



**SHEPHERD  
OF THE PRAIRIE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Annual Report

**January 25, 2026**

***"A Growing Church for Growing People"***

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**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church**

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# **Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church**

## **Annual Meeting**

### **January 25, 2026**

### **Noon**

Call to Order Quorum Call

Opening Prayer

Looking Back

- Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2025
- Approval of Committee and Ministry Reports
- Approval of 2025 Financial Reports

Message from Northern Illinois Synod (video)

Looking Ahead

- Purpose, Vision Statement and Ministry Advancements for 2026
- Staffing, Ministry Team Leaders and Council Introductions

Elections

- Election of Synod Assembly Voting Members Nominees:  
(Northern IL Synod Assembly to be held at Augustana College, Rock Island on June 12-13)

Alice Dabelow                      Harrison Bradstreet  
Jorden Wildermuth

Election of Council Members

- Nominees: (see bios on page 3
- Carrie McCabe
- Susan Sroka

Approval of 2026 Budget

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

# **Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church**

## **Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes**

### **Sunday, January 26, 2025**

Bob Mollis (Congregation Council President) called the meeting to order at 12:02pm

Quorum confirmation report

Doug Nagel reported that the total in-house and virtual attendance exceeded the required minimum quorum of 72 voting members.

Pastor Mark Opened with Prayer.

Request to receive a motion and a second from the floor to approve January 28, 2024, Congregational Meeting minutes as presented in the Annual Report.

Bill Ball motioned, Sandy Hubert seconded, motion passed.

Request to receive a motion and a second from the floor to approve the Committee and Ministry Reports as presented in the Annual report.

Annette Kandell motioned, Alice Dabelow seconded, motion passed.

Request to receive a motion and a second from the floor to approve the 2024 Financial Reports as presented by George Attaway and documented in the 2025 Annual report.

Cliff Dungey motioned, Kathy McGuine seconded, motion passed.

Showed the Message from Northern Illinois Synod by video.

Pastor Mark and Bob Mollis presents a "Look Ahead" at SOTP Purpose, Vision Statement and Ministry Advancements for 2025, and a recognition of the Staff, Ministry Team Leaders, and Council.

Pastor Ryan presented information about the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly.

Presented the Nomination Committee candidates for the Synod Assembly as voting members representing SOTP. Request to receive a motion and a second from the floor to elect the Synod Assembly members as presented.

Shipra Minz, Sue Puls, Fred Riemer. Ashlyn Rankin,

Carol Waxenberg motioned, Marcia Ball seconded, motion passed.

Presented the Nomination Committee's candidates for Congregation Council Members, each with a three-year term. Request to receive a motion and a second from the floor to elect the Congregation Council members as presented.

Kathy McGuine (second three-year term)

Jim Stancel

Lisa Wondriska

Bill Ball motioned, Chris Solem seconded, motion passed.

George Attaway Congregation Council Treasurer presented the 2025 Annual General Fund Budget.

Request to receive a motion and second from the floor to approve the 2025 General Fund Budget as presented by George Attaway and documented in the Annual report.

Sue Wehnes motioned, Bill Waxenberg seconded, motion passed.

Pastor Ryan Closed with Prayer

Request to receive a motion and a second from the floor to Adjourn the Annual Congregation meeting.

Sandy Hupert motioned, Chris Solem seconded, motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Christa Serpe



## Shepherd of the Prairie Congregation Council Election

Nominees standing for election as members of the Congregation Council to a 3 year term.

### Carrie McCabe

I have been a member of the Lutheran church since I was baptized but became very involved while I was in high school. I attended church by myself as a high schooler, without my parents. This helped me grow my faith, which a big part of who I am today. I lean on my faith in all I do in life.

I have a special place in my heart for the youth of the church. While a high school youth, I was involved in the Lutheran Youth Organization from a Synod level to the National level. I have helped plan and volunteered at the ELCA Youth Gatherings. As an adult, I have been a youth leader for high school youth at St. Barnabas in Cary, IL and chaperoned a group to a gathering, while also helping plan the Northern IL Synod day for the gathering. I also served on the church council at St. Barnabas for a term.

While at SOTP, I have volunteered as a confirmation leader for 6 years and helped with the high school youth group. I look forward to continuing to help the youth of SOTP.

I am married to my husband, Jerry and we have 2 boys, Logan and Noah. Jerry is Catholic and a member at St. Mary's in Huntley. We were married at St. Mary's with both a Catholic priest and a Lutheran pastor presiding. Our boys have been raised in both the Catholic and Lutheran churches. I work as an emergency room Physician Assistant. I feel God has called me to help others heal, physically, mentally, and spiritually. I try to live this in my everyday life.

### Susan Sroka

Susan Sroka is a retired Director with a distinguished 31-year career at AT&T, one of America's top Fortune 10 companies. She began her journey in the Law Department and spent most of her professional life in Human Resources, where she built a reputation as a strategic HR business partner. Susan supported a wide range of organizations, including technology and startup teams, sales and service divisions, and corporate and support functions.

Throughout her career, Susan developed expertise in several areas: Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Organizational and Career Development, Performance Management, Compensation, and Benefits. She played a pivotal role in AT&T's Workforce 2020 transformation, helping the company adapt to changing business needs and workforce dynamics.

One of Susan's most significant achievements was leading strategic and change management initiatives that fostered a culture of high trust and engagement at AT&T. She headed a team dedicated to the "Great Place to Work for ALL" movement, which focused on building an inclusive environment aligned with the company's business strategy. Under Susan's leadership, AT&T implemented concrete programs to boost employee engagement and trust, such as enhanced feedback systems, recognition initiatives, and expanded support for leadership training and Employee Resource Groups. These efforts resulted in AT&T earning a spot on Fortune's 100 Best Places to Work list for the first time—a testament to the lasting impact of her work.

Susan's commitment to supporting others extended beyond her formal roles. She served as a mentor and active member of several Employee Resource Groups at AT&T, including IDEAL (Individuals with Disabilities), Women of AT&T (WOA), APCA (Asian Pacific Islanders), and OxyGEN (cross-generations). Her guidance and advocacy helped create a more inclusive and supportive workplace for all employees.

As a former athlete, she participated in the Crain's Corporate Sports battle and volunteered with organizations such as Feed My Starving Children, Stop Hunger Now, and National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). In 2023, Susan began volunteering at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, where she coordinates Worship Assistants for Sunday morning and special services. Susan was born and raised in the Chicagoland area and now lives in Pingree Grove with her husband of 35 years. Together, they raised three children in the Huntley community. In retirement, Susan finds joy growing her faith and stewardship, outdoor activities, and cherishing time with her family and three grandchildren: Raelyn (4), Noah (2), and Emerson Grace (18 months).

# PASTOR MARK'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we come to the close of another year of ministry together at Shepherd of the Prairie, I find myself filled with gratitude—gratitude for the Spirit's leading, for the faithfulness of this congregation, and for the countless ways God continues to use our community to proclaim hope in Huntley and beyond.

## **A Year of Growth and Renewal**

2025 has been a year marked by renewed energy and deeper engagement. Worship attendance—both in person and online—remained strong, and we welcomed new faces who found in SOTP a spiritual home grounded in grace, warmth, and authenticity. Our weekend worship services continue to be a place where music, scripture, and community intertwine to lift hearts and anchor lives. We pray people feel a strong sense of belonging. For the year we received 73 new members, baptized 9 babies, Married 11 couples and raised 17 of our members to the Church Triumphant. We continue to make Christ known in this place!

## **Ministry Highlights**

- **Faith Formation:** Our children, youth, and adult ministries continued to flourish. Bible studies, confirmation gatherings, and fellowship groups offered meaningful opportunities for learning and connection. Kid's Connect, Adventure Club, Confirmation, Highschool, Momentum (young adults) and various small groups.
- **Mission & Outreach:** With generosity and compassion, our congregation stepped forward again and again—supporting local food ministries, partnering with community organizations, an open door to the needs of serving our community, and serving neighbors in need. People have found a place to belong even before they believe.
- **Pastoral Care:** Hospital visits, home communions, prayer chains, and small-group support underscored our identity as a caring, Christ-centered community.
- **Special Worship & Seasonal Moments:** From Lent to Holy Week to Advent, from our Christmas celebrations to community services, the church came alive with the rhythms of the church year and the joy of shared faith. I am so pleased that in person worship attendance continues to increase and that we continue to serve our virtual community. As a matter of fact we notice that someone joined us this past year (presumably on a cruise ship) from the middle of the Atlantic. From Dinner Church, to the Living Last Supper, to Blue Christmas and the Children's Musical to the Christmas Cantata...SOTP is alive with creative worship opportunities to connect people in the meaningful way with the very real presence of Christ.

## **Stewardship & Leadership**

Our congregation has continued to show remarkable generosity. Your giving has supported our ministries, maintained our facilities, and ensured that SOTP remains a place of welcome, stability, and mission. This year our pledged giving to the General Fund was up over 8%. Our Church Council, ministry teams, staff, and volunteers have provided faithful leadership—discerning wisely, offering their gifts freely, and serving with humility. As testimony, we typically have over 40 members participating on the second Monday of each month in ministry night. Time, Talent and Treasure is given so generously!

## PASTOR MARK'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION (CONT.)

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### Looking Ahead

As we prepare to enter 2026, we do so with hope and anticipation. We look forward to strengthening our discipleship pathways, deepening our relationships, and leaning even more fully into our call to be the hands and feet of Christ in this community. We continue to focus on Evangelism and Community Engagement. We received the first members from the new development to our south. Making a major financial investment in youth ministry, we continue to seek hiring a new employee to lead our high school youth ministry. Please pray for God to send the right person to serve. New opportunities for mission, growth, and connection await us, and I trust that God is already preparing the way.

### A Word of Thanks

Thank you for your faithfulness, your prayers, your generosity, and your love. Thank you for welcoming newcomers with open arms, for supporting one another through joys and challenges, and for continually seeking Christ in all things. It is a privilege and a joy to serve as your pastor.

### Into a New Year

As the New Year begins, Matthew 2:12 (the text for Epiphany, January 6) offers a quiet but powerful word of guidance: *"Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road."* The Magi's journey did not end at the manger. Encountering Christ changed not only their destination, but their direction.

The New Year often invites us to keep moving forward on familiar paths—habits, routines, assumptions that feel safe because they are known. Yet this verse reminds us that faithfulness sometimes means listening for God's warning and being willing to choose a different road. The Magi trusted that God's guidance, even when it disrupted their plans, would lead them toward life and away from harm.

As we step into a new year, we do so with dreams, hopes, and perhaps fears. Matthew 2:12 invites us to pause and ask, where might God be redirecting us? What paths no longer serve love, justice, or faith? Following Christ may call us to leave behind old routes marked by fear, resentment, or complacency, and to walk a road shaped by courage, compassion, and trust.

The New Year is not just about turning the calendar, but about being open to transformation—returning home changed, and choosing, by God's grace, another way forward.

May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds as we step into a new year—hopeful, grateful, and filled with expectation for all that God will do among us.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Mark Boster



## PASTOR RYAN'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

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I want to start my annual report this year by sharing how much I love and appreciate Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church and all it represents. Tara, the boys, and I could never have imagined how great a call this would be. As always, what makes a church so great is its people. Leaders will always come and go, rise up and step away, but the people who make up our faith family remain through every season. You all are part of something special; a welcoming church that isn't afraid to try new things, step out in faith in the face of uncertainty, and relentless in the mission of providing a space for community group and ministries, serving neighbors in need, and building a worship experience that nurtures a deep, meaningful faith. Thank you all for all your faithful participation in the life of our congregation and thank you for making SOTP such a special place for a pastor to serve and for his family to feel they belong.

2025 was an exceptional year for children and family ministries at SOTP. As the year began, Jill Gillming and I facilitated a process to learn how to improve our Kids Connect program to make it more effective and engaging for our children and their families. After a summer of brainstorming and planning with incredible support and input from our Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Team, we launched a new version of our program in September.

As that process was unfolding, I also launched a search for a new Youth Ministry Coordinator to work with our high school youth. While that search has not yet yielded the full-time staff member we are looking for, I am really pleased to say that God used the process to present to us an energetic and creative volunteer to come alongside me in leading high school youth ministries. Marisa Wielgos began working with our youth in October, and her leadership has allowed me to shift my focus to other areas such as building relationships with families and those of you who are 18-40 (more on that below). As you read this, I am re-starting the process to find our Youth Ministry Coordinator.

While children and youth ministry is, rightly, a major focus of our efforts as we work to build an even more effective, faithful church, another area that is proving to be a real growing edge for us is ministry opportunities for people aged 18-40 (and even 40-50). SOTP excels at offering ministry, social, and mission opportunities for retired folks, but I hear regularly from our members who are in that middle season of life that they wish we had more groups and ministries that met outside of traditional work hours.

With that in mind, we have begun to launch a new young adult ministry called *Momentum*. Momentum is designed for folks 18-40. We are in the early stages of getting this ministry off the ground, but our hope is that this ministry group will begin to offer social gatherings, service projects, and maybe even support groups for this demographic. Likewise, there is a ministry that I have been a part of in the past and have always wanted to bring to SOTP. *Faith on Tap with Pastor Ryan* is a ministry I hope to begin in May of this year. I will host an hour of casual faith talk a couple of times each month at Sew Hop'd. Look for more details as we get closer to May.

No annual report would be complete without a reflection on our confirmation program. This program (along with Adventure Club) has become a true jewel of our family ministries. In this current school year, we have the highest participation rate we've seen in my four school years at SOTP. This is a testament to the incredible leaders we have in our program. It all starts with my right-hand person, Jessica Panella, she handles a lot of the administrative work behind the scenes, including some of the coordinating of our weekly gatherings. Jess and I are joined by 12 talented, energetic leaders who facilitate our small group experiences and help build the kind of community among our youth that makes our program so successful. Our small group leaders are Josh Harding, Bud Hammer, Sheila Nichols-Lappe, Nancy Hammer, Alison Womac, Cyndi Monson, Colin Boyd, Alan Torkelson, Stephanie Mondello, Kristin Boyd, Tim Torkelson, and Gregg Gillming. Please join me in thanking them for their incredible service and ministry!

We built a lot in 2025, and I can't wait to see what we accomplish in 2026! Thank you all for your faithful participation in the life of our faith family.



## OPERATIONS MANAGER

2025 continued to be a year of meaningful impact both to our congregation and surrounding communities. As a staff, we are so happy that SOTP continues to open its doors to so many groups to provide meaningful and connected fellowship for so many different people of all ages.

Behind the scenes we continue to work to improve the process on how to intake requests, manage our facility and create amazing and impactful promotional materials that really represent who we are as a church. Our A/V ministry has continued to grow while always looking to provide the best experiences both in person and online for everyone to be a part of the good news that we share. As we look forward to another year in 2026, we remain focused on continuing to never settle to provide anything less than meaningful experiences here at Shepherd of the Prairie!





# CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

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## Congregational Council Report

The Congregational Council is entrusted with providing general oversight for the life and activities of the congregation and its worship. This includes leading Shepherd of the Prairie in articulating its mission, conducting long-range planning, setting goals and priorities, and evaluating our ministries in light of that mission. The Council works to involve all members in worship, learning, witness, service, and support. We also oversee the constitutional administration of the congregation, maintain and protect church property, and manage the business and fiscal affairs of SOTP so that we may continue to faithfully carry out our ministry.

In 2025, the Council consisted of ten members; Pastors: Pastor Mark and Pastor Ryan, Members at Large: Jim Puls, Lisa Wondriska, Jim Stancl, and Christa Serpe and Officers: Ellen Nissen – Secretary; George Attaway – Treasurer; Bob Mollis – Vice President; and Kathy McGuine – President

Each member has been dedicated to providing thoughtful guidance and contributing to the overall leadership of SOTP. At the conclusion of the upcoming annual congregational meeting, the three-year terms of **Christa Serpe** and **Ellen Nissen** will conclude. We offer our sincere gratitude for their faithful service. Please take a moment to thank them personally for their leadership, time, and commitment to God's work in this place.

In 2025, the Council focused on three key priorities:

**1. Community and Evangelism Engagement** Strengthening our efforts to make Christ known by welcoming new neighbors and helping others connect God's story with their own. This included developing outreach strategies such as the neighborhood flyer and increasing community visibility.

**2. Children, Youth, and Family Investment** Raising up the next generation of Christian leaders remains a central priority. We continued to build on the strength of our Wednesday night CYaF ministries—First Communion, Confirmation, Adventure Club, and expanded youth involvement. A major focal point this year has been ensuring that children and youth feel they belong and are part of a supportive faith community. Visible signs of this commitment can be seen throughout the church—from the inviting children's spaces to the colorful footprints leading down the hallway.

**3. Congregation Celebration Events** Fostering connection by creating opportunities for fellowship, joy, and shared experiences. Celebrating our ministry successes more openly has helped strengthen our sense of community and deepen our gratitude for what God is doing among us.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Council will continue to invest in CYaF programming, working to welcome and engage more families and build an inclusive church where all are embraced with Christ's love. The Council will also continue monitoring and supporting several ongoing priorities, including:

- Insurance coverage
- Fiscal investment strategies
- Recommendations from the Internal Audit Team
- Rechartering support for the Boy Scouts of America
- SOTP Constitution Review

It has been a busy and productive year—one that passed quickly as we worked together in service to the congregation and to God's mission for Shepherd of the Prairie.

I want to personally thank this congregation for your generosity, your prayers, and the countless ways you serve. God has richly blessed us with talented, caring members; dedicated staff; and faithful volunteers who embody Christ's love through their daily actions.

From the start of the year, the Council committed itself to embracing our governance role with clarity and carrying out our responsibilities with a spirit of joy. Every member contributed meaningfully to that purpose. Together, we achieved several significant objectives, including:

- Establishing the Endowment Fund Ministry policies
- Reimagining the contribution secretary process and roles
- Prioritizing children and youth programming across the congregation
- Creating a team to guide investment in staff health and retirement benefits

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful for our staff and the steadfast commitment they show each day. I am equally moved by the quiet dedication of volunteers who serve behind the scenes, making ministry possible in ways many never see. With God's hand guiding Shepherd of the Prairie, I trust that we will continue to grow in faith, support one another's spiritual journeys, and make a meaningful impact within our community and beyond.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Council President.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Kathy McGuine*

Council President

## FINANCE TEAM

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The Finance Team is responsible for overseeing SOTP's daily, monthly, and year-end financial activities. Our 2025 Team members were Joe Anderson, Devin Burg, Cliff Dungey, Bruce Rosborough, Dave Shotick (Accounting Administrator), Sue Wehnes, George Attaway (Congregation Treasurer) and Bill Ball (Chair).

The Finance Team meets and reports monthly to the Church Council with our analysis of the Church's financial position as well as any financial recommendations we think appropriate. The Team also prepares the annual budget and monitors SOTP's actual financial activities against that budget. Financial policy and procedure recommendations are submitted to the Church Council for approval to improve cost control and financial processes.

We are also responsible for managing the Church's Mortgage Service fund, maintaining adequate reserves for the maintenance of our building, periodically reviewing the insurance coverage and policies, reviewing contracts for services, being alert to compliance issues, and assisting with audits of the Church's accounting records.

SOTP had a strong year financially in 2025. Compared to 2024, contributions to the General Fund (GF) increased by nearly \$12,000 and contributions to the Mortgage Service Fund (MSF) increased by a bit over \$40,000. Total member contributions to the GF were slightly below budget (\$931,337 vs. \$945,000) as were total revenues (\$991,911 vs. \$1,008,800). However, GF expenses were well controlled and also ended below budget (\$975,096 vs \$1,008,800) with the result that SOTP experienced a small GF operating surplus of \$16,815 to carry into 2026. MSF receipts were greater than our 2025 monthly payments by almost \$26,600 resulting in a corresponding increase in our MSF reserve. Estimates of giving for 2026 suggest we should meet both our proposed 2026 GF and MSF budgets.

You will find our 2025 financial reports and 2026 budget elsewhere in this annual report.

Other specific financial team activities during 2025 included: Continuing the implementation of a Council approved investment strategy for long term cash reserves (maintaining a one-year FDIC insured Certificate of Deposit ladder) and short-term cash reserves (Fidelity managed Government Money Market Account); Completing a review of the SOTP Endowment Fund including securing Council approval of an update to the Fund's Policies and Procedures as well as the initiation of a process to identify an Endowment Fund Committee; Continuing a search process to identify, interview and select an outside audit firm for the church while addressing the recommendations from the most recent review of the SOTP finances; Began a review of data available to forecast SOTP revenue streams and MSF donations; Reviewed the SOTP balance sheet accounts; Continued a review and update of SOTP document retention policies; Worked with Council and Staff to develop the proposed 2026 Budget; Worked with Stewardship to minimize the receipt of contributions (usually Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs) without donor identification information.

Please join the Finance team in thanking Linda Dungey for her dedication, service, and knowledge in her role as the Financial Contribution Secretary for the last several years. Linda "retired" at the end 2025 and the SOTP staff has assumed responsibility for maintaining the records. Linda volunteered her time to record all members' estimate of giving records and donations. She also generated the members quarterly giving statements and annual giving reports. In her role, Linda was assisted ably by, her husband, Cliff. Please reach out to Linda and Cliff and thank them for their dedication and service. In addition, Sue Wehnes, after a number of years of dedicated service, has decided to "retire" from the Finance Team. We will miss her counsel and ask you to join us in thanking Sue for her service.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Ball, Chair

**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church - Huntley IL**  
**Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 for General Fund**

**Monday, January 5, 2026**

**Page 1 of 2**

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>							
4.100.000	Member Contributions	78,827.86	94,510.00	931,337.06	945,000.00	(13,662.94)	945,000.00
4.150.000	Loose Plate and Growth	5,115.00	4,930.00	24,156.02	30,000.00	(5,843.98)	30,000.00
4.155.000	Other Donation Income	0.00	38.00	748.46	500.00	248.46	500.00
4.200.000	Fees and Registrations	15.00	212.00	2,745.00	2,500.00	245.00	2,500.00
4.250.000	Flower Income	52.00	113.00	862.00	1,400.00	(538.00)	1,400.00
4.300.000	Interest Income Heartland Bank	43.71	37.00	498.64	400.00	98.64	400.00
4.310.000	Investment Income Fidelity	5,430.34	5,800.00	31,563.66	29,000.00	2,563.66	29,000.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$89,483.91</b>	<b>\$105,640.00</b>	<b>\$991,910.84</b>	<b>\$1,008,800.00</b>	<b>(\$16,889.16)</b>	<b>\$1,008,800.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
<b>Connections Ministry</b>							
	Connections Ministry	\$0.00	\$49.00	\$751.73	\$500.00	\$251.73	\$500.00
<b>Mission Ministry</b>							
	Mission Ministry	\$12,322.16	\$8,657.00	\$103,132.41	\$103,950.00	(\$817.59)	\$103,950.00
<b>Outreach Ministry</b>							
	Outreach Ministry	\$0.00	\$726.00	\$4,500.00	\$8,800.00	(\$4,300.00)	\$8,800.00
<b>Fellowship Ministry</b>							
	Fellowship Ministry	\$0.00	\$163.00	\$875.15	\$2,000.00	(\$1,124.85)	\$2,000.00
<b>Adult Education Ministry</b>							
	Adult Education Ministry	\$0.00	\$140.00	\$1,048.28	\$1,680.00	(\$631.72)	\$1,680.00
<b>Youth and Education Ministry</b>							
	Youth and Education Ministry	\$590.00	\$724.00	\$5,765.93	\$8,600.00	(\$2,834.07)	\$8,600.00
<b>Children and Family Ministry</b>							
	Children and Family Ministry	\$194.80	\$425.00	\$6,530.65	\$7,400.00	(\$869.35)	\$7,400.00
<b>Music Ministry</b>							
	Music Ministry	\$154.64	\$169.00	\$1,636.73	\$2,050.00	(\$413.27)	\$2,050.00
<b>Worship Ministry</b>							
	Worship Ministry	\$876.42	\$639.00	\$4,984.34	\$7,800.00	(\$2,815.66)	\$7,800.00
<b>Audio Visual</b>							
	Audio Visual	\$2,651.29	\$1,993.00	\$18,453.44	\$23,850.00	(\$5,396.56)	\$23,850.00
<b>Facilities</b>							
	Facilities	\$13,326.03	\$9,070.00	\$103,916.02	\$103,339.00	\$577.02	\$103,339.00
<b>Office Expenses</b>							
	Office Expenses	\$3,469.75	\$3,088.00	\$37,139.07	\$37,122.00	\$17.07	\$37,122.00
<b>Staffing Ministry</b>							



Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church - Huntley IL  
Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 for General Fund

Monday, January 5, 2026

Account #      Account Name      Period Activity      Monthly Budget      YTD Balance      Budget YTD      Over/Under YTD+(-)      Page 2 of 2 Annual Budget

<i>Spiritual Ministry Staff</i>							
	Spiritual Ministry Staff	\$35,228.80	\$36,086.00	\$450,274.43	\$461,542.00	(\$11,267.57)	\$461,542.00
<i>Support Ministry Staff</i>							
	Support Ministry Staff	\$11,329.04	\$10,102.00	\$133,085.05	\$131,309.00	\$1,776.05	\$131,309.00
<i>Shared Staff Expense</i>							
	Shared Staff Expense	\$2,251.07	\$2,452.00	\$26,102.05	\$31,308.00	(\$5,205.95)	\$31,308.00
	Staffing Ministry	\$48,808.91	\$48,640.00	\$609,461.53	\$624,159.00	(\$14,697.47)	\$624,159.00
<i>Other Church Expenses</i>							
	Other Church Expenses	\$6,351.30	\$4,383.00	\$47,350.81	\$48,000.00	(\$649.19)	\$48,000.00
<i>Providing for the Future</i>							
	Providing for the Future	\$2,462.49	\$2,468.00	\$29,549.88	\$29,550.00	(\$0.12)	\$29,550.00
	Total Expenses	\$91,207.79	\$81,334.00	\$975,095.97	\$1,008,800.00	(\$33,704.03)	\$1,008,800.00
	Difference	(\$1,723.88)	\$24,306.00	\$16,814.87	\$0.00		\$0.00

# 2026 Financial Reports

## TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

### UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND

	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2025 BUDGET	FY 2025 ACTUAL VS. FY 2025 BUDGET	YTD PERCENT RECEIVED	YTD PERCENT EXPENDED
January 1, 2025 Beginning Balance	\$ 379,855.20				
Total Annual Income	991,910.84	\$ 1,008,800.00	\$ (16,889.16)	98.33%	
Total Annual Expenses	975,095.97	\$ 1,008,800.00	\$ (33,704.03)		96.66%
Income vs. Expenditures	16,814.87	-			
December 31, 2025 Ending Balance	\$ 396,670.07				
Average Monthly Expenses (Budgeted)	\$ 84,066.67				
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	4.72				

### MORTGAGE SERVICE FUND

	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2025 BUDGET	FY 2025 ACTUAL VS. FY 2025 BUDGET	YTD PERCENT RECEIVED	YTD PERCENT EXPENDED
January 1, 2025 Beginning Balance	\$ 36,097.34				
Total Annual Income	258,896.45	225,684.00	\$ 33,212.45	114.72%	
Total Annual Expenses	232,323.57	225,684.00	\$ 6,639.57		102.94%
Income vs. Expenditures	26,572.88	-			
December 31, 2025 Ending Balance	\$ 62,670.22				
Average Monthly Expenses	\$ 18,807.00				
Approx. Months Covered by Fund Balance	3.33				

Respectfully Submitted,  
George Attaway, Treasurer

## 2026 Financial Reports (cont.)

Shepherd of the Prairie  
Lutheran Church -  
Huntley IL Balance  
Sheet as of December  
31, 2025

Monday, January 5, 2026

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	Period Activity	Previous Period Balance
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
1.100.000	Heartland Bank Checking	156,894.47	(41,023.08)	197,917.55
1.200.000	Mission Plus Building Fund Checking	507.05	0.17	506.88
1.200.100	Mission Investment Fixed Term	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
1.210.000	Fidelity Investments	821,272.30	40,430.34	780,841.96
1.250.000	HBT/LPL Investment Account	425.67	0.00	425.67
1.500.000	Donations Holding Account	1,601.21	(501.24)	2,102.45
1.600.000	FNBO Checking Boy Scout Troop 200	6,090.58	(6,560.66)	12,651.24
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$996,791.28</b>	<b>(\$7,654.47)</b>	<b>\$1,004,445.75</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
1.300.000	Building & Grounds	7,203,136.61	0.00	7,203,136.61
1.300.100	Garage Building	41,717.68	0.00	41,717.68
1.300.200	Memory Garden	89,052.93	0.00	89,052.93
	<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$7,333,907.22</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,333,907.22</b>
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$8,330,698.50</b>	<b>(\$7,654.47)</b>	<b>\$8,338,352.97</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
2.100.000	Prepaid General Fund Pledges	22,376.25	2,000.00	20,376.25
2.110.000	Prepaid Mortgage Service Pledges	3,958.75	500.00	3,458.75
	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$26,335.00</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>\$23,835.00</b>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>				
2.200.200	MIF Commercial Loan Payable	2,900,916.62	(9,535.46)	2,910,452.08
	<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,900,916.62</b>	<b>(\$9,535.46)</b>	<b>\$2,910,452.08</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,927,251.62</b>	<b>(\$7,035.46)</b>	<b>\$2,934,287.08</b>
<b>Fund Balances &amp; Equity</b>				
<b>Unrestricted Fund Balances</b>				
3.100.000	General Fund Balance	396,670.07	(1,723.88)	398,393.95
	<b>Total Unrestricted Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$396,670.07</b>	<b>(\$1,723.88)</b>	<b>\$398,393.95</b>
<b>Temporary Restricted Fund Balances</b>				
3.170.000	Special Services Fund Balance	8,226.75	6,336.72	1,890.03
3.175.000	Memorial Fund Balance	30,372.46	(1,029.50)	31,401.96
3.180.000	Grafton Food Pantry Fund Balance	1,411.08	(1,075.00)	2,486.08
3.220.000	AV Ministry Fund Balance	39.53	(921.00)	960.53
3.250.000	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	4,198.99	(500.00)	4,698.99
3.260.000	Community Outreach Fund Balance	3,394.96	155.00	3,239.96
3.270.000	Holiday Flowers Balance	57.96	(364.49)	422.45
3.300.000	<i>Music Ministry Fund Balance</i>			
3.330.000	Adult Music Ministry Fund Balance	55,652.00	(11,977.93)	67,629.93
3.345.000	Childrens Music Ministry Fund Balance	5,592.13	(119.96)	5,712.09
	<i>Total Music Ministry Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$61,244.13</i>	<i>(\$12,097.89)</i>	<i>73,342.02</i>
3.340.000	Artist Series Balance	30,269.73	4,075.82	26,193.91
3.350.000	Prairie Crafters Fund Balance	575.79	174.00	401.79
3.380.000	Continuing Education Fund Balance	1,706.24	0.00	1,706.24
3.390.000	Children & Family Ministry Balance	678.94	0.00	678.94
3.400.000	<i>Youth Ministry Fund Balance</i>			
3.410.000	Youth Leader Programs Balance	12,500.00	0.00	12,500.00

**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church - Huntley IL**  
**Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025**

**Monday, January 5, 2026**

**Page 2 of 2**

Account#	Account Name	YTD Balance	Period Activity	Previous Period Balance
<i>Total Youth Ministry Fund Balance</i>		<i>\$23,409.51</i>	<i>(\$30.00)</i>	<i>23,439.51</i>
3.500.000	Little Lambs Fund Balance	5,132.92	(207.15)	5,340.07
3.600.000	Prayer Shawl Ministry Fund Balance	152.95	0.00	152.95
3.650.000	Quilters Ministry Fund Balance	1,960.02	0.00	1,960.02
3.675.000	Memory Garden Fund Balance	12,338.34	0.00	12,338.34
3.676.000	Memory Garden Bricks Fund Balance	4,101.57	0.00	4,101.57
3.677.000	Memory Garden Niche Fund Balance	81,281.65	0.00	81,281.65
3.700.000	Church Events - Funded Balance	0.00	1,939.68	(1,939.68)
3.720.000	Disaster Relief Fund Balance	(50.00)	0.00	(50.00)
3.725.000	Miscellaneous Outside Charities Fund Balance	100.00	0.00	100.00
3.730.000	ELCA Warid Hunger Fund Balance	120.25	(105.50)	225.75
3.750.000	Seminary Scholarship Fund Balance	7,270.00	0.00	7,270.00
3.800.000	Boy Scout Troop 200 Fund Balance	6,090.58	(6,560.66)	12,651.24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$284,084.35</b>	<b>(\$10,209.97)</b>	<b>\$294,294.32</b>
3.140.000	Mortgage Service Fund Balance	62,670.22	(984.11)	63,654.33
	<b>Total Temporary Restricted Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$346,754.57</b>	<b>(\$11,194.08)</b>	<b>\$357,948.65</b>
<b>Reserves</b>				
3.950.000	Barnabas Reserves Balance	3,683.80	0.00	3,683.80
3.971.000	Roof Repairs/Replacement Balance	66,650.04	575.00	66,075.04
3.972.000	Playground Maintenance Reserves Balance	2,605.00	0.00	2,605.00
3.973.000	Parking Lot Seal/Repair Reserves Balance	15,661.28	650.00	15,011.28
3.974.000	Lawn & Landscaping Reserves Balance	14,566.35	333.33	14,233.02
3.975.000	Maintenance Reserves Balance	14,987.52	250.00	14,737.52
3.976.000	Carpeting Crossroads/Hallways Reserves Balance	3,302.00	0.00	3,302.00
3.977.000	Carpeting MP Room/Classrooms Balance	32,059.96	133.33	31,926.63
3.979.000	Outside Audit Reserve Balance	5,000.04	250.00	4,750.04
3.980.000	Equipment Reserves Balance	21,537.31	551.00	20,986.31
3.981.000	Bells Maintenance Reserves Balance	2,486.54	20.83	2,465.71
3.985.000	Sabbatical Reserves Balance	9,950.89	0.00	9,950.89
3.990.000	Future Staffing Reserves Balance	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>\$212,490.73</b>	<b>\$2,763.49</b>	<b>\$209,727.24</b>
<b>Permanently Restricted Funds</b>				
3.940.000	Endowment Fund Balance	14,540.91	0.00	14,540.91
	<b>Total Permanently Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$14,540.91</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$14,540.91</b>
3.130.000	Building & Grounds Equity	4,302,219.99	9,535.46	4,292,684.53
3.300.100	Garage Building Equity Balance	41,717.68	0.00	41,717.68
3.300.200	Memory Garden Equity Balance	89,052.93	0.00	89,052.93
	<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$4,432,990.60</b>	<b>\$9,535.46</b>	<b>\$4,423,455.14</b>
	<b>Total Fund Balances &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$5,403,446.88</b>	<b>(\$619.01)</b>	<b>\$5,404,065.89</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances &amp; Equity</b>	<b><u>\$8,330,698.50</u></b>	<b><u>(\$7,654.47)</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,338,352.97</u></b>



# ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORTS



## MINISTRY GROUPS

Community Outreach Team  
Children, Youth & Family Team  
Worship & Music Team  
Stewardship Team  
Fellowship Team  
Church Council  
Wellness Team  
Property Team  
Mission Team  
Finance Team  
SOTP Staff

## Small Groups

The **Heartbeat** of  
Shepherd of the Prairie



## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Coffee Fellowship  
Men's Coffee  
Women's Coffee  
Book Club

## CARE GROUPS

Barnabas Caregiving  
Grief Support; Grief Journey Group;  
Caring Callers; Caring Cards;  
Dementia Caregivers Group;  
Transitions Loss Group;  
Helping Hands; What's Next?;  
Prayer Ministry  
AA; Al-Anon

## DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

The **7s**  
Holy Smokers

## STUDY GROUPS

Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Mark  
Weekly Study with David Kolzow  
Bible Studies with Donna Kelly  
Bible Studies with Jan Spees  
Friends Bible Study  
God's Girls - Sunshine Boys

"A GROWING CHURCH FOR GROWING PEOPLE"

# CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

The Connections Ministry includes Barnabas Caregiving Ministry, Small Groups and 7s Discipleship Groups, New Member Gatherings and Visitor Awareness, and Ministry Teams. This ministry seeks to connect people, members, and non-members, in person and online, into ways of following in Jesus' footsteps as his disciples or apprentices.

## **BARNABAS CAREGIVING MINISTRY**

The Barnabas Caregiving ministry provides care in the form of encouragement and Holy Communion for members who are residents of Care Facilities or living at home and unable to attend worship. We also help our pastors with making hospital visits. Not only do we care for our members, but we provide monthly communion on the third Sunday at Clarendale in Algonquin; and monthly services at Huntley Springs; at Clarendale, in Algonquin and Alden Huntley not only for patients who can come to the services, but also to those living in the Clarendale Memory Care unit. We currently have 30 trained Barnabas Ministers who serve 50 Care Receivers in various ways.

## **SMALL GROUPS, 7s DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS**

Small Group ministry is "the lifeblood of SOTP". SOTP began as a small group, and we continue that tradition through our ministry, fellowship, study, care, and discipleship groups.

Our 7s Discipleship groups meet for a 7-week block of time, one in the fall, one during the winter and one right after Easter. The groups meet either at SOTP or in members' homes. They include, as they meet, the elements of study (Bible study and worship), fellowship time (fun and snacks), support, (listening to and praying for each other), service (finding a service project to participate in) and discipleship (apprenticing themselves to Jesus to learn how he lived and how they can too.) Each group chooses their own focus for study. We have one small study group that has been meeting for five years! These groups also do ministry in at least one service project (either here at SOTP or in the community at large) each year. This year we also formed several small groups to study, "The Book of Harmony" in conjunction with our Reformation Celebration in October.

Our Ministry and Fellowship groups strive to include worship, prayer, caring and service in their groups as well throughout the year. Our Care groups meet to share, learn, worship, pray and serve during the year as well.

## **NEW MEMBER GATHERINGS AND VISITOR AWARENESS**

Four New Member Gatherings were held during 2025; February, May, August and November and we welcomed 69 new members to Shepherd of the Prairie. Many of our new members have engaged in ministry here at SOTP through Ministry Teams and other small groups. Welcome to all of our new members!

We continue to welcome visitors through our Welcome Center and via our Visitor Contact link on our website. We have many visitors who worship with us regularly via our Live Stream and Facebook Live. We continue to work on new ways to connect with our visitors and to check in with our new members to continue to invite them into the life of SOTP.

## **SERVICE**

We continue to use the Church Center app for signups for all of our activities and ministries, including Worship Assistants and Welcome Center hosts. It has really simplified the process for those who are leading activities or ministries as we now have only one place to sign up and one list of participants.

We know that some are unable to use the Church Center app, or simply prefer to sign up in person. We have a Registration Kiosk (designed just for these situations) complete with iPads and staffed by someone who can help people to sign up in a quick and easy way. If you have any problems, please stop by the kiosk to sign up for any and all activities.

## **MINISTRY TEAMS**

As you read through the ministry reports for this year you will see how our SOTP Ministry Teams have continued to serve God, all of you and our communities. We are called to: Love God, Love Neighbor, Love

## CONNECTIONS MINISTRY (CONT.)

Self. Our Ministry Teams have been active in working to engage all of us in ways to do love in those ways.

We seem to be busier than ever, with many of our Ministry Teams expanding the scope of their service to even more of God's people here at SOTP, our local community and around the world. I would personally like to thank each person who helped care for God's people this year, whether it was through a ministry here at SOTP, or in your own families and neighborhoods. God has truly blessed us with opportunities to live the life Jesus calls us to. If you are looking for a way to become engaged with serving God's people, contact me and I will be happy to help you find the right fit. It has been a great privilege to serve in partnership with God and this congregation as we work together to bring God's Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven". Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Grace & Peace,

Donna Kelly

Director of Connections Ministry

### **FELLOWSHIP TEAM**

Members: Tim & Patty Bueschel, Linda & Rick Wright, Judy Below, Monika Wichtendahl, Doreen Brangenberg, Cheryl Lorenzin, Ann Malandrucolo, Jeff Ottens, Maryann Andes, Jeff & Roz Eckhardt, Gisela Arnold, Susan Blumer, Pam Perrott.

The Fellowship Team serves a purpose of providing opportunities for the congregation to come together for times of fun and fellowship; a time to "play" together as well as pray together.

Our first event of 2025 was providing the setup and dinner portion of our Lenten Dinner Church.

The Annual Picnic on August 17th. We had a wonderful turnout and enjoyed great food, games, fellowship and the SOTP Picnic Band entertained us with music.

We entered a car in Trunk or Treat on October 25<sup>th</sup>, and won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for our circus themed trunk. In November, we hosted the Friendsgiving Dinner Church on Thanksgiving Eve. We served turkey and ham, and everyone enjoyed the variety of dishes and desserts brought by those who attended. While we ate, we joined together in worship, communion and thanks to God for all of God's blessings.

Donna Kelly





## COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

---

Our Community Outreach team has been busy again this year! **January** started our second year of working with the NexTrex Plastic Recycling program. SOTP came through again and helped us reach over 1000 pounds of plastic by June. I had an **outstanding** group of volunteers that helped me bag, weigh, document, and transport the plastic. We had an every other month schedule set so no group was doing all the work all the time. This year NexTrex will begin a new incentive program. For every 250 pounds of plastic we log, we get entered into a drawing to win a prize valued at up to \$500. These prizes range from outside firepits, giant Jenga blocks, and more. My goal for this year is to continue to have a monthly schedule. My other goal for this plastic program is to have other groups within the church or community ready to take over the collection process after we reach our goal. This year Dottie Bobzin's neighborhood took the opportunity to earn a bench for the new walking path planned for Del Webb. Imagine the possibility of 2000- 3000 pounds, or more, of plastic being collected and made into something to beautify and benefit the community. If anyone is interested in learning about the process, please let me know. More hands make less work.

**March** brought the annual Huntley Business Expo. We had a prime location again, right at the entrance of the Cosman Center. Our 'Jesus love all faces' game was a big hit and brought many over to explore what SOTP has to offer. In **April**, we worked with the front office staff to create a beautiful Easter postcard that was mailed out to multiple new neighborhoods.

**May** was a busy month starting with the Grafton Food Pantry's appreciation luncheon. We provided drinks and pizzas from Rosati's and desserts from our wonderful SOTP bakers. Harriett and all of the volunteers were so excited to be celebrated. May also brought a new opportunity for SOTP to sponsor a piece of road for a highway pick up. Jim Salatta brought a team of workers to beautify a stretch of land off of Dahmer Road near fire station #5. We even have a sign with SOTP's name on it. Since there was no Memorial Day parade, we could not participate.

Our final events of the year included a balance workshop with Danae Molitor and a booth at Fall Fest in **September**. Danae's class was a hit with 30 people in attendance. Those who attended the class enjoyed themselves and found it beneficial. We will be asking her back for more events in the future. Fall Fest was an unusually hot weekend, but we still had a great turn out.

None of SOTP's programs would be as well attended if it weren't for our great publicist Patrica M. Szpekowski, APR of PR Strategies & Communications, Inc. Pat has worked with SOTP for a few years now and she is able to help with promoting not only Community Outreach activities, but has also promoted articles for the Artist Series, various activities from the Mission Team, and our various special services to just name a few, within the Daily Harold, Facebook, and neighborhood Patch sites.

The Welcome Center has had many new faces behind it this year as well! Thank you to all who volunteered to help staff the desk before and after services. If you are interested in helping behind the desk, please let me or Donna Kelly know.

Thank you to all who have volunteered for any of our Outreach events and to the members of the Community Outreach team. None of this would have been possible without your help! There are already new ideas brewing for 2026 – stay tuned!

Tara Mackey, -Community Outreach Chair





# LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL

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Our Little Lambs Preschool Program is joyfully celebrating its 17th year!

We began the school year with a special Open House, inviting all of our students and their families to visit the classroom the Thursday evening before classes officially began. It was wonderful to meet and talk with parents—especially those who work full time and don't often get the chance to see our classroom in action.

Our classes meet from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. During this time, children enjoy circle time, math and language lessons, letter recognition and letter sound activities, Bible stories, crafts, music, snacks, free play, and more! Each activity is designed to help children build Kindergarten readiness skills, develop a love for Bible stories, and grow in the joyful knowledge that God loves us all.

We will begin early enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year in January. Children between the ages of 2 and 4 (by September 1st) are welcome to enroll. Students do not need to be potty trained and do not need to be members of Shepherd of the Prairie. Enrollment is limited, so if you are interested in signing up your child—or know someone who might be—please contact us at [littlelambs@sotpmail.com](mailto:littlelambs@sotpmail.com).

Each week we see the smiling faces of our students and parents and feel truly blessed by the success of this program. With God's love and guidance, Little Lambs continues to grow, nurture, and share His joy with our youngest learners



# CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

## Children and Family Ministries Annual Report

This has been an exciting and busy year for our Children and Family Ministries Program! We've hosted many wonderful events throughout the year and have had tons of fun along the way!

We kicked off the year with a Kids' Movie Night, featuring *Moana 2*. Over 40 children registered for the event, enjoying popcorn, candy, and fellowship. We were thrilled to partner with the Youth Group and Confirmation kids, who helped throughout the evening — what a great example of teamwork across generations!

In May, we hosted a Painting with Ms. Donna Night, another multi-generational event that brought together participants ranging in age from 7 to 70+. The end results were amazing!

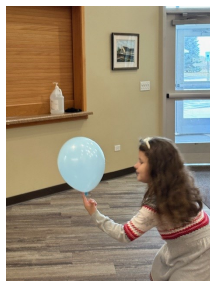
Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success! We welcomed over 150 children from the community, who hunted for more than 3,800 eggs. We even had a special visit from the Easter Bunny! A heartfelt thank-you goes out to everyone who donated candy and helped fill eggs.

In June we brought back our Out-door Movie Night, we had a great time watching a movie out underneath the stars.

In October, we hosted our always-popular Trunk or Treat event. With 18 decorated trunks, the parking lot was full of fun, fellowship, and creativity! Nearly 200 people joined us — not just from our congregation, but from the wider community as well. The evening ended with our annual trunk contest. Congratulations to our 1st place winners the Boyd Family for their Frankenstein Booger -themed trunk, and to the Fellowship Team, who took 2nd place with their Circus theme trunk!

Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year was another highlight, with over 120 children and 40 volunteers participating! The theme was *Live It Out- Discover how to Love Like Jesus!* It was a five-day adventure filled with singing, dancing, games, crafts, and collecting school supplies for families in need within our community.

It is a true blessing and joy to serve in this ministry and to watch it grow year after year. We are already looking forward to an exciting 2026, with many new activities and events planned. With God's guidance, we can't wait to see what the next year brings!



## MISSION MINISTRIES

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The Mission Team was formed to do “outward visioning” for mission involvements where SOTP is not present but can work to make a difference in God’s world; locally and globally.

Throughout 2025, the Mission Team actively pursued its goal of extending SOTP’s outreach both locally and globally. This commitment was fulfilled through several initiatives:

**Volunteer Outings and Talent Donations:** Members dedicated their time and unique skills to serve various communities, participating in hands-on activities and projects that brought tangible help to those in need.

**Hygiene Kit Collection and Donation Drives:** The team organized and facilitated the gathering of essential hygiene items and other provisions, assembling and distributing kits to support individuals and families lacking necessities.

**Monetary Giving:** Financial contributions were made to support mission partners and local initiatives, ensuring sustained assistance and impact in our targeted areas.

By engaging in these efforts, the Mission Team worked to fulfill its mandate, making a lasting difference in the lives of many throughout the year.

In 2025, we were entrusted with over \$35,000 in funds for distribution between the Mission Team budget and Special Offerings. The organizations that benefited from the generosity of our members included AARK Garden, ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA Missionary Support (Empowered Girls- Tanzania and Sponsor Covenant), ELCA World Hunger, Elgin Community Crisis Center, Exodus World Service, Grafton Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Hampshire Food Pantry, Home of the Sparrow, Joshua Mission, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, McHenry County PADS, Mother Bear, Mercy Ships, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Senior Care Volunteer Network, Turning Point, and WARP Corps.

Through volunteering and donation drives, we shared our time, talents, and treasure with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Feed My Starving Children, Turning Point, Habitat for Humanity / ReStore, AARK Gardens, WARP Corp, Exodus World Service, Grafton Food Pantry, ELCA World Hunger, and Community Resource Meals.

Respectfully submitted, Mission Team Leader, John Witt

Mission Team Members:

Vik Bedkeris, Deanne Byers, Becky Wright, Carl Hupert, Sandy Hupert, Marty Jacobson, Steve Legel, Rick Miller, Stephanie Mondello, Annette Peterson, Elizabeth Trout, Shirley Ulmer, Valerie Ulmer, John Witt, Patti Witt, and Al Thurkow.





## MISSION MINISTRIES (CONT.)

### Prayer Shawls

The Prayer Shawl group provides shawls for the congregation to give to anyone in need of a little comfort. The shawls are available to everyone. We also donate to the local hospital.

We have 2 “Shawl Racks” one at each end of the main hallway for you to choose a shawl or check out upper cabinet A at the end of the ministry hall.

The group provides the baptism blankets. Alice and her daughter Tammy also create blankets for the graduating seniors, and Alice makes blankets for the homeless.

Most of the work is done at home, but we do come together once a month to pray over the completed shawls. This is a very rewarding ministry and new knitters and/or crocheters are always welcome. Please come and check us out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9a.m. in the library.

Thank you to all who donated yarn!

Alice Hallet and Jeanne Henley

### Quilters

Thank all of you for your support and help, it is our honor to make these quilts which go all over the world to help people in need. This past dedication we made 107 quilts of which 100 were donated to Lutheran World Relief and the other 7 went to Turning Point. The congregation also helped us by donating about \$450.00 in our Quarters for Quilts jar! That money goes towards fabric and batting.

A big thank you goes to our wonderful ladies that come in twice a month and work hard. They are Marty Bergman, Sue Blumer, Barb Davis, Sue Flesher, Eileen Gerald, Kay Gonzalez, Annette Kandell, Sandy Meyer, Alice Miller, Corlene Moeller, Nancy Morbeck, Jeannine Penley, Bev Pinnelli, Claire Rollings, Lauretta Sage, Cynthia Schoenfeld, Carol Spiller, and Carol Waxenberg.

Have a Blessed New Year,  
Bev Kenny



## WORSHIP MINISTRIES

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SOTP Worship Support Team is a very active group of dedicated individuals making sure that worship is supported every Saturday and Sunday and even other times.

The Worship Support Team is divided into several areas of participation for our three services. Judie Cymbal handles communion, bread baking, funerals. She is assisted by Leslie Enders. Elaine Gullam handles the greeters for the two services. Ed Cuttle handles the usher responsibilities for the three services and funerals. Diane Mollis arranged flowers for the altar and special services (Easter, Christmas). Sandy Scalise handles the Saturday night services including greeters, ushers, communion set up and clean up. Carolyn Cuttle leads the group and handles decorating for the seasons and banners. This is truly a team effort every Saturday and Sunday. The team welcomes a new greeter coordinator Eileen Gerald. Elaine Gillam is retiring. We also welcome our new Flower Coordinator, Lorraine Vallee. Lorraine is getting her feet wet with handling the Christmas Poinsettias 2025 with some help from Diane.

But there are many behind the scenes to make worship happen. We have a bread bakers, wine purchasers, clean up, smiling greeters, ushers offering help and assistance, banner changers, filling the candles, baptismal bowl cleaned and watered... The list goes on. Thank you to all the unsung heroes here at SOTP. Your work is appreciated.

### **GREETERS**

Your group of SOTP Greeters supports the needs of all members and visitors during all services held at SOTP. The "Words of Welcome" before each service at the entrance of our church are words of kindness and importance. They not only "welcome" new and longtime members of the congregation, but they also set the tone and feelings of the church and service upon entering. New Greeters are always "Welcome" to our community of volunteers! If you are interested in serving and/or volunteering, please contact Eileen Gerald.

### **USHER MINISTRY**

Your Usher Ministry consists of 54 members and supports the needs of our SOTP members and visitors. Over this past year, your usher team has supported all three general services on the weekends, 6 funeral services this past year (as requested) and supports all church holiday services, and other special events. We were blessed this year to welcome 7 new ushers to support this valuable ministry.

Your Usher Ministry assists and welcomes members and visitors into service. During each service, Ushers are responsible for collections, attendance counts, and directing members for communion. They also direct the pastors to those that need communion at their seats.

Over the past 12 months of regular scheduled services, on average your Usher Ministry teams have served:

Saturday 5pm 52 per Saturday 212 per month 2554 For the year

Sunday 9:00am 157 per Sunday 658 per month 7898 For the year

Sunday 10:45am 132 per Sunday 550 per month 6606 For the year

For a total of 17,058 members and guests AND

Over the Past 12 months for all services supported by SOTP and your Usher Ministry, we have served 21,132 members and guests!

Scheduling with the Planning Center program for Services continues. Scheduling for our Ministry has benefited from this program's scheduling features. This automated method of scheduling our ushers automatically updates the service schedule for each service time and provides the

Ministry leaders confirmation on what ushers will be serving at that service.

Your SOTP Usher Ministry members are part of the Worship Support Team and will continue to support other areas of worship as needed. We can always use additional ushers! Being an usher is not that much of a commitment (though rewarding), you would only serve once a month, and at the same service that you normally attend. If you are interested in serving on our Usher Teams, please send me an email.

I am blessed to be part of this ministry and truly blessed to serve with this dedicated group of SOTP members that we call your Usher Ministry here at SOTP!

Ed Cuttle, Usher Ministry Coordinator

### FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

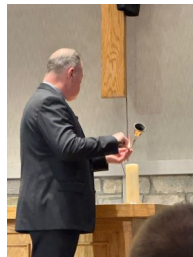
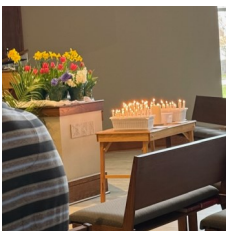
Working with the Worship Support Team, our flower coordinator arranges for weekly altar flowers which may be donated by people of the congregation. The altar flowers are purchased from Town and Country Gardens of Elgin and cost \$52.00 per arrangement. You can sign up online to purchase flowers to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or whatever inspires you. In 2025 Easter flowers were ordered from Platt Hill Nursery with Easter lilies, daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths to create a spring garden around the cross and in the church. Our flower coordinator organized the Christmas Poinsettias sale which decorated the sanctuary for Christmas. In 2025 47 Christmas poinsettias were purchased from Platt Hill Nursery. Additionally, the Artist Series provided 17 poinsettias for the sanctuary and Christmas performance. We welcome Lorraine Vallee as our new flower coordinator. Thanks to Diane Mollis for her work with flowers over the past few year.

Carolyn Cuttle

### ALTAR CARE

The Altar Care team is responsible for setup and takedown of communion care for altar and communion linens and robes, making sure that communion bread is made and available, purchasing grape juice, making sure wine is purchased and available and changing altar linens seasonally. We have a fabulous team that serves with joy and a big thanks to all who help so willingly.

Judie Symbal





## MUSIC MINISTRIES

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## ARTIST SERIES

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## MUSIC MINISTRIES (CONT.)

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## CONTEMPORARY MUSIC /WORSHIP

Grace + Peace! I am continually grateful to be a part of the SOTP Family, and thankful for each person who faithfully serves on our teams. Our teams continue to grow, as we seek to provide solid leadership in various areas of the life of our church. In 2025, our teams supported the life of the church in areas such as Dinner Church (Lent), the Church Picnic, the Children's Christmas Musical, Christmas Eve Services, and various other events. In 2025 we worked on several projects:

1.) We continued to fine tune and improve on the implementation of in-ear monitors for the band members. Our in-ear system is at capacity with all eight transmitters configured and in use. These systems allow each player to hear better without increasing the sound level coming from the Chancel.

2.) As part of my Doctoral Studies, a Scripture Reading Team was developed for the 10:45am service, incorporating voices from various ages. These faithful participants (Alisha Wildermuth, Maci Sarrault, Max Wondriska, Roy Rankin, and Emily Moore) prepared and presented Scripture in the 10:45am Services between September to December. We will seek to develop and expand this in 2026.

I am looking forward to another great year at SOTP in 2026. We have hit the ground running and are looking forward to seeing how God continues to move in this coming year.

Grace + Peace,  
Jeff Moore



## BARNABAS CAREGIVING MINISTRY

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The Barnabas Caregiving Ministry involves several service roles:

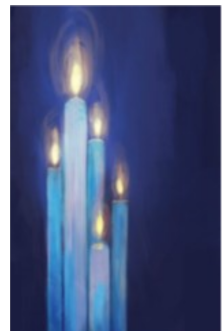
**Barnabas Ministers;** these are people who are trained in ways to listen and encourage those who are homebound or live in care facilities. The Barnabas Ministers strive to visit their care-receivers monthly and bring communion. They spend time listening and being a friend to their care receiver. Some of our ministers provide care through phone calls and by sending cards monthly. Each care receiver on our list receives a card each month. We also have resources available and can refer people to agencies where they can receive help in different situations. We currently have 50 people on our list who are either shut-ins or semi-shut-ins. We held a training session in March of 2025, and we now have 30 Barnabas Ministers.

We also continued the joy of hosting worship services in three of our local care facilities. On the third Sunday of the month, one of our ministers goes to Clarendale of Algonquin to worship with the residents there via our live-stream 9AM service and we bring communion to them at the service. Then, on the first Thursday of the month we bring a full service, including communion, to the residents at Clarendale and on the first Friday to Alden Rehab facility. In these facilities we also provide a short service of songs and communion for the memory care units. A service is also provided by our ministers at Huntley Springs. This year 50 cards with either a pocket heart or pocket cross were given to residents at Clarendale, Alden, and Huntley Springs as Christmas Gifts from SOTP.

Under the Barnabas Caregiving umbrella falls Grief Ministry, Caring Callers, Caring Cards, the Prayer Chain and Helping Hands. Our email prayer chain has 89 members. Helping Hands provides Funeral Luncheons for those who request it. Our Grief Journey Ministry provides books on grieving to families of our members and friends who have lost a loved one. Our Grief Journey Group meets on Tuesday mornings at 10 and the Transitions Group, which serves people with all kinds of losses, meets on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. This January we started a Dementia Caregivers Support group through the Alzheimer's Association. We also host a support group for older member who are dealing with loss of independence called, What's Next.

As part of our Grief Ministry held a Blue Christmas service on December 11<sup>th</sup> which reached about 400 people in person or online. On January 7<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a time of reflection, practice and prayer entitled, "Renew and Release". This was an open house format.

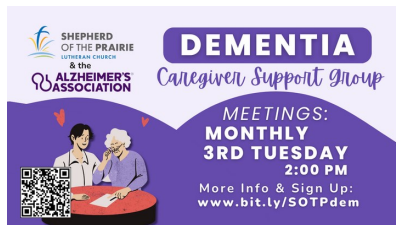
Donna Kelly  
Barnabas Director



## HELPING HANDS/FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

Helping Hands provides lunch following the funeral or memorial service. This is our way of providing comfort and care for those who are going through the loss of a loved one. This year we were able to provide this service for three families of Shepherd of the prairie. Thanks to everyone who donated food and/or helped to set up, serve and clean up. This would not be possible without your **help**.

Marilyn Wilhelm



## PROPERTY MINISTRY

### PROPERTY MINISTRY

The Property Team at Shepherd of the Prairie is responsible for many of the things that keep the building operational. I'm thankful to have the group of volunteers on our team that bring a variety of skills to the table. With a building our size, that is in use as much as it is, the job of keeping everything working is not always an easy task. We are regularly working with our vendors on maintenance issues, fire inspections, lawn care and snow removal. In addition to working with vendors there is a large amount of electrical, plumbing and woodworking projects and repairs done by our team members.

If you have any building maintenance skills that you would like to put to use, please contact me at 847-902-4741 or [vettefixer67@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vettefixer67@sbcglobal.net). If you're not sure if it's your cup of tea, you can join us at one of our ministry night meetings and just sit in to see what it's all about.

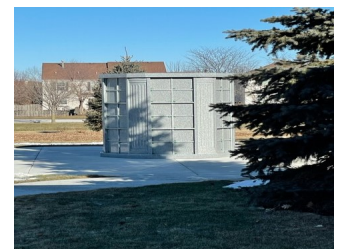
Mark Frendreis, Property Team lead

## MEMORY GARDEN

In the Spring we had 3 yards of mulch spread on the landscape areas to enhance the looks.

In 2025, 4 Niches were purchased, that our brings total sold to 57 and leaves 15 available for sale. Five Urns with Cremains were interred during 2025.

Ten Memory Bricks were added this year, and our Memory Brick Walkway is considered complete.



## ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT MINISTRIES

### SPECIAL GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Following is the list of memorial gifts given to SOTP during 2025.

Barb Hoppensteadt  
Lou Soest  
Gordon Burseth  
Gary Bender  
Carol Hansen  
Walter Roth  
Roma Schmidt  
Jack Voss  
Mel Kling  
Judy Sanford  
Frank Cesario  
Betty Knawa  
Carl Krause  
Total.....\$19,707.72

Linda Jahr, Donna Schnepff



## CONGREGATION SUPPORT MINISTRIES

### OFFICE SUPPORT

Office support offers help in our front office as needed and includes those who help with staffing the front desk during staff meetings and on Wednesday afternoons as well as those who prepare the monthly newsletters that are mailed. Thanks to all who help.



### ADULT EDUCATION

There has been a lot of Adult Bible Studies available this  
Monday Afternoons – Friends Bible Study  
Wednesday Mornings – Bible Study led by Pastor Mark  
Wednesday Evenings – Bible Study led by Donna Kelly  
Thursday Mornings – Bible Study led by David Kolsow  
Friday Mornings – Bible Study led by Jan Spees  
Sunday Mornings - Bible Study led by Pr. Roy Olson (first half of year)  
Bible Study led by Jan Spees (second half of year)  
Ephesians 101 – Led by Pastor Bill in January



year:





## CONGREGATION SUPPORT MINISTRIES (CONT)

### STEWARDSHIP TEAM

The Priesthood of All Believers.... Everyone has a Purpose and Place to Serve Celebration was the 2026 theme for our Stewardship Campaign this year. The goal was to really take a step back and look at all the wonderful things that our congregation does throughout the year. This year's campaign was really focused on thanking everyone for all the hard work they have done.

Our Financial Stewardship drive began on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> with Mike McCann introducing the 2026 stewardship campaign and followed with multiple weeks of members sharing their stories of how their lives connected to God's. The 2026 campaign also included:

Sat. Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> Pastor Bill held a wonderful Matthew 101 Class

Saturday Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> – Apple Butter Making event – Cal Meyer led a great team of people making apple butter with a great turnout of people to assist. Proceeds from the event went to Feed My Starving Children.

Saturday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> – Celebration Dinner was a tremendous success and a big thank you to Café Roma who catered the event. Some of the members headed to Sew Hop'd afterwards for some fun and fellowship. Dr. Winston Persaud gave a talk after the meal that was fantastic.

Sunday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> – Reformation Sunday and we had our guest speaker, Dr. Persaud speaking at both services.

Our Stewardship Campaign concluded on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> where our members were gracious and prompt in submitting their estimate of giving cards.

Here are the results of our financial drive:

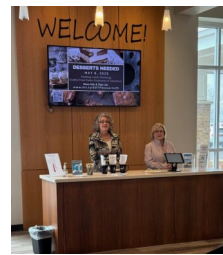
General Fund	\$ 837,759	108.4% of 2025 Results
Mortgage Fund	\$ 225,499	100.5% of 2025 Results
Total	\$1,063,258	106.7% of 2025 Results

Thank you to all who submitted an EOG card for 2026! Your willingness to submit an EOG card allows SOTP to plan accordingly which is a huge benefit throughout the year!

Mike McCann,  
Stewardship Leader



## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES



## MEN'S \* WOMEN'S COFFEE FELLOWSHIPS

The men's and women's coffee fellowships continue to meet at the McDonalds in front of the Huntley Walmart. The men meet on Tuesday mornings at 8 am and the women on Fridays at 10am. Please join us for a great time of fellowship.



# SOTP Life





**SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE FISCAL YEAR 2026 MASTER BUDGET**

**GENERAL FUND**

**ACCOUNTS**

January 1, 2025 Beginning Balance - Unrestricted General Fund      \$ 379,855.20

INCOME	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
4.100.000 - Member Contributions	\$ 945,000.00	\$ 931,337.06	\$ 994,613.00	\$ 49,613.00
4.150.000 - Loose Plate Offerings	30,000.00	24,156.02	30,000.00	-
4.155.000 - Other Donation Income	500.00	748.46	515.00	15.00
4.200.000 - Fees and Registrations	2,500.00	2,745.00	2,575.00	75.00
4.250.000 - Flower Income	1,400.00	862.00	1,442.00	42.00
4.300.000 - Interest Income	400.00	498.64	412.00	12.00
4.310.000 - Interest Income Fidelity	29,000.00	31,563.66	29,500.00	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,008,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 991,910.84</b>	<b>\$ 1,059,057.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,257.00</b>

1

<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,008,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 991,910.84</b>	<b>\$ 1,059,057.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,257.00</b>
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CONNECTIONS MINISTRY	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.150.300 - Connection Ministry	\$ 400.00	\$ 339.21	\$ 400.00	\$ -
5.150.301 - Life Groups	100.00	412.52	100.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>	<b>\$ 751.73</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

MISSION MINISTRY	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.100.110 - ELCA NI Synod	\$ 94,500.00	\$ 93,682.41	\$ 99,462.00	\$ 4,962.00
5.100.112 - Local Mission	9,450.00	9,450.00	9,946.00	496.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 103,950.00</b>	<b>\$ 103,132.41</b>	<b>\$ 109,408.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,458.00</b>

2

3

OUTREACH MINISTRY	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.150.100 - Outreach/Evangelism	\$ 2,300.00	\$ -	\$ 2,300.00	\$ -
5.150.150 - Advertising/Community	6,500.00	4,500.00	6,500.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,800.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.200.300 - Adult Ed Curriculum	\$ 1,480.00	\$ 757.88	\$ 1,480.00	\$ -
5.200.450 - Home Devotional Guides	200.00	290.40	200.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,680.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,048.28</b>	<b>\$ 1,680.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

YOUTH & ED MINISTRY	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.250.100 - Youth Resources	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 863.20	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
5.250.200 - Mission Trip Expenses	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	-
5.250.250 - Youth Event Expense	1,500.00	408.12	1,500.00	-
5.250.275 - Software/Subscriptions	-	-	-	-
5.250.280 - Confirmation Expenses	2,800.00	3,571.91	2,800.00	-
5.250.325 - Leadership Lab Expenses	1,300.00	922.70	1,300.00	-
5.250.*** First Communion			500.00	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,765.93</b>	<b>\$ 9,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>

4

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.250.285- Sunday School Expenses	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,514.16	\$ 2,100.00	\$ -
5.250.290 - VBS Expenses	2,300.00	2,087.54	2,300.00	-

5.250.350 - Children & Family Ministry	2,500.00	2,263.17	2,500.00	-
5.250.360- Adventure Club Expenses	500.00	665.78	500.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,530.65</b>	<b>\$ 7,400.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

MUSIC MINISTRY	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.300.100 - Choral Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,028.73	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
5.300.175 - Bell Expenses	300.00	-	300.00	-
5.300.350 - Band Expenses	-	-	-	-
5.300.400 - Piano/Organ Maintenance	-	-	-	-
5.300.500 - Licensing Fees	750.00	608.00	750.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,636.73</b>	<b>\$ 2,050.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

WORSHIP MINISTRY	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.350.150 - Flowers	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,421.59	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
5.350.151 - Sanctuary Arts	2,000.00	1,061.80	2,000.00	-
5.350.200 - Altar Guild	700.00	262.31	700.00	-
5.350.250 - Pastoral Assistance	750.00	400.00	750.00	-
5.350.300 - Communion Supplies	850.00	986.70	850.00	-
5.350.350 - Worship Expenses	1,500.00	851.94	1,500.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,984.34</b>	<b>\$ 7,800.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

AUDIO VISUAL	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.350.100 - Audio Visual Software	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 3,695.97	\$ 3,950.00	\$ 300.00
5.350.101 - Audio Visual Hardware	4,000.00	3,617.47	6,000.00	2,000.00
5.350.103 - Backup Outsourced - AV Coordinator	16,200.00	11,140.00	16,200.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 23,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,453.44</b>	<b>\$ 26,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,300.00</b>

FACILITIES	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.400.100 - Cleaning Services	\$ 18,210.00	\$ 17,400.00	\$ 18,130.00	\$ (80.00)
5.400.150 - Utilities	27,598.00	29,605.45	35,586.00	7,988.00
5.400.200 - Waste Removal	2,004.00	2,424.48	2,724.00	720.00
5.400.250 - Grounds Maintenance	16,642.00	16,741.25	16,643.00	1.00
5.400.255 - Snow Removal	15,939.00	15,625.00	15,939.00	-
5.400.300 - Maint/Cleaning Supplies	1,200.00	1,182.80	1,800.00	600.00
5.400.350 - Outside Contract Services	18,446.00	18,120.03	12,902.00	(5,544.00)
5.400.400 - Misc. Facilities Expense	3,300.00	2,817.01	3,300.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 103,339.00</b>	<b>\$ 103,916.02</b>	<b>\$ 107,024.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,685.00</b>

OFFICE EXPENSES	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.450.100 -Office Supplies	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 1,937.43	\$ 4,000.00	\$ (200.00)
5.450.150 - Office Equipment	1,000.00	816.66	1,000.00	-
5.450.200 - Web/Software Expenses	8,747.00	12,659.02	9,000.00	253.00
5.450.225 - High Speed Internet	2,300.00	3,053.64	3,200.00	900.00
5.450.250 - Telephone	2,100.00	2,166.78	2,200.00	100.00
5.450.275 - Wireless Phone	1,900.00	1,989.82	2,200.00	300.00
5.450.300 - Postage	3,000.00	2,207.35	2,100.00	(900.00)
5.450.350 - Dues & Subscriptions	875.00	694.00	875.00	-
5.450.400 - Equipment Rental	11,000.00	10,340.87	11,000.00	-
5.450.500 - IT Support Services	2,000.00	1,273.50	2,000.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 37,122.00</b>	<b>\$ 37,139.07</b>	<b>\$ 37,575.00</b>	<b>\$ 453.00</b>

SPIRITUAL MINISTRY STAFF	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 461,542.00</b>	<b>\$ 450,274.43</b>	<b>\$ 469,335.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,793.00</b>

SUPPORT MINISTRY STAFF	2025	2025	2026	BUDGET VARIANCE
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	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	2025 TO 2026
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 131,309.00</b>	<b>\$ 133,085.05</b>	<b>\$ 151,488.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,179.00</b>

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<b>SHARED STAFF EXPENSE</b>	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,308.00</b>	<b>\$ 26,102.05</b>	<b>\$ 32,059.00</b>	<b>\$ 751.00</b>

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<b>OTHER CHURCH EXPENSES</b>	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.550.110 - Kitchen Supplies	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,288.32	\$ 3,200.00	\$ -
5.550.125 - Church Events Expense	500.00	2,861.57	500.00	-
5.550.175 - Synod Assembly Expense	2,500.00	2,358.06	2,500.00	-
5.550.200 - Church Insurance	23,200.00	23,767.11	27,000.00	3,800.00
5.550.250 - Automobile Expense	6,500.00	6,553.48	6,750.00	250.00
5.550.300 - Human Resources	2,000.00	959.96	2,000.00	-
5.550.340 - Credit Card Fees	6,000.00	6,224.74	6,500.00	500.00
5.550.350 - Bank Fees	600.00	313.00	600.00	-
5.550.352 - Legal Fees	1,000.00	350.00	1,000.00	-
5.550.400 - Misc. Expenses	1,000.00	44.99	1,000.00	-
5.555.015 - Offering Envelopes	1,500.00	1,629.58	1,888.00	388.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 48,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 47,350.81</b>	<b>\$ 52,938.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,938.00</b>

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<b>PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE</b>	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.600.200 - Provision for Equipment	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
5.600.210 - Provision for Roof Repair/Replacement	6,900.00	6,900.00	6,900.00	-
5.600.220 - Provision for Parking Lot Seal/Repair	7,800.00	7,800.00	7,800.00	-
5.600.230 - Provision for Lawn & Landscaping	4,000.00	3,999.96	4,000.00	-
5.600.250 - Provision for Maintenance	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	-
5.600.270 - Provision for Carpet	1,600.00	1,599.96	1,600.00	-
5.600.310 - Provision for Bells Maintenance	250.00	249.96	250.00	-
5.600.360 -Provision for Outside Financial Audit	3,000.00	3,000.00	7,200.00	4,200.00
5.600.400 - Provision for Future Staffing			-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,549.88</b>	<b>\$ 33,750.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,200.00</b>

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<b>FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY</b>	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	BUDGET VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.160.100 - Fellowship Activities	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 875.15	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 875.15</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,008,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 975,095.97</b>	<b>\$ 1,059,057.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,257.00</b>
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FY25 to FY26 Budget  
\$ 50,257.00

<b>VARIANCE - GENERAL FUND INCOME VS. EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 16,814.87</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
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Ending Balance December 31, 2025

\$ 379,855.20    \$ 396,670.07

Ending Budget Balance    Ending Actual Balance

- Member Contributions increase of 5.25% based upon information related to pledges from Stewardship Team
- ELCA Northern Illinois Synod Mission Contribution - 10% of Member Contributions
- Local Missions - 1% of Member Contributions
- New account for expenses related to first communion
- Audio Visual Software - Increased costs for subscription software
- Audio Visual Hardware - increased for purchase of new video switcher
- Facilities - Estimated increase in utilities - primarily electric service
- Facilities - Waste Removal - increase in service contract
- Facilities - Maintenance/Cleaning Supplies - increase in cost of supplies
- Facilities - Outside Service Contracts - Primarily savings resulting from change in contracts
- Office Expenses - Significant increase in high speed internet fees
- Office Expenses - Expected increase for wireless phone service
- Office Expense - Postage is expected to be significantly less as a result of increased electronic communication
- Spiritual Ministry Staff - Increase is the result of salary, benefits and other personnel adjustments
- Support Ministry Staff - Increase is the result of salary, benefits and other personnel adjustments
- Shared Staff Expense - Staff Social Security - increased employer contribution resulting from staff salary increases

1. Other Church Expenses - Church Insurance - estimated property and liability insurance increases for 2026
2. Other Church Expenses - Credit Card Fees - Estimated costs for credit card services
3. Other Church Expenses - increased costs of postage related to contributions envelopes
4. Provisions for the Future - Outside Financial Audit - increase in reserve for outside audit services

## MORTGAGE SERVICE FUND

### ACCOUNTS

**Beginning Balance January 1, 2025**

\$ 36,097.34

INCOME	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
4.140.000 - Mortgage Service Donations	\$ 225,684.00	\$ 258,895.19	\$ 225,684.00	\$ -
4.701.000 - MIF Checking Interest Income	\$ -	1.26	\$ -	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 225,684.00</b>	<b>\$ 258,896.45</b>	<b>\$ 225,684.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

<b>TOTAL MORTGAGE SERVICE FUND INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 225,684.00</b>	<b>\$ 258,896.45</b>	<b>\$ 225,684.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
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EXPENSES	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	VARIANCE 2025 TO 2026
5.140.000 - Mortgage Principal Payments	\$ 105,805.00	\$ 117,400.07	\$ 105,805.00	\$ -
5.141.000 - Mortgage Interest Payments	119,879.00	114,923.50	119,879.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 225,684.00</b>	<b>\$ 232,323.57</b>	<b>\$ 225,684.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

<b>TOTAL MORTGAGE SERVICE FUND EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 225,684.00</b>	<b>\$ 232,323.57</b>	<b>\$ 225,684.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
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<b>VARIANCE - MORT. SERV. FUND INCOME VS. EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 26,572.88</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
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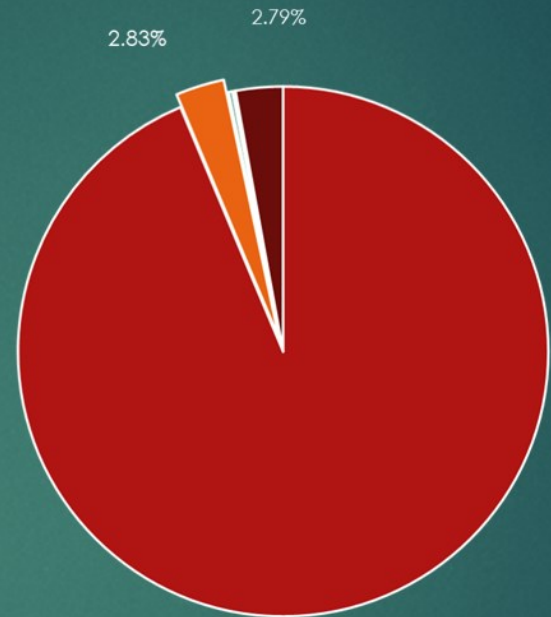
Ending Balance December 31, 2025

\$ 36,097.34 \$ 62,670.22

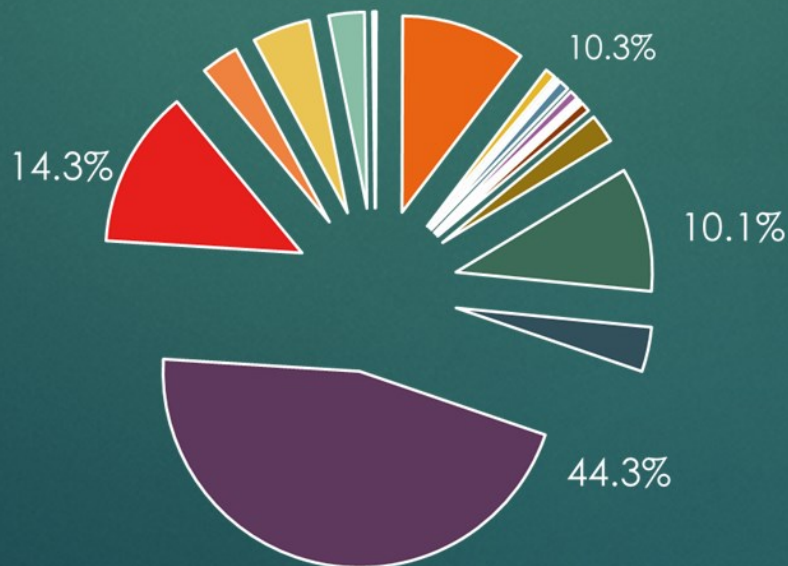
Ending Budget Balance Ending Actual Balance

# Estimated 2026 General Fund Income

Member Contributions	93.91%
Loose Plate Offerings	2.83%
Other Donation Income	0.05%
Fees and Registrations	0.24%
Flower Income	0.14%
Interest Income	0.04%
Interest Income Fidelity	2.79%



# Est. FY2026 General Fund Expenditures



CONNECTIONS MINISTRY	0.05%	MISSION MINISTRY	10.33%
OUTREACH MINISTRY	0.83%	ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY	0.16%
YOUTH & ED MINISTRY	0.86%	CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY	0.70%
MUSIC MINISTRY	0.19%	WORSHIP MINISTRY	0.74%
AUDIO VISUAL	2.47%	FACILITIES	10.11%
OFFICE EXPENSES	3.55%	SPIRITUAL MINISTRY STAFF	44.32%
SUPPORT MINISTRY STAFF	14.3%	SHARED STAFF EXPENSE	3.03%
OTHER CHURCH EXPENSES	5.00%	PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE	3.19%
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY	0.19%		

