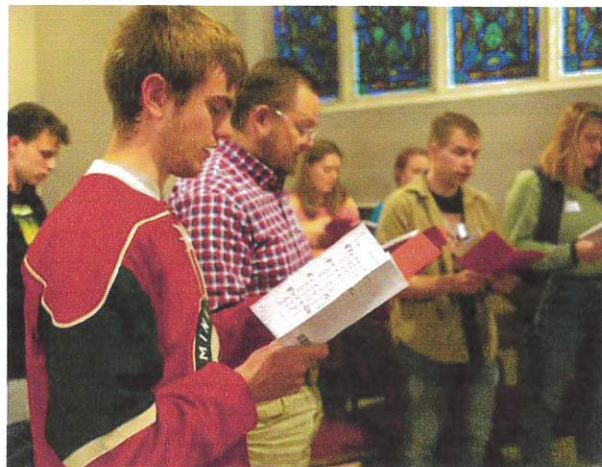


ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

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

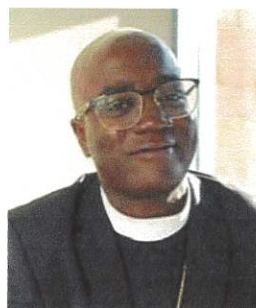
I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization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

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

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

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

In Christ,



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

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

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

—Colossians 2:6-7

Agenda for the Annual Meeting

Introduction

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Call meeting to Order

Declaration of Quorum

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes (minutes are on pages 4 and 5 of this bulletin)

Gathering Song: Hail to the Lord's Anointed, ELW 311

Prayer of the Day

Hearing God's Word

Children's Sermon

Pastor's Report

Hymn: Founded on Faith

Prayers

Peace

Presentation of Reports

Old Business

New Business

- 2026 Budget
- Recognition of council members who have completed their terms

Offering- Gathering of Our Gifts

Offering Prayer

Installation of Church Council

Apostles' Creed

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Sending Song: We Are Marching in the Light of God, ELW 866

Adjourn the Meeting

Dismissal

Introduction

God is alive and present in Mt. Olivet. Everything that we do in our life together is a chance for us to encounter and worship our living God. This morning we will celebrate the ministry our congregation has done throughout the past year with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We will worship together and celebrate our ministry with our annual meeting. While we celebrate the ministry of the past year, we seek God's guidance and direction for the coming year and we offer up our ministry to God for blessing. May all that we do today be to God's glory.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

Annual Meeting is Called to Order

Council representative: *Trusting in God's wisdom and guidance, we now call the Annual Meeting of Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church to order.*

Declaration of Quorum

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
January 19, 2025

President Roger Miemeyer called the meeting to order. Roger explained the declaration of quorum, which is all voting members present. Darlene Lyons seconded by Randy Reuter made a motion to accept the agenda, and the motion carried. The minutes of the 2024 annual meeting were approved as presented after a motion from Steve Golay and second by Jolene Niemeyer.

Pastor Kimberly gave her report and a brief message. Doug Stezel moved to approve her report, seconded by Lou Hoger, motion carried. The committee

reports were given and some highlights mentioned. The Menke family was thanked for Sunday School teaching and organization. Rusty Burgett thanked those helping with the mowing and upkeep of the church. It was noted that the grant from St. Martin's is actually coming from the Wiese Foundation. Becky Reuter moved to accept the committee reports, seconded by Steve Golay, motion carried.

The summary report of statistical information of the congregation needs to be reviewed as confirmed members and baptized membership numbers should not be the same. Pastor will adjust that before the report goes to the synod. The financial report was present. Linda Huntington moved and seconded by Martha Stetzel to accept those reports. Motion carried.

Doug Stetzel present the treasurer's report and commented on the 2025 proposed budget. Insurance costs have increased by \$2,000. Pastor's compensation is increased in accordance with synod guidelines, there have been utility increases, and small increases for Linda Huntington and Theresa Burns. Roger thanked Doug Stetzel, Tyler Huntington, Darek VanKirk, and Pastor Kimberly for their work on the budget for 2025. Rusty Burgett thanked the committee for their efforts. Lou Hoger moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jolene Niemeyer. Motion carried. Roger thanked Doug Stetzel and Tyler Huntington for their hard work and dedication behind the scenes as treasurers. He also thanked Linda Huntington for her music and Theresa Burns for her many hours of work and for being the glue that keeps us together.

New Business:

Martha Stetzel moved to accept the 2025 budget, seconded by Harley Weyer. Motion carried.

Constitution revisions: reducing the number of members of the council. Spending limit of council for big projects increased to \$5,000. Changed the committee structure to it being set by council and giving council the authority to add other committees as needed. Darlene Lyons moved to set aside the old constitution, seconded by Steve Golay. Motion carried. Jolene Niemeyer moved to accept the new constitution, seconded by Rusty Burgett. Motion carried.

Pastor recognized and thanked those council members completing their terms: Rusty Burgett, Darlene Lyons, Nick Gregory, Linda Huntington, and Roger Niemeyer.

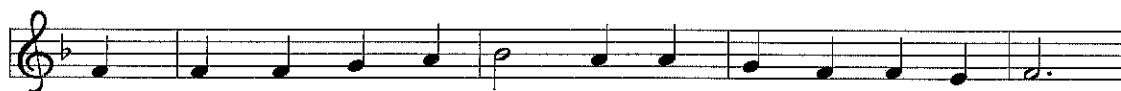
Installation of council members for 2025: Denny Clark, Craig Lamm, Kendra Norman, Randy Reuter, and Martha Stetzel.

Roger Niemeyer handed the gavel over to Martha Stetzel.

Roger Niemeyer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Steve Golay.
Motion carried.

Gathering Song: Hail to the Lord's Anointed, ELW 311

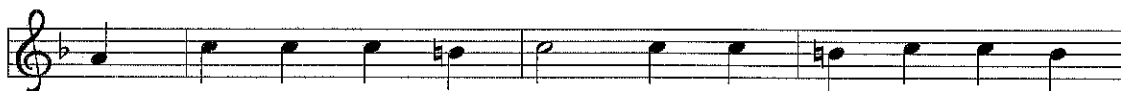
Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.
 pre - cious in your sight.
 hill to val - ley flow.
 king - dom with out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Music: FREUT EÜCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, source of every blessing. You showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his life, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 40:1-11

I waited patiently upon the Lord,
who stooped to me and heard my cry.

**²The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

**⁴Happy are they who trust in the Lord!
They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

⁵Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us,
none can be compared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I
can count.

**⁶Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not
required.**

⁷And so I said, "Here I am; I come.
In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

**⁸'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep within me.'**"

⁹I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

**¹⁰I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your
faithfulness and your deliverance;**

I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.

¹¹You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

Lesson: 1st Corinthians 1:1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: John 1:29-42

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason,

that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Pastor's Report

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude". Colossians 2:6-7

Let me begin with a word of thanksgiving for you and for the ministry we share at Mt. Olivet in Perry. I greatly appreciate all the ways you embody God's love for one another and for this community. You live out your faith not just at our church, but also in your homes and in our community. Whether you are one of the 11 members of this congregation that are essential to keeping the Perry

Emergency Food Pantry going, or serving the community on the Optimist Club, Friends of the Library, Rotary, or other organization or you are busy investing in the lives of your young people or are caring for an ailing family member, you are doing God's work. For that and for each of you, I give thanks.

A special word of thanks goes out to our 2025 council members: Martha Stetzel, Randy Reuter, Carol Van Kirk, Denny Clark, Craig Lamm, and Kendra Nelson. You have taken care of so many needs of our congregation members and our beautiful facility this past year. You raised funds and awareness of concerns to ensure that we are able to continue having rich and meaningful worship, fellowship, and outreach for years to come. We enter 2026 in a good position thanks to your hard work and commitment. Thank you for sharing your gifts with our family of faith in this way.

As we move forward together in partnership and ministry in 2026 there is much to do so I am thankful to have such a strong position to start from. Opportunities abound to share the gospel and reach people with the love of Jesus in our community. To take advantage of these opportunities, I hope to do some planning and discernment with our council and with the congregation as a whole this year. Churchwide staff specializing in evangelism and stewardship who spoke at a recent conference I attended advised that these kinds of conversations be had every 3-5 years in congregations in order to plan, set goals, and keep the congregation moving in a faithful and forward direction.

I have heard from several of our congregational leaders that the main goal they have is that they would like to increase both our attendance and our financial giving. Those are good goals to have for us and can be helpful in setting a direction for moving forward. In order for us to realize these goals, we will need to be intentional about drawing on our congregation's strengths, inviting our friends and family to participate in the life of Mt. Olivet, and serving our community. Meeting these goals will take the effort and involvement of the entire congregation. Growing our attendance and giving are not something that I can do alone or even something that the church council and I can do together. All of us are needed.

Culturally this is a challenging time for churches looking to grow numerically. No longer do people just go to church on Sunday mornings because that is just what you do. In fact, we are so far removed from that that there are people in our community who really do not know what church is about or why they might ever go to one. Church is for them a completely foreign idea. If we are going to

grow, and reach people who have no idea about what church is or why it exists, we will have to become really good at both knowing and telling the story of why faith matters to us personally and to us as a congregation. We have a great story as a congregation and we are a welcoming and inviting place. More importantly we serve and worship a great God who welcomes and invites all to be part of God's family. Put together, these things are reason to hope for the future despite the cultural and community challenges that might exist.

Nevertheless, kind of growth that I have heard leaders within our congregation express hopes for will take a significant amount of time, resources, and trust. We may have to try new things to reach more of our community and we will need a spirit of courage and innovation to guide us in discerning those ways. And, of course, all of this must be done while maintaining and celebrating the things we do well—our worship, fellowship, and service in the community. It is a big task.

And so, because of that, I would like to invite us to try for not only numerical growth in our congregation, but more importantly to try for spiritual growth in our individual lives and our congregational life. I firmly believe that if this is not a place and we are not a people of spiritual growth, we will never achieve the numerical growth we long for. The good news is that we can have much more control over the spiritual growth piece of things than we can of numerical growth. There are opportunities to volunteer in the church, we can tell the story of our faith to our children and friends to help them see God's love for them, and we can build on our strength of being a welcoming and inclusive community by showing hospitality to others and welcoming all who come. Involvement in any or all of those things can help us grow spiritually. Moreover, we can grow closer to God by putting into regular practice all the things that have nurtured our faith life thus far—worship, Bible Study, prayer, generosity, and fellowship.

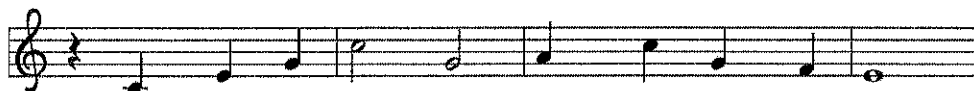
Let us this year continue to walk with God and to trust that the Holy Spirit has brought us together to for a purpose. Let us seek to grow closer to God and to share our faith with others, creating the kind of community that makes church a place where all are welcome and where we want to be. You are treasured people of God, and you are a gift to me, to each other, and to this community. So, let us tell that story, live into our strengths, and love God's world. God will take care of the rest!

With you on the journey,

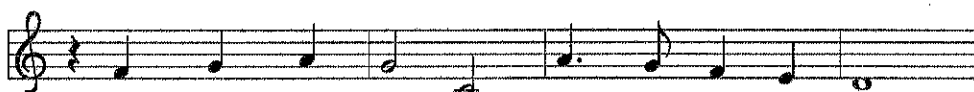
Pastor Kimberly

Hymn of the Day: Founded on Faith, ACS 1048

Founded on Faith



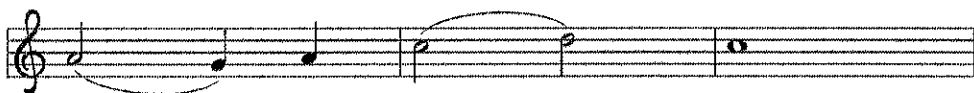
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



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



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



Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949

Music: FOUNDED ON FAITH, Paul D. Weber

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Prayers of the People

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters (*current situations may be named*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness (*especially*). Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community (*local ministries may be named*). Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up in us a heart for the gospel of freedom, a willingness to serve your people, and a commitment to forgiveness and reconciliation. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other, and those we serve in the world. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Celebrating God's Work in Progress

(Presentation of reports and old business)

President's Report- Martha Stetzel

As a council, we certainly appreciated serving our church members this year. We have a very responsive and devoted congregation, which makes giving serving on the council very easy.

The council worked hard to keep the doors open and safe this year. We tackled longstanding issues with the building structure itself and provided comfort, support and fellowship to the congregates. Our youth were busy with Sunday school and confirmation and the women gather for book club. The opportunity to grow in faith is available and I encourage everyone to continue with these activities. As we look forward, we have much to address.

As we are currently operating, our budget is not keeping pace with our expenses. This necessitates growth- growth in membership and giving.

This church has been a long-standing cornerstone for many families and the community. We have a tradition of being a wonderfully welcoming church and want to ensure the longevity and health of our charter.

Thank you for all that you do to make this place so wonderful.

Sincerely, Martha Stetzel Council President 2025

Committee Reports

Faith Formation & Technology Committee – Craig Lamm

Activities & Achievements in 2025

- Continued the Sunday School program throughout the school year.
- Worked to schedule teachers to ensure consistency in teacher availability.

Goals for 2026

- Ensure more consistent scheduling of teachers for Sunday School.
- Work with Sunday school students to decide how to spend the children's offering,
encouraging stewardship and engagement.
- Explore the possibility of adding a Vacation Bible School program.

Technology

Activities & Achievements in 2025

- Installed new, faster internet service from BTWI along with new firewall.
- Set up Wi-Fi for offices, fellowship hall, and sanctuary.
- Migrated phones to Microsoft Teams, allowing the pastor to access calls from anywhere.
- Set up not-for-profit Microsoft licensing, saving costs on Microsoft products.

Goals for 2026

- Expand Wi-Fi access to both floors of the education wing.
- Update sound board and sanctuary computer setup for simplicity/ease of use.
- Add a webcam/microphone setup for streaming church service online.

Worship and Fine Arts Committee- Randy Reuter

The Worship and Fine Arts Committee coordinates the various parts of the worship service. Thank you to all the members who have

volunteered for worship leaders and readers. Also, a big thank you to the people who have signed up for fellowship including Brenda Golay for keeping the kitchen supplied. The Altar Guild is a branch of this committee and is responsible for changing paraments, maintaining the candles, changing banners and preparing for and cleaning up after communion. Volunteers are gladly accepted for these duties. This committee decorates for Christmas and thank you to all the people who stayed after church and helped decorate.

I thank Pastor Belken for her leadership and spiritual guidance each Sunday. The music ministry is provided by Linda Huntington and is beautiful and truly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Reuter

Evangelism/Stewardship Committee- Carol VanKirk

The Evangelism/Stewardship Committee worked diligently to spread the good news of Jesus Christ within the Mt. Olivet Membership, and the Perry Community. The Committee planned an activity schedule at a March Committee Meeting. Carol VanKirk, Karen Sackett, and Pastor Kim attended. I would like to thank everyone that helped with the various activities of the committee this year. Evangelism Community Activities included a float in the 4th of July parade and farmers market booth. Evangelism Church activities included graduation, funerals, and ordination anniversary reception as well as an outdoor community church service.

Several notes and cards were sent to members as needed. A new member reception was organized, and Mt. Olivet welcomed 6 new members this year. For stewardship, the time and talent form was revamped and passed out to members. Two skits were written and performed to encourage members to increase their giving of time, talent and treasures. Results of the forms will be compiled and shared with next year's council members and the congregation. Ideas for next year are a community bike ride and invite a friend to church Sunday. Reaching out to members that have not attended church service recently should also be a focus.

I was happy to serve as the Evangelism/Stewardship chair for this year. I pray for God's blessing and help to assist us in growing in our numbers and ability to give of our time, talent, and treasures in the upcoming year.

Yours in Christ,
Carol VanKirk

Social Concerns Report- Kendra Norman

The social chair provided an Easter Egg hunt for the children after the Easter Sunday service.

The social chair assisted with providing a Mother's Day gift of perfume and wildflowers for Mothers attending worship.

The social chair honored Fathers on Father's Day with a gift of Mr. Goodbars.

Social chair worked with Hotel Pattee to reserve and host a Reformation Party on Reformation Sunday at La Poste. Church members provided a potluck supper and a cash bar was offered for refreshments.

The social chair and church council decided that the filling of the alter with food pantry donations would be continued this year. Church volunteers delivered the food items to the local food pantry. This was well participated in.

The council decided to forego a Christmas donation as it wasn't well received last year and we had just asked for donations for the food pantry.

The social chair assisted in monthly council meetings, a meeting with pastor and the synod representative, and a joint meeting with the council members of Immanuel. The social chair and council worked with the Immanuel council to also celebrate Pastor Lou and Pastor Kim 's anniversary milestones with a special service followed by a brunch at Mt. Olivet.

The social chair assisted in counting money during assigned months.

Kendra Norman
Social Chair, 2025

Property Report- Denny Clark

Property committee was handed some challenges this year and we were able to take on some big challenges. It is great to know that we have overcome these challenges with the generosity of our congregation.

1. Organized the mowing schedule for the church lawn
2. Built new steps for the side kitchen door
3. Had the front doors repaired and repainted
4. Put rocks around the front benches
5. Had the education wing windows reinforced and fixed
6. Gained bids and managed the process for the furnace/AC unit

I appreciate the support the church has provided to maintain the church building.

Sincerely-

Denny Clark, property chairperson

Sleep Space Report- Darlene Lyons and Pastor Kimberly Belken

Sleep Space received 3 significant grants in 2025 that allowed us to continue to provide both beds and needed bedding items to community members in need. We are thankful to St. Martin's Episcopal Church and their Wiese Foundation grant, to the Dallas County Foundation, and to the Prairie Meadows Community Betterment grant program for their funding. We did not have to turn anyone away who was in need.

Each person who comes to the Sleep Space has different bedding needs. Some have misc. bedding items but no beds, others have beds but no bedding, and still others need pretty much everything. In 2025, Sleep Space served 40 members of our community. We provided the following:

- 28 mattress pads
- 29 sheet sets
- 24 comforters
- 39 fleece blankets
- 38 pillows
- 34 mattresses (17 twin, 8 full, and 9 queen)
- 31 bed frames

Sleep Space continues to serve anyone who is in the Perry School District who needs these items. We receive referrals from places such as the Perry Ministerial Association, Perry Public Schools, New Opportunities, and the Dallas County Health Navigators. The majority of people served in 2025 were low income seniors and children. We partner with the Optimist Club in providing children's beds to help stretch our grant funds farther.

We have already received a memorial contribution and another grant from St. Martin's Episcopal Church's Wiese Foundation that will allow us to continue operating this valuable ministry in 2026. Pastor is also working on securing additional grant funds from other sources so that we can continue to respond to every legitimate request received. We can always use volunteers to help with getting bedding items to Sleep Space clients. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Pastor Kimberly or to Darlene.

Thank you for making sure everyone in our Perry community can get a good night sleep! That is essential to everyone's health, well-being and success at school and work.

In Christ,

Pastor Kimberly Belken and Darlene Lyons

Congregational Membership Summary for 2025

Based on ELCA Statistical Report submitted by Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

Membership, end of 2024	170 Baptized	121 Confirmed
Members received during 2025		
By baptism	0	0
By transfer from other congregation	7	2
Total members received in 2025	7	2
Baptized Youth Confirmed in 2025	0	
Members removed during 2025		
By death	2	2
By transfer to another congregation	2	2
Total members removed in 2025	4	4
Membership, end of 2025	173	124

Average Weekly Worship Attendance in 2025:	47
Average in 2024	44
Average in 2023	50
Average in 2022	52

Treasurer's Report

MT. OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH 2026 Budget Report

	Total YTD 10/31/2025	Annualized	2025 Budget	Difference	New Budget	
RECEIPTS						
Offering:						
Benevolence	300.00					
Building & Landscaping	18,957.03					
Coffee Fund	458.00					
Cups of Kindness	1,000.00					
Easter Lillies	140.00					
Thrivent	581.00					
Immanuel Lutheran Ogden	29,644.68	35,573.62	37,446.12	(1,872.50)	37,918.68	472.56
General	78,316.49	93,979.79	108,984.16	(15,004.37)	111,293.12	2,308.96
Memorial	1,755.00					
Lent	-					
Mission	-					
Quarter Tube	102.55					
Sunday/Bible School	-					
Music	-					
Youth/College Kids	56.89					
Total Offering	131,311.64	129,553.40	146,430.28	(16,876.88)	149,211.80	
Sleep Space Project	12,845.00					
Interest Income	525.19	525.00				
TOTAL RECEIPTS	144,681.83	130,078.40		(16,876.88)		
EXPENSES						
Benevolence	5,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	-
Convention	150.00	180.00	500.00	320.00	500.00	-
Cups of Kindness	493.04	500.00	500.00	-	500.00	-
Custodian	3,187.50	3,825.00	3,825.00	-	3,825.00	-
Education	386.14	463.37	300.00	(163.37)	300.00	-
Evangelism	216.72	260.06	1,750.00	1,489.94	1,750.00	-
Insurance	7,410.80	8,892.96	8,700.00	(192.96)	9,500.00	800.00
Music	4,016.92	4,820.30	4,500.00	(320.30)	4,500.00	-
Office Expenses	7,667.51	9,201.01	7,000.00	(2,201.01)	7,500.00	500.00
Pastor:						
Continuing Education	989.40	1,187.28	900.00	(287.28)	900.00	-
Cell Phone	360.00	360.00	360.00	-	360.00	-
Travel/Synod Conf	1,308.60	1,570.32	1,200.00	(370.32)	1,200.00	-
Pensions & Insurance	16,809.63	20,171.56	19,916.28	(255.28)	21,097.80	1,181.52
Professional Expense	300.00	360.00	330.00	(30.00)	330.00	-
Salary	41,472.07	49,766.48	50,133.57	367.09	39,633.57	(10,500.00)
Housing Allowance	14,895.88	17,875.06	17,500.00	(375.06)	28,000.00	10,500.00
Social Security Allowance	5,038.37	6,046.04	6,065.43	19.39	6,065.43	-
Total Pastor	81,173.95	97,336.74	96,405.28	(931.46)	97,586.80	1,181.52
Property	1,095.68	1,314.82	1,750.00	435.18	1,750.00	-
Riverside Bible Camp	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secretary	4,028.05	4,833.66	5,000.00	166.34	5,300.00	300.00
Social Security	801.25	961.50	1,000.00	38.50	1,000.00	-
Stewardship	575.00	690.00	200.00	(490.00)	200.00	-
Utilities Church	6,217.23	7,460.68	7,500.00	39.32	7,500.00	-
Worship	1,463.46	1,756.15	1,500.00	(256.15)	1,500.00	-
Youth	57.60	69.12	-	(69.12)	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	123,447.81	148,065.37	146,430.28	(2,135.09)	149,211.80	2,781.52
Net Budget Items		(17,986.97)	146,430.28			1.90%

Miscellaneous:

Baby Care Kits	-
Benevolence	-
Bible School	-
Building/Property	15,921.37
Call Committee	-
Coffee Fund	140.68
Cups of Kindness	493.04
Easter Lillies/Poinsettias	128.40
Gather to Nourish	-
Lent	-
Memorial Fund	-
Music	-
Perry Ministerial Assc	-
Scholarship	750.00
Sleep Space Project	3,665.09
Sunday School	523.69
Total Miscellaneous	21,622.27
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	145,070.08

Current Wages

Emma - \$18.00/hr. **Proposing no raise for 2026.**

Linda - \$85/Service, \$35/choir. Received \$5 raise in 2025. Choir increased \$5 in 2018. **Proposing no increase for 2026.**

Betty - \$318.75/mo. She has not had an increase in 7 years. **Proposing no increase.**

MT. OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH***Treasurer's Annual Report***

Treasurer - Doug Stetzel and Tyler Huntington

Fund Balances	12/31/2023	12/31/2024	12/31/2025
General	62,646.84	57,848.02	55,415.94
Sleep Space Project	2,503.92	-	4,171.46
Benevolence	520.00	565.00	865.00
Bible School	478.05	478.05	478.05
Building/Property	1,704.30	1,069.62	3,838.09
Christmas Gift Tree	110.00	110.00	110.00
Children's' Offering	736.41	343.38	343.38
Easter Lillies	-	(6.10)	92.90
Food Pantry	70.00	70.00	70.00
Gather To Nourish	441.84	441.84	441.84
Cups of Kindness	11,498.87	5,320.74	5,618.66
Quarter Tube	82.80	82.80	185.35
Coffee Fund	1,016.05	502.10	702.09
Continuing Ed & Prof Expense	2,061.40	1,215.23	1,215.23
Lenten Offerings	145.23	-	-
Memorials - General	9,674.24	7,429.54	9,016.03
Music	1,000.00	224.25	224.25
Scholarship	3,201.92	3,201.92	2,451.92
Thrivent Grant	274.00	274.00	2,292.50
Youth	1,370.80	1,370.80	1,904.00
Total	99,536.67	80,541.19	89,436.69
Receipts	2023	2024	2025
Offering:			
Benevolence / Mission	65.00	45.00	300.00
Building & Landscaping	1,210.00	1,398.92	18,982.03
Coffee Fund	208.00	405.00	484.00
Cups of Kindness	13,905.11	3,511.00	1,000.00
Easter Lillies/Poinsettias	328.00	240.00	280.00
Gather To Nourish	50.00	-	-
General	108,482.43	95,484.05	101,586.22
Memorial	140.00	-	1,755.00
Music	1,000.00	-	-
Lent	25.00	-	-
Children's Offerings	280.70	170.98	1,056.89
Quarter Giving Tube / Perry Ministerial	165.52	171.50	102.55
Scholarship	-	750.00	-
Thrivent Grant	-	-	2,018.50
Total Offering	125,859.76	102,176.45	127,565.19
Immanuel Lutheran Ogden	-	38,366.60	35,885.72
Receipts for Sleep Space Project	5,000.00	2,500.00	14,345.00
Receipts from Endowment	375.96	566.43	1,953.87
Interest Income General	67.32	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	131,303.04	143,609.48	179,749.78

DISBURSEMENTS	2023	2024	2025	2026 Proposal
Benevolence	6,000.00	5,000.00	5,500.00	6,000.00
Call Search Committee	190.76	-	-	-
Convention	-	400.22	150.00	500.00
Cups Of Kindness	-	500.00	-	500.00
Custodian	3,825.00	3,825.00	3,790.62	3,825.00
Education	-	-	386.14	300.00
Evangelism	357.56	618.22	216.72	1,750.00
Insurance	5,587.90	6,858.10	9,189.90	9,500.00
Music	4,352.30	4,083.83	4,752.09	4,500.00
Office Expenses	7,487.42	10,141.34	7,383.88	7,500.00
Pastor:				
Continuing Education	-	600.00	989.40	900.00
Cell Phone	-	-	360.00	360.00
Travel Reimbursement	7,571.07	1,123.05	1,308.60	1,200.00
Professional Expense	-	300.00	300.00	330.00
Pensions & Insurance	4,797.08	17,828.51	20,134.24	21,097.80
Salary	26,134.64	48,109.75	25,140.23	39,633.57
Housing Allowance	7,840.26	20,833.28	42,500.00	28,000.00
Social Security Allowance	2,598.77	6,209.97	6,049.29	6,065.43
Total Pastor	48,941.82	95,004.56	96,781.76	97,586.80
Property	264.52	1,188.24	1,120.02	1,750.00
Secretary	4,841.57	5,617.35	4,070.74	5,300.00
Social Security	991.28	1,042.58	897.01	1,000.00
Stewardship	-	131.82	575.00	200.00
Utilities Church	7,117.79	6,307.53	7,116.14	7,500.00
Worship	2,057.11	1,718.54	2,162.75	1,500.00
Youth	-	-	57.60	-
Budget Items	92,015.03	142,437.33	144,150.37	149,211.80

2026 Budget Committee - Doug Stetzel, Tyler Huntington, Derek VanKirk & Pastor Belken

The proposed budget for 2026 is shown in the right column. A few notes for your reference:

Insurance	Increased \$800 to reflect rate increases.
Pastor Salary	Base Salary - No change. This drops Mt. Olivet slightly below Synod Guidelines. Increased Health Insurance contribution to keep Pastor with the plan of her choice. All pastor expenses per the Definition of Compensation, Benefits and Responsibilities proposal
Secretary	Increased to \$18/hr. Increased budget by \$300
Music	No change

Miscellaneous Payments	2023	2024	2025
Benevolence	-	-	-
Expenses from coffee fund	305.72	751.24	284.01
Cups of Kindness	3,392.22	4,020.73	702.08
Building / Property Improvements	3,759.25	4,413.53	16,213.56
Bible School	-	-	-
Easter Lillies/Poinsettias	388.41	246.10	309.40
Lent	287.72	-	-
Memorials	175.26	-	168.51
Gather to Nourish	-	-	-
Music	-	775.75	-
Perry Ministerial Association	-	171.50	-
Children's Offerings	-	564.01	-
Scholarship	-	750.00	750.00
Sleep Space	7,035.04	8,205.43	8,673.54
Wilbert Demond	-	129.36	-
Youth & Camp Scholarship	-	-	523.69
Total Miscellaneous	15,343.62	20,027.65	27,624.79
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	157,780.95	164,178.02	171,775.16

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2025 TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund Offerings totaled \$101,586 which is up \$6,102 from 2024.

Budgeted Expenses exceeded our Offerings by \$6,678. Budgeted Expenses were \$144,150.

(In 2024, our Operating Expenses were \$142,437)

Total bank balance including Endowment is \$114,514. Balance in 2024 was \$105,618.

Summary of Endowment Fund Activity

	2023	2024	2025
Fund Balance January 1	25,077.71	25,077.71	25,077.71
Income Received	375.96	566.43	1,953.87
Distributions			
To General fund	(375.96)	(566.43)	(1,953.87)
To Savings for operations	-	-	-
Fund Balance December 31	25,077.71	25,077.71	25,077.71

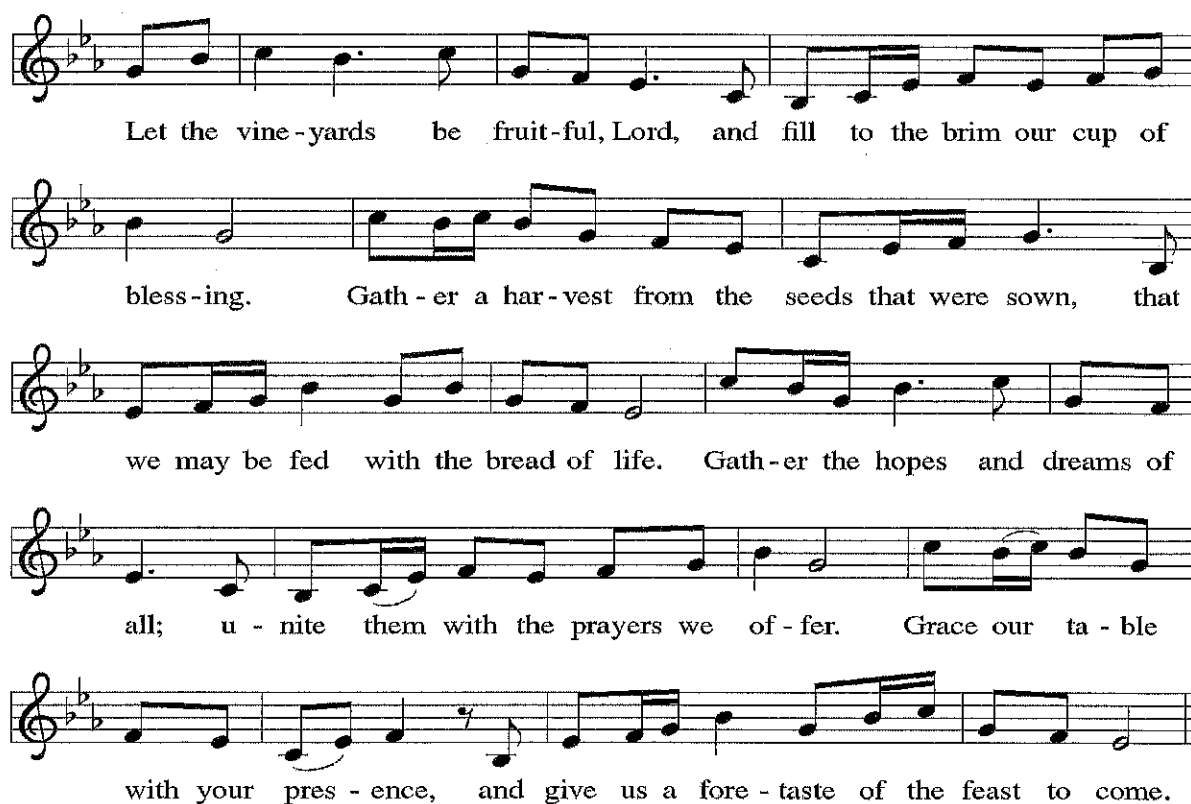
Remaining Old Business

Discerning God's Will (New Business)

Stewardship of God's Good Gifts: Consideration of Proposed 2026 Budget

Recognition of council members who have completed their term: Martha Stetzel, Carol VanKirk, and Craig Lamm

Offering



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

God of majesty,

no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Installation of Church Council and Apostles' Creed

The following persons, having been elected by this congregation to positions of leadership, are asked to come forward as their names are read:

Denny Clark, Meg and Ned Menke, Roger Niemeyer, Kendra Norman, Mike Ramsey, and Randy Reuter.

In Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered to confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

St. Paul writes: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this family of faith reflect Christ in whose name we gather.

You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world.

You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you: are you ready to accept and faithfully carry out the duties to which you have been elected?

(council members respond) Yes, by the help of God.

People of God, I ask you, will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

Yes, by the help of God.

I now declare you installed as council members of Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church. God bless you with the Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

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

Blessing

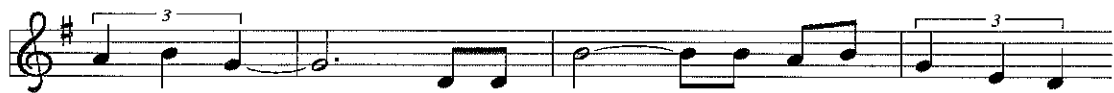
God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Song: We Are Marching in the Light of God, ELW 866

We Are Marching in the Light of God



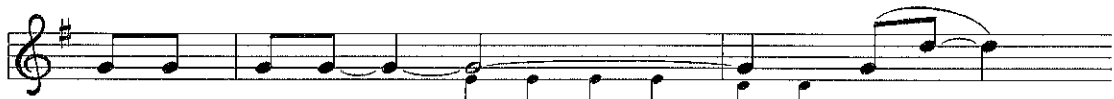
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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Adjourn the Meeting

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

Announcements

- **Office Hours:** Pastor Kimberly will be out of the office on Mondays and Wednesdays. Thursday she can be available, but she splits her time between Mt. Olivet and Immanuel that day so please call ahead to make sure she will be there. You can reach Pastor Kimberly at any time by calling the church phone number 515-465-5298 which rings to her cell phone.
- **Council** will meet Monday, January 19 at 6pm.
- **Lenten worship surveys** are due! We will be having weekly midweek evening Lenten services this year on Wednesdays at 5:30pm. Please help us with planning these services by filling out the enclosed survey and returning to the basket as you leave worship.
- **College Student Care Packages** we would like to send our college students a surprise care package to let them know we are thinking of them and that they are a valuable part of our family of faith. An offering plate is available as you leave church today to help us collect donations for snack items and a devotional book for our students. Help share God's love with a donation for this project.

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

MISSION SUPPORT

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

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

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

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

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

WHERE NEEDED MOST

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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

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