cook and Kim Billet are the point people for any questions or assistance with the system. Can use the system on your phone or on the computer. There is an informational section in Constant Contact that can help with using the system.

- Questions & Answers and discussion followed the presentation.

President: Nominating Committee Report for Congregation Council Membership

The Nominating Committee Report was reviewed with the congregation, (see page 16). The Council Nominee Biographies are on page 17. There was a call for additional nominations from the floor, there were none. Kim Billet will continue for a 2-year term. New and continuing Congregational Council members were approved. Motion to cast a single ballot to elect the slate brought forward by Pastor Chris, seconded by Holly. Vote - unanimous approval.

(Resolutions are on Page 27 of the Annual Report)

RESOLUTION 1: A RESOLUTION TO COMPLETE 2022-2024 FINANCIAL REVIEWS

Be it resolved that the Congregation of St. Michael's Lutheran Church gathered for its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, February 2, 2025 approves of the Audit Committee submitting their report at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in 2026 presenting the results of their review of the financial accounts of the Church for fiscal years 2022, 2023 and 2024. *Geof Castle moved, Ruth Morgenroth seconded. Discussions and questions were held. No changes or updates required to the resolution. Vote called and adopted by consensus vote (1 abstention)*

RESOLUTION 2: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2025 RENTAL FUND SPENDING PLANS

Be it resolved that St. Michael's Congregation gathered for the Annual Meeting on February 2, 2025 approves the 2025 Rental Fund Income and Expense Plans as recommended by the Congregation Council. *Geof Castle moved, Dennis Purves seconded. Discussions and questions were held. The typo "January" was removed from the resolution. Vote called adopted by consensus vote (1 abstention)*

RESOLUTION 3: A RESOLUTION TO DISTRIBUTE THE 2024 MEMORIAL FUND INCOME

Be it resolved that that the 2024 Memorial Fund Income of \$11,543 be used to support the 2025 General Operating Fund. *Geof Castle moved, Robert Schumacher seconded. No discussions or questions. The typo "2023" was changed to 2024 in the resolution title. Vote called - adopted by unanimous approval.*

RESOLUTION 4: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2025 WITHDRAWALS FROM THE MEMORIAL FUND

Be it resolved that the Congregation of St. Michael's Lutheran Church gathered for its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, February 2,

2025 approves the withdrawal of up to \$100,000 from the Memorial Fund to be transferred to the General Fund. It is recommended that these withdrawals happen on a quarterly basis as needed to ensure that needed repayments are made to the Unrestricted Fund Balance and a positive ending balance for 2025.

Geof Castle moved, Tim Cook seconded. Discussions and questions were held. No changes or updates required to the resolution. Vote called - adopted by consensus vote (4 abstentions, 1 nay on zoom)

RESOLUTION 5: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2025 GENERAL OPERATING FUND SPENDING PLAN

Be it resolved that St. Michael's Congregation gathered for the Annual Meeting on February 2, 2025 approves the 2025 General Operating Fund Spending Plan as recommended by the Congregation Council.

Geof Castle moved, Dennis Purves seconded. Discussions and questions were held. During Discussion Carol Prisco requested an amendment to the 2025 Proposed General Fund Spending Plan. Proposed to move the \$100,000.00 Memorial Fund Reserve from the General Fund Income (page 20, line 16) to the end of the Spending Plan (page 23) and list it as a Transfer. Vote to end discussion. Passed. Holly Zahradnick seconded the amendment. Vote - amendment approved by consensus (3 abstentions).

No changes or updates required to the wording of the resolution. Vote called - adopted by unanimous approval (0 abstention, 0 nay).

President: Recognition and Thanks and Appreciation was given to council members, both expiring and continuing.

Pastor: Closing Prayers

President: The meeting was adjourned at 1:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kay McConnell, Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As with so many wonderful blessings, I didn't set out to be Congregation Council President - it was an opportunity that called to me when there was a need for someone to step up. Then again, both my mom and her mom were very active in leadership roles on their church councils, so perhaps it was meant to be.

2025 at SMLC might have been less dramatic regarding major efforts - the capital campaign and solar project were largely part of 2024 - but it still had lots going on. Each month we met to discuss and debate important matters which benefitted the people and missions of St. Michael's before deciding on the best course of action. It was rewarding to be part of something so vital, and if you haven't served on Council, I encourage you to get involved when you can.

The members of our Congregation Council were dedicated, purpose-filled people who embraced the chance to make a difference. While everyone approached their roles uniquely, as members at large, officers, liaisons to one (or many committees) or some other arrangement, we all embraced the opportunity to serve in a way that spoke to us. Hopefully that showed, as we followed Jesus' example in the modern world.

It brought me joy - and a surprisingly amount of fun - to serve on our Council, and I was constantly impressed by the guidance, partnership and care my fellow members offered, shared and accepted. Pastor Chris brought a sense of camaraderie to our meetings, and that permeated through each interaction, bringing us closer together as a team, even with a wide variety of viewpoints, personalities and priorities. Those differences made us stronger as a group, as I'm sure Rob, Terri, Kim, Tim, Patt, Martha, Ruth and Mary Beth will attest.

Special thanks to Geof Castle for the warm handoff as I stepped into the President position with no real preparation (I wasn't even at that meeting when the election occurred!), and to the next President: don't worry, I'll be there for you too.

Since my time on Council is coming to a close, I'll share my favorite Bible verse, which reminds us that God grants us seasons of all kinds, each with its own purpose:

*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace
Ecclesiastes 3*

In Christ,
Karen Roorda
2025 Congregation Council President

PASTOR'S REPORT

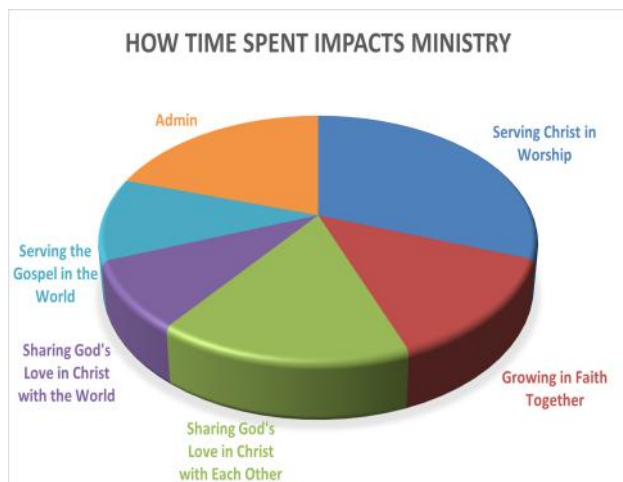
As we look back on this past year at St. Michael's, we give thanks for the many ways God has been at work in and through our community. Even in a world marked by uncertainty and rapid change, our congregation has continued to grow in faith, deepen in connection, and strengthen its commitment to our shared calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.

This year brought meaningful milestones to our life together. Our Property Team completed the long awaited air conditioning installation in the Social Hall, greatly improving the comfort and accessibility of our gatherings. Through our Youth and Family Ministry, we helped send young people to camp and supported their participation in synod retreats, offering opportunities for faith, leadership, and friendship that continue to shape their lives. We also renewed our Christian Education program to better serve children, youth, and adults across generations, creating a more adaptable and engaging approach to faith learning. This renewed focus reflects our ongoing commitment to nurturing curiosity, strengthening community, and supporting spiritual growth at every stage of life.

Our worship and learning life remained vibrant. We celebrated 97 Sunday services, with 58 streamed online, and gathered for 43 Bible Study sessions. Throughout the year we rejoiced in one baptism, one wedding, three funerals, and the confirmation of two young people—moments that reflect both God's promises and the sacred rhythms of our shared life.

Across the wider church, this year brought significant change. The New Jersey Synod elected Rev. Dr. Christa Compton as bishop and continued work to restore confirmation camp. On the churchwide level, the ELCA elected Rev. Yehiel Curry as Presiding Bishop during the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, where I was present as a guest and witness to this historic moment. I continue to chair the NJ Synod Mission Advocacy Table, supporting 13 ministries in various stages of development and renewal.

My gratitude extends deeply to the people of St. Michael's—to our council, our dedicated staff (Mark Dishong, Danielle Korte, and Paul Makin), and to all who contribute to our ministry. You make this work a shared joy, and I am grateful for the support, encouragement, and community you offer to me and my family. As we look toward the coming year, we remain rooted in hope and anchored in the promises of Baptism. May we continue to serve with joy, grow in faith, and respond with courage to God's call.



"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." - 1 Peter 4:10 (NRSVue)

In Christ,
Rev. Christopher Bruesehoff

St. Michael's Lutheran Church
Cherry Hill, NJ
January 22, 2026

PASTORAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>		<u>Total</u>
Visitation		Meetings Continued...	
Funeral Prep	1	Wedding Rehearsal	1
Homebound Calls	36	Young Adult Cohort	1
Homebound Visits	20	Youth Group Panning	1
Hospital/Rehab Visit	8		
Member Visit	19		
		Worship	
Meetings		Affirmation of Baptism	2
Allied HVAC Maintenance	1	Ash Wednesday	2
Altar Guild	1	Baptism	1
Baptism Prep	1	Blessing of the Animals	7
Bovio HVAC Service	2	Christmas Eve Worship	2
ChargePoint Meeting	1	Funeral	3
Christian Ed Team	2	Good Friday	1
Church Trac Training	1	In-Person Sunday Worship	97
Collaborative Learning Meeting	33	Maundy Thursday	2
Confirmation Camp Planning	5	Midweek Holden Evening Prayer	8
Congregational Council	10	Monthly Prayer Service	10
Congregational Meeting	1	Sermons	99
County Elections Inspection	1	Virtual	58
Delaware District Assembly	1	Wedding	1
EV Meeting	1		
Finance	11	Christian Education	
HVAC Cloud Hookup	1	Bible Study	43
Intern Cluster Meeting	1	Confirmation Classes	18
Intern Supervisor Meeting	3	Confirmation Orientation	1
Kingston Civics Association	1	Confirmation Rehearsal & Meal	1
LM Maintenance	2	Faith in Conversation	1
Martha's Circle Lunch	1	Good Friday Family Event	1
Membership Team Meeting	1		
Ministerium Day	3	Other	
Mission Advocacy Table	1	Continuing Ed Days	1
Parish Pastor & Deacon with the Bishop	1	Vacation Days	14
Pericope	42	(Sundays)	2
Pest Control	5	Bishop's Installation	
Property Committee	7	Bishop's Sunday Visit	
Reconciling In Christ (RIC)	6	Churchwide Assembly	
Roof Inspection	1	Clean Up Day	
Solar Inspections	1	Fall Festival	
Solar Monitoring Hookup	1	Hanging of the Greens	
Solar Project	3	Karaoke Night	
South Jersey Religious Leaders	1	Parents Night Out	
Stewardship	2	Removal of the Greens	
Synod Assembly	1	Warrior Roots Class	
Wedding Prep	1		

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC'S REPORT

As the Director of Music at Saint Michael's Lutheran Church, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2025. This past year has been a meaningful and fulfilling one for our music ministry, and I am deeply grateful for the dedication and faithfulness of our musicians, choirs, and congregation. Our mission remains to enrich worship through meaningful, diverse, and inspiring music, and I am proud to share the ways this ministry has continued to grow and serve our community throughout the year. This report highlights the achievements and activities that contributed to vibrant worship services and a thriving music ministry at Saint Michael's.

Worship Services and Music: In 2025, music continued to be an essential and life-giving element of our worship experience. The following are some of the highlights.

Sunday Worship:

Each Sunday, our dedicated choirs, instrumentalists, and singers offered thoughtful and beautiful music during the 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Our repertoire reflected a wide range of musical styles, including traditional hymns, contemporary selections, and special anthems that supported and enhanced our liturgical worship. Multiple musical settings of the liturgy from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and With One Voice were used throughout the year, allowing for musical variety that complemented the seasons of the church year.

Advent and Christmas:

During Advent, Holden Evening Prayer was sung at Wednesday midweek services. Our Christmas Eve services once again featured beloved carols, the Festival Choir, the Handbell Choir, and several instrumentalists, creating worship that was both festive and deeply meaningful.

Lent and Easter:

Holden Evening Prayer was also sung during Wednesday midweek services throughout Lent. The Festival Choir presented special anthems for Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter during the 11:00 a.m. service. The Handbell Choir and Sunday School Singers added to the celebration by providing music for the Easter worship service.

Youth Sunday:

Youth Sunday included student-led songs and a celebratory anthem. Students actively participated in song selection and took on leadership roles within the worship service, helping to shape a meaningful and joyful experience for the congregation.

Choirs and Ensembles

Our choirs and ensembles continued to sing and play musical offerings in 2025, with many members faithfully committing their time and talents to rehearsals and worship leadership.

Vocal Choir:

The Vocal Choir sang anthems on selected Sundays throughout the church year and rehearsed after the 11:00 a.m. worship service during the fall, winter, and spring. We continued our commitment to being an intergenerational choir by welcoming young singers alongside adult members. This year's singers included: Pastor Chris Bruesehoff, Kelly Daly, Tim Cook, Elizabeth DeBacker, Laura Dishong, Erlinda Hair, Donna Hammer,

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC'S REPORT

Gloria Love, Ed Nace, Dennis Purves, and Karen Roorda.

Festival Choir:

The Festival Choir sang during the Christmas and Easter seasons, offering an opportunity for additional members and friends of the congregation to participate in music leadership during these special times. Thank you to Sam Cook, Amanda Kern, and Gail Kern for their participation this year.

Handbell Choir:

The Handbell Choir continued its strong presence in worship, contributing to several services throughout the year. Their dedication and intricate musicianship added a rich and beautiful dimension to our worship. I am thankful for the members who faithfully rehearsed on Thursday evenings and rang for services: Josephine Billet, Kim Billet, Gabriele Clark, Vicki Clemson, Lisa Corrato, Kelly Daly, Linda David, Elizabeth DeBacker, Laura Dishong, Ed Nace, and Dennis Purves.

Instrumentalists and Soloists:

Our instrumental musicians and soloists played an integral role in worship throughout the year, offering their talents during both regular Sunday services and festival worship. Instruments included cello, flute, harp, trumpet, violin, and voice. Participating musicians included: Elijah Bruesehoff, Allen Carr, Tim Cook, Laura Dishong, Eleanor Dishong, Ed Nace, Erlinda Hair, Dennis Purves, Karen Roorda, and Cynthia Tjoa.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who supported the music ministry this year. Your dedication, hard work, and love for Christ are evident in every note sung and played. May we continue to glorify God through music in the year ahead.

Special thanks to Pastor Chris Bruesehoff, with whom I am grateful to collaborate in planning and leading worship at Saint Michael's. I am also thankful for our office administrator, Danielle Korte, for her work organizing music details in the weekly worship bulletins. Finally, I appreciate the ongoing support of the Congregational Council and all members and friends of Saint Michael's Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Dishong, Director of Music

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

The generosity and commitment of our St. Michael's community is nothing less than amazing! I am astounded at all we have accomplished together—we met our financial giving goals and enabled so much goodness in our community and beyond!

2025, our income decreased by 0.8%”:

<u>Total Income Giving</u>	2025	2024
General	\$275, 828	\$266,651
Plate	\$300	\$447
End of Year	\$753	\$0
Lent	\$160	\$721
Maundy TH/Good FR	\$245	\$425
Easter	\$975	\$2,104
Thanksgiving	\$465	\$226
Advent	\$15	\$448
Christmas	\$2,994	\$1,052
Bldg Usage IHOC	\$4,944	\$5,400
Bldg Usage Other	\$7,821	\$19,425
Total	\$294,500	\$296,899

In 2025 we adopted new church management software – and we’re still getting used to managing by name rather than by envelope number. Many thanks to the tellers for their many hours of dedicated service, to Dennis Purves for stepping into the Assistant Finance Secretary role, and to Tim Cook for his guidance and assistance with the new church management software.

Respectfully Submitted, Kim Billet, Financial Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

2025 Asset/Fund Balances:

In 2025, Total Asset/Fund Balances decreased by \$5,726. This included the Dedicated (Restricted) Funds change of -\$48,481 resulting in an Unrestricted Fund Balance of -\$8616.

2025 Spending Plan to Actual Comparison:

General Fund. Income received was \$304,075, underperforming the Spending Plan by \$-5343. The Expenses were \$361,840. Expenses exceeded income by \$57,765.

Rental Fund. Income exceeded expenses by \$24,532

2026 Proposed Budget

In 2026, we are projecting a General Fund spending plan with expenses exceeding income by -\$84,134. This will require supplementing member contributions with cash transferred from Memorial fund Reserves and the 2025 Memorial Fund Income and if available, a transfer from our Rental Reserve Fund. We also anticipate using some money in the Exchange account as it was originally dedicated.

Rental Fund: We anticipate Rental fund income to be the same as 2025 as there were no increases in rent for 2026. We do have repairs that were not able to be done in 2025, therefore 2026 will be the time to take care of these. We are projecting income to exceed expenses by \$12,310.

Income: In 2026 we are projecting General Fund income to be \$303,736 which is lower than our 2025 Actual.

Expenses: In 2026 we are projecting an expense spending plan of \$387,870. This is approximately 7.2% increase from our actual expenses in 2025. We are proposing a 2.8% increase to employee salaries. Other Spending Plan expense category projections for 2026 are based on a combination of input from our church committees and our actual 2025 spending amounts.

With heartfelt gratitude to all of our church members who so graciously donate their time and talents to preserve and protect St. Michael's financial resources I want to say thank you. Thank you Kim Billet, our Financial Secretary, Anne Cassidy and Joe LeRose, our Assistant Treasurers to whom I would not have been able to perform this job, Lisa Gess, Kay McConnell, 2025 Council Members and our Memorial Fund Committee members, Financial Review Team, Gail Kern and Dennis Purves, Danielle Korte, our Office Administrator and all the Teller Team members.

May God's grace abound,
Terri Erickson, Treasurer

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Three members of the Congregation Council are completing regular terms. The outgoing Council class serves as the Nominating Committee (Constitution C13.02), they are Ruth Morgenroth, Karen Roorda, and Martha Burke. The current council membership follows:
*serving a second term and not eligible to be re-elected.

Terms Expiring Feb 2026

Ruth Morgenroth*
Karen Roorda
Martha Burke

Terms Expiring Feb 2027

Patt Serafin
Tim Cook
Terri Erickson
Kim Billet*

Terms Expiring Feb 2028

Rob Schumacher
Dennis Purves
Mary Beth Neilson
Josephine Billet/
Samantha Cook

The Nominating Committee identified the following voting members of the Congregation willing to serve on the Congregation Council for these terms:

Nominees—terms expiring Feb. 2028: *Josephine Billet/Samantha Cook; Vacant at Large*

Nominees –terms expiring Feb 2029: *Steven Gregor, Vacant at Large, Vacant at Large, Vacant at Large; Vacant Young Adult*

St. Michael's Constitution provides that:

C12.01. *The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s) and not more than fourteen (14) nor fewer than eight (8) members of the congregation. An effort should be made to include at least one youth (age 18 or under) and at least one of whom shall be a young adult (age 18 – 30).*

C12.02. *The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for up to three (3) years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two (2) full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. Their tenure shall be so arranged so that one-third of the terms expire annually. (St. Michael's 2019 Constitution)*

COUNCIL NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES

Steven Gregor:

I was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania and lived for many years in Dauphin County before moving to New Jersey after college in 1981. I have two beautiful children and two grandchildren, the apples of my eye! I was baptized in the Tulpehocken Lutheran Church where my grandfather was a deacon and have been an active member of a few churches since childhood, holding a few leadership positions myself. I have been a public educator for over 4 decades, holding the positions of middle and high school social studies teacher, staff development trainer, curriculum supervisor, middle school principal, and then a central administrator. I retired as of January 1, 2025 and am currently an adjunct instructor at St. Thomas University and Thomas Edison State University. I earned a doctorate in instructional technology and distance education in 2014.

Interesting facts about me are that I have scaled the Andes Mountains, hiked to Machu Picchu, and gone bungee jumping. I also like to run and compete several times a year in 10K races. I am a fan of Ancestry.com and traced my lineage back to Johannes Jacob Mosser in 17th century Strasbourg. I look forward to contributing to the mission of St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

ASSET/FUND BALANCE

2025 Asset/Fund Balances	12/31/2025	12/31/2024	Change
<u>General Fund</u>	-	-	
Cash - TD Bank	\$43,815	\$39,786	\$4,029
ELCA Mission Investments	\$0	\$1,039	-\$1,039
	\$43,815	\$40,825	\$2,990
Dedicated (Restricted) Funds	\$52,431	\$100,912	-\$48,481
Unrestricted Fund Balance	-\$8,616	-\$60,087	\$51,471
<u>Rental Fund</u>	-	-	
Cash - TD Bank	\$20,349	\$11,859	\$8,490
Mission Investment	\$0	\$1,464	-\$1,464
Total Assets	\$20,349	\$13,323	\$7,026
Fund Balance	\$20,349	\$13,323	\$7,026
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	\$292,199	\$356,453	-\$64,254
<u>Youth Gathering Fund</u>	-	-	
ELCA Youth Gathering Mission Plus Account	\$7,834	\$7,803	\$31
Total Fund Balances	\$311,766	\$317,492	-\$5,726

ATTENDANCE REPORT

	2023	2024	2025	Change
<u>Average Virtual Attendance</u>				
Knowing that multiple people participate through a single device. We use the 7 day unique viewers reported by Facebook and YouTube multiplied by 1.5.	79	70	54	-16
<u>Average In-person Attendance</u>	100	100	91	-9
<u>Average Combined Attendance</u>				
Our combined average attendance for the year includes both in-person and virtual participation. The same multiplier (1.5) is used on the virtual attendance number.	179	169	144	-25
Total People Streaming Worship	2654			
Total People Worshipping In Person	4822			

2026 PROPOSED RENTAL FUND SPENDING PLAN

	2026 Spending Plan	2025 Spending Plan	2024 Spending Plan	2023 Spending Plan	2025 Actuals	2024 Actuals	2023 Actuals
Rental Income							
104 Chapel	\$ 22,769	\$22,428	\$22,428	\$21,360	\$22,769	\$21,900	\$21,360
106 Chapel	\$ 21,291	\$21,165	\$20,825	\$20,400	\$21,291	\$20,734	\$20,300
Other - Interest							
Income Total	\$ 44,060	\$43,593	\$43,253	\$41,760	\$44,060	\$42,634	\$41,660
Rental Expenses							
104 Chapel							
Legal Fees							
Management Fee	\$ 1,565	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$1,565	\$1,560	\$1,560
Property Taxes	\$ 7,882	\$7,144	\$6,531	\$6,531	\$ 7,507	\$7,144	\$6,732
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 9,100	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$ 0-	\$6,684	\$0
Utilities & Plans	\$ 959	\$959	\$959	\$959	\$ 958	\$927	\$450
104 Chapel Total	\$ 19,506	\$12,663	\$12,050	\$12,050	\$10,030	\$16,315	\$8,742
106 Chapel							
Legal Fees							
Management Fee	\$ 1,435	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$1,435	\$1,560	\$1,560
Property Taxes	\$ 7,226	\$6,647	\$5,987	\$5,987	\$6,882	\$6,647	\$6,170
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 2,400	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,140	\$0
Utilities & Plans	\$ 1,183	\$450	\$1,235	\$1,235	\$1,183	\$460	\$450
106 Chapel Total	\$ 12,244	\$11,657	\$11,782	\$11,782	\$9,500	\$11,807	\$8,180
Expense Total	\$ 31,750	\$24,320	\$23,832	\$23,832	\$19,530	\$28,122	\$16,922
Income Less Expense	\$ 12,310	\$19,273	\$19,421	\$17,928	\$24,530	\$14,512	\$24,738
Cash Balances, January 1		\$12,006	\$31,004	\$48,232	\$ 1,859	\$32,371	\$50,133
Income Less Expense		\$19,273	\$19,421	\$17,928	\$ 2,310	\$14,512	\$24,738
Transfer to General Fund		\$10,000	\$35,000	\$35,156	\$ 6,500	\$35,000	\$42,500
Cash Balance, December 31		\$21,279	\$15,425	\$31,004	\$ 20,349	\$12,006	\$32,371

2026 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND SPENDING PLAN

		2026 Proposed Spending Plan	2025 Actuals	2025 Spending Plan	2024 Actuals
GENERAL FUND					
Income (Contributions)					
1	General Fund Envelopes	\$275,000	\$275,153	\$278,875	\$268,149
2	Plate, Offering	\$300	\$250	\$500	\$477
4	Ash Wednesday	\$100	\$50	\$250	\$232
5	Lenten Offering	\$100	\$25	\$750	\$721
6	Maundy Thursday	\$150	\$100	\$150	\$140
7	Good Friday	\$200	\$145	\$300	\$285
8	Easter	\$1,000	\$975	\$2,200	\$2,104
9	Thanksgiving	\$450	\$465	\$250	\$226
10	Advent	\$150	\$100	\$450	\$448
11	Christmas	\$3,000	\$2,994	\$1,100	\$1,052
12	Building Use - IHOC	\$5,400	\$4,494	\$5,400	\$5,400
13	Building Use - Other	\$8,500	\$7,781	\$7,650	\$17,755
14	Memorial Fund Income	\$9,386	\$11,543	\$11,543	\$9,366
20	Total Income	\$303,736	\$304,075	\$309,418	\$306,355
Expenses					
Benevolence					
21	Mission Support	\$29,250	\$29,927	\$29,784	\$29,574
22	Compensation Aid Fund	\$700	\$685	\$822	\$822
23	World Hunger	\$1,450	\$1,498	\$2,097	\$1,479
24	Local Outreach				
	Benevolence Total	\$31,400	\$32,110	\$32,703	\$31,875
Staff Compensation					
25	Salary - Pastor	\$85,576	\$83,245	\$83,245	\$81,168
26	Pension Plan - ELCA	\$13,500	\$11,472	\$12,986	\$12,649
27	Health Insurance - ELCA	\$41,971	\$36,322	\$39,624	\$37,368
28	Disability - ELCA	\$325	\$298	\$325	\$615
29	Survivor Benefit	\$216	\$198	\$216	\$439
30	Housing Equity	\$2,508	\$2,299	\$2,508	\$2,508
31	Auto Mileage Reimburse.	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$642
32	Conferences	\$375	\$50	\$375	\$50
33	Education	\$850	\$350	\$850	\$264
34	Books/supplies	\$375	\$62	\$375	\$50
35	Cell Phone, Internet	\$2,520	\$2,360	\$2,520	\$2,520
36	Salary - Music Director	\$38,848	\$37,790	\$37,790	\$36,917

2026 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND SPENDING PLAN

37 Social Security Tax	\$2,972	\$2,343	\$2,891	\$2,766
38 Salary - Office Staff	\$20,661	\$20,098	\$20,098	\$19,608
39 Social Security Tax	\$1,581	\$1,246	\$2,538	\$1,500
40 Salary - Custodian	\$24,404	\$23,739	\$23,739	\$23,160
41 Social Security Tax	\$1,867	\$1,472	\$1,816	\$1,772
42 Staff Compensation Total	\$240,048	\$223,344	\$233,396	\$223,996

General Ministries

43 Martha Circle	\$350	\$311	\$350	\$241
44 Evangelism	\$1,000	\$55	\$300	\$78
45 Parish Life & Coffee	\$500	\$43	\$500	\$154
46 Stewardship	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$114
47 Social Ministry	\$150	\$0	\$150	\$34
48 Membership	\$100	\$40	\$100	\$69
49 Youth Gathering	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$276
50 Youth Group	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$100
52 General Ministries Total	\$2,700	\$449	\$2,000	\$1,066

Worship & Music

52 Music supplies	\$500	\$356	\$500	\$507
53 Piano/organ maintenance	\$1,500	\$1,220	\$1,500	\$1,610
54 Supply Organists	\$1,000	\$600	\$1,000	\$700
55 Offering envelopes	\$300	\$425	\$300	\$260
56 Altar supplies	\$700	\$625	\$700	\$1,031
57 Devotional booklets	\$600	\$1,199	\$600	\$527
58 Sound System	\$1,000	\$1,701	\$1,000	\$1,731
59 Licensing	\$1,000	\$890	\$1,000	\$896
60 Supply Pastors	\$1,000	\$257	\$1,000	\$745
60 Flowers	\$0	\$1,089	\$0	\$0
61 Instrumentals	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500
62 Worship & Music Total	\$8,100	\$8,362	\$8,100	\$8,507

Christian Education

63 Pre-k to 12	\$500	\$328	\$1,000	\$909
64 Confirmation	\$250	\$154	\$500	\$570
65 Adult	\$200	\$0	\$400	\$359
66 Christian Education Total	\$950	\$482	\$1,900	\$1,838

2026 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND SPENDING PLAN

Administrative

67	Postage and bulk mail	\$1,000	\$471	\$1,000	\$951
68	Printing & office supplies	\$1,200	\$1,268	\$1,200	\$941
69	AED Device/CPR Training	\$800	\$820	\$800	\$0
70	Misc. Admin/legal	\$500	\$129	\$500	\$397
71	Copier contract/supplies	\$4,500	\$3,648	\$4,500	\$4,412
72	Professional fees	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$141
73	Computer upgrade/software	\$2,000	\$2,048	\$2,000	\$1,414
74	Synod Assembly	\$500	\$1,344	\$500	\$470
75	Communications/Marketing	\$1,000	\$1,279	\$1,000	\$934
76	Bank charges	\$2,000	\$779	\$2,000	\$2,161
77	Church Insurance	\$20,548	\$20,414	\$18,180	\$6,487
78	Telephone & Internet	\$3,500	\$3,076	\$3,500	\$3,484
79	Administrative Total	\$37,748	\$35,276	\$35,380	\$21,792

Property

80	Misc. supplies - property	\$2,500	\$510	\$2,500	\$1,532
81	General Maintenance/Repair	\$10,000	\$10,089	\$12,000	\$10,258
82	Cleaning supplies	\$1,000	\$1,508	\$1,000	\$1,313
83	Lawn/Snow Maintenance	\$12,000	\$11,675	\$15,000	\$10,810
84	PSE&G-Church	\$22,000	\$21,394	\$22,000	\$21,886
85	Garden Committee	\$250	\$16	\$400	\$48
86	Fire Alarm Maintenance	\$2,550	\$1,866	\$2,550	\$2,027
87	Water/Sewer-Church	\$2,500	\$1,692	\$2,500	\$2,509
88	Trash Removal	\$3,500	\$3,862	\$3,500	\$3,152
89	HVAC Contract	\$2,638	\$1,269	\$2,500	\$2,537
90	St. Michael's Parish House	\$1,500	\$1,611	\$1,500	\$1,983
91	Gen. Mnt/Rpr-Abington	\$1,000	\$808	\$750	\$519
92	PEG=920 Abington	\$3,500	\$3,355	\$3,500	\$3,613
93	Water/Sewer-Abington	\$2,500	\$2,162	\$2,500	\$2,061
94	Capital Improvements				\$8,700
95	Property Total	\$67,438	\$61,817	\$72,200	\$72,948

2026 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND SPENDING PLAN

Dedicated Accounts

96	Expense Total	\$388,384	\$361,840	\$385,679	\$362,022
97	Income less Expense	-\$84,648	-\$57,765	\$ (76,261)	\$ (55,667)
Transfer Rental Reserve			\$16,500	\$16,500	\$35,000
Memorial Fund Reserve		\$75,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Net Income/Loss After Reserves Supplement		-\$9,648	\$58,735	\$40,239	\$ (20,667)
Dedicated Fund Expenses Paid			\$49,354		-\$18,996
Reserve Supplement Balance Less Dedicated Expenses			\$9,381		
Dedicated Funds Used			\$3,745		

2026 PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN LINE ITEM SUMMERY

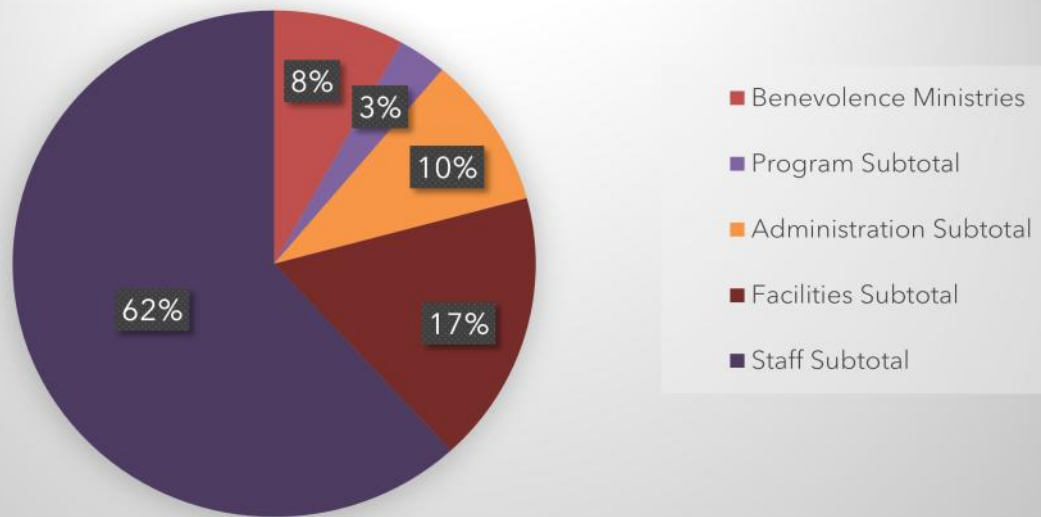
	2024 Actuals	%	2025 Spending Plan	%	2025 Actuals	%	2026 Spending Plan	%
General Contributions	\$268,149	88%	\$278,875	92%	\$275,153	91%	\$275,000	91%
Plate, Building, etc	\$28,840	9%	\$19,000	6%	\$17,379	6%	\$19,350	6%
Memorial Fund Income	\$9,366	3%	\$11,543	4%	\$11,543	4%	\$9,386	3%
Grants, Loans, etc	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
TOTAL INCOME	\$306,355		\$309,418		\$304,075		\$303,736	
NJ Synod Mission Support	\$29,574		\$29,784		\$29,927		\$29,250	
Synod Compensation Aid	\$822		\$822		\$685		\$700	
World Hunger	\$1,479		\$2,097		\$1,498		\$1,450	
Local Outreach	\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
Benevolence Ministries	\$31,875	12%	\$32,703	11%	\$32,110	11%	\$31,400	10%
Worship and Music	\$8,507		\$8,100		\$8,362		\$8,100	
Christian Education	\$1,838		\$1,900		\$482		\$950	
Parish Life	\$154		\$500		\$43		\$500	
Youth and Family	\$376		\$500		\$0		\$500	
Other Ministries	\$536		\$1,000		\$406		\$1,700	
Program Subtotal	\$11,411	3%	\$12,000	3%	\$9,293	3%	\$11,750	3%
Office / Administration	\$15,305		\$17,200		\$14,862		\$17,200	
Insurance	\$6,487		\$18,180		\$20,414		\$20,548	
Administration Subtotal	\$21,792	6%	\$35,380	9%	\$35,276	10%	\$37,748	10%
Church Property	\$64,772		\$63,950		\$55,492		\$60,438	
Parsonage	\$8,176		\$8,250		\$6,325		\$7,000	
Facilities Subtotal	\$72,948	20%	\$72,200	19%	\$61,817	17%	\$67,438	17%
Pastor	\$138,273		\$144,524		\$136,656		\$149,716	
Director of Music	\$39,683		\$40,681		\$40,133		\$41,820	
Administrative Assistant	\$21,108		\$22,636		\$21,344		\$22,242	
Custodian	\$24,932		\$25,555		\$25,211		\$26,271	
Staff Subtotal	\$223,996	62%	\$233,396	61%	\$223,344	62%	\$240,049	62%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$362,022		\$385,679		\$361,840		\$388,385	
Income less Expense	-\$55,667		-\$76,261		-\$57,765		-\$84,649	
Rental Fund Transfer	\$35,000	10%	\$10,000	3%	\$16,500	5%	\$0	0%
Memorial Fund Transfer	\$0	0%	\$100,000	31%	\$100,000	31%	\$75,000	25%
Net Income/Loss After Transfers	-\$20,667		\$33,739		\$58,735		-\$9,649	
Unrestricted Funds Used	\$1,771		\$4,400		\$3,745		\$4,400	
Unrestricted Funds Repayment			-\$30,000		-\$49,354		\$0	

2026 PROPOSED MINISTRY NARRATIVE SPENDING PLAN

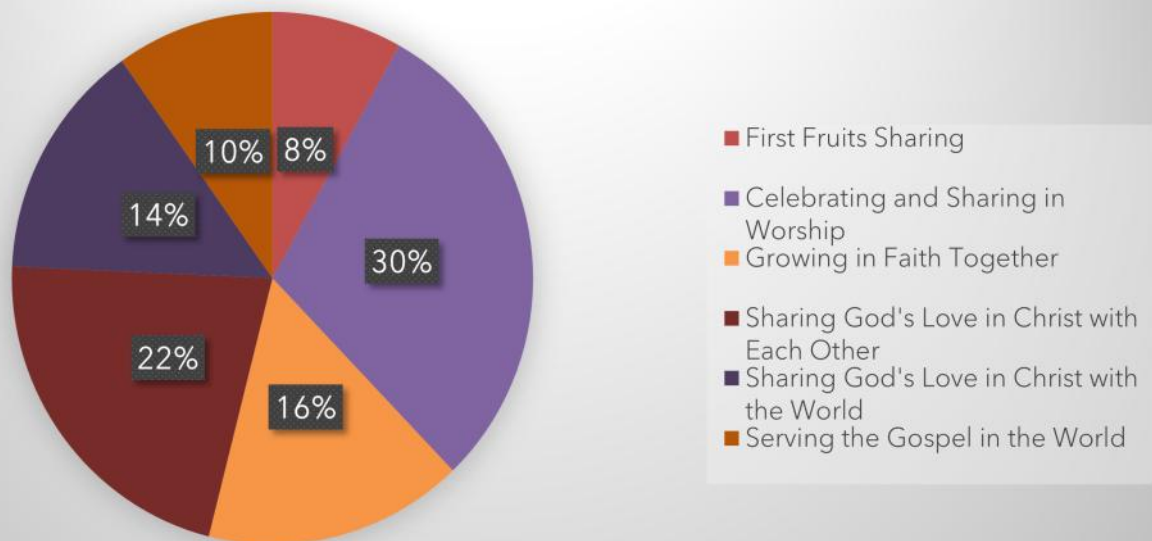
	2024 Actuals	%	2025 Spending Plan	%	2025 Actuals	%	2026 Spending Plan	%
TOTAL INCOME	\$306,355		\$309,418		\$304,075		\$303,736	
General	\$268,149	90.3%	\$278,875	92.0%	\$275,153	92.6%	\$275,000	90.7%
Plate, Building, etc	\$28,840	9.7%	\$19,000	6.3%	\$17,379	5.8%	\$19,350	6.4%
Memorial Fund Income	\$9,366	3.2%	\$11,543	3.8%	\$11,543	3.9%	\$9,386	3.1%
Grants, Loans, etc	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
First Fruits Sharing	\$31,875	10.4%	\$32,703	10.6%	\$32,110	10.6%	\$31,400	10.3%
NJ Synod Mission Support	\$29,574	9.7%	\$29,784	9.6%	\$29,927	9.8%	\$29,250	9.6%
Synod Compensation Aid	\$822	0.3%	\$822	0.3%	\$685	0.2%	\$700	0.2%
World Hunger	\$1,479	0.5%	\$2,097	0.7%	\$1,498	0.5%	\$1,450	0.5%
Local Outreach	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
Celebrating and Sharing in Worship	\$110,123	30.4%	\$114,259	29.6%	\$108,324	29.9%	\$115,550	29.8%
Program Costs	\$8,507	2.3%	\$8,100	2.1%	\$8,362	2.3%	\$8,100	2.1%
Staff Salary Allocation	\$31,983	8.8%	\$34,618	9.0%	\$31,503	8.7%	\$34,391	8.9%
Facility/Admin Cost Allocation	\$69,634	19.2%	\$71,541	18.5%	\$68,460	18.9%	\$73,058	18.8%
Growing in Faith Together	\$59,599	16.5%	\$64,856	16.8%	\$58,675	16.2%	\$62,531	16.1%
Program Costs	\$2,397	0.7%	\$2,600	0.7%	\$522	0.1%	\$1,650	0.4%
Staff Salary Allocation	\$27,985	7.7%	\$30,291	7.9%	\$27,565	7.6%	\$30,092	7.7%
Facility/Admin Cost Allocation	\$29,217	8.1%	\$31,965	8.3%	\$30,588	8.5%	\$30,789	7.9%
Sharing God's Love in Christ with Each Other	\$77,381	21.4%	\$82,684	21.4%	\$75,176	20.8%	\$84,543	21.8%
Program Costs	\$395	0.1%	\$850	0.2%	\$354	0.1%	\$850	0.2%
Staff Salary Allocation	\$39,978	11.0%	\$43,273	11.2%	\$39,378	10.9%	\$42,989	11.1%
Facility/Admin Cost Allocation	\$37,008	10.2%	\$38,561	10.0%	\$35,444	9.8%	\$40,704	10.5%
Sharing God's Love in Christ with the World	\$48,617	13.4%	\$53,691	13.9%	\$51,464	14.2%	\$56,265	14.5%
Program Costs	\$78	0.0%	\$300	0.1%	\$55	0.0%	\$1,000	0.3%
Staff Salary Allocation	\$31,983	8.8%	\$34,618	9.0%	\$31,503	8.7%	\$34,391	8.9%
Facility/Admin Cost Allocation	\$16,556	4.6%	\$18,773	4.9%	\$19,907	5.5%	\$20,874	5.4%
Serving the Gospel in the World	\$34,427	9.5%	\$37,486	9.7%	\$36,090	10.0%	\$38,095	9.8%
Program Costs	\$34	0.0%	\$150	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	\$150	0.0%
Staff Salary Allocation	\$11,993	3.3%	\$12,982	3.4%	\$11,813	3.3%	\$12,897	3.3%
Facility/Admin Cost Allocation	\$22,400	6.2%	\$24,354	6.3%	\$24,277	6.7%	\$25,049	6.4%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$362,022		\$385,679		\$361,840		\$388,385	
Income less Expense	-55,667.00		-76,261.00		-57,765.00		-84,649.00	
Rental Fund Transfer	\$35,000	0.0%	\$10,000	0.0%	\$16,500	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
Memorial Fund Transfer	\$0	0.0%	\$100,000	10.8%	\$100,000	10.8%	\$75,000	10.4%
Net Income/Loss After Transfers	(\$20,667)		\$33,739		\$58,735		(\$9,649)	
Unrestricted Funds Used	\$1,771		\$4,400		\$3,745		\$4,400	
Unrestricted Funds Repayment			-30,000.00		-\$49,354			

2026 PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN GRAPHS

2026 Spending Plan Line Item Summary



2026 Ministry Narrative Spending Plan



RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

RESOLUTION 1: A RESOLUTION TO COMPLETE 2023-2025 FINANCIAL REVIEWS

Be it resolved that the Congregation of St. Michael's Lutheran Church gathered for its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 25, 2026 approves of the Audit Committee submitting their report at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in 2027 presenting the results of their review of the financial accounts of the Church for fiscal years 2023, 2024 and 2025.

RESOLUTION 2: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2026 RENTAL FUND SPENDING PLANS

Be it resolved that St. Michael's Congregation gathered for the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026 approves the 2026 Rental Fund Income and Expense Plans as recommended by the Congregation Council.

RESOLUTION 3: A RESOLUTION TO DISTRIBUTE THE 2025 MEMORIAL FUND INCOME

Be it resolved that that the 2025 Memorial Fund Income of \$9,386 be used to support the 2025 General Operating Fund.

RESOLUTION 4: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2026 WITHDRAWALS FROM THE MEMORIAL FUND

Be it resolved that the Congregation of St. Michael's Lutheran Church gathered for its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 25, 2026 approves the withdrawal of up to \$75,000 from the Memorial Fund to be transferred to the General Fund. It is recommended that these withdrawals happen on a quarterly basis as needed to General Operating Fund.

RESOLUTION 5: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2026 GENERAL OPERATING FUND SPENDING PLAN

Be it resolved that St. Michael's Congregation gathered for the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026 approves the 2026 General Operating Fund Spending Plan as recommended by the Congregation Council.

2025 BENEVOLENCE REPORT

<u>Financial Gifts Shared - All Sources</u>			
NJ Synod ELCA Mission Support	\$29,927		
Pastor's Discretion Fund	\$675		
Local Benevolence	\$1,200		
ELCA Hunger Program	\$1,498		
Thanksgiving Turkey/Easter Hams	\$1,650		
NJ Synod Clergy Compensation Aid Fund	\$822		
Financial Gifts Total	\$35,772		
All Sources = Proportional Sharing, Designated Gifts & Family Designated Memorial & Living Memorial Fund Distributions			
<u>In-Kind Contributions</u>			
Narcotics Anonymous Rent Free Use of Space	\$3,000		Assumes 12 weeks,\$50/use, 5 uses per week less NA donations.
Un-Trim-a-Tree Christmas Gifts	\$1,500		50 Gift Cards @\$30
LSM North Camden Food Pantry	\$3,600		Assumes Monthly Collection of 20 bags @\$15
Bag-an-Easter Dinner (excluding Ham)	\$2,000		Assumes 50 bags @\$40
Bag-a-Thanksgiving Dinner (excluding Turkey)	\$2,000		Assumes 50 bags @\$40
New Visions/Joseph's House Breakfast	\$2,160		Assumes 12 casseroles @\$15 for 12 months
In-Kind Total	\$14,260		

MEMORIAL FUND REPORT

As of 12/31/2025 the Memorial Fund assets are held in the following investments:

Term Investments 24%, Bonds 36%, and Stocks 40%. This is a 60% Fixed Income and 40% Stock mix.

There are six Term Investments held in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. The annual 2025 return was 2.95%. Term Investment values \$70,065.32.

The Stock and Bond portfolio consists of six Vanguard mutual funds:

SP 500 Index Fund (VFIAX)

Balanced Fund (VBIAX)

Mid Cap Fund (VMVAX)

High Yield Corporate Fund (VWEAX)

Short Term Investment Grade Bonds (VBIRX)

Total Bond Market Index (VBTLX)

Total Stock and Bond portfolio value is \$222,133.90 vs. \$305,409 in 2024. This reflects withdrawals made to improve the church building and enable its ministry.

The total portfolio for 2025 was \$292,199.22 vs. \$373,468.08 in 2024.

The Memorial Fund's earnings from interests, dividends and capital gains was \$30,940 vs. \$38,363 in 2024.

Distributions from the Memorial Fund are reflected in the General Fund Financial Statement. The Memorial Fund value as of December 31, 2025 is \$292,199.22.

The Memorial Fund Committee continues to monitor the investment portfolio to ensure it follows its investment guidelines, which is a conservative portfolio allocation. The committee strives for a 60 (fixed)/40 (stock) mix.

Respectfully Submitted by Saint Michael's Memorial Fund Committee:

Kim Billet, Anne Cassidy, Geoffrey Castle

*Supporting details are available on request

2025 COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The goal of the Christian Education Committee is to provide opportunities for educational and spiritual growth in a fun and safe environment. In 2025, we restructured our Christian Education program defining our program as “Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace” thoughtfully redesigned to reflect the evolving needs of our congregation and the world around us. Our Sunday morning programming has four focus areas:

Little Ones and Loved Ones: Children from birth to age 4 and their grown-ups spend an hour together in community. Each session offers something new—music and movement, playful learning, practical conversations about family life, or exploring faith through stories. Whether we're singing, sharing, or simply being present, this is a space to grow together in joy, connection, and care.

Pray and Grow: Elementary-aged children are invited to come together for a joyful hour of music, crafts, Bible stories, and games. Rooted in faith and friendship, Pray and Grow helps kids explore God’s love through creativity, play, and meaningful connection.

Michaelights: Middle and High School youth are invited to gather together to shape the life of our youth ministry. This is a space to brainstorm, organize, and lead—whether it’s planning service projects, social events, or faith-based activities. Come with ideas, energy, and a spirit of collaboration as we build something meaningful together.

Conversations in Faith : Adults of all ages are invited to gather for an hour of thoughtful conversation and learning. Led by a rotating group of facilitators, each session explores a different topic—from theology and scripture to spiritual practices and everyday faith. Whether you're curious, questioning, or simply seeking connection, this is a space to grow together in understanding and community.

Our Confirmation ministry is led by Pastor Chris with small group support from Kim Billet and teaching support from adult volunteers in the Congregation. Confirmation meets on select Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Josephine Billet and Maddy DeBacker were confirmed in May.

Our Bible Study ministry is led by Pastor Chris on Wednesday afternoons and evenings.

Thanks to all who share in the ministry in Christian Education!

Respectfully submitted by the CE Committee

2025 COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Youth Group is design for St. Michael's Youth in grades 6-12 with the goal to provide a safe space for young people to explore and grow in faith, community, and fellowship. Youth activities in 2025 included game nights, lock ins, retreats, nerf battles, and one of our highlights, a Dungeons and Dragons one-shot campaign.

Our youth are active in the St. Michael's community. On any given Sunday, you can see them actively engaged in our worship services as acolytes, ushers, video tech, instrumentalists, choir members, and handbell choir members. The youth led worship on Youth Sunday in June - leading songs, performing skits, and sharing the goodness of God's word with us all.

Our youth are engaged Lutheran activities beyond our St. Michael's facility as well. Our youth participate in Cross Roads and Synod retreats during the school year and many attend summer camp at Cross Roads. Two of our young people, Sam Cook and Josephine Billet, helped to lead worship at the fall Synod retreat as members of the Youth Band. Our youth are grateful for to St. Michael's for offsetting the cost of these events and enabling so many to participate!

Thank you to the people of St. Michael's for supporting our young people to make this trip possible and for your prayers and encouragement along the way. Thank you to the volunteers and parents who make Youth ministry possible at St. Michaels, especially Sue Shaw and Liz DeBacker.

Respectfully Submitted, Kim Billet

COMMUNICATION TEAM

The goals of the Communication Team are to share updates, news, photos, inspiration with our members and invite the community to join us.

The Communications Team continues to stream the 11:00 a.m. service using Facebook Live and YouTube. The services through Facebook allows for interaction through real-time commenting by members of the congregation with Facebook accounts and members of the Communications Team during the service. The following services are streamed as well: Lenten Mid-Week and Advent Holden Evening Prayer, Holy Week and Christmas services. Weekly Bible Study and Monthly Morning Prayer services are offered through Zoom. We continue to post on both the St. Michael's Facebook page and in the private Facebook group, The People of St. Michael's Cherry Hill.

Our private Facebook group is for people who are active in the life and ministry of St.

2025 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Michael's. In the group, posts can be made for requests or needs of the church or just to check in on each other and share good news. All members of the group and posts are approved by a member of the team. If you have not done so, we invite you to "like" and/or "follow" the St. Michael's Facebook page and join our Facebook group, The People of St. Michael's Cherry Hill, if you have a Facebook account.

We welcome any ideas and suggestions. Anyone who would like to join our committee can reach out to Pastor Chris or Liz DeBacker.

Prepared and submitted by the Communications Team

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

The Parish Fellowship Committee works to bring the congregation together in fellowship. This year we hosted coffee hours after both services on the first Sunday of each month. Thank you to the many volunteers who contributed baked goods and treats and assisted with clean-up. Many thanks to Linda, Nancy and Vivian for making this happen.

We hosted a celebration for the confirmands in May. In October we celebrated our 2nd annual Fall Festival. Although the weather brought us indoors, a good time was had by all. Thank you to all who prepared food, especially John Z. Thanks to Karen for chairing this event. The year culminated with the annual Christmas luncheon. We enjoyed fellowship and a delicious and plentiful spread of food. Thanks to all for the delicious cookies and thanks to Kathy for chairing this event.

Our team meets as needed, usually on Sundays between services. We are always looking for new members and new ideas for gathering our church family together.

Members of the committee are Holly Zahradnick, Sue Shaw, Karen Roorda, Gail Kern, Kathy Henry, Nancy Gromen, June Greiser, Lisa Gess, Vivian Gano, Terri Erickson, Linda David and Vicki Clemson. Thanks for all of your hard work!

Respectfully submitted,
The Parish Fellowship Committee

2025 COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

The mission of the Membership Committee is to keep an accurate accounting of the membership roles and changes of the parish of St. Michael's. The committee coordinates events that support and encourage new members of the congregation.

The Membership Committee consists of Anne Cassidy, Martha Burke, Vicki Clemson, Vivan Gano, Doreen Mansilla, and Millie Wilcox.

Ongoing Obligations

- Directory Updates
- Welcome Bags for Visitors
- Monthly Council Reports
- Cookies sent to college students

Statistics for 2025

New Members by Letter of Transfer: 1
New Members by Affirmation of Faith: 8
New Members by Baptism: 1
Members removed by Letter of Transfer: 3
Members removed by Death: 3
Members removed by Council Action: 28
Total Membership to Date (12/31/25): 289

Respectfully Submitted by Martha Burke

PROPERTY AND GARDEN

The mission of the Property Committee is to manage and maintain all physical assets of the congregation, to make recommendations to Council and Congregation on all matters relating thereto. Our goal is to provide a safe and comfortable environment that is conducive to Worship, Work, Living, Social and Outreach activities that take place within Church-owned facilities. The mission of the Garden Committee is to create and maintain an attractive, low maintenance landscape for the enjoyment of the members of the congregation and the surrounding neighborhood.

Building Sustainability for a Faith-Filled Future

- At a Special Meeting held on October 22, 2023 the Congregation voted for the following upgrades to our facilities:
 - ◊ New upper and lower roofs for Sunday School Building (Completed in 2024)
 - ◊ Addition of a Solar panel system
 - ◊ Air Conditioning for Social Hall
- Solar panels were installed on the roofs of the Sunday School Building by REPM. The system, including electrical tie-ins, was inspected and is now operational. Savings in utility costs are expected especially in the summer cooling season.
- 'Mini-Split' Heating and Air Conditioning Systems were Installed by Bovio-Rubino. One system serves the Kitchen/Choir Room, and a second system serves the Social Hall. These systems are similar to the system previously installed for the Church and Pastor's offices. The new systems will provide efficient heating and cooling to facilitate year-round use of those rooms.

2025 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Major Projects

- New carpets in two Sunday School Rooms and Teller's Office installed by Alex Algayer Flooring. Replacements were necessitated by flooding.
- Concrete repairs by Step Repair Masonry. Work included:
 - ◊ Repointing of concrete blocks in window wells
 - ◊ Replaced damaged blocks and patching of concrete under exit from choir room
 - ◊ Miscellaneous repairs at Elkins Rd entrances
- Completed WiFi System upgrades to support communications to new mini-split systems. Work included installation of new switch and rack in church office and new cable to access point in social hall. (*)
- Upgraded Sunday School Room #4 to make it suitable for rental as office space. Work included painting of walls and cabinets and installation of new blinds, moldings, conference tables and electrical outlet (*)
- Painted closets in the hall upstairs (*)

Outdoor Clean-up and Maintenance

The Garden Committee continued to maintain the garden beds at St Michaels. Weeding, fertilizing, and light watering was performed on a regular basis. In addition, we held successful Spring and Fall Clean-up Days where we cleaned the gutters and window wells, trimmed shrubs, raked leaves, washed windows and performed general

- outdoor clean-up (*).

Miscellaneous Church Repairs /Upgrades

- Plumbing/HVAC work
 - ◊ Annual Boiler Inspections (Hartford Steam Boiler)
 - ◊ Annual Testing of Backflow Preventer (Root 24)
 - ◊ Annual Maintenance of Boilers and A/C Units (LM Service)
 - ◊ Cleared drain line obstruction (Root 24) that caused flooding in SS Rooms downstairs
 - ◊ Miscellaneous projects to minimize heat losses:
 1. Removed Window A/C in Choir Room. Area now served by new mini-split system (*)
 2. Removed exhaust fan in stage area (Bovio-Rubino). Ventilation now provided by new mini-split system. Opening sealed and insulated and storage shelf added (*)
 3. Added weather-stripping for window A/C in Nursery (*)
 - ◊ Replaced window A/C in IHOC Office (*). (A/C unit purchased by IHOC)
 - ◊ Repairs to lower boiler (LM Service)
- Repairs to Sanctuary A/C Unit (Bovio-Rubino)
- Electrical Work
 - ◊ Emergency lights are tested monthly. Replaced failed batteries (*)
 - ◊ Added motion detector switch in downstairs rest room (*)
 - ◊ Replaced various burnt-out lamps in sanctuary with LEDs (*)

2025 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◊ Annual inspections and testing of Kitchen Suppression System and portable fire extinguishers (Cintas)
- ◊ Annual Inspection by Cherry Hill Fire Dept
- Miscellaneous Projects
 - ◊ Cleaned Vulcan stove and range hood in kitchen (EightFiveSix Industries)
 - ◊ Refinished bench seats in Narthex (*)
 - ◊ Repairs to siding at rear of church and soffits at Elkins Rd entrance due to wind damage (*)
 - ◊ Ran cables and installed new microphones in Sanctuary (*)
 - ◊ Painted stairs to stage area in Kitchen (*)

(*) – Projects implemented by members of St. Michaels

Thanks to the following for their efforts to repair, upgrade and beautify our facilities:
Pastor Bruesehoff, Geof Castle, Millie Wilcox, Dick Wilcox, Bev Stropes, Lisa Gess
Lauren Gromen, Allen Carr, Chas VanHorn, Fred Weber, Chuck Kern, Rob Schumacher
and everyone who helped at our Clean-up Days

Respectfully submitted: Larry Ferguson

SOCIAL OUTREACH, JUSTICE & ADVOCACY

In 2025 the Social Outreach, Justice and Advocacy Committees supported the following activities:

Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council

1. IHOC continues to use 102 Chapel for transitional housing and to rent office space in the St. Michael's Sunday school wing.
2. Pack-A-Sack: We filled over twenty backpacks with school supplies which IHOC distributed to shelters and programs serving underprivileged children.
3. Grocery certificates: We purchased Acme and ShopRite grocery certificates. These companies donate five percent of the certificates' purchase price to IHOC.
4. Mall Walk: St. Michael's team raised over \$2,000 for the Walk and for the 13th year in a row won first prize for the team raising the most money.

Lutheran Social Ministries of Camden

1. Holiday Dinners for Thanksgiving and Easter: In November and April we provided 50 bags of nonperishable food as well as monetary donations for perishable items to needy families living in the Lutheran Social Ministry's affordable homes (LSM homes) in Camden.
2. Food Pantry: We regularly donated groceries for the LSM homes' food pantry.
3. Sharing Tree: As part of our St. Michael's "Untrim-A-Tree" project, we were able to provide Christmas presents for fifty children in LSM homes.

2025 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fair Trade Coffee and Products & Joseph's House Outreach

We continued to purchase fair trade bags of coffee, cans of cocoa, boxes of tea and chocolate from the Lutheran World Relief "Equal Exchange" project. St. Michael's members provided approximately a dozen breakfast and dinner casseroles once a month to the Joseph's House shelter.

Social Justice and Advocacy.

This year we held the following activities.

1. We watched and discussed the Ted talk "A Single Story."
2. Invited Jamie Bruesehoff to update us on the issues affecting the LGBTQA+ Community and how we can be supportive.
3. Provided "Did you Know" information on slavery in New Jersey as well as a flyer to help us navigate the NJ Synod web site for racial justice information.

Thank You to the volunteers who gave their time, talents, and money to support all these activities.

Ruth Morgenroth, Anne Cassidy, Kay McConnell, Ray Kratz, Joe LaRose, and Vivian Gano, Project Coordinators

MARTHA CIRCLE

Our purpose is to be of service to those church members who are home or facility bound. We serve as a connection to our community whether they can be present in church or online. Letting members know they are not forgotten, we care about them, they are in our prayers. They are always delighted by our visits and phone calls-eager to hear what's happening in their church. We created seasonal gift bags for the homebound that included Sunday Bulletins and prayer booklets. We also made favors and decorations for the church's Christmas luncheon. We continue to send birthday cards to church members who are 65 and older, thinking of you, get well and sympathy cards. We remember the newly baptized with cards and ribbon crosses.

Our members include Kathleen Abrams, Diane Bisset, Alva Brunner, Martha Burke, Linda David, Vivian Gano, June Greiser, Nancy Gromen, Erlinda Hair, Gail Kern, Sheri Kidd, Dottie Leonard, Barbara McGonigle, Lynn Megali, Marlene Paton, Carol Prisco, Marion Rolke, Carolann Sandone, Kathy Schneep, Patt Serafinn, Cheryl Siebke, Bev Stropes, Janet Thompson, Millie Wilcox, Holly Zahradnick, Jill Zak, Allyson Zinman

Respectfully submitted by Martha Circle.

2026 WORSHIP CALENDAR

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Observance</u>	<u>Time(s)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
JANUARY 2025				
4-Jan-26		2 Christmas	815 & 11 AM	
12-Jan-25		Baptism of Our Lord	815 & 11 AM	
18-Jan-26	ONE SERVICE	2 Epiphany	815 & 11 AM	Budget Forum
25-Jan-26		3 Epiphany	10:00 AM	Annual Meeting Sunday
FEBRUARY 2025				
1-Feb-26		4 Epiphany	815 & 11 AM	
8-Feb-26		5 Epiphany	815 & 11 AM	
15-Feb-26		Transfiguration	815 & 11 AM	
22-Feb-26	Wednesday, February 18, 2026	Ash Wednesday	12 Noon	Spoken Communion
	Wednesday, February 18, 2026	Ash Wednesday	730 PM	Holy Communion
	1 Lent		815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, February 25, 2026	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
MARCH 2025				
1-Mar-26		2 Lent	815 & 11 AM	
8-Mar-26	Wednesday, March 4, 2026	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
	3 Lent		815 & 11 AM	
15-Mar-26	Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
	4 Lent		815 & 11 AM	
22-Mar-26	Wednesday, March 18, 2026	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
	5 Lent		815 & 11 AM	
29-Mar-26	Wednesday, March 25, 2026	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
	Palm/Passion Sunday		815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, April 1, 2026	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
	Thursday, April 2, 2026	Maundy Thursday	12 Noon	Spoken Communion
	Thursday, April 2, 2026	Maundy Thursday	7:30 PM	Holy Communion
	Friday, April 3, 2026	Good Friday	10:30 AM	Children's Activity
	Friday, April 3, 2026	Good Friday	7:30 PM	Good Friday Worship
APRIL 2025				
5-Apr-26	Wednesday, April 2, 2025	Resurrection of Our Lord	815 & 11 AM	Evening Prayer
12-Apr-26		2 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
19-Apr-26		3 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
26-Apr-26		4 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
MAY 2025				
3-May-26		5 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
10-May-26		6 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
17-May-26		7 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
24-May-26		Pentecost	8:15 AM	
		Pentecost	11:00 AM	11:00 Confirmation
31-May-26		The Holy Trinity	815 & 10 AM	

2026 WORSHIP CALENDAR

0-Jan-00			JUNE 2025	
7-Jun-26		2 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
14-Jun-26		3 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
21-Jun-26		4 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
28-Jun-26		5 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
JULY 2025				
5-Jul-26		6 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
12-Jul-26		7 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
19-Jul-26		8 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
26-Jul-26		9 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
AUGUST 2025				
2-Aug-26		10 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
9-Aug-26		11 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
16-Aug-26		12 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
23-Aug-26		13 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
30-Aug-26		14 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
SEPTEMBER 2025				
6-Sep-26		13 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	
13-Sep-26		16 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	
20-Sep-26		17 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	
27-Sep-26		18 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	
OCTOBER 2025				
4-Oct-26		19 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM 4:00 PM	Blessing of Animals
11-Oct-26		20 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM 4:00 PM	Rain Date Blessing of Animals
18-Oct-26		21 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	
25-Oct-26		Reformation Sunday	815 & 11 AM	
NOVEMBER 2025				
1-Nov-26		All Saints	815 & 11 AM	
8-Nov-26		24 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	
15-Nov-26		25 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	
22-Nov-26		Christ the King	815 & 10 AM	
29-Nov-26		1 Advent	815 & 11 AM	
DECEMBER 2025				
6-Dec-26	Wednesday, December 2, 2026	Mid-week Advent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
		2 Advent	815 & 11 AM	
13-Dec-26	Wednesday, December 9, 2026	Mid-week Advent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
		3 Advent	815 & 11 AM	
20-Dec-26	Wednesday, December 16, 2026	Mid-week Advent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
		4 Advent	815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, December 23, 2026	Mid-week Advent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
24-Dec-26	Tuesday, December 24, 2024	Christmas Eve	4:30 PM	Family Service
24-Dec-26	Tuesday, December 24, 2024	Christmas Eve	10:00 PM	Festival Liturgy
27-Dec-26	ONE SERVICE	1 Christmas	10:00 AM	Lessons, Carols & Communion
JANUARY 2026				
3-Jan-27		2 Christmas	815 & 11 AM	
10-Jan-27		Baptism of Our Lord	815 & 11 AM	
17-Jan-27		2 Epiphany	815 & 11 AM	
24-Jan-27		3 Epiphany	815 & 11 AM	Budget Forum
31-Jan-27		4 Epiphany	10:00 AM	Annual Meeting Sunday

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty God, you have given your Holy Spirit to the church to lead us into all truth. Bless with the Spirit's grace and presence those who participated in this congregational meeting. Keep us steadfast in faith and united in love, that we may manifest your glory and prepare the way of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Council President: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.



Evangelical
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