

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2001 80TH ST. KENOSHA, WI 53143
*The Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America*



The mission of St. Mary's Lutheran Church is to be a fellowship of believers, called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to bear witness to Jesus Christ in the community and in the world.

*We equip ourselves for our mission by: Prayer, Worship, Education.
Enabling us to witness through: Evangelism, Service, Stewardship.*

**WE ARE
GOD'S PEOPLE
FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST
GIFTED BY THE SPIRIT
GO PRAY
GO LOVE
GO SERVE**

OUR CORE VALUES

BECOMING INCLUSIVE



Becoming a congregation that does not build walls but opens doors to all God's beloved people.
"For God so loved the world..." John 3.
We proclaim an open invitation to all to partake in Holy Communion when we worship.

GROWING DISCIPLES



Teaching and experiencing Christian faith for adults and children for a life of transformation.
"...be transformed by the renewing of your minds." Romans 12.
Word and sacrament will be the defining center of all worship. Worship services offer a diversity of musical and liturgical styles to engage, inspire, and teach a diverse congregation.

CONNECTING PEOPLE



Building small groups for mission, prayer, fellowship, travel, and support.
"...love one another with mutual affection." Romans 12
Honest and authentic relationships happen when we create an atmosphere of trust and non-judgmental listening.

PRACTICING GENEROSITY



Giving of our time, talent, and treasure for God's mission in the world. "The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity..." Galatians 5.
We have a culture of serving on committees, ministries, mission work, and regular financial support.

NEW VISION FOR THE COMMON MISSION OF ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH,
OCTOBER 2015

St. Mary's Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. We welcome into our full life and ministry people of any sexual orientation, gender identity, age, occupation, ability, nationality and race. We love and pray for all God's people. Loving all people, just as we love ourselves, reflects our love of God as seen in the Holy Scriptures. We strive to serve all people. As a community of faith, we affirm the diversity of God's beautiful creation and continue to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us, as we grow and learn what it means to be fully inclusive and reconciling in Christ. We are God's people, followers of Jesus Christ, Gifted by the Spirit. Go Pray, Go Love, Go Serve.

Statement approved April 18, 2015



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Minutes from Previous Annual Meeting, July 21, 2024

HOLLIE DeFRANCO, COUNCIL SECRETARY

Call to Order/Quorum Count

There were 84 members present. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was called to order at 10:25 a.m. in the sanctuary by Council President Keith Richter.

Opening Devotion

Council Vice President Adam Fonk led the congregation in the opening devotion. He read from Philippians 2:1-4, encouraging unity, humility, and love as guiding principles for the church and the meeting. Adam reminded the congregation that as members of the body of Christ, each person brings essential gifts and perspectives that support the church's mission. He urged the congregation to approach the meeting with compassion and a spirit of service. The devotion concluded with a prayer asking for wisdom, cooperation, and God's guidance in all decisions.

Approval of Minutes July 21, 2023

Copies of the 2023 Annual Report, including the minutes from the July 31, 2023, Annual Meeting, were distributed prior to the meeting and made available via email. A motion to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes was made by **Steve Hartfield** and seconded by **Andrea Beer**. There were no objections and the motion was approved unanimously.

Endowment Foundation Report

Neil presented the Endowment Foundation report, recognizing board members and highlighting over \$2 million in lifetime giving.

Motion made by Patti Mason and seconded by John Basler to re-elect Cheryl Hayes, Tom Cnockaert and Steve Hartfield to the Endowment Foundation Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Hartfield presented highlights from the Treasurer's Report, available on page 17 of the Annual Report, along with supplementary financial information. He commended the work of the financial team, which includes Carrie Richter, Sondra Kuro and Dan Neururer, and clarified the status of the Audit Committee (volunteers still needed). Steve expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts and attention to detail of the team. No formal motions were made following the report.

Recognition of Outgoing Council Member

Chris Johnson was called up and honored for completing two terms (2018-2024) on Council and for her leadership in events, decorations, and committee work.

Council Election and Term Structure

Four candidates were presented for election or re-election to Church Council by Alice Schwalbe, Chair of the Nominating Committee:

Keith Richter (Incumbent) – Serving another 3-year term; past service includes Vision Team, Finance Committee, Fish Guide, and Council President.

Stephanie Raszkievicz (Incumbent) – Sunday School teacher since 2017, active in VBS and outreach.

Dana Larsen (Incumbent) – Educator and active in worship, Fish Guide, and children's ministry.

Sandy Bear – Returning Council member with past experience in communion, visioning, and hospitality roles.

As there were four open Church Council positions and four nominees, no ballot was necessary. A motion was

made by **Andrea Beer** and seconded by **Patti Mason**, to approve the slate of nominees by acclamation. The motion passed unanimously.

The congregation was informed of a possible adjustment to the size of the Church Council due to declining membership. While the bylaws permit a maximum of 15 council members and a minimum of 9 (per Articles of Incorporation), the current count is 11. If the additional open two-year term from last year remains vacant, Council may move forward with nine members in future cycles. Interested members were encouraged to reach out if they wish to fill this opening.

Nominating Committee Elections

Alice Schwalbe reviewed the composition of the Nominating Committee, noting Andrea Beer will be serving the second year of her two-year term.

Nominations for new two-year terms were presented:

Christine Johnson

Alice Schwalbe

A motion was made by **Neil Guttormsen** and seconded by **Judy Reynolds** to approve Christine and Alice to the Nominating Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Dana Larson will continue serving as the Council Liaison to the committee. Appreciation was extended to all members for their willingness to serve and support the church's discernment process in the year ahead.

Authorization to Sell Cemetery Plots

It was reported that during a recent file review, Steve Hartfield discovered that St. Mary's is the recorded owner of three cemetery plots at Sunset Ridge Cemetery. The plots appear to have been in the church's possession since

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Minutes from Previous Annual Meeting, 7/21/24 (cont'd)

the tenure of Pastor R. After confirming legitimacy with cemetery staff, the plots were valued collectively at approximately \$7,000. The church is required by its constitution to divest physical property not used for congregational purposes—such as homes or vehicles donated.

Authorization to sell cemetery plots, per the church constitution, congregational authorization is required to grant Council the authority to sell church-owned property. A motion was made by **Carol Gillmore** and seconded by **Sue Van Bendegom** to authorize the Church Council to pursue the sale of these plots. The motion passed unanimously. Appreciation was expressed to Steve for his due diligence and for consistently uncovering important property information.

President's Report

Keith Richter offered a heartfelt and enthusiastic overview of the year in ministry. He expressed deep gratitude to the congregation for their time, talents, and treasures, highlighting that St. Mary's ministries are thriving locally and globally due to the steadfast support of the church community.

Key financial insights from the Mission and Ministry Resource Plan (MMRP) were shared:

Staff Expenses: 49%

Facility Maintenance: 19%

Administrative Costs: 11.5%

Partner Ministries (benevolence): 8.6%

Mortgage: 8%

Remaining Funds for Additional Ministries: 4%

Despite increasing costs in areas such as insurance and technology, the ministries of St. Mary's continue to flourish through creative fundraising and community engagement.

Facility & Security Updates Work began recently on updating the church's obsolete access system. While the system's primary computer has failed, camera installation has started. The Property Committee is also reviewing installation of additional security cameras on both parking lots and the hallway near the Chapel Lounge.

Thanks were extended to the anonymous donor, the Endowment Foundation, and all contributors to the matching fund campaign—the campaign goal was successfully met.

Worship Planning In response to shifting worship patterns and insights from the November 2023 worship survey, a task group led by Pat Gallo, Lisa Zanin, and Pastor Debbie is exploring a model for lay-led services. A meeting was scheduled for that afternoon to introduce the concept, particularly for Saturday worship, with potential expansion to other services. All interested individuals were invited to attend.

Pastoral Coverage Pastoral leadership continues under the joint support of Pastor Debbie and Pastor Cliff, who officially joined the congregation's ministry team. Pastor Cliff will preach two Sundays per month and Pastor Debbie one Sunday per month. Their partnership and collaboration are already enriching the spiritual life of the congregation. On August 25th, there will be one combined worship service to support congregational unity and healing led by Pastors Debbie and Cliff.

Youth Group Return from Mission Trip

The youth group faced unexpected travel complications when their return flight was canceled. Despite sold-out trains and unavailable bus drivers, chaperone Kendra secured two rental vehicles—a minivan and a

Suburban—allowing the group to return safely by road. After an overnight stay, the group was en route and expected home by noon. Gratitude was expressed for the quick thinking and dedication of the trip leaders.

Audit Committee Update

Keith Corso inquired about the Audit Committee. No members had yet stepped forward for the 2023–2024 term. However, a few individuals have since expressed interest, and Dan Neururer will follow up with them. The goal is to complete the audit by September and share the results with the congregation.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Debbie Hartfield (referenced page 5 of the annual report) reflected on the blessings of ministry at St. Mary's and the unique privilege of serving part-time alongside a deeply faithful congregation. She highlighted the compassionate work of the church's lay ministers, who serve those homebound or in care facilities with prayer, communion, and meaningful presence.

She expressed joy in the connections formed through shared devotions and ministry collaboration, emphasizing the spiritual vitality and strength of the congregation's pastoral and lay teams. Pastor Debbie shared a story of how homemade soup has become an unexpected yet beautiful ministry. Thanks to Gretchen and Michelle, who have contributed soup and support, Pastor Debbie has been able to share simple, nourishing meals with congregants during visits. These gestures have become meaningful moments of connection and compassion. Gratitude was extended to those who donate to the Good Samaritan Fund, which supports individuals in the local and broader community. The Endowment

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Minutes from Previous Annual Meeting, 7/21/24 (cont'd)

Foundation and personal donations play a vital role in sustaining this ministry.

Plans are underway to commemorate 150 years of St. Mary's Lutheran Church. The congregation is working with partners from Carthage College to gather stories, history, and reflections. Interviews with members are expected to begin in late summer/early fall, and all were encouraged to participate in shaping the church's legacy celebration.

Pastor Debbie reiterated that the move toward lay-supported worship is grounded in Lutheran tradition and practice.

Conversations with leaders at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago have provided insight and resources as St. Mary's explores this path forward. Looking back on her first year with the congregation, Pastor Debbie reminded the community of a central question posed when she began: "Would the community miss St. Mary's if we weren't here?" She now offers a series of deeper questions for individual and communal reflection:

As the body of Christ in the world, how are we caring for our neighbors?

As children of God, how are we living out our vocations?

How does the power of Jesus guide our daily decisions?

How does worshipping together shape our lives?

How do we honor the covenant we have with one another as a church family?

These questions are intended to guide future growth, visioning, and shared ministry.

Pastor Debbie concluded her remarks by reading from Philippians 1:3-4: *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy..."* Her message emphasized gratitude, unity, and continued faithfulness.

Financial Report

Dan Neururer presented the proposed Mission Ministry Resource Plan (MMRP):

Projected deficit: **\$62,000**

Driven by added staff roles and rising costs. Four positions were added, Pastor Debbie's, Youth Director, Sunday School Director and Tech.

Reserve funds (~\$160,000) will be used to cover shortfalls. It was also stated that the money from selling the cemetery plots will go into the reserve fund. Dan also made an emphasis on long-term sustainability and creative revenue solutions.

Neil Guttormsen made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 MMRP Budget as presented, **Lynda Ryan** seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Keith encouraged members to submit project plans for new initiatives and thanked everyone for their commitment to the church. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 11:44 AM.



"Funds are available to church organizations, non-profit groups, and community organizations that meet the Foundation's goals and mission for giving. Those goals and mission seek to support special projects, programs, and initiatives... Priority will be given to ministries, missions, and humanitarian efforts that promote the values of Christian service and charity."

"TO APPLY FOR FUNDING", SMLC
ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION DISBURSEMENT
COMMITTEE, 2023

**Contributions to the Foundation, whether a memorial, a gift to honor someone, or as a provision of your estate plan should be directed to:
St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation, Inc.**

The Missions of St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation

"Our mission is to offer members (as well as friends) of St. Mary's Lutheran Church a haven for gifts and memorials which will provide an ongoing source of income for the encouragement of religious, charitable, educational, and outreach programs."

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

THE REV. DR. JORDAN MILLER-STUBBENDICK

FULL-TIME, LEAD PASTOR

Last summer, my family moved to Kenosha when my husband, Adam, accepted a call to become the campus pastor at Carthage College.

In learning about St. Mary's Lutheran Church, I was intrigued by this congregation's long history of serving the Kenosha community in a variety of ways, by the importance of social justice to the life of the congregation, and by St. Mary's Reconciling in Christ designation as striving to be a place of welcome for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

In first serving as your transition pastor for almost 6 months, I had a unique opportunity to get to know you before going through the call process.

I joke that those 6 months were the world's longest job interview, but it was a mutually beneficial time. You welcomed me with an openness to hearing about my life and work in Palestine and advocating with me for a future of justice, peace, and freedom for Palestine. You have allowed me to begin to get to know you, and to get to know me and my family.

In celebrating your 150th anniversary last year, you chose Jeremiah 29:11 as a focus and centering point.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Throughout St. Mary's long history, this congregation has lived through many challenges and God has guided you to a hope-filled future many times.

In the many ways in which you engage in and serve the community, including through supporting the ELCA Outreach Center, the Shalom Center, Afghan refugees, being a polling place during elections, supporting children and youth as they grow in their faith formation, and through so many more groups within and outside of St. Mary's, you live out God's call to love and serve those in Kenosha and beyond.

I see hope and a future for living out God's love for our neighbors. As we continue to practice our faith, day by day, we continue to live into the future God guides us into with hope.

I am pleased and grateful that both Pastor Debbie and I have been called to St. Mary's. We enjoy working together, and I believe we make a good team. It is a gift to be able to offer pastoral stability to the faith community of St. Mary's after many years of change and uncertainty.

People of St. Mary's, I look forward to our ministry together! It will be an adventure to see where God calls us to go next.

We are God's people.
Followers of Jesus Christ.
Gifted by the Spirit. Go Pray. Go Love.
Go Serve...grounded in God's love and into the promise of a future filled with hope.
Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubbendick

"In 16 years of ordained ministry, I have been a parish pastor, hospital and hospice chaplain, and writer. Most recently, together with Adam, I served as a co-country coordinator of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

We lived in occupied east Jerusalem with our sons, Julian (9) and Ari (6), where we supported young adult volunteers who lived with Palestinian host families and accompanied the ministry sites of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), including K-12 schools, an Environmental Education Center, and a gender justice office.

In October 2023, we were evacuated from Jerusalem due to Israel's ongoing war on Gaza."

Taken from Pr. Jordan's bio presented to SMLC, January, 2025.



Top: Prs. Jordan & Adam with Nareem Salem & husband from Zaytuna's Kitchen (March, 2025)

Bottom: Prs. Jordan & Adam & sons with poster for the ELCJHL with best wishes from SMLC's Lent attendees (April, 2025)



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

PASTOR DEBBIE HARTFIELD

St. Mary's Lutheran 2025 Annual Meeting Report

Dear Friends in Christ,

The past 12 months have been filled with many occasions for learning, celebration, and continued blessings of providing pastoral care with and among the members of St. Mary's.

I also give thanks for being added to the preaching schedule that considered my 15 hour/week call commitment!

With the departure of our Interim Pastor, Kathy Brown, the end of June 2024, it was a blessing to welcome Pastor Cliff Schmidt as our part-time Transition Pastor. With Pastor Cliff's leadership and help, we put together a worship service of Healing and Forgiveness (August 25th), something that was needed and welcomed by the people of St. Mary's

Our 150th anniversary of the mission and ministry of St. Mary's was celebrated in many ways, including a Celebratory Concert - "*A Future With Hope*" where a commissioned piece of music titled "*Singing Promise on the Way*" was debuted, and pastors, who formerly served at St. Mary's, participated in scripture readings that reflected the Four Miriam Anthems in our stained glass windows (Nov. 3rd). Our 150-year Anniversary Service of Celebration took place Nov. 24th with Bishop Paul Erickson preaching, followed by a gathering of the St.

Mary's community over a catered meal. Additionally, Carthage history interns, Clara Harbart and Emma Snider provided taped interviews that captured some of our history as a church and the faith journey of many of our members. We give thanks to God for all the ways God has guided our life and ministry together the past 150 years and for the ways God continues to work through the people of St. Mary's in sharing the love of Jesus in the world!

In recognition of Nurse Sue's 20 years at St. Mary's, we had a Ritual of Gratitude and Celebration during worship (Sept. 13th). Nurse Sue continues to be a cherished colleague in the many ways she shares her nursing knowledge, compassionate heart and listening ear. It continues to be a gift to learn from her and to help once again facilitate the 13-week Grief Share® program as well as provide support for the Surviving the Holidays gathering (Dec. 7th). As our Faith Community Nurse, Nurse Sue continues to be a calming presence and blessing for all God's people! Many thanks to the Endowment Foundation and St. Mary's members for financial support that enables us to serve others in need through the Good Samaritan Fund!

We once again participated in joint Kenosha ELCA church worship services during Advent (Blue

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Christmas @ St. Paul's) and Holy Week (Good Friday @ Trinity Lutheran). It is our hope to find additional ways of bringing the ELCA congregations in Kenosha together for worship in the future!

I facilitated a Lenten book study using Kathy Escobar's book, *Turning Over Tables: A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power* with the Sunday Book Club and I look forward to creating, facilitating, and leading more faith formation opportunities in the future.

A core group of people interested in lay-led/pastor supported worship came together and designed a worship service that was held Wednesday, November 27th (Thanksgiving Eve). This was the first time St. Mary's held a lay-led/pastor supported worship service! I give thanks to all who worked so hard in designing this worship service and for their faithfulness in leading worship! I think having this experience has helped as we now have a schedule for lay-led Saturday worship which began June 7th, 2025!

I give thanks to God for welcoming Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick as our Transition Pastor on January 6th, 2025! I am shouting for extraordinary joy in the work of the Call Committee and congregation in voting to call her as the next Lead Pastor at St. Mary's! Having her fulltime at St. Mary's has been a

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

welcome addition to our life and ministry together! I give thanks to Pastor Cliff for all the ways he shared his gifts of ministry before Pastor Jordan's arrival and for his on-going presence among us!

My two-year term call at St. Mary's ended on April 22nd and with the end of that term call, both the congregation and I discerned the future of my ministry which was affirmed in the congregational vote to call me as your permanent part-time Associate Pastor (June 1st)! With this new call, I will remain at 15 hours/week with a change in ministry focus from pastoral care to faith formation. Pastor Jordan and I will coordinate pastoral care needs together going forward.

Our Caring Ministry members continue to be the face of Jesus to those members who are homebound or in long term care facilities, bringing Holy Communion, a listening heart and caring presence. Currently, there are 9 active Care Ministers who visit 15 members. I give thanks to God for all the ways the Care Ministers, and the entire St. Mary's community, show love and care for one another, especially in times of need.

We are about to open a new chapter on our journey together and as we do this, we also need to take a moment to give thanks to God and each other once again

for bringing us to this day! The St. Mary's community has remained faithful in what has been a very long and tumultuous journey the past 5-6 years. In the absence of permanent full-time pastoral leadership, we continued to worship faithfully through the leadership of multiple interim/transition pastors and many supply preachers. By the power of the Holy Spirit and the many gifts of time, talent and treasure, the St. Mary's community continued to reflect the love of Jesus in caring for our neighbors locally and globally through our various ministries. Through volunteer and staff leadership, our children and youth continued to experience God and learn about Jesus. For all of this, we give thanks!

With deep gratitude for all members of the St. Mary's community, and for the future God is calling us into, I give thanks!

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.
(Philippians 1:3-5)

*In Christ,
Pastor Debbie*



Above: Pastor Debbie & husband, Steve, at the Palestine presentation this past March in St. Mary's Fellowship Hall.

*"Let us pray. Loving God,
thank you for welcoming us
whenever we gather in your
name.*

*Now that we are here, we
trust you to keep your
promise to dwell in our midst.*

*Let your love mend our
wounds and forgive our
mistakes.*

*Refill our lives with the
compassion of Jesus,
who knows our human
struggle,*

*who has suffered and
mourned as we do,
who has carried the weight of
sin for us.*

*Send your Spirit to guard our
community from pride and
anxiety.*

*Empower us to be a safe
shelter in the demands of
each day,
when the world requires
performance and directs
shame.*

*You know us completely and
you love us as we are.
Open us to your Spirit, to
allow us to grow as your
children. Amen"*

(Meta Herrick Carlson, *Speak It Plain*,
2020, Fortress Press, Minneapolis)
**Worship Service of Healing &
Forgiveness**, August 25, 2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

KEITH RICHTER, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings, St. Mary's Lutheran Church family,
As my second year as Church Council President comes to an end I reflect on the year St. Mary's Lutheran Church has had.

We have come a long way since last year's annual meeting. At this point last year St Mary's was starting to celebrate our 150th Anniversary. We were without a called Lead Pastor, our Interim pastor had left, Pastor Debbie was working beyond her term call responsibilities and Pastor Cliff Schmidt was asked and graciously accepted to step in temporarily as our part time transition pastor. (Thank you again Pastor Cliff for providing leadership and guidance during our time of transition). Now we go into 2025-2026 with Pastor Jordan as our Lead Pastor and Pastor Debbie as our part-time Associate Pastor. I believe the challenges St Mary's faced over the past 5+ years have made us stronger and more committed to "A Future with Hope". Again, a very heartfelt thank you to everyone in our St Mary's family who stayed committed, prayed for us, were patient and supported in various ways. Let's take a look at some of the things that happened at St Mary's due to your support since our 2024 Annual meeting

Worship News**Saturday Service**

After a couple years of uncertainty, feelings of not being heard and discussions about the future of the Saturday night service a couple of decisions were made. First - starting Jan 11th the service would begin at 4PM instead of 5PM. Second - After 2 additional listening sessions it was

agreed upon the Saturday service would continue at 4PM with a pastor presiding 2 Saturdays a month. The other Saturdays will be Holden Evening prayer or another similar service without communion. Thank you to everyone for the great discussions this year.

Service of Healing and Forgiveness

In August Pastors Debbie and Cliff lead a service to give the St. Mary's Family the opportunity to lift their troubles and hurts to God in order to heal and forgive any hurts from the world, the community, the church, families and ourselves. This information was written on cards, placed in envelopes and burnt outside.

Nurse Sue's 20th Anniversary

During the Oct 13th worship service, we were honored to acknowledge and celebrate Nurse Sue's 20 years of service as St Mary's parish nurse and care ministry coordinator. Sue, I remember the day you became a member of the staff. Thank you for taking care of the St. Mary's family and the communities additional needs.

Lay Led Service

With all the transition we were in Pastor Debbie and a few members of the congregation started discussions on the how's and what's for a possible Lay Led Service. With Pastor Debbie's guidance the 1st Lay Led service was held on Thanksgiving Eve. During the service, food was collected for Shalom Center followed up by nice piece of pie or two.

Produce Stand

August was the start of grabbing a variety of fruits and vegetables as one left worship, as sharing table in the back of the sanctuary started filling up

again with people's abundant produce. Always fun to see the variety of produce people have grown. Thank you to everyone who brought their fruitful gifts.

Lenten Services

Pastor Jordan and her husband, Pastor Adam provided a presentation on their time in Jerusalem. The presentation included authentic Palestinian food. This presentation provided us with a small introduction into the weekly Lenten education series **Sumud: for Justice in Palestine and Israel**, the ELCA's initiative for justice and peace in the Holy Land.

Pastoral Call

I again commend each and every one of you for waiting patiently during the call process. What an interesting call process St. Mary's went through - very few candidates, difficulty finding supply pastors for both services to name a few. Not sure how much confidence each of us had that our prayers would be answered that a pastor would be called by the 2025 annual meeting. Great thanks to Pastors Debbie and Cliff for their guidance and leadership from July to December, the many supply pastors (especially Pastor Char for Saturdays) and to the call committee (Carol, Leslie, Michelle, Mindy, Neil and Steve) for their dedication. The call committee was receiving very few candidates and in December, Pastor Cliff decided it was time for him to step away from being our transition pastor. Thankfully at the same time the synod brought forth the name of a pastor who was a possible candidate

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT'D)

to be called as a transition pastor. After discussion and an interview, it was decided to call Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubbendick the transition pastor. Pastor Jordan started Jan 6th and presided over her 1st services on Jan 11/12. Pastor Jordan brought a refreshing new spirit to St. Mary's. She immediately established office hours, had staff meetings and became engaged with the St Mary's community. With this high became a low, in all the transition it was forgotten Pastor Debbie's 2-year term call was coming to an end in April. What next? Thankfully Pastors Jordan and Debbie discerned and decided St Mary's was a place they would like to lead St Mary's into the future together. On June 1st the congregation of St Mary's overwhelmingly voted to call The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick as our Lead Pastor and Rev. Debbie Hartfield as part-time Associate Pastor.

150th Celebration Events

A new church directory was published with a cover designed by St Mary's own Bob Noreen. Thank you to Beth and her team for coordinating this.

October 6th saw 90+ people participate in the St Mary's 150th 1.5-mile Walk/Run/Lunch at Petrified Springs. Themed "A Future with Hope: walking together for our church, our community, our world"

WMA had a hymn "Singing Promise On the Way" specially commissioned for our 150th

Anniversary. A former St Mary's youth Dr Brian Schoettler composed the hymn and the text was written by Rev Martin Seltz.

Brian debuted the hymn on the organ on Sept 29th

Nov 3rd at the "A FUTURE WITH HOPE" 150th Anniversary Concert featured the song sung by the choir and accompanied by Jubilate choir.

November 24th at the 150th Celebratory worship service all the sections (excuse me Dick S. if I didn't term this correctly) of the hymn came together Adult Choir, Jubilate, Organ, bass ensemble and the congregation.

The taped version of St Mary's presentation of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat was dusted off and shown.

Property News

(I don't want to steal the Daves thunder but there are a few projects I want to highlight)

New electronic sign

For years the property committee had discussed how to keep the church sign functional. The many years of sun and weather had deteriorated the letter holders, the metal needed to be painted and needed minor repairs. At one point 3 years ago, bids were even requested. The church finances at the time did not have the resources

to purchase a new electronic sign. In November 2024 an anonymous donor believed St Mary's needed a new electronic message board to better communicate St Mary's services and events. The donor provided a substantial donation so the project could move forward. In January church council approved moving forward with the sign and design efforts began. In April the sign installation was completed and ready to spread the Easter message. Thank you to the multiple donors, property committee and Adam Fonk for his ability to keep the sign alive with current messages.

Security System upgrade

We were informed the security system had become obsolete (key fobs didn't work, the cameras were not adequate) so property decide to start a project to upgrade the system. After sitting with multiple vendors trying to understand what each was trying to sell us the decision was to stay with our current provided who had provided good service in the past. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project whether financially or working with the vendor.

Gym Use

Our gym has been used by various organizations throughout the last 12 months

The usual: Quilters continue their dedicated effort of making quilts for the worldwide community, Youth rummage sale, Scouting groups and Kid Castle,

New ones: The city of Kenosha for

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT'D)

a polling place, a pickleball ministry, an exercise group, a fencing club as they waited for their permanent home to be completed and a few different scrapbooking/craft events.

Youth

The youth programs continue to their service to God (Sunday School, FISH and Fusion) Joan Oehlberg a former St Mary's youth was hired as the Coordinator of Children's Ministry.

In July 2024

VBS- 25 Sunday School age kids from St Mary's and the community went SCUBA diving into a friendship with God.

13 High Schoolers and 3 chaperones attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Middle Schoolers attended their mission trip as a "FISH-ion Trip" in Lake Geneva and Kenosha

Bingo nights started on select Wed nights as a fund raiser for their events.

Oct 27th saw the West parking lot transformed for the annual Halloween trunk or treat.

A Chord with the Lord, a Middle and High school choir was created.

We celebrated the affirmation of baptism of 8 beloved confirmands. Congratulations Benjamin, Drew, Elizabeth, Jeanette, Katherine, Lexi, Liliana, and Mady

Lenten Soup & Suppers and Palm

Sunday breakfast

We celebrated our 6 high school youth who graduated this year. Congratulations to Brooke, Emma, Maggie, Reina, Rex, and Rylee.

Council Updates

Council Size

The St Mary's Articles of Incorporation and Constitution require the church council consist of at least 9 and not more than 15 members. This past year council voted to reduce the number of council members from 12 to 9. This will be taking place over the next 3 annual meetings. Instead asking you to vote for 4 candidates each you will be asked to only vote for 3 candidates going forward. We have not been able to fill vacant positions over the past couple of years. Please consider becoming a candidate for church council in the future.

Church Renewal

As I reported in multiple Spirit articles the church council watched a 7-video series from the Greater Milwaukee Synod called

"Adventures in Renewal:

Resources for Mission

Revitalization" looking into the renewal cycle and asking "How did the church get here and where do we go now?" We recognize we often have struggled to authentically connect with those who aren't already a part of our congregations, which has led to too many times in which the default expectation is that any newcomer needs to come in and be like "us."

These resources are meant as a

first step to addressing that disconnect. By listening, learning, and experimenting, the Spirit will connect us with what God is already doing in the lives of those outside our congregation, and we will experience the renewal God desires for us all.

Renewal Cycle = Listen to God, one another, neighbors -> **Try** experiments based on God's leading -> **Reflect** what God might be teaching us -> **Share** stories for transformation

Church Events

In addition to everything mentioned above St Mary's and its members continue to be active in the church and the community

Christmas in July supporting the ELCA Outreach Center

Rally Day

Ralph Tollas, the resident Outreach for Hope Family Ride/Run/Walk rider (#17) was joined by Andy Schroeder on this year's ride.

Annual Oktoberfest

70+ individuals attended each of the WELCA events Valentine's brunch (multi-generational) and Mother's day High Tea

Stewardship potluck

Handbell festival which included our Jubilate ringers, St. Paul's and Mount Pleasant. Maddie Weirick announced she would be stepping down as Jubilate director. Thank you Maddie for your many years of directorship.

"Food on the First" Red bag program

The Friendly Center

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT'D)

Book studies
Supper clubs
Grief Share groups

I am sure I missed a few things but the above activities show that St Mary's has kept moving forward with living our mission. I continue to be thankful for the many resources God has given SMLC: our Pastors, the Staff, Lay Leaders, and you, the Stewards of St. Mary's who continue to step up and share your resources (times, talents and treasures) God has given you with our church, our community and our world.

As we look forward to 2025-2026 with "A Future with Hope" we look forward to some years of consistency and stability. As I said last year, we might not have the large number of people worshipping at St Mary's Lutheran Church like we once had but we have a family of followers of Jesus Christ who love to live out SMLC's Mission to **Go Pray, Go Love, Go Serve** and have the heart, desire and dedication to also live our Core Practices:

Becoming Inclusive - Becoming a congregation that does not build walls, but opens doors to all God's beloved people.

Growing Disciples - Teaching and experiencing Christian faith for adults and children for a life of transformation.

Connecting People - Building small groups for mission, prayer, fellowship, travel, and support.

Practicing Generosity—Giving of our time, talent, and treasure for God's mission in the world.

*Thank you,
Keith Richter*

SMLC Congregational Council President

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

CHAPTER 12 CONGREGATION COUNCIL,
PG. 15 SMLC CONSTITUTION

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

This year our exciting news has been the replacement of the monument sign with a new Electronic Message Center! A big thank you to the anonymous donor who contributed a significant amount toward making this project a reality, and to the many others who also contributed toward the cost. I would like to thank Adam Fonk for taking over programming our new electronic sign, it's been wonderful seeing your creative messages. On behalf of the Property Committee, I would also like to express our thanks to the lawn care team for their dedicated hard work mowing our green spaces around the church and beautifying our grounds by maintaining the planting areas and shrubs. Plans are in place to begin upgrading light fixtures in the east and west classrooms to LED to continue to reduce our electric usage, this has helped to minimize the impact of rising electric utility costs. Please contact any Property Committee member with any questions you have on property issues or concerns. Property Committee meets the first Monday of the month.

Highlights of some accomplishments during the past year are:

Completed replacement of the building access/entry system and Video Surveillance Cameras/Recording system
Replaced monument sign with new Electronic Message Center
Planted an Ivory Silk Lilac tree for Jennette & Willard Westra from memorial donations
Received a donation of large monitor screen in room 1W from McTernan Wireless
Wet sprinkler system inspection deficiencies repaired
5-Year Boiler inspection deficiencies repaired
Miscellaneous kitchen equipment repairs to refrigerator and disposal
Dishwasher controls repaired
Disposed of unused and obsolete furniture and miscellaneous
Disposed of accumulated electronics at recycling event
Tuck-pointed masonry crack on the south end of east carport
Cleaned Sanctuary altar & misc. carpet; East & West Narthex carpet; Library, Chapel/Lounge, and Office carpet; and Sanctuary pew cushions
Purchased 80 LED light bulbs to begin upgrading light fixtures in east and west classrooms

*Respectfully submitted,
Dave Frost
Property Committee Co-Chair*

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

JOAN OEHLBERG ~ COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The 2024-2025 Sunday School year was truly blessed with guidance, volunteers to help, and kid-focused experiences paving their Christian Faith.

Rally Day began our year with activities outside and a dunk tank! Six children were registered for Sunday School.

On Sunday 10/27/24, Sunday School sang for the congregation the beautiful song, "Open My Eyes"

Trunk or Treat on Sunday 10/27/24 was popular for our Sunday School children and those families within our community. Many kids participated in the painting table where they could paint a small 3X3 canvas and take it with them. We made certain there was a St. Mary's address sticker on the back of their canvas! Consideration for more 'experience' tables during our 2025 Trunk or Treat is certain! At this Trunk or Treat Event, we also collected 13 family's information for future Sunday School Activity communication. Our monthly newsletters as shared in the SPIRIT have also been emailed to these families since then.

Families who have had children baptized within the past 5 years have also had monthly communication sent to them since the same time period in

Fall 2024.

On Wednesday, November 6, Sunday School started their monthly 'Home and Faith - Family Connection' night from 5p-6p. Our first night included decorating and inspirational messaging on Brown Paper Bags for the annual Food Collection drive for the Shalom Center Pantry.

The first Sunday of each Month, Sunday school kids and their families along with youth and their families dedicated time to serving at the Shalom Center Soup Kitchen.

Sunday, November 10, was the kick off of Sunday school children being Greeters the second Sunday of each month. This monthly service was a time for fellowship for the children too. The children really enjoy doing this, and I'm certain our church community loved seeing their faces!

As we approached the Christmas season, Sunday School initiated making homemade Christmas cards for 27 people who found it difficult to come to Church and who needed some extra love during this time. Who doesn't need extra Love?

On Friday, December 5, we planned and then held a *Shop and Drop* evening. Families could register their child to be dropped off for an evening

of playing, watching a movie, decorating cards, and snacks while the grown ups shopped or simply took some time for themselves. Grown ups need that time too! In partnership with Youth to support entertaining our younger kids, any monetary donations were given to the Youth to put toward their future activities.

Sunday, December 15, 2024 was the last Sunday prior to Sunday School Winter Break but not until they performed at our annual Christmas Program called: '*His Name is Jesus*'. With several speaking roles, singing, and the congregation singing along with the children during the performance, it was truly a beautiful experience for all. We had 2 of our youth playing their instruments for some of the songs and families supporting the rehearsal, performance, and refreshments after. The refreshments were decorated by the kids during their full dress rehearsal the day before. Wow! What a busy weekend!!

After holiday break the kids returned to a comfy, relaxing P.J.'s and a Movie on Sunday January 12, 2025. Can't forget all the yummy snacks.

As a way to thank and also recap the beginning of the Sunday School year, a Sunday School

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

teachers and volunteers meeting was held on January 29, 2025. It was a way to positively talk about what has went well and what we could change regarding Sunday school lessons, formatting, volunteering, upcoming activities, and a way for others to show interest in supporting in other ways. It was also a time to talk about new ideas.

Lutherdale hosted a retreat February 8-9, 2025 for our 3rd through 5th grade children. It was a fun Saturday to Sunday overnight focused on *Praises and Prayer*. The children had the opportunity to share their faith experience as well as learn new ways to praise God and pray to God for all the miracles in their lives. There are many! Three children participated along with two grown-ups.

On March 2, Sunday School children were able to view up close a family with two children being baptized. More importantly they presented to the family a message, a children's first bible, and a gift bag with a few items to build on this beautiful memory.

On March 15, 2025, Sunday school treated, in more than one way, the Saturday night congregation to a singing performance and ice cream sundaes right after service. Not sure which was a bigger treat! Singing, of Course!!

On April 5, 2025, four children received their first communion. One youth, and three Sunday school children. There were four classes leading up to this special day which included a 2 hour activity making unleavened bread, painting chalices, touring the sacristy, tasting both the juice and wine (if they wanted), so their special day had no surprises. Their unleavened bread, used for their first communion with the entire congregation was quite delicious thanks to a volunteer within our church community who helped the kids with putting ingredients into the bowl and then baking the bread. Their chalices were 'fired up' too with excitement and then taken home as a forever memory of this special day.

On April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday, Sunday School children were able to participate with processional palm waving.

May 18th, 2025 was our last Sunday School day. It didn't flow in our typical routine of teachings and learnings, but a way for us to mingle with each other, remembering over the past Sunday school year God's word and the teachings of Jesus while we played "Minute to Win it" games. What a way to conclude our season.

But it's not over yet because...

On Monday July 28, 2025 through Thursday July 31, 2025, Vacation Bible School themed: *True North* will guide the kids on an Alaskan Adventure. As kids 'experience' the tundra, they'll discover how easy it is to lose focus of what truth is, in this wild, wild world today. This vacation bible school message will point kids to Jesus, who remains a faithful friend whom we can always trust. Jesus IS our True North.

*Building it with God's help,
Joan Oehlberg*



Game Day—May 18, 2025

Celebration of the End of the Sunday School Year Event Here, Coordinator Joan is covered in post-it notes in a Minute-to-Win It challenge!

Kids enjoying Game Day!



BETH KERSCHER**OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

St. Mary's church office been as bustling as ever. This fiscal year July, 2024-June, 2025 has been a year of some of the greatest satisfactions & biggest challenges yet. I have learned a lot about church-life, worship, the Holy Spirit, and collaboration as we went from a 6-month period without any full-time pastoral leadership again; and moved smoothly forward with the leadership of the new Transition Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick who began in January, 2025. Needless to say, that has gone well as she is now the installed full-time, lead pastor!

Among other notables, this year I have had the pleasure of working closely with many local area businesses in the course of my duties. Here is a shout out to those people & businesses (short list):

Aiello's Midtown Florist—Chuck, Chucky & Judy

Anton's Greenhouse – Nancy
Glassen Technology Services – Chad, Crystal, Curtiss, Moe
Midwest Graphics Service, Inc. – Don Proko

Midwest Alarm Services – Ryan Wells

Wil-Kil Pest Control – John Haze

Kenosha Achievement Center – Hayla Moore & Erin Mendoza
Holiday Wholesale – Gary Anderson

Clean & Green – Karla Ramos

Kids Castle – Andrea Honey, Debbie & Co.

CUSH – Rich Mich

USPS—Jim, carrier

St. Mary's offered rooms & the use of our facilities a lot this year. We hosted:

Kids Castle – Before and Afterschool Care (no attendance days '24-'25)

City of Kenosha/City Clerk – Voting (Feb/Apr/Aug/Nov, 2025)

AARP Tax Aide -community tax preparations (February – April, 2025)

PEO AK Chapter meetings (monthly, 2025)

Mah Jong (2 private groups/weekly, 2024-25)

Girl Scout Troop 30106

Cookie Sales!

Spirit Alive! Pickleball (3x a month, for 6 months, 2025)

USFA United States Fencing Association Matthew Robinson, the leader of the MARS Fencing Club that needed a place for practices until building was ready!

CUSH – Super Bowl Chili Take Out Event (February 2024)

KAC Sprouts – weekly hosting 4 playgroups (Fall, 2024)

#533 Charter Boy Scouts – Cub Scouts – Den, Pack, Troop meetings & events – 3 x weekly, during the school year.

Baby & Bridal Showers (4)

Spirit Alive!'s Leadership retreat in our Lounge (Feb. 2025)

Scrappin' Sisters Scrapbook Events (4) Saturdays & Sundays 4x a year to be held in the gym & kitchen.

St. Mary's Jubilate! Handbell Retreat AND SMLC Hosts Kenosha Handbell Festival, (March 29, 2025)

Eagle Scout Ceremony & Reception, Enzo Price on May 4, 2025.

Children &

Adult Birthday Parties (4)

Calling All Crafters! A St. Mary's grassroots event for hobbyists & fellowship, Nov. 2024 & Feb. 2025

Church in Society—Breaking the Chains Ministry Christmas Bag Stuffing December 13, 2024

With the 150th Anniversary celebrations/events taking a lot of energy in the later part of 2024, the long transitions between no pastor—supply pastors—transition pastor, as well as the life of the church, hopefully the church office has been the steady heartbeat of St. Mary's—a heart that now beats with joy and such promise as we welcome Pr. Jordan to our staff and our church community! I wasn't sure I was going to ever see this day, but I never doubted God's timing!

I'd like to thank our church staff roster, our church leadership, committee chairs and the dedicated members for your support and love. I am humbled.

*Respectfully submitted,
Beth Kerscher*

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

KENDRA RICHTER, YOUTH DIRECTOR

At the end of summer last year, a handful of youth asked if they could add some paintings to our walls down stairs. I let them have creative freedom and say in what they painted! Now, when you walk down the stairs to the youth room there is a mural that says ***“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”*** 1 Timothy 4:12. What a perfect way to encourage our youth and describe the heart of the youth of St. Mary’s. The 12-18 year olds that I get the privilege of spending multiple hours a week with are some of the best examples of God’s love for us. These youth remind me every day that we can never get enough or share enough of the love that is provided to us! When I think of the last year I can name so many moments where I was able to witness the love God has for us being shared, among youth, among our leaders, among parents and among our congregation.

The following are some highlights of what the youth did in the last 365 days!

- 30-40 youth met weekly on Monday for FISH (Middle School) and Wednesday for Fusion (High School)
- 13 youth attended the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans and were able to share highlights of their experience with the congregation in August
- 12 Middle schoolers from St. Mary’s and Spirit Alive! went on a mini mission trip to the Lake Geneva area
- Hosted a multi-church Christmas Party
- Joined in contemporary worship for a song or two each week and served communion
- Started a middle and high school youth choir (A Chord with the Lord)
- Hosted the annual youth rummage sale
- Attended both a Middle School and High School weekend for Winter Xtreme
- Volunteered quarterly at the ELCA Outreach Center
- Served the Palm Sunday Breakfast

- Led the congregation in worship for the Good Friday Service
- Served Lenten Soup Suppers with the gracious help of Gretchen
- Lended a helping hand with VBS
- Confirmed eight 8th graders into the Lutheran faith
- Journeyed through the New Testament as part of our Confirmation curriculum
- Held our annual car wash and brat stand fundraisers
- Started a quarterly bingo night
- A committee was formed to work on a transportation and child safety policy to ensure the best care of the youth walking through our doors

These events were filled with fun, community, LOTS of snacks, service, and the youth of St. Mary’s asking good questions to help them grow in their faith.

As the youth director, I get to see the world and the love and light that God brings to it through the eyes of our youth and I am grateful for St. Mary’s and the way this congregation makes that possible. We could not do what we do without the support of our congregation. Thank you, St. Mary’s for treating our young people like they are capable of leading, loving and having a BIG faith just how God intended it to be!

The day before the annual meeting, 30 of us (6 adults and 24 youth) will be returning in 3 passenger vans from North Carolina where we will help with hurricane relief! I cannot wait to see how God works in and through the lives of our youth! We have many exciting ideas for the next year and I am looking forward to seeing them come to life. I can tell you first hand, these youth are worth investing in and if you want to know what God’s love looks like, spend some time with our Middle and High Schoolers :)

Kendra Richter
St. Mary’s Youth Director

SUE QUEVER, R.N.**FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE/CARE MINISTRY COORDINATOR****Spiritual Care and Wellness Ministry***Nurse Sue R.N., Faith Community Nurse/Care Ministry Coordinator*

Mission - Promoting healthy living within the St. Mary's Lutheran faith community. Provide holistic nursing by ministering to the parishioners' physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Because of Jesus we are...



Connecting people by building small groups for mission, prayer, fellowship, travel and support.

- Facilitated 2 separate 13-week sessions of Grief Share support classes to the congregation and community
- Facilitated – “Surviving the Holidays” grief event to those recently experiencing a death of a loved one.
- Facilitating companionship training that can be useful for those working in the congregation and community.



Practicing generosity by giving of our time, talent, and treasure for God's mission in the world.

- Appreciation to the St. Mary's Care ministers that reach out and bring communion, worship, prayer, conversation, and friendship to our homebound parishioners.
- Gratefulness to Carole Scotese as she leads the bereavement card ministry. We appreciate her diligence as she shares her time and talents.
- Managed the Good Samaritan Fund –providing financial support to those parishioners/ community/members with agency referral suffering crisis with basic needs.
- Delivered connection, referral, support, medical information, council, prayer, and a listening ear weekly to St. Mary's congregants as needed and as referred by the Pastors and community.

Thank you for allowing me to provide encouragement and assistance to you in time of need. Your trust and confidence in our partnership is greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless and strengthen your mind, body, and spirit! Let your light shine!



Nurse Sue is celebrated for her 20 years on staff at St. Mary's on Sunday, October 13, 2024, 9am service. Sue and her husband, Grant, enjoy spending time with their sons & grandchildren.

Advocate's Faith Community Nurse Program, committed to providing excellence to communities served, established the Faith Community Nurse Support Network in 2002. The Faith Community Nurse Support Network [PDF] links faith community nurses with the resources and support of the Faith Community Nurse Program and the related services of Advocate Health Care, such as support services (including materials), faith community nurse expertise, on-going education, spiritual support, and networking opportunities to faith community nurses located within the Advocate service areas

© 2024 Advocate Health Care 2025 Windsor Dr., Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

CHURCH IN SOCIETY MINISTRY

ANNE WINKLE, CHAIRPERSON

2024 - 2025 Annual Report

"But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Amos 5:24

CIS meets on the second Thursday of the month at 1 pm in the church library; we welcome anyone interested in advocating for the needs of God's children.

Church in Society has supported the following programs and projects:

1. **Bread for the World** — Covenant member status was renewed for 2025. St. Mary's has been a covenant partner since 1986.
2. **Fair Trade** — The ministry sold Fair Trade coffee and chocolate monthly. The spring of 2025, Palestinian Olive oil and Fair Trade Tea was added.
3. **Lutheran World Relief** — 201 quilts and 16 personal care kits donated in 2024. St Mary's Community quilters from Oct. 1, 2023 to Sept. 30, 2024 — 4800 hrs. to make 384 quilts. Locally 84 to ELCA Urban Outreach, 85 to Grace Welcome Center, 7 to the Lutherdale Auction and 1 as a door prize during mission fair.
4. **ELCA Outreach Center** — snacks for summer campers on July 1 - 3, 2024. CIS is thankful for the

monetary donations and the ministry teams that contributed.

5. **Christmas in July** — CIS sponsors a collection of personal care items for the Outreach Center during the month of July. Approximately 365 lbs. donated in 2024.
6. **Shalom Center** — Volunteers from St. Mary's help at the soup kitchen and this past year, red bags of food donations have been donated to their food pantry.
7. **Angel Tree Project** — A grateful "Thank you" to **Christy Burmeister for her years of service in organizing this project.**
8. **CUSH** - continues to advocate for the least of these in Kenosha. CIS also supports CUSH with a monetary gift.
9. **Outreach for Hope Bike Ride** — September 21, 2024. Ralph Tollas and Andy Schroeder participated. CIS contributed \$300.00 and St. Mary's - \$907.00 in honor of Ralph for his 17th yr. of participation.
10. **Afghan Refugees** — CIS continues to support this endeavor through prayer.
11. **"Breaking the Chains" church** — CIS board members helped fill 150 Christmas gift bags for the incarcerated on December 11, 2024.

*Respectfully submitted by Anne Winkle
CIS Chairperson*

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

LESLIE SANDAHL, CHAIRPERSON

It has been another busy year for personnel and we have accomplished multiple priorities again.

- Employee Handbook finalized and all staff members were presented a copy to review and keep for their records.
- The Sunday School Coordinator position was posted, interviewed for, and filled by Joan Oehlberg.
- All employees job descriptions were evaluated and reviewed with each respective staff member.
- A roster of jobs and job descriptions is currently being created for our Pastors use.

Accepted the resignation of our Bell Choir Director Maddie Weirick, and created a job description/offer letter to onboard our new Director, Nathan Larsen.

Safe Child Policy (Youth Committee) was reviewed.

Transportation Policy (Youth Committee) was reviewed with recommended changes/enhancements.

We look forward to 2025/26 and continuing our work for God and St. Mary's.

*Peace to you all,
Leslie Sandahl, Julie Schmit,
Andrew Schroeder (Council Liaison)
Keith Richter (Council President)*

WORSHIP* MUSIC* ARTS / WMA

Worship Services, Music Ministry and Arts in Worship are the focus of the WMA Committee. The past year has been a season of remembrance celebrating 150 years of St. Mary's Lutheran Church, collaboration to foster a worship environment that is welcoming and inspiring, and planning to preserve longstanding traditions and promote new ones.

Our goal is to enrich the spiritual life of the congregation through the thoughtful coordination of worship services, musical programming, and the use of visual arts. Our team is composed of dedicated volunteers, musicians, visual artists, and pastoral staff who meet regularly to discuss, plan, and oversee the elements of your worship experience.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Our primary emphasis was placed on organizing special services to mark our 150th anniversary. Dr. Schoettler, a son of this congregation, performed an organ recital at the end of September. A hymn, "Singing Promise on the Way" was commissioned for "A Future with Hope" concert with Rev. Martin Seltz as the lyricist and Dr. Brian Schoettler as the musical composer and organist. This was a concert featuring our musical groups. Bishop Paul Erickson was invited to preach at our 150th Commemorative Service at the end of November. Multiple former pastors participated in both services. These were joyous and memorable occasions which can be found on our website.

This Spring, we turned our attention

to St. Mary's Saturday evening service. After discussion, Saturday evening worshippers agreed to move the service to 4 p.m. and to have lay-led worship services every other week. Pastor Debbie met with the Assisting ministers and held a review of responsibilities and a discussion of the format/liturgy of the service without a preaching pastor. We had a meeting with Bishop Erickson to define what the lay-led assisting minister could do within a given worship service, and it was understood that communion was only to be given by an ordained pastor.

The Contemporary service held the second Sunday of the month had the order of service updated. There was a discussion regarding the inclusion of music scores for certain hymns in the worship bulletin. More information below.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Adult Choir offers uplifting anthems and spiritual songs under the direction of Dr. Dick Sjoerdsma and Deb Black. We meet weekly for rehearsals to provide musical leadership three Sundays a month. In Dick's absence, Deb played through suggested anthems and queried the choir to select anthems for the remaining weeks of our season. While this was challenging not having a director in front of us, we fruitfully delivered our musical offerings. We invite you to join us in this ministry!

Jubilate! rehearses on Monday evenings and plays the first Sunday

JULIE SCHMIT, CHAIRPERSON

of the month during the school year, under the direction of Maddie Weirick and this coming fall under the direction of Nathan Larsen. We had a successful morning workshop ringing with other Lutheran churches and an afternoon concert open to the community. We plan to hold this event yearly at neighboring churches. We enjoy ringing at different venues and accompanying the Adult Choir on anthems.

Contemporary Worship Band usually leads Sunday services on the second Sunday of each month. Bjorn carefully selects hymns rooted in the scriptures that tell the message for that day always using a familiar hymn along with selections that pair well with guitar, drums, piano, and vocals. This team is looking for additional musicians and the opportunity to direct the group will be needed as Bjorn focuses on playing guitar while someone else takes the reigns of worship planning, hymn selection and rehearsals. If this is your call, please speak with Bjorn, Julie, or Willy. We thank Bjorn for leading our worship service over the years.

"A Chord with the Lord" is a new youth choir this year under the direction of Christina Oldani and Kendra Richter. They meet bimonthly on Wednesday evenings and periodically sing for worship services.

We welcomed St. Paul's Brass Ensemble to play for our Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism service in May, and their music filled the sanctuary and our hearts.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

ARTS IN WORSHIP

St. Mary's dedicated volunteers transform our worship space every season of the church year. They contribute seasonal banners, altar arrangements, and adorn the sanctuary and narthex with themed visuals to enhance our worship experience.

The use of projection in contemporary worship and in the Good Friday drama services has encouraged involvement and assisted in the presentation of song and scripture.

This past year, St. Mary's Lutheran Church has been marked by creativity, collaboration and an unwavering commitment to worship, music, and the arts.

The WMA Committee has sought to steward these gifts faithfully, celebrating the diversity of God's people and creation. We look forward- trusting that our continued service will inspire worshippers, nurture faith, and foster unity within our congregation and community. We welcome your involvement on this committee.

Sing Praise!

Julie Schmit, WMA Chairperson



St. Mary's Adult Choir sings as part of the 150th Anniversary Concert on Sunday, November 3, 2024

ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION DISBURSEMENT REPORT

KAY MANDERFELD

The Mission of St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation

The mission of the Foundation is to offer members (as well as friends) of St. Mary's Lutheran Church a haven for gifts and memorials which will provide an ongoing source of income for the encouragement of religious, charitable, educational, and outreach programs.

Gifts to the Foundation are held in perpetuity, generating investment income each year that provides a continuous source of support for worthy causes that fit our mission statement.

The following is a list of grant recipients of St. Mary's Endowment Foundation for the past year. (August 1, 2024 through July 31st, 2025)

Breaking the Chains Ministry

ELCA Outreach Center

God's Kitchen

Grace Infant Diaper Ministry

Grace Welcome Center

KAFASI Senior Nutrition Program

Kenosha Achievement Center

Kenosha Welcome Center

Open Wings Learning Community

Peace Learning Circles

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Royal Family Kids Camp

Salvation Army

Seven Educational Scholarships

Shalom Center

St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Initiatives

St. Mary's Electronic Message Center

St. Mary's Good Samaritan Fund

St. Mary's High School Youth

St. Mary's Middle School Youth

St. Mary's Quilters

St. Mary's Sunday School

The Sharing Center

Walkin' In My Shoes

To make a donation to St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation or to request a grant for your organization,

go to www.stmaryslutheran.org.

Click on Endowment Foundation



NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL 2025-26



Andrea Beer

Nominee

My husband, Tony, daughter, Taylor and I have been members of St. Mary's for almost 20 years. We came looking for a place for

Taylor to attend Sunday School and found a faith community who welcomed us with open arms.

I served on Council from 2011 to 2017 and served as President my last two terms. I have also served on the Youth and Planning Committees, MET team and Call Committee. I am currently a member on the Finance and Technology Committees. I am an attorney and have used my background when able to help with legal matters at SMLC.

My family and I love St. Mary's not only for our spiritual experiences inside the church walls but also for how we carry our faith out into the community.

I enjoy reading, gardening and puzzles.

I would love to serve on Council again.

Patricia Mason

Incumbent

My name is Patricia Mason. I have been a member of St. Mary's Lutheran Church since 1981. Been going to St. Mary's since 1977. I have been very active in the church over the years such as Assisting Minister, Reader, Adult Choir, Sunday School teacher, taught music for Sunday School, soloist for worship service and funerals, Funeral choir, Greater, Prayer Chain, Communion Server, Book Club, Supper Club, Bible Study, Prayer Breakfast, and Front Desk Volunteer in the church office.

And in other areas. I'm currently serving on St Mary's Council. Being part of the Council has taught me how to be a leader in the church, learning more about Stewardship and connecting with the congregation during this time of transition. Giving my tithes and talents to the



church and the community. Committees I have served on are the Reconnection Team, Nominated Committee, WMA, Stewardship Committee and Church in Society as Council liaison.

Outside of church I have been involved in many areas. Such as, serving our community at the Grace Welcome Center, Shalom Center, help served for the Shalom spaghetti dinner, sang for Parkside Master Singers Performed at Carnegie Hall twice. Sing the National Anthem at the Kenosha Kingfish Baseball game. Sing the National Anthem for Holy Rosary's Festival and helped with their Festival. Served as Secretary on the Wisconsin PTA Board from 2019 to 2021, served four years on the KUSD PTA Council Board. Served as Secretary from 2016 to 2018 School Year. Served as Vice President from 2018 to 2020 School Year. Served on Mahone Middle School PTSA Board from 2016 to 2018 as Secretary. Volunteer and was activity involved in many areas at Nash Elementary School where our children attended elementary school.

What Serving on the Church Council Means to me

- To be faithful in Church Service attendance.
 - To support programs designed to promote Congregational growth and Commitment.
 - Giving, talent and time.
 - Prayer Support to all those in need. Concerns for others.
 - A commitment to Christ and the Church.
 - Scripture reading.
 - Leadership and Guidance.
 - Community – Oriented and modeled upon Christ
 - Grow together and moving forward
 - To envision plans, implement and annually evaluate congregational ministry and missions
-

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL 2025-26



Lisa Rasmussen-Zanin
Incumbent

My name is Lisa Rasmussen-Zanin and I am a member of St. Mary's Lutheran Church. I was baptized, confirmed and married at St. Mary's and have remained a

member all my life. My grandparents, parents, siblings and extended family were all members through the years. My history here is strong and enduring.

In my work life I was a teacher of young children with special needs for 30 years in the Kenosha Unified District. I am married to Mark Zanin and we have raised three children; two boys and a girl. We have a grandson now!

All are grown now and leading lives of their own. In my retirement I have resumed old past times such as traveling, biking, hiking and gardening. I have also started new hobbies such as: listening to podcasts, Face Timing with family and researching my genealogy. There are two community organizations I am presently involved in: NAMI (The National Alliance on Mental Illness) and The Friendly Center.

At church I have served in many ways. Previously I have been:

-a Sunday School teacher

- a Bible School teacher
 - a Facilitator/ Recorder of small group listening sessions
 - a FISH leader
 - an Angel Tree helper
 - a Christmas Basket deliverer
 - a chaperone for a Boundary Waters Trip
 - a member of the Outreach Committee
- In more recent times I have served :
- as a communion assistant
 - as a reader of lessons
 - as a counter for the offering
 - as a member of the Afghan Resettlement Team
 - as a member of the Stewardship Committee
 - as a member of the Reconnections Team
 - as a member of the Care Committee during COVID
 - as a host for Saturday Night Coffee Hour

I have prayerfully considered serving the church once again as a member of council. I believe the Holy Spirit has been gently nudging me in this direction. If I were elected, I would be happy and honored to serve in this governance role.

THE FRIENDLY CENTER LISA ZANIN, COUNCIL LIAISON

The St. Mary's Friendly Center continues to gather monthly in the Fellowship Hall at St. Mary's for devotions, a meal and a program of entertainment, education, or Bingo. There remains a strong desire to collect donations for each gathering. These donations have been distributed to local organizations including: The ELCA Outreach Center, Luther's Lunchbox of Carthage College and The Veteran's Food Pantry of Racine. We continue to be challenged by declining membership numbers and the need for devotional leaders. To those who dedicate their time and talent to the Friendly Center, we send you a sincere "Thank You!"

Audit Report for St. Mary's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Fiscal Year 2023/2024 and July 2024-March 2025

At last year's annual meeting an audit report for Fiscal year 2023-2024 was not available as no-one volunteered to perform the activity. A great gratitude of thanks is to be given to Tony Beer and Kevin Larsen for completing the audit review for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 and July 2024-March 2025. Due to the annual meeting being mid-July the financial records for April - June 2025 were not reviewed.

AUDIT COMMITTEE KEITH RICHTER, COUNCIL LIAISON

Controls governing the Bookkeeping practices were consistent with past practices and protocols and appear to be operating as intended. Processes reviewed:

- Deposits
- Credit Card Purchases
- Requests for payments

Areas to be aware of
Follow up on uncleared checks
Assuring undesignated memorials are transferred quarterly
Consistent disbursement approval.

Respectfully submitted,
St Mary's Lutheran Church audit committee.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



"A FUTURE WITH HOPE"

Our 150th Anniversary Year

Well, what a year it was—St. Mary's sesquicentennial year was full of activities, events, music and memories to propel us into the next 150 years! As the selected 150th anniversary coordinator, I had the challenge and pleasure of being involved with almost every aspect of the celebratory year's recognitions.

January—Starting with a birthday party—January 22, 1874 was the day the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded. 50 members with Pastor Adam Dan (1874-80) planted the first church building at 57th & Sheridan Roads. In 1876, St. Mary's Lutheran Church was the official name adopted by them.

February—St. Mary's kicked off a year-long Stewardship Campaign with a special Coffee Kringle Mingle. Throughout February, meetings and conversations were formulating plans of action.

March—Coordinator starts and first meetings were held. There were 5 categories of teams History, Worship, Publicity, Festivities, and Outreach. Although these team sizes were encouraging, no leaders emerged. However, a timeline was created and things really got rolling!

On March 16/17th, St. Mary's worshiped using the 1958 Service Book and Hymnal for a nod to our past worship style & contents. This vintage worship service celebrated the 150th signing of the first church constitution on March 12, 1874. This Sunday's service is available here <https://www.youtube.com/live/5vYivvz3CrM?si=Up3uRCmzrx00RIMD>

April—The 150th Anniversary Church Directory had begun, as well as the collaboration with Carthage College and

acquiring Emma & Clara, interns, to help us with our oral, video interviews of members & friends. Pastor Debbie was significantly instrumental in securing that relationship.

WELCA's High Tea celebrated the 150th Anniversary at their event as well. The Winkles donated hours of time scouring our archives for information and preservation.



This special group of women worshipped at the original SMLC location on 22nd Avenue: Jan Weinstock, Karen Larsen, Lorraine Harris, Kirsten Miller & Audrey Nykiel

May & June—primarily were focused on creating the best church directory. A dynamic team of volunteers helped to put that long-overdue project to press. Approximately 130 members had their pictures taken and the remaining membership roles were also included. Contact information was extruded from our church database. Directories were handed out first weekend in July.

July—Summer is a very busy time and there were meetings and lots of planning with the teams, interns & expectations of the video processes of our oral history.

August—Interviewees were selected and invited to participate in the videotaping of their recollections as a member & ministry partners of St. Mary's.

September—when the interns returned to campus, St. Mary's video interviews began. Each interviewee was given a unique list of questions to prepare. Clara and Emma hosted everyone with enthusiasm, professionalism and a creative spirit.

As the fall unfolded, the celebration luncheon was being crafted and all other details of our 150th start to amp up!



beautiful fall day at Petrified Springs.

November—Kicking off the month was the 150th Celebratory Concert on **Sunday, November 3, 2024** at 2:00pm in St. Mary's sanctuary. The full service is here <https://www.youtube.com/live/eI9nSHbJ29Q?si=yWWoR-ctc-mwiamk>

Musical ensembles performing that day included: Jubilate! Handbells, Adult Choir, Contemporary Worship Team.

Our interns completed their interviews and passed off the raw video footage to a classmate, Emily, who put the video together using her Carthage College graphics arts & videography skills. A **30-MINUTE HIGHLIGHTS REEL** was presented to the congregation at the service <https://youtu.be/Kf0PrWQQ5wg?si=s5Bt1-wbwlVep3a>



The 150th Anniversary Worship Service was held on **Sunday, November 24, 2024** at 9:00am with Bishop Erickson, and with many former pastors in attendance (see above). It was a jubilant celebration worship service full of music, God's holy word and the great joy in sharing our collective history together in St. Mary's sanctuary. Full service here https://www.youtube.com/live/lmwJzUQtCPI?si=WF_0Rhr_Sr7FbrKH



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Following the service was a luncheon in our gym. Danny's Meats of Racine was selected to provide the delicious turkey dinner that was also prepped, served and cleaned up by their very professional team. Sweet treats were provided and capped off the year deliciously.



Many people generously donated money towards St. Mary's 150th celebrations, including:

St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation

Donators: Anonymous Anne & Ken Winkle Inez Lemnus

Carole Scotese—In loving memory of my mother, Lorraine Schupp

On behalf of all the committees, volunteers, support staff and amazing members, I say "Thank You" again to everyone who made the celebration year so memorable! May God continue to bless this church with a calling to serve God's people—for WE are God's People, Followers of Jesus Christ, Gifted by the Holy Spirit who will continue to "Go Pray! Go Serve! Go Love!"

Many thanks be to our God.

Beth Kerscher

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



This year of Stewardship is a journey of **Caring for All of God's Creation Now!** God's love begins at the creation. Our annual resource response campaign highlighted the

great work done by all of us to care for St. Mary's Lutheran Church and our greater community near and far.

Our temple talks continue to highlight the blessings from God that come **Down** to us to share with our neighbors. Using our time and talents to care for these blessings and discern how to share them is God working **In** and through us. Looking **Out** to see what God is calling us to do to help our neighbor by sharing our resources is the great opportunity and experience to care for all of God's creation now.

This year, our ministries have continued to have a critical impact on the growing need of our neighbors in order to eat, be clothed, and otherwise live day-to-day. Our youth, families, and adults offer their time and talents to support the ELCA Outreach Center and the Shalom Center through regular volunteering. Our youth were supported and blessed to attend a life-changing experience at the Youth Gathering in New Orleans last year. This year, they are off to North Carolina to help a community with clean up and rebuilding.

STEPHANIE RASZKIEWICZ, COUNCIL LIAISON

In wrapping up our 150th Anniversary Celebration, we shared a meal and memories with members of all ages. The faces and friends gathering was an amazingly touching experience. As we reflect on the ways we have been enriched by God's love, we are reminded of the peace that passes understanding (down in my heart). During this time of uncertainty, understanding and finding common ground will not only help us as a Christian Community, but also as a society to bridge differences and make sharing God's love to care for ALL of creation a priority and reality.

St. Mary's Lutheran Church Leadership, comprised of council members and ministry chairs, continues to explore ways to grow and connect with our community – locally, nationally, and internationally. Feedback from each of you is valuable in this endeavor. Please reach out with ideas and comments about how we can continue to share the Light of the world with each other and all of our neighbors. We look forward to the spiritual guidance from Pastors Jordan and Debbie as we look at our work ahead.

1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

*Yours in Faith and Peace,
Stephanie Raszkievicz on behalf of
the Stewardship Committee*

ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF & COUNCIL, 2024-25



The Reverend Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick, Full-Time, Lead Pastor

Art Kotenko, Sound & Video Technician



CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2024-2025

Reverend Debbie Hartfield, Part-Time, Associate Pastor



Kendra Richter, Youth Director



Keith Richter, President



Adam Fonk, Vice President



Beth Kerscher, Administrative Assistant



Sondra Kuro, Bookkeeper



Hollie DeFranco, Secretary



Sandy Bear



Deb Black, Organist/Piano Accompanist



Sue Quever, Community Nurse, Care Ministry Coordinator



Markie Hylinski



Dana Larsen



Willy Mueller, Pianist



Joan Oehlberg, Coordinator of Children's Ministry



Patricia Mason



Dr. Richard Sjoerdsma, Choir Director



Stephanie Raszkiewicz



Madeline Weirick, Handbell Choir Director (2016-May, 2025)



Steve Hartfield, Acting Treasurer



Andy Schroeder



Nathan Larsen, Handbell Choir Director (2025)



Lana Woller



Lisa Zanin



Thank you for your service to the Congregation.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

St. Mary's Mission Statement, RIC Statement & Core Values	(1)
Minutes from Previous Annual Meeting	(2-4)
SMLC Endowment Foundation	(4)

STAFF & MINISTRY REPORTS

Lead Pastor	(5)
Associate Pastor	(6-7)
President	(8-11)
Property Committee	(11)
Children's Ministry	(12-13)

Administrative Assistant	(14)
Youth Ministry	(15)
Faith Community Nurse	(16)
Church in Society / Personnel	(17)
Worship Music Arts Committee	(18-19)
Endowment Foundation Distribution	(19)
Church Council Nominees	(20-21)
The Friendly Center & Audit Committee	(21)
150 th Anniversary Report	(22-23)
Stewardship	(23)
CHURCH STAFF & LEADERSHIP	(24)

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 2001 80TH ST. KENOSHA, WI 53143

MEETING AGENDA

ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Financial Report and Member Elections.....NEIL GUTTORMSEN

MEETING AGENDA

ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION

Call to Order/Quorum Count.....KEITH RICHTER, PRESIDENT
Open Devotion.....ADAM FONK, VICE-PRESIDENT
Approval of Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting
.....HOLLIE DEFranco, SECRETARY
Treasurer's Report.....STEVE HARTFIELD, TREASURER
Council Recognition.....KEITH RICHTER
Nominating Committee Report.....DANA LARSEN
Election of Council Members.....KEITH RICHTER
Election of Nominating Committee Members.....DANA LARSEN
President's Comments and Announcements.....KEITH RICHTER
Pastor's Comments.....PASTOR JORDAN MILLER-STUBBENDICK
Council Election Results.....KEITH RICHTER
2025-2026 Mission and Ministry Resource Plan.....STEVE HARTFIELD
Lord's Prayer
Adjournment

A Prayer for Spiritual Life: Commitment (ELW pg. 86)

"Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, but always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen."

ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT, 2024

STEVE SEYMOUR, TREASURER

ST MARYS LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT December 31, 2024

	NOV-DEC	YEAR TO DATE	INCEPTION TO DATE
RECEIPTS			
FROM DONORS	\$ -	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 1,320,302.32
DIVIDENDS & INTEREST	\$ 18,875.54	\$ 95,424.31	\$ 2,359,924.00
REALIZED GAINS (LOSS)	\$ 3,957.24	\$ 3,957.24	\$ 676,350.56
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 22,832.78</u>	<u>\$ 102,981.55</u>	<u>\$ 4,356,576.88</u>
DISBURSEMENTS			
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 29.20	\$ 94.20	\$ 13,420.28
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 41,001.31	\$ 95,330.11	\$ 2,346,503.72
CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRINCIPAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 272,671.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 41,030.51</u>	<u>\$ 95,424.31</u>	<u>\$ 2,632,595.00</u>
BALANCE RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	\$ (18,197.73)	\$ 7,557.24	\$ 1,723,981.88

SUMMARY OF ASSETS

	COST	MARKET	%OF MARKET
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	\$ 8,270.93	\$ 8,270.93	0.30%
THRIVENT FLEXIBLE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	\$ 199,537.61	\$ 199,537.61	7.22%
ELCA MISSION INVESTMENTS	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	3.98%
BOND FUNDS	\$ 77,481.93	\$ 73,330.57	2.65%
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT (CDs)	\$ 186,746.88	\$ 186,011.38	6.73%
PREFERRED STOCK	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
COMMON STOCK	\$ 639,930.14	\$ 1,584,224.06	57.33%
STOCK FUNDS	\$ 371,508.88	\$ 444,040.76	16.07%
BALANCED FUNDS	\$ 130,505.51	\$ 157,772.93	5.71%
TOTAL FUND ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,723,981.88</u>	<u>\$ 2,763,188.24</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

Treasurer's Report

STEVE HARTFIELD, TREASURER

My job as Treasurer and the job of bookkeeper Sondra Kuro, Financial Secretary Cari Richter, and Finance Committee chair Dan Neururer, and committee members Neil Guttormsen, Andrea Beer, and Leslie Sandahl is at times a bit less glamorous: We need to pay the bills.

I would like to thank all members of St. Mary's for the donations made to the church this past year. Your donations enabled our church to continue in the ministry of our Mission Statement:

We are God's people, followers of Jesus Christ, gifted by the Spirit. Go pray, go love, go serve. Programs of our church are increasingly active, we have expanded our staff, and we have assisted our ministry partners in meeting their increasing need. We are committed to stewardship as being year-round, both in our continual actions and in a steady flow of income. Thanks be to God for everything you do and give.

Steve Hartfield – Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION Twelve Months Ended 6/30/2025

Dedicated Accounts

Operating Reserves	\$ 7,253.51
Long-Term Reserve	\$ 64,128.68
Building & Grounds Reserve	\$ 5,619.58
Investment Accounts	\$ 123,641.57
Miscellaneous Dedicated Accounts	<u>\$ 100,763.77</u>

Total Dedicated Accounts

\$ 301,407.11

Bank Account Balances

Checking Accounts	\$ 28,484.04
Money Market	\$ 25,224.72
Accounts Receivable	\$ 875.00
Prepaid Asset	\$ 68.00
Investment Accounts	\$ 248,284.58
Accounts Payable	<u>\$ (1,529.23)</u>

Total Bank Account Balances

\$ 301,407.11

Mortgage Balance

Interest Rate	3.350%
Payments Remaining	80
Monthly Payment	\$ 4,043.00
Principal Balance	\$ 289,446.12
Principal Paid this year	\$ 38,124.22
Interest Paid this year	\$ 10,391.78

**FINANCIAL REPORTS
ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
GENERAL OPERATING FUND**

Twelve Months Ended 6/30/2025

Balance at July 1, 2024		\$ -
Receipts 7/1/24- 6/30/25		
Envelope/EFT Offerings	\$ 451,358.34	
Cash Offering	\$ 15,075.46	
Building Rental	\$ 4,998.50	
Interest Earned	\$ 13,972.67	
Miscellaneous Income	\$ -0-	
Thrivent Choice Contribution	\$ 9,275.00	
Total Receipts		\$ 494,679.97
Total Funds Available		\$ 494,679.97

Expenses 7/1/24- 6/30/25

Benevolence:		
ELCA-Greater Milwaukee Synod	\$ 35,004.00	
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 3,190.25	
Lutherdale Bible Camp	\$ 3,190.25	
ELCA Outreach Center	\$ 6,369.50	
Grace Welcome Center	\$ 1,668.00	
Benevolence Total		\$ 49,422.00
Worship		\$ 4,751.95
Education		\$ 4,593.67
Fellowship/Outreach		\$ 467.84
Church in Society/Synod Assembly		\$ 790.00
Stewardship		\$ 261.12
Youth Ministry		\$ 3,470.00
Staff Salaries		
Pastoral	\$ 91,808.61	
Support	\$ 109,638.07	
Salaries Total		\$ 201,446.68
Staff Benefits		\$ 14,881.74
Administrative		\$ 63,707.78
Utilities/Maintenance		\$ 94,698.54
Mortgage/Debt Reduction		\$ 48,516.00
Total Expenses		\$ 487,007.32

Receipts Over Disbursements	\$ 7,672.65
Gain Transferred to Operating Reserve/Building and Grounds/Long-Term Reserve	\$ (7,672.65)
Balance at June 30, 2025	\$ 0- -

St. Mary's Lutheran Church 2024/2025 Ministry & Mission Resource Plan

	MMRP 2024/2025	Actual 2024/2025	Variance to MMRP
--	-------------------	---------------------	---------------------

Revenue

Envelope/EFT Offering	\$562,900.00	\$451,358.34	(\$111,541.66)
Cash Offering	\$0.00	\$15,075.46	\$15,075.46
Building Rental	\$2,500.00	\$4,998.50	\$2,498.50
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$5,700.00	\$9,275.00	\$3,575.00
Misc. Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$8,000.00	\$13,972.67	\$5,972.67

Total Revenue	<u>\$579,100.00</u>	<u>\$494,679.97</u>	<u>(\$84,420.03)</u>
----------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------

Expenses

Partnership Ministries

Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA	\$35,000.00	\$35,004.00	(\$4.00)
Lutherdale Bible Camp	\$2,500.00	\$3,190.25	(\$690.25)
Lutheran Social Services	\$2,500.00	\$3,190.25	(\$690.25)
ELCA Urban Outreach	\$5,000.00	\$6,369.50	(\$1,369.50)
Grace Welcome Center	\$5,000.00	\$1,668.00	\$3,332.00

Total Partnership Ministries	<u>\$50,000.00</u>	<u>\$49,422.00</u>	<u>\$578.00</u>
-------------------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------

Worship

Music & Licensing	\$2,000.00	\$1,349.67	\$650.33
Bulletins & Inserts	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Sacristan & Altar Guild	\$1,500.00	\$798.45	\$701.55
Instrument Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$985.00	\$515.00
Liturgical Arts	\$300.00	\$206.46	\$93.54
Worship Supplies	\$300.00	\$585.37	(\$285.37)
Sound Board Maintenance	\$500.00	\$118.00	\$382.00
Worship Software	\$1,000.00	\$709.00	\$291.00

Total Worship	<u>\$8,100.00</u>	<u>\$4,751.95</u>	<u>\$3,348.05</u>
----------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Education

Sunday School/VBS/			
First Communion	\$3,120.00	\$3,446.90	(\$326.90)
Devotionals/Adult Education	\$700.00	\$1,146.77	(\$446.77)
	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

Total Education	<u>\$3,820.00</u>	<u>\$4,593.67</u>	<u>(\$773.67)</u>
------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

St. Mary's Lutheran Church 2024/2025 Ministry & Mission Resource Plan

	MMRP 2024/2025	Actual 2024/2025	Variance to MMRP
--	-------------------	---------------------	---------------------

Youth Programming

High School/Confirmation	<u>\$3,470.00</u>	<u>\$3,470.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>
--------------------------	-------------------	-------------------	------------

Total Youth Programming	<u>\$3,470.00</u>	<u>\$3,470.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>
--------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------

Fellowship/Outreach

Welcome Center/Hospitality	\$500.00	\$467.84	\$32.16
----------------------------	----------	----------	---------

New Member Team	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
-----------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

Total Fellowship/Outreach	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$467.84</u>	<u>\$32.16</u>
----------------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------

Stewardship

Stewardship 365	\$1,000.00	\$261.12	\$738.88
-----------------	------------	----------	----------

Offering Envelopes	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
--------------------	-----------------	---------------	-----------------

Total Stewardship	<u>\$1,200.00</u>	<u>\$261.12</u>	<u>\$938.88</u>
--------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	------------------------

Other

Church in Society	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
-------------------	----------	----------	--------

Synod Assembly	<u>\$1,550.00</u>	<u>\$490.00</u>	<u>\$1,060.00</u>
----------------	-------------------	-----------------	-------------------

Total Other	<u>\$1,850.00</u>	<u>\$790.00</u>	<u>\$1,060.00</u>
--------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

Administrative Expenses

Office Supplies	\$1,800.00	\$1,184.54	\$615.46
-----------------	------------	------------	----------

Printing & Advertising	\$750.00	\$454.08	\$295.92
------------------------	----------	----------	----------

Postage	\$2,000.00	\$1,850.00	\$149.83
---------	------------	------------	----------

Tech. Hardware/Software			
Maintenance	\$18,500.00	\$18,331.67	\$168.33

Payroll Processing	\$4,800.00	\$4,719.87	\$80.13
--------------------	------------	------------	---------

Staff Recognition	\$500.00	\$208.60	\$291.40
-------------------	----------	----------	----------

Bank Fees	\$1,800.00	\$2,090.54	(\$290.54)
-----------	------------	------------	------------

Technology & Website	\$2,750.00	\$2,190.86	\$559.14
----------------------	------------	------------	----------

Call Committee	\$3,000.00	\$205.46	\$2,794.54
----------------	------------	----------	------------

Online Giving Fee	\$1,400.00	\$1,794.00	(\$394.00)
-------------------	------------	------------	------------

Office Equipment Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
------------------------------	------------	--------	------------

Misc. Admin Expense	\$0.00	\$689.88	(\$689.88)
---------------------	--------	----------	------------

General Insurance	<u>\$28,000.00</u>	<u>\$29,988.11</u>	<u>(1,988.11)</u>
-------------------	--------------------	--------------------	-------------------

Total Administrative Expenses	<u>\$66,300.00</u>	<u>\$63,707.78</u>	<u>\$2,592.22</u>
--------------------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

	MMRP 2024/2025	Actual 2024/2025	Variance to MMRP
Facilities			
Heat	\$15,000.00	\$11,160.92	\$3,839.08
Electric	\$25,000.00	\$19,412.67	\$5,587.33
Telephone & Internet	\$5,500.00	\$5,109.42	\$390.58
Water/Sewer	\$6,000.00	\$5,632.51	\$367.49
Building Maintenance	\$8,500.00	\$10,781.75	(\$2,281.75)
Land Maintenance	\$11,000.00	\$10,294.98	\$705.02
Equipment Maintenance	\$17,500.00	\$10,875.50	\$6,624.50
Custodial Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$2,172.67	(\$172.67)
Janitorial Service	\$20,000.00	\$19,258.12	\$741.88
Total Facilities	\$110,500.00	\$94,698.54	\$15,801.46
Mortgage principal/Interest	\$48,516.00	\$48,516.00	\$0.00
Staff Salaries & Wages	\$231,715.19	\$201,446.68	\$30,268.51
Staff Payroll Taxes & Benefits	\$44,828.81	\$13,633.35	\$31,195.46
Other Staff Expenses			
Continuing Education	\$2,000.00	\$90.00	\$1,910.00
Conferences & Retreats	\$1,800.00	\$395.43	\$1,404.57
Mileage	\$4,500.00	\$762.96	\$3,737.04
Pastor's Moving Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other Staff Expenses	\$8,300.00	\$1,248.39	\$7,051.61
Total Expenses	\$579,100.00	\$487,007.32	\$92,092.68
Over (Short)	\$0.00	\$7,672.65	(\$7,672.65)

Currently 33% of all our giving is done online—for questions about the ease and safety of online giving, or giving through your financial institution, contact Cari Richter, St. Mary's Financial Secretary: crichter5108@gmail.com



St. Mary's Lutheran Church 2025-2026 Ministry & Mission Resource Plan

2025-2026

MMRP

Revenue

Envelope Offering	\$ 500,000.00
Building Rental	\$ 2,500.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 5,700.00
Interest Income	\$ 8,000.00
Faith Contribution	\$ 56,192.00

Total Revenue **\$ 572,392.00**

Expenses

Partnership Ministries

Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA	\$ 35,000.00
Lutherdale Bible Camp	\$ 2,500.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 2,500.00
ELCA Urban Outreach	\$ 5,000.00
ELCJHL	\$ 5,000.00

Total Partnership Ministries **\$ 50,000.00**

Worship

Sheet Music and Folders	\$ 500.00
Licensing	\$ 1,500.00
Bulletins & Inserts	\$ 0.00
Sacristan & Altar Guild	\$ 1,500.00
Sound Board Maintenance	\$ 500.00
Instrument Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00
Liturgical Arts	\$ 300.00
Worship Software	\$ 1,000.00
Worship Supplies	\$ 300.00

Total Worship **\$ 7,100.00**

Education

Sunday School	\$ 2,850.00
Devotionals	\$ 400.00
VBS	\$ 300.00
Adult Education	\$ 300.00

Total Education **\$ 3,850.00**

Youth Programming

Fish and Fusion	\$ 4,000.00
-----------------	-------------

Fellowship/Outreach

Welcome Center/Hospitality	\$ 500.00
----------------------------	-----------

Stewardship

Stewardship	\$ 1,000.00
Offering Envelopes	\$ 200.00

Total Stewardship **\$ 1,200.00**

St. Mary's Lutheran Church
2025-2026 Ministry & Mission Resource Plan

		2025-2026 MMRP
Other	Church in Society	\$ 300.00
	Synod Assembly	<u>\$ 1,550.00</u>
Total Other		\$ 1,850.00
Administrative Expenses	Office Supplies	\$ 1,800.00
	Printing & Advertising	\$ 750.00
	Postage	\$ 2,000.00
	Tech. Hardware/Software Maintenance	\$ 14,500.00
	Payroll Processing	\$ 4,800.00
	Staff Recognition	\$ 500.00
	Bank Fees	\$ 1,800.00
	Technology Replacement & Maintenance	\$ 4,000.00
	Technology & Website	\$ 2,750.00
	Misc Admin Expense	\$ 600.00
	Online Giving Fee	\$ 1,400.00
	Office Equipment Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00
	General Insurance	<u>\$ 34,800.00</u>
Total Administrative Expenses		\$ 70,700.00
Facilities	Heat	\$ 13,000.00
	Electric	\$ 22,000.00
	Telephone & Internet	\$ 5,500.00
	Water/Sewer	\$ 6,000.00
	Building Maintenance	\$ 11,000.00
	Land Maintenance	\$ 12,000.00
	Equipment Maintenance	\$ 16,000.00
	Custodial Supplies	\$ 1,800.00
	Janitorial Service	<u>\$ 20,000.00</u>
Total Facilities		\$ 107,300.00
Mortgage principal/Interest		\$ 48,516.00
Staff Salaries & Wages	See below for list of paid positions	\$ 250,651.00
Staff Benefits & Expenses	FICA, Pension, Health	\$ 19,500.00
	Continuing Education	\$ 3,600.00
	Conferences & Retreats	\$ 1,400.00
	Mileage	<u>\$ 2,225.00</u>
Total Other Staff Expenses		\$ 26,725.00
Total Expenses		\$ 572,392.00
Over (Short)		\$ -

Paid Positions Include;

FULL-TIME LEAD PASTOR	ORGANIST/PIANO ACCOMPANIST	SOUND AND VIDEO TECHNICIAN	CARE MINISTRY COORDINATOR
PART-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR	PIANIST	YOUTH DIRECTOR	COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN'S
SUPPLY PASTORS	CHOIR DIRECTOR	BOOKKEEPER	MINISTRY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR	COMMUNITY NURSE	