ANNUAL REPORT 2024

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Members of the American Lutheran Church,

As we reflect on 2024, our hearts overflow with gratitude for God's abundant blessings within our church community. This year has been one of growth, service, and connection, and I am deeply thankful for each person who has contributed to making it so meaningful.

We are especially grateful for our administration staff, whose behind-the-scenes dedication ensures our church runs smoothly. Their attention to detail, organization, and commitment to excellence support all our ministries, from managing communications and coordinating events to maintaining records and assisting ministry leaders.

Our adult education programs, including the men's and women's Bible studies, have provided wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship, fostering connections centered on Christ. These gatherings have strengthened faith and created lasting relationships within our church.

Our preschool and children's ministries continue to thrive, nurturing our youngest members in faith and education. It's a joy to see them grow in their understanding of biblical truths, build meaningful friendships, and engage in community outreach. The youth group has experienced exciting growth, with increased energy and participation. We also launched a new young adult ministry for 18-25-year-olds, providing a space for them to deepen their faith together. We look forward to seeing how God will continue to shape the lives of our youth in the year ahead.

Our Faith in Action ministry has been vital in supporting church events, funerals, and large mailings while also offering emotional support through cards and letters to those on our prayer list. Grief Share continues to provide comfort to those experiencing loss, and our First Friday Potlucks have become a beloved time of fellowship and community building.

The oversight of our church's resources remains strong, thanks to our ministry leaders and finance team. Each leader carefully manages their ministry's budget, ensuring resources are allocated effectively. The finance team plays an essential role in maintaining the church's financial health, offering expert guidance to ensure every dollar is used to further God's work in our church, local community, and beyond.

We are grateful to our facilities team, volunteers, and staff for their unwavering commitment to maintaining and enhancing our physical spaces. Their hard work ensures our church is a welcoming place for all. From routine maintenance to significant improvements, including upgrades to the Rock, their attention to detail and dedication are appreciated.

We sincerely thank our greeters, ushers, communion assistants, altar guild, liturgical arts team, choir, organist, and praise band for their unwavering commitment and service. The greeters and ushers warmly welcome us, guiding us with care to ensure we feel at home in worship. The communion assistants faithfully help us receive the sacrament, drawing us closer to Christ in this sacred moment. With meticulous attention to detail, the altar guild prepares our sacraments with reverence and thoughtfulness. The liturgical arts team, through their beautiful and intentional decorations, creates an inspiring atmosphere that sets the tone for a meaningful worship experience. The choir, organist, and praise band lead us in worship, using their talents to help us encounter God more deeply, whether in moments of joyful praise or quiet reflection. Together, their combined efforts are invaluable in helping us grow closer to Christ, and we are deeply grateful for the passion and commitment they bring to each service.

Our outreach efforts have made a lasting impact both locally and globally. Through support for local and international missions, including Bible translation work in Sri Lanka, we continue sharing God's love in profound ways. Our weekly community meal has been a vital part of this mission, offering nourishment and fellowship to families in need, strengthening the bonds within our local community. The Quilters and Prayer Shawl Ministries have also been a blessing, providing handmade gifts of love and prayer that bring comfort and hope to many. Together, these efforts reflect our commitment to serving and supporting those around us, sharing God's grace in meaningful and tangible ways.

A special thank you to our security team, whose vigilance and commitment ensure our safety and peace of mind. In addition to securing our spaces, they take proactive measures to provide first aid assistance. Their unwavering presence helps us focus on worship and fellowship, and we are deeply grateful for their service.

We are deeply grateful for our pastoral staff, whose leadership, guidance, and dedication enrich our church community. Their preaching, counseling, and care provide spiritual nourishment. Whether guiding us in worship, supporting us through challenges, or nurturing our faith, they exemplify a deep commitment to serving God and His people.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are filled with excitement for what God has in store for our ministries. May we continue to grow in faith, love, and service. Thank you for your ongoing prayers, support, and generosity. May God continue to bless our church in the year to come.

In Christ's service,
Pam Burmood
Council President

ALC ANNUAL MEETING

AGENDA

JANUARY 25, 2025 – NOON

CALL TO ORDER — **Pam Burmood**

OPENING PRAYER — **Pam Burmood**

DEVOTION — **Vicar Christian Thao**

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS — **Pam Burmood**

BUSINESS

1.	Approval of Minutes from Congregational Annual Meeting held on January 28, 2024	Pam Burmood
2.	State of the Church Message	Pastor Mark Johnson
3.	Associate Pastor Call Committee Update	Mike Burmood
4.	Endowment Board Update	Russ Laibl
5.	Adoption of the 2025 Budget	Lois Hilgendorf
6.	Approval of Transfer of Funds	Pam Burmood
7.	Announcement of Upcoming Congregational Meeting to Discuss and Vote on Updated Constitution and Bylaws	Pam Burmood
8.	Nominating Committee Report	Pastor Mark Johnson
9.	Election of 2025 Council Members	Pam Burmood
10.	Election of 2025 Endowment Board Members	Pam Burmood
11.	Election of 2025 Nominating Committee Members	Pam Burmood
12.	Recognition of Last Year's Council Members	Pastor Mark Johnson
13.	Installation of 2025 Council Members	Pastor Mark Johnson

CLOSING PRAYER — **Pastor Mark Johnson**

ADJOURNMENT — **Pam Burmood**

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2024, 12:00 P.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER - 12:00 P.M. Pam Burmood
We have a quorum.

OPENING SONG – *To God Be the Glory* Pastor Mark Johnson

DEVOTION Vicar Christian Thao
1 Corinthians 12 – The Body of Christ and the Church

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS Pam Burmood

BUSINESS

1. **Approval of Minutes from Congregational Meeting January 29, 2023.**

    - The motion was made to be approved by Tracy Uffelman and seconded by Andy Dyroy. (MSP)

2. **State of the Church Message** – Pastor Mark Johnson

3. **Call Committee Update** – Mike Burmood

    - Vicar Christian Thao is currently fulfilling the requirements for his ordination and rostered status in the NALC and LCMC. Once these requirements are completed, the Call Committee will reconvene to continue the call process for an Associate Pastor.

4. **Building Expansion Update** – Mike Burmood

    - The priorities for potential expansion and projects were reviewed, and preliminary drawings for the expansion and a list of prioritized ongoing projects were presented.

5. **Updated Bylaws** – Pam Burmood

    - Bylaws required a change to the titles of Council Coordinators to update them to reflect the appropriate roles of the coordinators. Motion to accept new titles by Dee Isham; seconded by Barbara Richardson Cox. (MSP)

6. **Adoption of the 2024 Budget** – Lois Hilgendorf

   - See page 16 of the Annual Report. The income statement shows a $39K deficit, but additional offerings and annual contributions continue to come in. The budget came in nearly precisely as planned.
   - Andy Dyroy motioned to approve the 2024 budget, seconded by Lola Dyroy. (MSP)

7. **Nominating Committee Report** – Pastor Mark Johnson
   - Outgoing Council members: Jim Diehl, Kris Foster, Michele Isbell.
   - Replacements: Sheryl Cossey (Children's Education), Renee Grojean (Membership & Growth), (TBD for Youth & Family Ministry). A potential candidate must complete a year as an ALC member to be approved.

8. **Election of 2024 Council Members** – Pam Burmood
   - Officers: President, Pamela Burmood; Vice-President, Phil Goehring; Treasurer, Lois Hilgendorf; Secretary, Connie Ellis
   - Coordinators: Altha Cline, David Cox; Julie Darr, Andy Dyroy; Linda Lucic-Smith; Lindsey Mills. The motion to approve new members and re-elect incumbent Council members was made by Tray Schreiber and seconded by Bill Morris. (MSP)

9. **Election of 2024 Nominating Committee Members** – Pam Burmood
   - Senior Pastor advisor (Pastor Mark), Jim Diehl, Kris Foster, Michele Isbell, additional member TBD.
   - The motion to accept the 2024 Nominating Committee was made by Lindsey Mills and seconded by Karen Johnson. (MSP)

10. **Recognition of Last Year's Council Members** – Pastor Mark Johnson

11. **Installation of 2024 Council Members** – Pastor Mark Johnson

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CLOSING PRAYER Pastor Mark Johnson

CLOSING SONG – *To God Be the Glory* Pastor Mark Johnson

ADJOURNMENT – 12:51 P.M. Pam Burmood

2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTIONS

Submitted by the 2025 Nominating Committee Members: Jim Diehl, Kris Foster, Michele Isbell, Mike Burmood, and Pastor Mark Johnson (Advisor).

COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

- **Treasurer** - Lynda Parrish
  (partial term expires 2025, first 3-year term expires 2027)
- **Coordinator of Membership Growth and Support** - Fred Hessler
  (first 3-year term expires 2027)
- **Coordinator of Youth Ministry** - Lu Constant
  (first 3-year term expires 2027)

COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE RE-ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

- **President** - Pam Burmood
  (completed first 3-year term 2024 – second term expires 2027*)
  * She has agreed to serve through 2025
- **Coordinator of Property and Assets** - Dave Cox
  (completed first 3-year term 2024 – second term expires 2027)
- **Coordinator of Worship and Music** - Julie Darr
  (completed first 3-year term 2024 – second term expires 2027)

COUNCIL MEMBERS – NOT UP FOR RE-ELECTION

- **Vice President** – Renee Grojean
  (first 3-year term expires 2026)
- **Secretary** – Connie Ellis
  (first 3-year term expires 2025)
- **Coordinator of Adult Education** – Altha Cline
  (first 3-year term expires 2025)
- **Coordinator of Children's and Family Ministries** – Sheryl Cossey
  (partial term expires 2025)
- **Coordinator of Benevolence, Community Outreach, and Missions** – Lindsey Mills
  (second 3-year term expires 2026)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Andy Dyroy* (chairperson), Lois Hilgendorf*, Phil Goehring*, Mike Burmood, Pastor Mark Johnson (advisor) (* denotes an outgoing council member)

******NOTE:*** *All council terms begin and expire at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January (e.g., Council terms ending 2025 end at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2026).*

******NOTE:*** *Those serving a "partial" term may subsequently be elected to serve up to two "full" 3-year terms.*

Thank you to the council members Phil Goehring, Lois Hilgendorf, and Andy Dyroy, who have dedicated their time and service to us and are now concluding their terms on the council.

2025 COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICER POSITION	
PRESIDENT	Pamela Burmood
VICE PRESIDENT	Renee Grojean
TREASURE	Lynda Parrish?
SECRETARY	Connie Ellis
COORDINATOR POSITION	
ADULT EDUCATION	Altha Cline
CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY	Sheryl Cossey
MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND SUPPORT	Fred Hessler
MISSIONS, BENEVOLENCE, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH	Lindsey Mills
PROPERTY AND ASSETS	Dave Cox
WORSHIP AND MUSIC	Julie Darr
YOUTH MINISTRY	Constant Lu

2025 ENDOWMENT BOARD MEMBERS AND REPORT

POSITION	
President	Russ Laibl
Treasurer	Norma Bauer
Secretary	Brenda Keith
Board Member	Julie Wilson
Board Member	Andy Dyroy

The ALC Endowment Fund's Performance from July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024:

The Fund's total value was $665,232.34 on June 30, 2024, and $665,794.60 on December 31, 2024. This represents an increase of $562.26 (approximately 0.085%). Distributions during these six months were:

ALC Capital Improvement Fund, The Rock	$15,000
Agape House of Prescott	1,500
Coalition for Compassion and Justice	1,500
Prescott Community Cupboard Food Bank	1,500
ALC summer intern	2,700
House of Hope 316, Prescott Valley	1,500

Of the December 31 balance, $661,592.14 is in LPL through Bacci Investments, and $4202.46 is in the NBAZ checking account.

Contributions to Fund, June through December, 2024 $ 300

Distributions from Fund, June through December 2024 $23,700

Submitted by Norma Bauer, Treasurer
ALC Endowment Board

Lamentations 3:21-23

"And this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: 22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

I don't know about you, but I am thankful for God's faithfulness and love! God is faithful no matter what we face; every morning when the sun comes up, we are reminded that we have a new day and God's love and faithfulness are new!

God continues to be faithful to our Church, its people, and the many ministries we are engaged in! As we live out our lives in faith, God uses our congregation as a whole and as individuals to shine in and through our lives.

The Apostle Peter put it this way: *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."* 1 Peter 2: 9-10

Paula and I are so blessed to serve Jesus with you at American Lutheran Church. Through all the ups and downs, we are confident in the faithfulness of God and that we can use our congregation to build the Kingdom of God.

As I reflect on this past year, I am thankful for so many things:

I am grateful for the gift of worship. We are blessed to have two vibrant worship venues, both traditional and contemporary, offering meaningful services. These different formats provide unique ways for us to experience God's Word and allow it to touch our hearts in diverse ways. I am deeply thankful for everyone who helps make these services possible: music leaders, LAMs, technical teams, ushers, greeters, altar guild, and all the dedicated volunteers. You are the ones who bring worship to life as we come together to honor and praise our Lord!

I am Thankful for Outreach: The strength of a church is measured by the way the Church shines into a community. I am so grateful for the efforts to serve our community and reach out in the name of Jesus! Our community meals, food drives, blanket drives, quilting, sewing, and the benevolence groups we support personally and financially give concrete ways to share the love of Christ!

This year, we have begun to reach out in new ways. In November, we offered a dental clinic to bless local people with dental care they could not afford. We served over 40 people in one day! I am looking forward to doing things like this again!

We also want to bring a team from ALC to the Courage Worldwide ministry in Tanzania next summer! Pastor Joel and Stephanie Midthun were here to share about this ministry in August and lit the fire to serve for many people in our Church.

These are just some examples of ways we carry the love of Jesus to our neighbors! Are there new ministries on your heart? Let's talk about how we can share them!

I am Thankful for Opportunities for Growth and Discipleship: We continue to offer great places for Bible Study and growth for our people. Our Ignite Groups, Women of Wisdom ministry, Men's Crossfire, and other places give people the opportunity to discuss and live out the word of God.

With all the cultural and political confusion and questions this year, we began offering some seminars called "Hot Topics." We will continue in 2025 to give an opportunity to wrestle with the Word of God in how we will be faithful to live out our call as followers of Jesus in this crazy world!

I am Thankful for a Great Team. I am so thankful for the staff and leaders of our Church! They are a wonderful group of people who love Jesus and want what's best for our Church. Thank you to everyone who prays faithfully for our leaders! We work toward the unity and cohesiveness of our Church, and I know the evil one would love to splinter and separate efforts. You are an incredibly important part of the Church working as a body!

I am thankful for all of our Faithful People. I can't begin to tell you all how thankful I am for your faithfulness as followers of Jesus! You are God's people, called out of darkness into God's amazing light. We all ebb and flow in our walk with Jesus, but our goal is to stay faithful and true. Your partnership in the ministry of American Lutheran is what keeps our congregation strong. Thank you for your financial offerings to the Lord and for taking God's call to serve seriously.

If God is placing a burden on your heart to serve or to take new steps of faith, I invite you to contact me, and I would love to walk with you to discern God's leading.

God is doing many wonderful things in our Church. I could go into much greater detail, and there are many ministries I wish I could highlight more, but suffice it to say God is a faithful God to us all! No matter what we may face in the coming days, we have a faithful God!

I look forward to 2025 and all the ups and downs we may face, because we will face them together as a family of God and face them with God's faithfulness!

God bless the American Lutheran Church!

Pastor Mark

.

2024 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

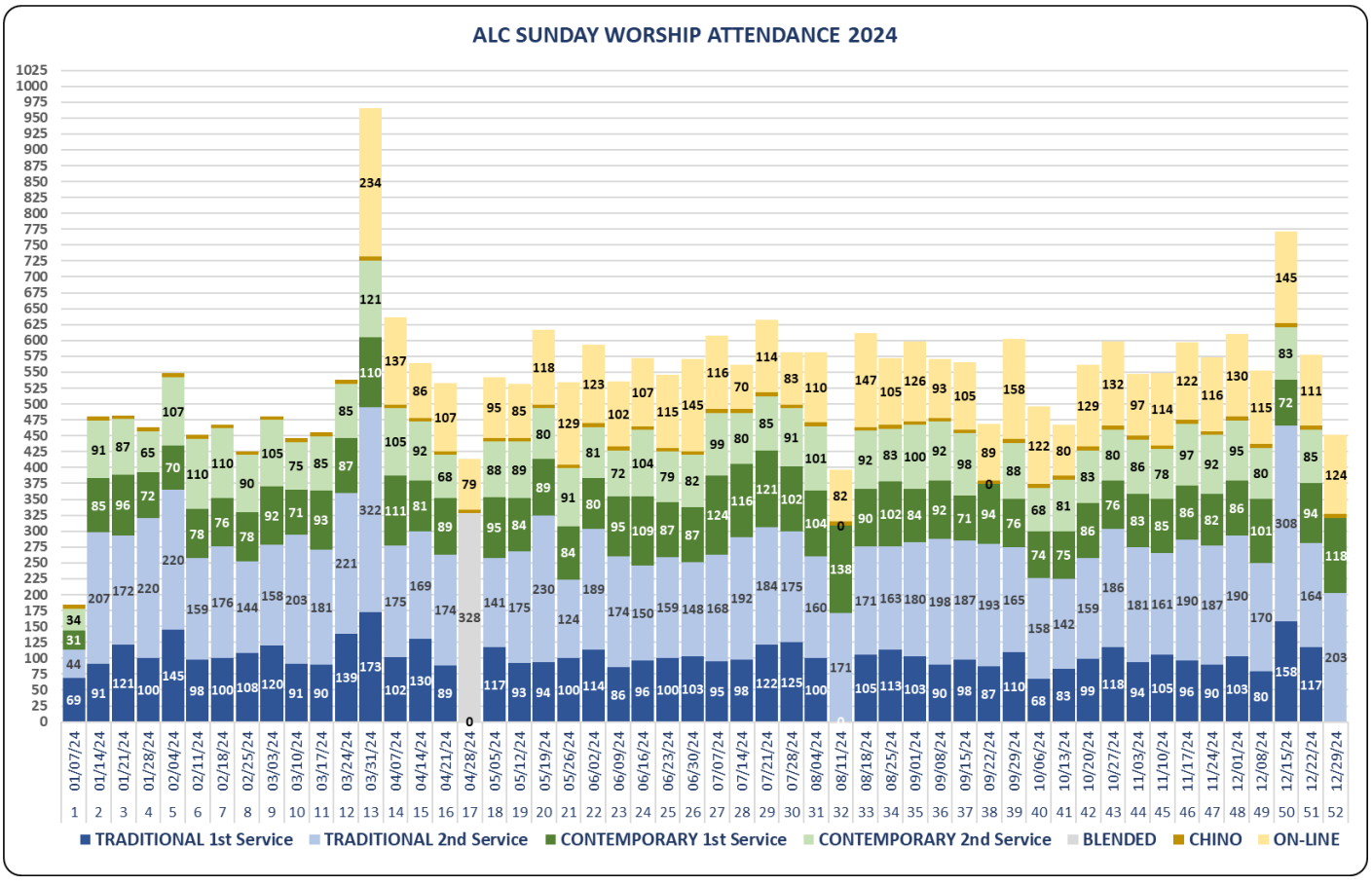
	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
MEMBERSHIP-DECEMBER 31, 2024	**713**	**598**
MEMBERSHIP ADDITIONS 2024		
By Baptism: children (15 yrs. & younger)		
By Baptism: adults (16 yrs. & older)		
By affirmation of faith		
From other Lutheran congregations	23	18
From non-Lutheran congregations	16	14
Reinstated members	12	4
Baptized Youth who were confirmed in 2024		
Other sources/stat. adjustment		
TOTALS	**51**	**36**
MEMBERS REMOVED 2024		
By death	13	12
To other Lutheran congregations		
To non-Lutheran congregations		
By inactivity		
By request	4	4
By relocation	18	16
Other reasons/stat. adjustment		
TOTALS	**35**	**32**
	BAPTIZED	**CONFIRMED**
MEMBERSHIP – DECEMBER 31, 2024	**729**	**602**

2024 AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

AVERAGE IN PERSON WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (10 Years: 2014-2024)										
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
607	565	553	550	578	558	343	383	453	459	449

TRADITIONAL SERVICES
Sundays 8 & 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

CONTEMPORARY SERVICES
Sundays 9 & 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall



2024 PASTORAL ACTS

PASTORAL ACTS 2024			
BAPTISMS	CONFIRMATIONS	FUNERALS	WEDDINGS
17		10	

2024 FINANCIAL STATUS

The Finance Team will Provide
The Y-T-D Budget versus Actuals for 2024
in the addendum to this document.

2025 BUDGET
MINISTRY INCOME AND EXPENSE

Lois Hilgendorf, Treasurer, Andy Dyroy, Coordinator for Finance & Budget,
And Abbie Cornelius, Bookkeeper

	INCOME	EXPENSE	2025 PROJECTED NET GAIN/LOSS
Administration	$ -	$(1,015,250)	$ (1,015,250)
ALC Kids	$ 1,200	$ (13,450)	$ (12,250)
Bus Ministry	$ -	$ (5,950)	$ (5,950)
Caring Ministries	$ -	$ (246)	$ (246)
Childcare	$ -	$ (17,000)	$ (17,000)
Community Meal	$ -	$ (3,500)	$ (3,500)
Connections	$ 300	$ (1,400)	$ (1,100)
Contemporary Worship	$ -	$ (37,600)	$ (37,600)
Crossfire	$ 5,300	$ (6,300)	$ (1,000)
Facilities	$ -	$ (219,323)	$ (219,323)
Family Ministry	$ 500	$ (8,850)	$ (8,350)
General Kitchen	$ -	$ (13,500)	$ (13,500)
Grief Ministries	$ -	$ (4,845)	$ (4,845)
Knitters	$ -	$ (500)	$ (500)
Membership and Growth	$ 1,600	$ (7,050)	$ (5,450)
Missions & Evangelism	$ -	$ (4,000)	$ (4,000)
Connected Motherhood	$ 8,500	$ (14,975)	$ (6,475)
Passion for Life & Fine Arts	$ -	$ -	$ -
Pastors	$ -	$ (11,650)	$ (11,650)
Prayer	$ -	$ (3,500)	$ (3,500)
Quilters	$ -	$ (3,000)	$ (3,000)
Safety and Security	$ -	$ (24,650)	$ (24,650)
Sheepdog Fellowship	$ -	$ (2,600)	$ (2,600)
Traditional Music	$ -	$ (18,400)	$ (18,400)
VBS	$ 12,250	$ (12,650)	$ (400)
Worship Supplies	$ 3,500	$ (38,090)	$ (34,590)
WOW	$ 5,500	$ (4,550)	$ 950
Young Adults	$ -	$ (2,800)	
Youth	$ 6,000	$ (19,200)	$ (13,200)
TOTAL NET GAIN/LOSS	**$ 44,650**	**$(1,514,829)**	**$ (1,467,379)**

Projected 2025 Unrestricted Income	
Pledge Income	$ 1,032,184
Potential Additional Pledges	$ 50,000
Non Pledge Estimate	$ 550,000
TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME	**$ 1,632,184**
Projected Benevolence Giving	$ (163,218)
NET PROJECTED FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR EXPENSE	**$ 1,468,966**

ADULT EDUCATION

Altha Cline
Council Coordinator

Highlights

Connections

- Axel Funke presented several 8-week sessions on what he experienced growing up a Christian in a communist country and a very informative session on Martin Luther.

- Linda Lucic-Smith presented several sessions on various books in the Bible, which were well attended.

- Altha Cline facilitated 8 weeks of Walking as Jesus Walked by Ray Vander Laan. Wonderful, informative videos experiencing the Bible in a historical context!!

- Altha Cline had several new facilitators approach her to teach in 2025! Thank you to ALL who have supported the adult education classes at ALC.

Ignite Discipleship Groups

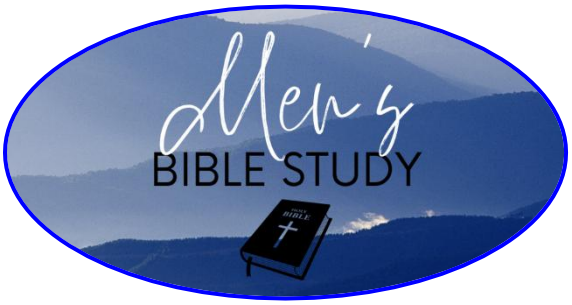
- Pastor Mark has set a goal for ALC to involve all members in a small group. Altha has tried to visit almost all the small groups that we have now and present Pastor Mark's ambitious goal!!

Men's Bible Study

- **CROSSFIRE** is a men's ministry open to the community that meets every Thursday morning, offering a hot breakfast, a guest speaker, and roundtable discussions. The mission of **CROSSFIRE** is to cultivate true disciples of Jesus Christ. Pastor Mark teaches from the Book of John every other month, while volunteer speakers from the CROSSFIRE membership read or share scripture of their choosing during the alternate months. The ministry has grown to over sixty registered members, with approximately forty members attending regularly.

ADULT EDUCATION

Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study
Meets Every Tuesday from 6:30–8 P.M. in the Prayer Room



Men's Bible Study
Meets Every Wednesday
6:30–7:30 A.M. at the Rock

Good Book, Good Men, Good Morning, Bible Study
Meets Every Thursday
8:15–9:30 A.M.
In the Parlor

Women's Bible Study

WOMEN OF WISDOM

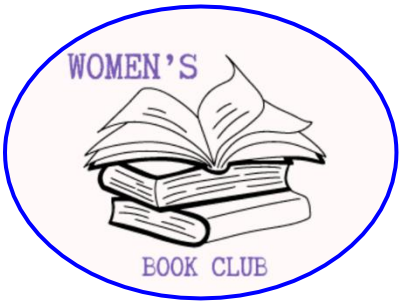
Beginning in 2024 WOW's new starting time is 9:00 A.M., and the ladies love it! Our attendance has increased each session this year, and we are just about back to where we were pre-COVID!

ADULT EDUCATION

WOW's local outreach projects are the Community Pregnancy Center, and Agape House. Pictured are Erin Perry and Ellen Swanson, who spearhead the CPC project. Our ladies generously donate cash and needed items to both projects each year!

Each session, WOW welcomes new ladies to our membership. Pictured are just a few of the people who are excited to be part of this spirit-led ministry!

Book Club
The first Tuesday of every month
Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 10–11:30 A.M.



Hope Circle
Meets Second Tuesday of Every Month
9:30–11:30 A.M. in the Prayer Room.

Deborah Circle
Meets Third Tuesday of Every Month
4–5:30 P.M. in the Prayer Room

Firm Believer

Every Thursday
Thursday, December 19, 9:50–11 A.M.

Firm Believers, a Low-Impact Group Fitness Class set to contemporary Christian music meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:50 A.M. at The Rock, 655 Talwatha Drive, off Ruth Street. There is no cost. Everyone is welcome to join anytime, and invite a friend! Contact Lynda Parrish for additional information.

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Sheryl Cossey
Council Coordinator

Lori Barbe
Director of American

Leah Munoz
Director of Children's Ministries

American Lutheran School Highlights

American Lutheran School is thriving! This year, we have six classes encompassing 65 students.

New Staff

Mrs. Anna DeVito

Miss Nicola Falk

Miss Hanna Sears

Mrs. Mattie Smith

We're thrilled to introduce our amazing new teachers! After saying goodbye to a few familiar faces, we're so happy to have fresh energy in our classrooms. We're all learning and growing together, just like our little learners!

Bulb Sale Fundraiser

We're so thankful for your continued support of our annual bulb sale fundraiser! Thanks to your generosity, we've reached our goal of updating our bathrooms and kitchen. Stay tuned for a fresh, new look next year!

Before Renovation

Safety Month

We had safety lessons with Fire Fighter Tim from Central Arizona Fire and Medical

and Prescott Police K9 officers Benny and Cooper.

We even made the local news! Scan the QR code to check it out.

Thrivent Members - please remember American Lutheran School when selecting recipients for your Thrivent Choice dollars!

Sunday School Highlights

The Pod

NEW CURRICULUM

We began a new curriculum titled, "The Gospel Project". This curriculum has a 3-year scope. We are learning about the Bible in chronological order.

VOLUNTEER TEAM

Our team is solid. We have a steady rotation of volunteers. The children are blessed to have teachers they can connect with while they grow and learn in their faith.

PROGRAM EXPANSION

We now have four designated Sunday School classrooms. Mid-year, we requested the use of a preschool classroom to accommodate our growing program and busy preschoolers.

Family Highlights

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival was a HUGE success. We welcomed many new and familiar faces. We had excellent involvement and participation from our ministries. I estimate we had approximately 300 participants and guests.

Christmas Breakfast

Christmas Breakfast. This year had a festive flavor! Our theme was "Ninos Mercado". The children were able to shop for gifts for their family members in our Christmas Shop. We also shared traditions from Hispanic cultures. It was a wonderful event.

Later Gators / Coffee Cart

We created two small ministry outreach programs to help better connect our preschool families to ALC. Coffee Cart offers community and connection, and Later Gators is an after-school program for preschool-aged kiddos, where they learn simple Bible lessons and build friendships.

VBS

Our BIGGEST ministry under the umbrella of Children and Family is VBS. This year, we had over 300 participants. We were able to share the Gospel with the children in our community and come together as a church family to support the Kingdom. Thanks be to God for another wonderful year of Vacation Bible School.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND SUPPORT

Renee Grojean
Council Coordinator

Highlights

New Member Orientation

Two "New Member" initiatives took place during 2024, inviting potential new members to learn what we believe and mingle with ministry leaders, staff, and pastors as they decide whether to join the American Lutheran Church. Nineteen new members were received in the spring, and eight members were received in the fall.

Faith in Action

Faith in Action continues to support the church mission, setting up for events; assisting at funerals/celebrations of life; helping the church office with its large mailings; washing beach towels and staffing a coffee cart for this year's Vacation Bible Study; and sending over 400 cards, letters, and emails of love and support to those on our prayer lists.

Grief Share Ministry

For those mourning the loss of a loved one, the Grief Share ministry completed its Spring/Summer 13-week session with its traditional candlelight service. The Fall/Winter session kicked off in October with 20 registered participants.

First Friday Potluck

First Friday Potlucks continued in 2024, offering members and guests evenings full of food, fellowship, games, and music. Attendance continues to grow.

PROPERTY AND ASSETS

Dave Cox
Council Coordinator

Andy Dyroy
R&R Chairperson

Highlights

ALC Campus

We replaced all the old, original ceiling tiles in the hallway outside the church office.

We created a Dutch Door from the existing door into the church office.

We completed all the demolition for the church restroom remodels.

Rock Campus

We sprayed undercoating in preparation for paint in the damaged storage room at The Rock.

A look into the 4' deep trench we dug at The Rock to expose the brick and seal with waterproofing materials.

A "before" picture looks at the stairs inside The Rock before repairing/replacing wooden treads, painting, and adding non-slip tread pads.

An "after" picture is looking at these same stairs. We also moved the light switch and added an oak cap to the top of the wall.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Phil Goehring
Council Vice President

Highlights

- The **Safety Emergency Response Team** (SERT) primarily focuses on ensuring a safe environment at ALC by reducing the risk of slips, trips, and falls, common hazards in any facility. Team members are trained to assess potential safety issues around the campus and take action to prevent accidents. They are also prepared to provide first aid, ensuring that individuals receive immediate care until professional responders arrive. SERT members wear red lanyards to identify themselves and are present during various ministries and events, ready to assist and summon help if necessary.

- In 2024, **SERT members participated in extensive training**, including first aid and usher training, to stay prepared for emergencies. They also worked to identify and address vulnerabilities on the campus, such as improving locks and security measures. Additionally, the team has planned future upgrades, including enhanced exterior lighting and a campus-wide public address system, to further improve safety and reduce risks.

- **SERT remains dedicated to providing a safe environment** for the congregation. While the team faces challenges, such as the need for more volunteers, its commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone remains steadfast. Through their training, vigilance, and service, SERT members help create a secure space for worship and fellowship, giving the congregation peace of mind.

- **With Thanks to Those Who Have Served:** Earl Carpenter, Nick Speliopoulos, Don Wegworth, Sgt. Ben Scott, Dennis Larson, Michael Parrish, Nan Hilton, Dan Hilton, Greg Crane, Kathy Crane, Brandon Bonny, Russ Laibl, Julie Haines, Lannis Mills, Dr. Tray Schreiber, Tony Zembik, Dr. Gene Grimm, Dr. Milt Hanson, Al Bryant, and Scott Montanye. Our sincere appreciation for your commitment to time and contributions to church safety! May God bless you for your generous time and service!

Respectfully submitted,
PHILIP GOEHRING, SERT Chairman

Lindsey Mills
Council Coordinator

Missions Highlights

- Coordinated the American Lutheran Hope Fest participation in September
- The Dental Clinic was conceptualized by Dr. Constant Lu and staffed with volunteers, including dentists and dental hygienists, and funded by ALC.
- Coordinated the VBS donation of $1,700 to the Community Bible Study for bible translation in Sri Lanka.
- Planning a mission trip for youth to Mexico in 2025 or 2026.
- Monitored ALC Benevolence recipients, including Hope Clinic in Africa and Zion Ministries in India.

Benevolence Highlights

The mission of Stewardship and Benevolence is to help the Church focus on the instruction from our Lord Jesus Christ, as HE stated in Matthew 25. His guidance was to provide where there was a need and to use our resources wisely and compassionately. **The Benevolence Committee carefully manages the Church's tithe to fulfill these instructions. 10% of all gifts are distributed to ministries locally and worldwide.**

The Committee conducted quarterly reviews of recipients and made recommendations and realignments of funding for recipients from time to time. The primary goal is to optimize the accountability and transparency of all funds distributed. This fulfills the effort to provide Godly stewardship of the Church's tithe.

LOCAL OUTREACH

Prescott Community Cupboard – your local hometown food bank

CCJ – Coalition for Compassion & Justice

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry

CPC – Community Pregnancy Center

10 10 Ministries – You Pour Out. We Pour In. Ministry leaders' go-to source for soul care in the 21st century.

Peace Lutheran Church

Prescott Valley Food Bank

Village of Hope

Granite Creek Feed

Hungry Kids Programs
(Chino Valley, Humbolt, Prescott Valley, and Prescott)

Yavapai CASA for Kids Foundation – Since 2001

Light the Way Church

GLOBAL OUTREACH

Hope Clinic

OneHope™ God's Word. Every Child.

MAF Mission Aviation Fellowship

Zion Ministry in India

CHURCH AFFILIATION MEMBERSHIP (DUAL ROSTERED)

lcmc Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Community Outreach Highlights

Connected Motherhood

BI-WEEKLY GATHERING

Connected Motherhood has had a successful first year as we transitioned away from our association with MOPS International. Our meeting topics vary, from heartwarming testimonies to sharing stories of challenging moments in motherhood. We have around 50 members in our group.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We packed approximately 70 boxes for our annual participation in Operation Christmas Child. This is our largest outreach project as a group.

CHILDCARE

Our team consists of four paid helpers and six volunteers. This awesome team of women helps with childcare for many of our ministries, such as WOW and Connected Motherhood.

Quilters

- For 2024, the ALC quilters have been able to complete and distribute over 200 quilts to various organizations within the Quad-City area.
- Quilts were given out to Blankets for Kids, AZ Pioneer Home, Las Fuentes, Marley House (hospice facility), Liberty Pointe (housing for vets), Prescott Samaritan Village, Warm for Winter program, and the Yavapai Family Advocacy Center (families in crises).
- The Quilters also took on a special project this year of providing quilts to an orphanage supported by one of our church members.
- The Quilters also participated in making a quilt to be used in a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research in support of one of our members who is in remission.

God has blessed us to be a part of this ministry, which has blessed so many lives and continues to be a wonderful outreach of ALC. We thank the Church for their continued support of us.

Blessing Of The Quilts

Quilters Are Hard At Work

Quilters Tying A Twin-Size Quilt

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry
EVERY STITCH IS A PRAYER

The Prayer Shawl Ministry reaches out to individuals needing comfort, solace, peace, blessings, and joyful celebration. We aim to serve people of all ages, offering love and support through the thoughtful creation of prayer shawls and other items.

Whether knitted, crocheted, or woven, each item is created with intentional prayers, and every stitch is a prayer, reflecting God's love for us all.

Ministry Contributions:

- 12 prayer shawls were given to ALC family members and others in the community.
- 8 lapghans made for individuals in need.
- 7 blankets for kids.
- 31 hats were donated to ALC community meals, Hope Fest, the homeless, and Liberty Pointe Vets.
- 2 baby blankets for the nursery and preschool.
- 24 pocket crosses distributed at ALC Fall Fest.
- 2 prayer shawls were provided to the Prayer Ministry.
- 1 christening blanket created for a special occasion.

We have received three donations of yarn. The funds allocated to our ministry are primarily used to purchase additional yarn.

Our current membership comprises ten crafters, including two new members with prior crafting experience.

Hopes for the Next Year:

- Increase membership within the ministry.
- Continue supporting and communicating with ministries within ALC.
- Expand our outreach into the community and identify areas where our craft can meet specific needs.

Community Meal

MISSION

The mission of the Community Meal is to minister to those less fortunate and possibly at risk nutritionally in both a spiritual and physical way.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- The ministry is blessed with 30-40 volunteers each month who give their time and talent to serve.
- Anonymous donors give $10 gift cards, which are shared with those who seek assistance; usually, the cards are used to purchase gas. Typically, six gift cards are given each month, but the need has increased dramatically in the last quarter of the year.
- Generous donors provide gift cards, Thanksgiving turkeys, and Christmas hams each year. A special couple brings a gallon of milk and fresh fruit each week for the meal.
- Donations were also provided for a one-time gift of t-shirts, socks, lip balm, and granola bars for 30 people in February 2024.

GOALS FOR 2025

Continue with ministry efforts. Need for a cook for 2 Sundays per month and servers for those weeks.

Dental Clinic

November 2024 was the first time ALC hosted a free dental clinic on-site with Compassion Connect, a local non-profit. Cleanings, fillings, and extractions were provided for 43 guests by dental volunteers. Refreshments, books, and warm clothing were also donated. Input from guests and volunteers was overwhelmingly positive, so we hope to hold another clinic in 2025!

REGISTRATION

TREASURE / FINANCE AND BUDGET

Lois Hilgendorf
Treasurer

Andy Dyroy
Finance and Budget

Highlights

Accomplishments for 2024

- Monthly monitoring of Financial Statements, Budgeted/Actual expenditures, Bank Account balances, and other financial matters.
- Met weekly with the Bookkeeper/Executive
- Quarterly Financial reports submitted for the Livewire
- Monthly reports for Council
- Initiated and Completed Agreed Upon Procedures review by outside CPA as required by Bylaws
- Established and transferred Operating Fund monies to an interest-generating Thrivent Investment Funds.

Hopes for Next Year

God continues to Bless the American Lutheran Church with His generosity of gifts and loving members.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Julie Darr
Council Coordinator

Benita Rose
Interim Choir Director

Jake Madlock
Director of Contemporary Music

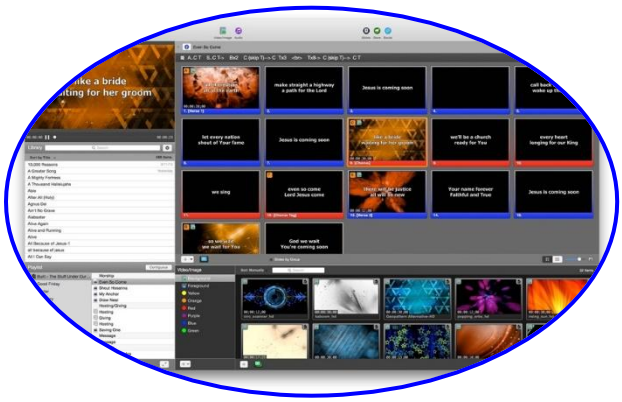
Highlights

Communion

Communion began being offered at all services consistently with the use of alternate Sunday communion after services on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays. This has met a need for communion at every service while placing minimal stress on altar guild members.

Technology

Upgraded cameras, computers, programming, and trained Sunday servants have improved in-service and online worship experiences. Traditional liturgy is catching up with praise and worship screen use, resulting in less dependence on full bulletin printing. This is also translating to an improved online worship experience.



Contemporary Worship Band

Contemporary Worship welcomed a summer intern in 2024 under the tutelage of Jake Madlock—hopefully, the first of many times that American Lutheran can raise future leaders in service of our Lord.

The talented and gifted members of the contemporary praise band have been elevating ALC's many ministries, including helping at WOW, youth group, prayer ministry events, and Fall Fest. Additionally, Jake Madlock has started corporate praise in Nights of Worship, lifting spirits and hearts. We owe a debt of gratitude to the praise band for looking for ways to serve throughout ALC!

Liturgical Arts

Liturgical Arts members have continued to work to enhance worship experiences with decoration to support the message or celebration. This small but mighty group of servants has begun to meet regularly to plan and coordinate behind-the-scenes expressions of faith. This group is always looking for more members!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Prayer Ministry

Prayer ministry members have worked throughout the year to ensure that all prayers have been raised, that prayer lives continue to be positively impacted, and that souls are won for Jesus Christ. The group held a healing service and worship evening, as well as prayer seminars to equip them with empowered prayer. They have been present at the National Day of Prayer and HopeFest. They are a mighty group endeavoring to establish prayer as a necessity and priority in the daily lives of the people of the American Lutheran Church.

Volunteers

Volunteer Sunday servants continue to be a valued resource in worship. A consistent team of seasoned servants has been reliably serving throughout 2024. This includes lay assistant ministers, ushers, greeters, communion assistants, prayer ministers, security team, and altar guild members. No Sunday worship would be possible without these valuable helpers. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Minister of Music

As our worship ministry draws to the end of yet another year, we are sad to bid Dr. David Sherman farewell but wish he and his family God's richest blessings on their new endeavor. In the meantime, we are blessed to have our traditional worship guided by two wonderful interim ministers! As the calendar turns over to 2025, a search committee will continue its work to look for the next Minister of Music for American Lutheran and the many exciting gifts that person may bring.

Let us cling to the words of Psalm 20:6-7:

Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed;
He will answer him from his holy heaven
with the saving might of his right hand.
Some trust in chariots, and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Constant Lu
Council Coordinator

Christian Thao
Vicar

Highlights

Youth Group

This past year, the ALC youth group has been doing great. We've seen the youth group grow because they have been doing a great job of inviting their friends.

In the past there was no summer program for the youth group. This year, we created a summer program for the youth group that included pool parties, lake days, and movie nights.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Summer Camp

This year, we went on our first ALC Youth Group summer camp in Pinetop. The theme was courageous faith, where we learned what it means to live with courageous faith. The highlight of the trip was the four baptisms.

Youth Worship Band

It's been fantastic seeing our Youth step up to help lead worship. We currently have a team of four. The goal is for the worship team to keep growing and incorporating more Youth.

Young Adult Ministry

This year, we started a Young Adult ministry named Koinonia. This group is focused on 18-25 year olds. We're excited to see how God will work in these young adults.

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Abbie Orsburn
Director of Administration

Highlights

Facility Projects

- Various facilities projects were planned this year, with some completed and others in the works.
- The most exciting one for me was the bathroom remodel. They went from 1987 pink and blue to bright and modern everything!
- A lot of work has been done to the Rock thanks to the amazing R&R team. We have more plans to redo the roof and give the inside a much-needed facelift soon.

Planning Center

- At the end of 2023, we began onboarding the Planning Center as our church software. I am proud to announce we use every feature they offer now!
- We take attendance, track membership and giving, we use the scheduling for teams, we use registration and calendar for all events, and last but not least we use the Church Center app.

Stewardship Campaign

- This year, I created a new resource for the Stewardship Campaign.
- A booklet highlighting all this Church does that is worth celebrating.
- It was an unexpected blessing, and I was shown in so many ways that I work for a body of Christ that is giving all to help further the Kingdom.
- ALC is a blessing, and all you do is worth celebrating!

VICAR

Christian Thao
Vicar

Highlights

A highlight of this past year was completing the necessary classes to qualify for ordination within the Lutheran Church.

Classes
CH500 – History of the Reformation
TS501 – Law and Gospel
TS508 – The Sacraments
TS520 – Confessional Faith in a Postmodern Context
TS621 – Theology of the Cross

Having had the privilege of preaching many times this past year has been a blessing. Each opportunity has allowed me to not only share my heart but also witness significant growth in my preaching abilities. I am deeply grateful for these experiences, as they have helped shape me personally and spiritually.

A true highlight of this year was the incredible opportunity to work alongside Pastor Mark and Pastor Steve, learning from their wisdom and experience as I developed my pastoral care skills. I was deeply honored to make hospital and home visits, offering support and comfort to those in need. Additionally, I had the privilege of participating in several interment services, where I witnessed the profound impact of compassionate care during some of life's most challenging moments. These experiences have been meaningful and deepened my sense of calling in pastoral ministry.

PASTOR OF CARING MINISTRIES

Pastor Steve Balog
Pastor of Caring Ministries

Highlights

14 Care Volunteers conducted seamless ministry to reach the primary five categories of visitation needs: Homebound, Sidelined, Hospitalized, Nursing Homes, and Rehab centers. Our care volunteers bring fellowship, resources, and communion to those unable to attend Church weekly. This year, we were able to fine-tune the ministry to hospitalized members who requested visits in their time of need.

Sheepdog Fellowship continues ministering to Veterans, Former and Active Law Enforcement, and First Responders. The elements of our outreach include:

- Bible-based studies and discipleship training
- Comradery with like-minded Christians
- Christ-centered resources
- Genuine community involvement
- Group activities
- Crisis intervention

This past year, our Sheepdogs have met twice monthly to grow, fellowship, heal, and serve.

Focused studies of 1 and 2 Timothy, End Times, and American Values were conducted.

Grief Share: It was with great sadness Gail Osten moved to Colorado, and the Grief Share Team bounced back to streamline leadership and conduct an entire fall session with 24+ attendees.

Gather • Grow • Go
ALC