



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE CROSS

*A compassionate community following the way of
Jesus, embracing diversity, love, and service*

Bulletin of Reports

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, February 8, 2026

11:30 AM in the Church Hall

Prepared By:

Richel P. & Pastor Lindsey

Edited by:

Nadine S.

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2025

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AGENDA - Annual General Meeting

February 8, 2026 – 11:30 am in the Church Hall

1. Call to Order
2. Establishment of Quorum
3. Opening Prayer
4. Review of the Behavioral Covenant
5. Approval of the AGM Agenda
Motion: The Congregation accepts the Agenda as presented.
6. Approval of the Bulletin of Reports
Motion: That the Congregation approve the 2025 reports as presented.
7. The 2026 Budget
Motion: That the Congregation approve the 2026 Budget as presented.
8. Election of New Council Members
The congregation may elect up to 3 new members of church council.
The term length of the position is 2 years with the opportunity to renew for no more than 3 consecutive terms.
-Presentation of Council Nominees
-Call for Nominations from the floor
-Vote
9. Authorization of 2025 AGM Minutes
Motion: The Congregation authorizes Congregational Council to approve the minutes from the 2025 Annual General Meeting.
10. Closing Prayer
11. Motion to Adjourn

Our Staff



Rev. Lindsey
Pastor



Richel
Office Administrator



Catherine
Minister of Music



Oksana
Pianist



Isobel
Custodian



Trevor
Custodian

Our 2025 Council

Bill O.
Co-Chair

Paddy C.
Co-Chair

Nadine S.
Secretary

Trudy H.
Treasurer

Laverne R.
Financial Secretary
(serving off council)

Isobel C.

Lisa R.

Nyajuok K.

Hanna J.

Archie W.

Our Ministers

Every member and friend of Church of the Cross who takes part in the ministry and mission that we are called to share.

Pastor's Report

Dear Beloved of God,

Change is a word we often don't like to embrace when it comes to our lives or our faith. Change, as we know from our personal experience, can be difficult. There is, after all, a level of comfort in what we have become accustomed to experiencing as God's people at Church of the Cross. We all have our preferred place to sit, or perhaps even a favorite hymn that help us to feel at home within this congregation.



But those things aren't what makes Church of the Cross the wonderful community of faith it has blossomed into over its 65 years. It's the body of Christ that has come to be welcomed and be fed here week after week. It's the intergenerational relationships of care and support that have been fostered through our shared ministry. It's the grace and love of God we have all come to know as we have gathered as a community. These are the things that will always remain central as they are at the core of our DNA as a family of faith.

Yet we know that our world is ever changing and evolving around us. Churches across denominational lines have begun to signal that change has meant attempting to do more with less. It has meant that congregations like ours need to be nimble and open to new possibilities in their ministries more than ever.

Within our own context, we have realized the need to supplement our income through the use of our building's rental capacity. With the aid and guidance of our Synod and Council we were able to engage with Katja Brittain, a seasoned consultant specializing in church management, mission realignment, and sustainability this fall. She shared that while our building is a place of gathering for worship and care for our community - it can be so much more. We can leverage our building's use, partnering with like-minded organizations and people to continue to carry out the mission we share.

Specifically for us, this will mean a concerted effort in 2026 to take on new rental opportunities within our building. This will come to change the use of our space at times – but will allow us to be better stewards of our buildings needs and ministry. I am thankful for all those who have come forward to envision these possibilities for our congregation: Church Council, Administration committee, ELCOC members and friends, and our staff.



This is an important endeavor as we know 2026 will pose some concerns and questions as far as how our budgetary needs are met. I believe with the strong community we are continuing to build, alongside our focus on seeking additional rental funds we will find a path forward in hope and trust of what God has placed before us – the gift of a ministry of diversity, love, and service within a Christ-centred, compassionate community.

Even in the midst of these trying and uncertain times we know there is much to celebrate. We have undertaken important work as a congregation over the last year:

Welcoming Visitors and New Members: Over the course of the last year we have had over 50 new individuals connect with our congregation during Sunday morning worship! I have heard time and time again from these visitors that they feel welcomed, cared for, and seen by our church – which has led 10 of them to join our congregation in the last year and many more to continue to journey with us as they explore their faith. I continue to reach out to all who sign our guest book and have been meeting them to hear about their journey of faith and how we might come alongside them or their families.



Ministry Partners: We partnered with several area Lutheran congregations to carry out our ministry! In 2025 we were warmly welcomed by All Saints Lutheran Church to jointly share a Pancake supper for Shrove Tuesday. A group of our members joined six area Lutheran congregations in an ongoing course called “Recognizing the Stranger” where we have learned together how to form communities of care in Christ like ways, intentionally welcome those we do not yet know within our ministry, and seek out ways to serve with and within our community. We also partnered once again with Hope Lutheran and Advent Lutheran to teach a shared confirmation class three times a month. At each gathering the students learn together following a shared lunch put on by the host congregation. I am so thankful to the students for sharing their faith journeys and to Pastor Aaron S. and Pastor Greg S. for their gifts of teaching shared.

Membership Review: Council reviewed Church of the Cross membership list in 2025 and updated our congregational membership to 219 in our Annual Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada (ELCIC) Parochial Report. This allows our records to correctly reflect our congregation at this moment in time to both the Synod of Alberta and the Territories and our National Church office. It is also important as we are able to best steward our resources for Synodical and National events where our payment is based on our active membership number.



Infrastructure Essentials: We have worked diligently to begin addressing some of our church buildings major infrastructure needs in 2025. This began with the replacement of the narthex furnace, and has continued with the diligent work of our community and council in addressing our need to replace the Sanctuary furnace.

Even in the midst of this season of change, God continues to be faithful. And as a congregation, we have continued to faithfully respond to the call of God by sharing our gifts our community in meaningful ways. Whether it is through volunteering your time to serve on one of our many rosters, committees, or the church council. Helping with our annual clothing drive, assisting with seniors' lunches, or lending your gifts to help enrich our time of worship. By making prayer shawls, welcoming visitors checking out our congregation, spending time with our children and youth, or by helping plan things behind the scenes - we have all been richly blessed by your faithful response to God's call to you here in this congregation. Thank you for all the ways you have and continue to support Lutheran Church of the Cross.



As we begin another year together as a community of faith, I look forward to the ways we will continue to learn and grow together as we listen to the ways God is calling us to carry out the life and mission of this congregation in 2026. A mission that will call us to lean into the winds of change – trusting in the hope of God as we follow where the Spirit leads us all. With this in mind I wish to share key areas of ministry I am feeling a sense of call to in 2026:

Congregational Care – Stephen Ministry: I have so appreciated when you have taken the time to share with me when someone is in hospital, may be in need of pastoral care, or has recently had a loved one pass away. It has truly helped me connect with our community and care for you all more deeply. To aid and support the pastoral care already in place within our community in 2026 we will see the return of Stephen Ministries at Church of the Cross. Stephen Ministries is a Lutheran Lay led ministry where members of the congregation trained in listening, care, and prayer journey alongside those in need of support within our community. I am thankful for the support of the Endowment fund to ensure that Hilary G. and myself could be trained to be “Stephen leaders” at Church of the Cross. In the Fall of 2026 you will hear us advertising a course to train Stephen ministers within the congregation to serve our community. If you are feeling a call to this ministry please connect with Hilary G. or myself.



Welcoming Visitors and New Members: Given this influx of interest in our congregation over 2025 it is time to think about our formal practices of welcome when new people visit our congregation. As a result, we have made up some “visitor” bags to help share about our community with those who are with us for the first time. Each contains information on our congregation, our staff, our monthly small groups and activities, as well as a small book on the Lutheran view of church. In the next year it is my hope to revitalize a former practice of the congregation I have heard about - that being new members were once partnered with long-time members or those with similar interests to help ensure they continued to find the support and care they needed within the congregation. If you are interested in this ministry please reach out as I would love to see it at work within our community once more.

Stewardship: This year I will work alongside council to ensure we are communicating regularly and transparently about the financial stewardship of our ministry, the stewardship of our building, and the stewardship of our faith. In 2026, we will relaunch the stewardship committee to hold quarterly meetings, plan stewardship services, raise awareness of our budget needs, and encourage the congregation in the sharing of their gifts. This is just a starting point and so I look forward to working alongside the stewardship committee to plan for future events and theme Sundays.

Website: Our online presence is extremely important for those seeking to connect with our congregation and for those who might want to see who we are before they attend a service with us in person or online. With this in mind, I will be spending some time updating our website this summer to actively reflect our community of faith. If you are interested or passionate about sharing our ministries, web development, or ways to best invite others to join us in the mission we share via our online presence please reach out. I would love your help.

I am grateful for all the ways you continue to uplift and support the life and work of Lutheran Church of the Cross with your time, talents, and stewardship. I am thankful for hours of dedication volunteers, ministries, committees, church council, and our staff have put in to ensure we remain a vibrant and welcoming community of faith within this neighborhood. I am honored to serve alongside the members and friends of this congregation in the mission we have been called to share. And I feel privileged to work alongside our talented minister of music Catherine, and our caring office administrator Richel.

Continue to pray for us as a family of faith, and listen for the ways God is calling forth the many gifts and blessings you have been given to share with this congregation and our wider community - and may the grace and peace of God be with you all as we do.

In Christ,
Pastor Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum



Council Co-Chairs

Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of 2025, we would like to share an update on the life and finances of our church, and to thank you for the remarkable care and generosity you have shown throughout the year.

This past year has brought some financial challenges. When we approved the 2025 budget, we anticipated a deficit of about \$30,000 and believed we could manage it responsibly. For much of the year, we were making good progress—until the unexpected failure of the Narthex furnace added roughly \$25,000 in unplanned expenses. Thanks to retained earnings and a legacy gift from the Mattheis family, we were able to absorb that cost and continue moving forward.



As the year drew to a close, however, we also lost rental income from IFI and the Southwood Church of God—revenue that will need to be replaced in 2026. By the end of 2025, our overall deficit stood at approximately \$43,500.

What happened next speaks volumes about the strength of this congregation. When Council shared this situation in December, the response was immediate and generous. Because of your support, we start 2026 with a small amount to draw upon. We are currently out of the red, and we are on our way to having the funds needed to replace the Sanctuary furnace. If a provincial government grant comes through, we expect to be able to complete that work in 2026.

There are, however, still challenges: we continue to monitor the roof, which is holding for now; the interior of the church would benefit from some refreshing; and our A/V system needs attention, including a new projector and laptop. These are important concerns, but our main challenge for 2026 is the General Operating budget—covering building and grounds maintenance, utilities, office expenses, insurance, and salaries. Of these, salaries are our single largest expense. We're still projecting a deficit in 2026.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity that arrives each Christmas season, and especially for what you have given this year. At the same time, to be sustainable we need steadier giving throughout the year—approximately 15% more overall.

With that in mind, Council would like to explore a practice that has been suggested several times: annual pledges. A simple pledge system for 2026 would allow us to track progress month by month, plan more carefully, and respond early if we begin to fall behind. We believe this could be an important step toward strengthening the church's long-term financial health.

There is much to be hopeful about. Membership is increasing. The new Narthex furnace is in place, ensuring a warm and comfortable winter. Time has been freed up to pursue more sustainable rental opportunities. We have struck a Property Administration Committee to handle building maintenance and rentals. Our Annual General Meeting is approaching, bringing the possibility of fresh ideas and new energy on Council. And, as always, we move forward grounded in faith.

Thank you once again for your generosity, your trust, and your commitment to this community. There is still work to do, but we look forward to another year of spiritual growth, renewal, and shared purpose.

With gratitude and hope,

Bill Ogilvie & Paddy Colfer

One behalf of
ELCOC Church Council



Treasurer Report

2025 FINANCIALS

The following documents present the financial position and operating results of Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross for the year end December 31, 2025:

1. Consolidated Balance Sheet for all funds at December 31, 2025.
2. Income and Expense Statement for the 01 - GENERAL FUND
3. Income and Expense Statement for the 02 – DESIGNATED RESERVE FUND

2026 BUDGET

We are putting forward a budget for 2026 using our collected estimates for the income expenses for 2025.

The resulting budget reflects a deficit of \$ 22,601.

The council feels that the expenses are fairly represented.

To sustain our congregation our revenues must increase.

As this is the case, increased rental income will be one area of focus for our council and administration committee in 2026.

	Current Year
ASSETS	
BANK ACCOUNTS	
CHEQUING ACCOUNT	
RBC Chqg - General	\$5,924.15
RBC Chqg -Designated/Pass	155,484.51
RBC for Endowment	7,600.29
Subtotal Chequing Account	169,008.95
Subtotal Bank Accounts	169,008.95
INVESTMENTS	
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS	
Endowment Investment	106,900.00
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	
GST Receivable	1,304.15
02 fd GST Receivable	902.01
Other Accounts Receivable	555.02
Subtotal Accounts Receivable	2,761.18
Subtotal Investments	109,661.18
CAPITAL ASSETS	
LAND	
Church Land	13,768.00
BUILDINGS	
Church Building	1,901,310.55
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	
Organ	22,200.00
Other Furniture & Fixture	64,928.99
Piano	55,072.87
Subtotal Furniture & Fixtures	142,201.86
Subtotal Capital Assets	2,057,280.41
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,335,950.54
NET ASSETS/EQUITY	
Members General Equity	\$2,065,063.73
DESIGNATED FUNDS	
Catering/Event	2,279.26
Endow.Fd Projects	2,294.94
Memorial Fund Balance	18,766.10
Leadership Project Fund	250.00
Urban Forest Project	978.72
EDUCATION	
BLAST	111.33
Luth. Th. Seminary Intern	2,076.25
Subtotal Education	2,187.58
SOCIAL MINISTRY	
Refugee Mission Fb	10.00

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross

Balance Sheet

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Funds 01-03, December 2025

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	Current Year
Senior Lunch	436.44
Layettes & Quilt Fund	876.88
Christmas Hampers Fund	(29.01)
Families in Need Fund	3,905.83
Kuriakos Camper Fund	10.00
CLWR Fund	116.40
Luth Campus Min. Fund	10.00
Misc. Charity Fund	50.00
Subtotal Social Ministry	5,386.54
 MEN'S BREAKFAST	
Men's Breakfast Fund	5,570.85
WORSHIP & MUSIC	
Worship Enhancement	401.34
YOUTH	
Youth Conf & Gather Fund	10,841.96
Youth Actvty & Supply Fd	(187.62)
Subtotal Youth	10,654.34
 NON-CHARITABLE FUNDS	
Canada Luth Mag Fund	(158.46)
Misc. Non-Charitable Fund	1,327.80
Subtotal Non-charitable Funds	1,169.34
 RESERVE FUNDS	
Major Church Maint Fd	47,823.33
Subtotal Designated Funds	97,762.34
 BUILDING FUND BALS	
Building Fd Balance	58,624.18
Subtotal Net Assets/equity	2,221,450.25
 PERMANENTLY RESTR. FB	
Endowment Fund Balance	114,500.29
TOTAL EQUITY	2,335,950.54
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$2,335,950.54

Income and Expense Statement

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GENERAL FUND 01, January 2025 - December 2025

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	Current Period	Year to Date Budget
INCOME		
GENERAL OFFERING		
Member General Offering	\$226,237.98	\$239,760.00
Non-member General Offrg	39,964.42	10,656.00
Loose Offering	2,600.00	2,664.00
Subtotal General Offering	268,802.40	253,080.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	268,802.40	253,080.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
RENTAL INCOME		
Church Rental Income	36,985.00	46,620.00
TOTAL INCOME	305,787.40	299,700.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	305,787.40	299,700.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES & PAYMENTS		
MINISTRIES		
GIVE		
General Outreach Paymt	\$0.00	\$250.00
Benevolence (Bdgt) Pmt	22,644.00	23,976.00
Misc. charity payment	1,210.00	1,200.00
General Stewardship Pmt	629.04	200.00
Subtotal Give	24,483.04	25,626.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	24,483.04	25,626.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
STUDY		
Confirmation Payments	232.47	600.00
Adult Education	344.96	200.00
Subtotal Study	577.43	800.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	577.43	800.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
PRAY		
Prayer Practices	0.00	1,200.00
INVITE		
New Member Tags/Photos	103.78	100.00
Coffee & Juice Payment	945.30	504.00
Misc Invite	0.00	100.00
Affirming Ministry	399.95	500.00
Subtotal Invite	1,449.03	1,204.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	1,449.03	1,204.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
ENCOURAGE		
Member Care Supplies	40.33	0.00
Youth Actvty & Supply Pmt	20.46	100.00
Misc Encourage	0.00	100.00
Subtotal Encourage	60.79	200.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	60.79	200.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
WORSHIP		

Income and Expense Statement

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GENERAL FUND 01, January 2025 - December 2025

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	Current Period	Year to Date Budget
Wshp & Music General Pmt	0.00	500.00
Communion Element Pmt	235.04	200.00
Worship & Music Mtce Pmt	1,441.31	1,500.00
Musician Payment	10,075.00	10,400.00
Music Supply Payment	51.80	500.00
Minister of Music Payment	28,209.90	28,210.00
Worship Licenses	996.23	1,500.00
Altar Guild	0.00	400.00
Banners/Liturgical Art	41.00	300.00
Special Service Supplies	980.18	500.00
Misc. WORSHIP	330.67	200.00
Subtotal Worship	42,361.13	44,210.00
Budgeted	42,361.13	44,210.00
Non-Budgeted	0.00	0.00
SERVE		
Council Initiative	318.34	400.00
Convention Payment	0.00	1,810.00
Layettes & Quilt Payment	225.88	0.00
CACG	2,264.00	2,398.00
Misc SERVE	165.52	400.00
Subtotal Serve	2,973.74	5,008.00
Budgeted	2,747.86	5,008.00
Non-Budgeted	225.88	0.00
Subtotal Ministries	71,905.16	78,248.00
Budgeted	71,679.28	78,248.00
Non-Budgeted	225.88	0.00
PERSONNEL		
CRA PAYMENTS		
Sr Pastor CRA Pymnts	17,922.39	5,542.00
Office Admin CRA Pymnts	7,152.44	2,593.00
Subtotal Cra Payments	25,074.83	8,135.00
Budgeted	25,074.83	8,135.00
Non-Budgeted	0.00	0.00
ELCIC-PENSION/BENEFITS		
Sr Pastor Pens/Ben Pmt	27,384.95	19,254.00
Office Admin Pens/Ben Pmt	10,430.04	8,417.00
Subtotal Elcic-pension/benefits	37,814.99	27,671.00
Budgeted	37,814.99	27,671.00
Non-Budgeted	0.00	0.00
PASTORAL SALARY PAYMENTS		
Senior Pastor Net Pay	73,915.83	94,277.00
Office Admin Net Pay	24,050.73	31,450.00
Subtotal Pastoral Salary Payments	97,966.56	125,727.00
Budgeted	97,966.56	125,727.00
Non-Budgeted	0.00	0.00
EDUCATION & TRAINING		
Sr Pastor Ed/Training	1,258.78	100.00

Income and Expense Statement

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GENERAL FUND 01, January 2025 - December 2025

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	Current Period	Year to Date Budget
IN-HOUSE CONTRACT & SPRT		
Supply Preacher Payment	1,200.00	0.00
OTHER HR		
Senior Pastor Vehicle Exp	891.94	600.00
Subtotal Personnel	164,207.10	162,233.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	164,207.10	162,233.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
GENERAL EXPENSES		
OFFICE		
Office Supply & Equipment	14,467.55	12,000.00
Telephone & Internet Pay	7,145.43	6,000.00
Postage & Delivery Paymt	393.80	200.00
Subtotal Office	22,006.78	18,200.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	22,006.78	18,200.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
UTILITIES		
Church Utilities Payment	25,069.87	25,000.00
Church Security Sys Pmt	2,021.49	2,000.00
Waste Removal Payment	2,049.13	2,000.00
Subtotal Utilities	29,140.49	29,000.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	29,140.49	29,000.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
MAINTENANCE		
Church Maintenance Pmt	9,008.05	10,000.00
Church Grounds Mtce Pmt	12,163.60	8,200.00
Janitorial Labour Payment	11,520.00	11,520.00
Janitorial Supply Payment	896.71	1,400.00
Subtotal Maintenance	33,588.36	31,120.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	33,588.36	31,120.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
INSURANCE		
Church Property Ins Pmt	15,012.00	14,500.00
Accident Insurance Pmt	350.00	350.00
Subtotal Insurance	15,362.00	14,850.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	15,362.00	14,850.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
OTHER PROPERTY		
Major Church Mtce Pmt	12,000.00	12,000.00
FINANCING		
Bank Charge Payments	1,056.48	500.00
Subtotal General Expenses	113,154.11	105,670.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	113,154.11	105,670.00
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	349,266.37	346,151.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	349,040.49	346,151.00

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross

Income and Expense Statement

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GENERAL FUND 01, January 2025 - December 2025

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	Current Period	Year to Date Budget
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	225.88	0.00
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	<u>(\$43,478.97)</u>	<u>(\$46,451.00)</u>
<i>Budgeted</i>	(43,253.09)	(46,451.00)
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	(225.88)	0.00

Income and Expense Statement

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PT/DESIGNATED/RESERVE 02, January 2025 - December 2025

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Current Period

INCOME

DESIGNATED/PASS-THRU INC

INT/INVESTMENT INCOME

Catering/Events	\$2,070.07
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SOCIAL MINISTRY

SWARM (Refugee Mission)	20.00
Families in Need Offrg	3,835.00
Kuriakos Camper Offering	10.00
CLWR Offering	50.00
Luth Campus Min Ofg	30.00
Misc. Charity Offering	50.00

Subtotal Social Ministry	3,995.00
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MENS BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast offering	745.00
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NON-CHARITABLE FUNDS

Can Luth Mag receipts	98.47
Misc. Non-charitable Ofg	300.00

Subtotal Non-charitable Funds	398.47
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RESERVE FUNDS

Major Church Maint	12,299.05
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FURNACE FUND INCOME

Furnace Fund	58,624.18
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TOTAL INCOME	78,131.77
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DESIGNATED EXPENSES

SPECIAL FUNDS EXP

Catering/Events	\$1,407.33
Endow.Fd Projects Exp	601.61
Senior Lunch	(557.50)

SOCIAL MINISTRY

SWARM (Refugee Mission)	10.00
Layettes & Quilt Payment	227.52
Families in Need Payment	3,163.60
CLWR Payment	40.00
Luth Campus Min. payment	20.00

Subtotal Social Ministry	3,461.12
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YOUTH

Youth Conf & Gthg Pmt	5,878.34
Youth Actvty & Supply Pmt	58.72

Subtotal Youth	5,937.06
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NON-CHARITABLE FUNDS

Canada Luth Mag Pmt	136.66
Misc. Non-charitable pmt.	10,000.00

Subtotal Non-charitable Funds	10,136.66
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Subtotal Special Funds Exp	20,986.28
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RESERVE FUNDS

Major Church Maint	31,894.56
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Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross

Income and Expense Statement

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PT/DESIGNATED/RESERVE 02, January 2025 - December 2025

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Current Period

TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>52,880.84</u>
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	<u>\$25,250.93</u>

2026 BUDGET

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS 2026 BUDGET

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
INCOME			
Member General Offering	\$239,760	\$225,450	\$223,200
Non-member General Offering	\$10,656	\$40,742	\$14,400
Offering third party			\$3,600
Loose Offering	\$2,664	\$2,600	\$2,400
RENTAL INCOME	\$46,620	\$36,985	\$30,000
TOTAL GENERAL INCOME	\$299,700	\$305,777	\$273,600
EXPENSES AND PAYMENTS			
MINISTRIES			
INREACH			
Subtotal Encourage	\$200	\$61	\$100
OUTREACH			
Subtotal Give	\$25,626	\$24,483	\$23,520
Subtotal Serve	\$5,008	\$2,974	\$2,532
Subtotal Invite	\$1,204	\$1,449	\$1,450
FAITH FORMATION			
Subtotal Study	\$800	\$577	\$500
Subtotal Prayer	\$1,200	\$0	\$0
WORSHIP			
Subtotal Worship	\$44,210	\$42,361	\$32,460
TOTAL MINISTRIES	\$78,248	\$71,905	\$60,562
PERSONNEL			
Subtotal CRA Payments	\$8,135	\$7,148	\$5,638
Subtotal ELCIC GSI Group Services	\$27,671	\$29,778	\$21,422
Subtotal Salaries	\$125,727	\$123,934	\$106,304
Subtotal Education & Training	\$100	\$1,255	\$500
Subtotal In-house Contract & Support	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200
Vehicle expense	\$600	\$892	\$900
Subtotal Other HR			
SUBTOTAL PERSONNEL	\$162,233	\$164,207	\$135,964
GENERAL EXPENSES			
Subtotal Office	\$18,200	\$22,007	\$18,900
Subtotal Utilities	\$29,000	\$29,140	\$29,000
Subtotal Maintenance	\$31,120	\$33,588	\$35,220
Subtotal Insurance	\$14,850	\$15,362	\$15,855
Subtotal Financing	\$500	\$1,046	\$700
SUBTOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	\$93,670	\$101,143	\$99,675
Major Church Maintenance	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$346,151	\$349,255	\$296,201
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$299,700	\$305,777	\$273,600
OPERATING INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$46,451	-\$43,478	-\$22,601

book allowance
Supply pastor \$200/wk

Financial Secretary

2025 Financial Secretary Report

The following monies have been received by the Financial Secretary:

General Offering - Members (Receiptable)	221,299.25
General Offering - Non-Members (Receiptable)	39,871.60
General Offering - Third Party (Non-Receiptable)	5,020.55
General Offering - Loose (Non-Receiptable)	2,611.00
Facility Rental	36,985.00
Total General Income	\$305,787.40
Designated / Pass-Through Contributions (Receiptable)	60,109.18
Designated / Pass-Through Income (Non-Receiptable)	10,041.59
Total Designated / Pass-Through Income	\$70,150.77
Total Income	\$375,938.17

Contribution Range Reports

General Offering - Members (Receiptable)

Range	# of Contributors		Total Given	Average per Contributor
0.00	0	64	0.00	0.00
0.01	100	6	223.50	37.25
100.01	500	9	2,866.06	318.45
500.01	1,000	9	8,145.00	905.00
1,000.01	5,000	32	75,208.01	2,350.25
5,000.01	10,000	13	96,056.68	7,388.98
10,000.01	50,000	3	38,800.00	12,933.33
Total	136		\$221,299.25	\$1,627.20

General Offering - Members and Non-Members (Receiptable)

Range	# of Contributors		Total Given	Average per Contributor
0.01	100	23	1,004.72	43.68
100.01	500	15	4,321.06	288.07
500.01	1,000	11	9,770.00	888.18
1,000.01	5,000	37	86,218.39	2,330.23
5,000.01	10,000	13	96,056.68	7,388.98
10,000.01	50,000	4	63,800.00	15,950.00
Total	103		\$261,170.85	\$2,535.64

Total Contributions including Designated / Pass-Through (Receiptable)

Range	# of Contributors		Total Given	Average per Contributor
0.01	100	26	1,199.72	46.14
100.01	500	14	3,901.06	278.65
500.01	1,000	11	9,530.00	866.36
1,000.01	5,000	39	93,179.57	2,389.22
5,000.01	10,000	9	66,216.68	7,357.41
10,000.01	50,000	9	147,253.00	16,361.44
Total	108		\$321,280.03	\$2,974.82

On the following page there is a historical breakdown of the yearly contribution totals by fund for the years 2021 to 2025. Those funds that are part of **General Income** are highlighted in Bolded Black, while the remaining funds shown are **Designated / Pass-Through** funds including the funds in **Bolded Blue** which are all part of the **Maintenance Fund**, and the funds in **Bolded Purple** which are all part of the **Furnace Fund**. In addition, there is also a historical breakdown of the yearly contribution totals by contribution type and number of active contributors.

Yearly Contribution Totals by Fund

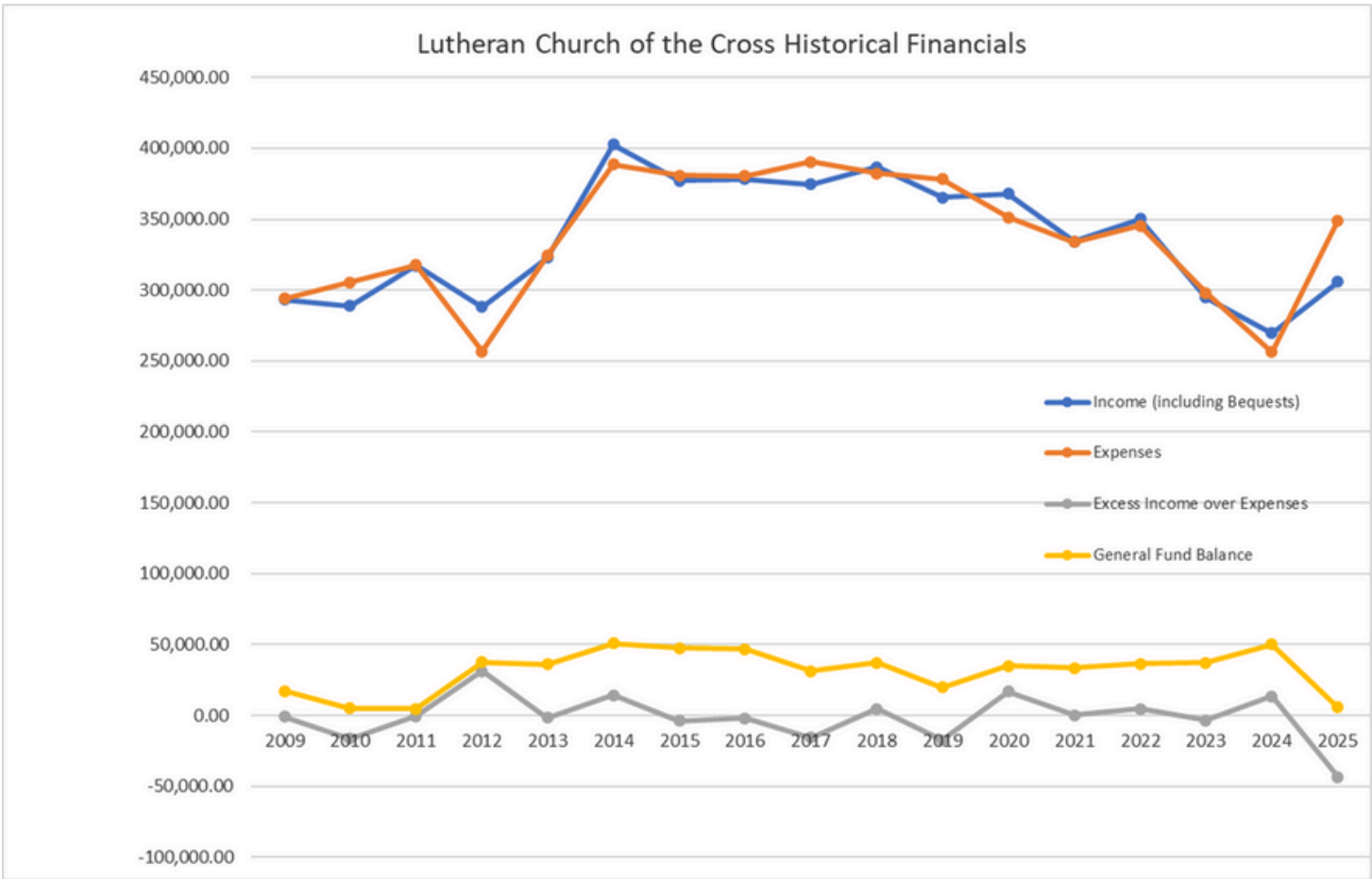
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
1 - General Offering Members (R)	221,299.25	215,595.43	253,576.27	293,250.63	266,634.87
2 - Gen, Offering non-members(R)	39,871.60	9,903.45	9,747.56	13,482.61	8,847.76
3 - Maintenance Fund (R)	2,713.00	4,256.80	1,880.00	0.00	0.00
7 - Cdn Lutheran World Relief(R)	50.00	175.00	710.00	1,481.80	290.00
9 - Families in Need(R)	3,676.00	430.00	1,385.00	1,045.00	2,365.00
10 - Mustard Seed(R)	0.00	0.00	140.00	25.00	170.00
12 - Memorial Fund(R)	0.00	0.00	100.00	2,930.04	350.00
15 - Benevolence(R)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	530.00
16 - Inter Faith Food Bank (R)	0.00	75.00	205.00	395.00	335.00
17 - BB4CK (R)	0.00	250.00	190.00	45.00	40.00
18 - Lutheran Hospital Ministries(R)	0.00	25.00	360.00	80.00	1,565.00
22 - Camp Kuriakos (R)	10.00	0.00	190.00	0.00	120.00
24 - Lutheran Campus Ministry (R)	30.00	20.00	350.00	90.00	334.79
26 - Misc Charities Income(R)	0.00	10.00	225.00	0.00	0.00
30 - Sanctuary Enhancement Fund (R)	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34 - Catering & Events (R)	0.00	180.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
35 - Leadership Project (R)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,740.00
214 - Urban Forest (R)	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	2,000.00
223 - Refugee Mission (R)	20.00	1,175.00	1,985.00	4,379.58	900.00
301 - Endowment Fund Offering (R)	0.00	0.00	3,600.00	3,660.00	2,200.00
214 - Urban Forest (NR)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00
303 - Furnace Fund (R)	53,610.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2001 - Gen. offering Third Party (NR)	5,020.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	480.00
2002 - General Offering Loose (NR)	2,611.00	2,426.62	2,867.70	1,902.76	263.11
2003 - Facility Rental(NR)	36,985.00	41,795.00	28,600.00	27,145.00	25,660.00
2006 - Cdn Lutheran World Relief (NR)	0.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00
2012 - Misc Charities Income(NR)	50.00	900.00	0.00	115.00	0.00
2013 - Misc Non-Charitable Income(NR)	400.00	10,182.80	950.00	240.00	86.80
2016 - Layettes (CLWR) (NR)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
2021 - Canada Lutheran Mag(NR)	98.47	0.00	117.00	77.96	137.49
2030 - Youth Con & Gath (NR)	0.00	125.00	0.00	0.00	5,337.00
2031 - Families in need(NR)	159.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2035 - Catering/Events(NR)	2,070.07	976.23	577.52	3,321.56	0.00
2036 - Men's Breakfast (NR)	745.00	535.85	1,458.25	350.00	258.75
2040 - Community Engagement (NR)	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
2043 - Memorial Fund (NR)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
2044 - Employment Grant (NR)	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,358.00	32,535.50
2045 - GSI Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,685.18	0.00
2046 - Building Fund (NR)	0.00	1,400.11	1,368.65	0.00	0.00
2205 - Senior's Lunch (NR)	919.00	391.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2303 - Furnace Fund (NR)	5,014.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4000 - Maintenance Fund (NR)	586.05	2,445.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	375,938.17	293,773.34	310,632.95	391,120.12	368,681.07

Yearly Contribution Totals by Contribution Type

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Cash / Cheque	68,890.52	48,045.12	83,406.48	112,960.91	81,900.00
PAR (monthly withdrawals)	120,554.00	117,707.50	143,239.00	150,769.00	146,729.00
Online (e-Transfers and Tithe.ly)	131,835.51	66,643.06	48,018.35	57,194.75	61,793.42
Non-Receiptable	54,658.14	61,377.66	35,969.12	70,195.46	78,258.65
	375,938.17	293,773.34	310,632.95	391,120.12	368,681.07

Number of Active Contributors

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Number of Active Contributors	108	97	111	135	111



Respectfully submitted,
Laverne Rude
ELCOC Financial Secretary

Minister of Music

What a year 2025 has been! It has been my privilege to serve as Minister of Music [part time] at Lutheran Church of the Cross for more than 20 years. While the last few years have presented many challenges, this past year has been such a joy to welcome and work together in ministry with both Pastor Lindsey and Richel.



The primary function of my role as Minister of Music is worship. Pastor Lindsey and I work together to plan the themes and focus of worship. I study the scripture lessons that have been appointed for each Sunday to identify the themes. We choose the liturgy [order of service] for each worship service. I choose the hymns which requires considerable thought, careful planning and research and lots of prayer for guidance as there are so many aspects to hymn singing that I have to consider. In any given service, I try to find a balance of new and less familiar hymns; a variety of styles of hymns; hymns that represent our historical tradition and those that are more contemporary; hymns that provide a flow to our worship and fit together in a cohesive manner. And in addition to those considerations, it is essential that the hymns support and enhance the lessons used in that service. I usually write many "idea" lists for several weeks/months in advance. I utilize many, many resources, which are often spread all over my office! Putting together the plans for our worship service takes many hours each week.

Worship planning is a big part of my thinking process each week. Of course, putting those plans into action requires an enormous effort from our entire team to find the worship and music resources, and to then create Leaders Guides, Power Points and bulletins for worship each week. Richel is an essential part of this process. Richel is a quick learner whose attention to detail is amazing. Richel is a gift to all of us!!

One aspect of our worship life that makes my heart so happy is the commitment and leadership of our Assisting Ministers. We have trained a wonderful core of individuals who offer their leadership skills on a rotational basis. Many thanks to Eleandra C., Maureen L., Pat N., Janis O., Nadine S., and Maria H. The worship team also includes lectors, ushers, altar guild and many others.

I am grateful to our very dedicated Tech Team who have developed many skills in this changing environment of tech. I know that online worship has become an important lifeline for many of our members. We are grateful to the core members of our Tech Team for their faithful service: Bill O., Lisa and Laverne R., Hannah R., Stephen M., Archie W., Trevor C., Hilary G., Richard J., and Nyajuok K.

We were thrilled that our LCC choir relaunched last February. We meet every Thursday evening and again on Sunday mornings to sing, learn and share in lighthearted banter.

I admit that it is a bit of a challenge to find suitable resources for our choir – our music library was developed when the choir was much larger so I am dedicating time to searching for suitable resources – a bit of a challenge also because of our budgetary limitations! Our dedicated choir members include: Isobel C., Barry K., Terry K., June K., Maureen L., Pat N., Georgina N., Alison O., Bill O., Janis O., Cynthia P., Pearl S., Harold W., Bill W., Mary Ann W. and Natalie Z. But we always have room for more and encourage anyone who likes to sing to come and be part of this wonderful group.

Oksana Y. has been an incredible addition to our music ministry team and I am so honoured to have her here with us. Oksana's contribution as a service musician, allows me to be the cantor/singing leader. We particularly enjoy playing piano duets together! Oksana continues to establish herself in the musical community here in Calgary and has become a cherished friend to me.

I dedicate time each month to researching/ finding new hymns and other worship resources. This is one of those tasks that takes a great deal of time and does not always bear fruit. We now feel comfortable with "All Creatures Sing" which has two liturgy settings and many new hymns. A lot of careful planning and preparation goes into the introduction of new hymns and liturgy. It has been fun to explore all that this new resource has to offer, not all of which is suitable for our particular worship situation.

Leading worship at the piano or organ combined with the role of cantor is one of my most cherished functions and one which I enjoy tremendously. I appreciate your many words of affirmation and support to my work in this role.

I am responsible for the maintenance and care of our instruments – especially our pianos, organ, handbells and music library. All represent a huge investment for the congregation and must receive regular maintenance and general day-to-day tending in order to keep them in top condition. Going forward I will be working hard to attract musicians and ensembles to consider using the facilities here at LCC for their performances. This requires a long-term commitment of "planting the seeds". Working with potential renters is an important "add on" to my responsibilities.

The worship life is central to any congregation but here at Lutheran Church of the Cross it has always held a prominent place. Our services are deeply meaningful and uplifting. It is my honour to serve the congregation in this way.

Submitted
Catherine Glaser-Climie
Minister of Music

Affirming Ministry

We approach each new year with a mission to provide support and a safe place for all who need one. We reach out to people no matter their gender identity or expression, their sexual orientation, disability, race, or cultural background. We affirm that all people deserve to have their identity and their family celebrated. We practice inclusion and affirmation because they are practices of faithfulness.



On March 16th we celebrated PIE Day. Nancy Shadlock, a friend and colleague of Pastor Lindsey's shared her songs with us and talked about her journey of faith as a queer person. Of course there was pie. A lot of pie. This special day is an affirmation of our commitment to being Public Inclusive and Explicit in our faith.

We continue our affiliation with the City Wide Affirming Faith Network. This year, we hosted the interfaith gathering the Sunday before the Pride Parade. Catherine suggested and offered to lead, along with another member of the network, an impromptu choir whose song was loud and clear and joyous. There were guests speakers, and an array of fabric art illustrating the theme of the year --- We Are All Stitched Together. And there was food. As the church filled beyond our expectations, we did pray for a loaves and fishes miracle, but all was well. Enough food and some to spare for the more than 100 people who attended the service and stayed for an amazing time of fellowship. The next Sunday, a small but enthusiastic contingent from LCOC walked in the parade, led once again by our contagiously joyful Pastor Lindsey.



We look forward to another PIE Day on Sunday March 15, 2026 with perhaps a slightly different focus, but once again a speaker for that day as well as on another occasion. Very soon the City Wide Affirming Faith Network will meet to begin discussing Pride Week. We feel blessed to be in a church family where all are welcome, and all truly means ALL!

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Shore-Isford and Betty Jane Hegerat
on behalf of the Affirming Ministry team

Gardening Group

Spring 2025 brought rain enough to restore the water table after 2024's water restrictions and extreme heat. The trees, the perennial plants, the grasses, and oh, the roses were glorious. We focus on the gardens on the west side of the church: the butterfly garden, the planter leading to the front door, the saskatoon bushes and perennials along the west wall, the rose garden, and the Remembering Garden. The urban forest called out for attention as well after a pair of deer snacked on the bark of several trees.

In 2010 a heart-shaped garden was created on the north-west corner of the property in memory of Brittney McInnes, a sixteen year old member whose murder left her church family grieving. In subsequent years we planted as well to honour other women who have died violent deaths, including the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Understandably, many in our current congregation were not with us when we lost Brittney, and participation in the planting has decreased significantly. In spring 2025, we did the planting on Rogation Sunday, which is dedicated to prayerful intercession for God's provision, especially into agriculture and planting and creation. (We thank Pastor Lindsey for making us aware of the special significance of the day.)

An invitation was extended to our church and the community beyond to plant in memory of a loved one they've lost. We welcomed flowers of any variety and colour. The planting was rather sparse, so the gardening team added plants to fill the heart. In June 2026, we hope there will be a way to purchase plants to fill that garden and restore it to the beautiful place on church property where community members often stop to sit on "Brittney's bench" with their thoughts and prayers.

Both the vegetable garden planted by our Ukrainian friends, and the flowers in the west gardens produced abundantly and gloriously.



Respectfully submitted,

Judy Shore-Isford and Betty Jane Hegerat

As we look toward summer 2026 we recognize there is a need for extensive work in cleaning out beds, supplementing soil, pruning of roses and saskatoons, as well as culling many perennials. Our gardening team has been reduced to two regular members and a small group of people who come as they are able to when we ask for help. Our overall goal is to make the ongoing care of the gardens more manageable, and perhaps even more abundantly beautiful than they have been in the past four years.

Mission Endowment Committee

The Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) Committee is composed of Stephen M. (Chair), Archie W. (Treasurer), Betty Jane H. and Jean D. (sharing Secretary duties). Pastor Lindsey is also a member ex officio.

The MEF Committee has the responsibility of soliciting and reviewing applications for new projects supporting the various ministries of Lutheran Church of the Cross. In 2025, \$12,650 was available for disbursement. The Committee met two times; on March 24th to consider five Early Bird applications and on November 25th to evaluate the funded projects and consider a sixth application. All six applications were recommended for approval by Church Council. The projects are highlighted below.

The total amount available for disbursement in 2026 should be known after Charitus, which manages our investment, provides its fourth quarter report in late January. Also, we would like to find one new member for the Committee in order to provide continuity as other member's terms expire in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
by Stephen Maunula

RENEWED LITURGICAL ARTS at ELCOC

By: Hilary G. and Lillian K.

Two of four liturgical banners have been completed. The 'Two-Spirit Pride' banner adorned the altar space for months and the



second 'Rays of Hope' banner will be presented at Easter. An extension of the funding for this project into 2026 was approved, so that the remaining banners can be completed. \$583 was spent on the first banner in 2025 from a total allotment of \$2,000.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP at ELCOC

By: Hannah J. and Lisa R.



The day camp occurred at the church on July 21 – 23, led by two staff from Camp Kuriakos. Thirteen children attended and the experience was a great success. Congratulations to Hanna and Lisa for organizing this youth education event. \$1500 was provided for educational materials and snacks.

YYC AREA WIDE SUNDAY SCHOOL

By: Isobel C. and Pastor Lindsey

There was conversation with other Lutheran churches in Calgary as to how this monthly 'Saturday School' might be coordinated. \$1,250 was designated for this youth education program. Funding for this monthly ministry, rebranded as "Kids Bible Camp", will be extended into 2026.



MUSIC RECITAL SERIES at ELCOC

By: Catherine G-C.

The first event was a piano recital by Sandra Joy Friesen on the evening of June 28, 2025. The concert was well attended and received. Catherine has indicated that she would still like to plan 2 or 3 more events but that these likely cannot be organized until the new year. An extension of the timeline for disbursing the remaining funds has been approved. \$3,500 has been designated for this music and community outreach mission.

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

By: Hilary G.

This application was made in late November 2025 and was approved by Council on December 10, 2025. The Fund will reimburse \$2,880 of tuition and book costs for a leadership training course to be offered early in 2026. This course and certification will enable Hilary and Pastor Lindsey to train other Stephen Ministers to provide pastoral care for the congregation in the future.



EVENT FOR NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

By: Catherine G-C

This event at our church did not occur this year in September. \$750 was allocated for this event but will be returned to the Fund, hopefully to support a similar proposal in 2026.

2026 Mission Endowment Fund Applications:

The Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) is now accepting "Early Bird applications" for 2026. The deadline is on February 28th. Applications will be reviewed by the Committee in March 2026. If you have ideas after February 28th, then the final deadline for submissions will be on June 1st, 2026.

Apply by paper or online through the below link:

<https://www.churchofthecross.ca/pages/mission-endowment-fund>



Mutual Ministry Team

*Therefore encourage one another and
build up each other, as indeed you are
doing. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

As God's people, we seek to love each other
through mutual affirmation, thereby providing a
strong foundation from which we may together
serve God.

Members - Earl O., Hilary G. and Sasha C.

The team follows the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) Mutual Ministry Guide. The purpose of the team is to 1) Nurture good and healthy mutual relationships between the ministries of the rostered Pastors and the church leadership; 2) Facilitate intentional and regular evaluations of congregational ministries, the staff and pastors based on our church mission, vision and goals and 3) To seek together opportunities for growth and renewal.

The Mutual Ministry Team reports directly to the congregational council. The Team can make recommendations to the congregational council. We report to Council on a monthly basis when there is something to update.

This past year we have had the privilege to meet with the pastor and staff a number of times to share goals, ideas and concerns and to get a better understanding of their call or job. The team attended the Council Retreat which Hilary facilitated. We also attended the semi-annual retreat. We forwarded salary recommendations to the Council based on Synod Salary Guidelines. The team collected for the Staff Christmas gifts and presented to them just before Christmas.

The Mutual Ministry committee is involved in support, appraisal, recommendation and reconciliation among pastor, staff, council, and the congregation.

The team has been together for over five years and some members have chosen to move on and serve in other areas at Church of The Cross. Their service has been greatly appreciated and Council and the Pastor will be appointing new persons to the Team in the near future.

The MMT is thankful to the Council for providing excellent leadership this past year which involved much change.

Please feel free to contact us with ideas or concerns.

Earl Olsen

Quilting Group

The quilting group meets on a Thursday Morning 9-11:30am mid-September to December, and February to May. All are welcome – no quilting experience required.

In April/May we completed 24 quilts, that were distributed to The Mustard Seed and Berkana House.

In December, we donated 6 quilts to SWARM to be given as required in the next while, 10 quilts and 1 baby quilt to Berkana House, and 10 quilts plus 2 baby quilts to the Women's Shelter downtown. Also, we gave 55 scarves to The Mustard Seed, as well as 6 prayer shawls for our pastor to give when needed.

We would like to thank the congregation for donated materials, the only item we purchased this year was the batting.

Respectfully submitted
Lillian Kozak and Hilary Gray



Social Ministry

Our small committee, along with Pastor Lindsey, had a full year supporting those in need. We were able to provide food, clothing and fellowship to those in our congregation, in our neighbourhood, and in our city. Here's a snapshot of 2025:

- Mustard seed: warm clothing donated in January and November
- Gift card support: Pastor Lindsey
- Food pantry: well used and respected. The reverse offering campaign helped restock the essential items
- Clothing drive in September
- Dream centre: in November we gathered travel size toiletries, socks, and chocolate
- Adopt-a-family for Christmas
- Food hampers (15) in December via partnership with Tree of Life grocery & food service co.
- Senior's lunch: an already established committee that will come under Social Ministry



Families In Need budget line item is how we support this ministry especially through distribution gift cards, and the Adopt-a-family campaign. We implemented a unique fundraising board called 'Take an Envelope' where individuals chose a donation ranging from \$1-\$100. Your support in this campaign was incredible! It helped us look toward 2026 and wonder how else we can support people.

Senior's Lunch originally started by Sandi S., who had an idea to support our young at heart members. She tirelessly, along with Laurie H. and many others team, created, cooked and serve for the past couple years and this year wanted to step back. We are so grateful for Sandi's dreaming and dedication in leading this group! There continues to be a lot of momentum and other members of LCOC have stepped in to help organize. This team will continue to organize this ministry, but if any extra support is needed, they can communicate this to the Social Ministry committee.

If anyone wants to participate in our group, come to a meeting. We typically gather the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am at the comfy chairs. If that doesn't suit your schedule, I encourage you to support by donating to Families In Need.

Respectfully submitted,
Sasha Craven

Movie Night

This past year there were six movies shown, one per month. January to April and in November and December. The attendance was about 25 to 30, except in December where the temperature was minus 22.

Southwood Community Center provides snacks and there are always volunteers from the community each movie night. We always need volunteers for Hospitality, Hall Set Up and Technical Support. Please consider helping in those positions. It is a small time commitment of less than 3 hours a month. Contact Judy for any questions.

Lastly, I would like to thank Cantaré for the generous use of their projector. Popcorn and drinks are free!!

Judy Shore- Isford



ELCOC Youth

It has been a joy to spend time with our congregation's young people this year. We have gathered for games nights, shared crafts, joined in prayer, and learned about God's love. This year we were able to offer three important events for our young people: Vacation Bible Camp, sending a home team to the Canadian Anglican Youth Gathering (CLAY), and the launch of our Saturday Kids Saturday Bible Camp.

ELCOC Youth (continued)

It was wonderful to welcome a Camp Kuriokos leadership team to assist us in sharing VBC once more within our community. We had both children from within the congregation and those from outside our church. A word of thanks to our planning team Hanna J. and Lisa R., the endowment fund, as well as all our volunteers who made VBC possible again!



I was blessed to spend time with our youth at CLAY in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan this summer. While we all may carry some anxiety about the future of our Lutheran church - at gatherings like CLAY I can't help but be filled with hope as I see young people living out their faith with a heart for worship, faith, and matters of justice and hope for our world. It was a gift to be with Maddy and Gabriella as they met peers, explored sand dunes, grew in faith, and worshiped with 300 + Lutheran and Anglican Youth. Thanks to Hanna J. for joining us on this amazing trip.

This fall we launched a new program at ELCOC aimed at meeting the needs of our families who wish to learn and grow with God in an inclusive, affirming, and encouraging environment. Once a month we welcomed kids in grade 1-6 (and ages 5 and under with adult supervision) for a time of singing, learning, games, snacks, and crafts on a central bible story. Thanks to the generous support of the ELCOC endowment fund there is no cost associated with this program. We hope to grow our Saturday Kids Bible Camp in 2026.

Over the next year it is my hope to continue to offer a safe and welcoming place for our youth to gather with their friends, experiencing community, and growing in their faith. If you have a passion for young people, wish to see our youth group flourish, and would like to come alongside our youth programming in 2026 I would love to hear from you. Even an hour or two a month can make a huge difference in the lives of our young people.

In Christ,
Pastor Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum



CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**
Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

A NEW NATIONAL BISHOP

This past summer, delegates at the 2025 ELCIC National Convention elected Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer to serve as National Bishop.

"Dear friends, hope, faith and love, these are the tools of our calling," Kochendorfer said following the election. "We don't know the future, but we have what we need. Jesus is feeding us; we have bread, we have wine, we have the scriptures, we have each other. We know that we will not get to where we're going without going together and with others."

Kochendorfer is the ELCIC's fifth National Bishop, joining Donald Sjöberg (1986–1993), Telmor Sartison (1993–2001), Raymond Schultz (2001–2007) and Susan Johnson (2007–2025).

Kochendorfer most recently served as interim pastor at Our Redeemer, Penticton, B.C., as well as assistant to the bishop in the British Columbia (BC) Synod. He most notably served as Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories from 2012–24, and previously worked in congregations in Dickson, Lethbridge and Edmonton, Alberta.

Having served the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as a council member from 2017–23, Kochendorfer is currently chair of the LWF's Mutual Responsibility Task Force and was recently co-chair of the Lutheran portion of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission.

The ELCIC gathered on September 27 in worship and celebration for Bishop Kochendorfer's installation in an ecumenical gathering filled with the beauty of prayer, worship and song. Scripture readings from Isaiah 43, Psalm 46 and Ephesians 4 were shared, with former ELCA Archbishop Linda Nicholls preaching the sermon. Lutheran and interfaith pastors and bishops in attendance robed in red vestments and processed in and out of the sanctuary.

Kochendorfer has been married to his wife Cathy for 42 years, and the two have raised four children together. •



Bishop Larry Kochendorfer (centre) at his installation service.



FACING TODAY – DREAMING FOR THE FUTURE

Facing Today – Dreaming for the Future is a three-year church engagement project that officially began in July of 2025 and is aimed at guiding positive transformation within the ELCIC's national and synodical structures.

The initiative will consider current financial realities and the evolving landscapes of congregations across the country, while creating space for meaningful conversations about what it means to be church in the years ahead.

A steering committee of 12 members, including two representatives from each of the five synods (one lay, one rostered), National Church Council representatives, and a five-member consulting group have been formally engaged in the process.

At convention, delegates engaged in table discussions, prompting key themes of resilience after crisis, youth involvement, experimentation in worship, lay-led initiatives and leadership shortages.

"We want to hear from everyone," said steering committee member Rev. Katrina Vigen of Redeemer, Vancouver on the committee's call to action. "What are we facing today and what can we dream of together for our future? We have started a journey, and we don't know where God is guiding us, but we know and we trust that God is leading us, that the Holy Spirit is ahead of us." •

OUR FRIENDS IN THE ELCJHL

ELCIC members are asked to continue praying for peace for the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), as heightened conflict continues.

The past two-and-a-half years have been extremely challenging for the people of the ELCJHL. The growing conflict and tension continues to take a toll on many church members – our global mission partners in the East.

In early-April, National Bishop Susan Johnson travelled to Jerusalem alongside Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a solidarity visit to ELCJHL Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar. The visit served as a reminder to the people of the ELCJHL that they are not alone.

"For me, the hardest thing to witness was the increased lack of hope," Johnson shared. "That the war will end. Hope that there will be a place for Palestinians within the Holy Land. A huge concern is that the presence of the indigenous Christian church will be lost. More and more Christians are giving up and leaving. Will there be a Christian presence other than that of tourists in the future?"

In July 2025, the ELCIC National Office and the Eastern Synod announced the launch of the ELCJHL Appeal to support the ministries overseas with a goal of raising \$50,000.00.

"Your support is meaningful for us, it will help us continue to minister, to be with the people, to continue opening our schools and giving severance to our teachers," said ELCJHL Bishop-elect Imad Haddad. "But at the same time, it will help us help families who are in very bad situations because of the current political circumstances that we are going through in the Holy Land." •



ELCJHL Bishop-elect Imad Haddad.

CLAY 2025: ROOTED AND RISING



Youth gathered to deepen their faith at CLAY 2025.

The theme of the 2025 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering was *Rooted and Rising*. The national gathering of the ELCIC and Anglican Church of Canada takes place every two years. This past summer in Saskatoon, SK, over 360 youth, young adults, leaders, volunteers and bishops from across Canada gathered for four days in the prairies with a focus on deepening faith, digging deeper roots and enjoying time participating in group activities with fellow like-minded youth. Rev. Jordan Cantwell, former moderator of The United Church (2015–18), served as the keynote speaker for the five large group gatherings.

Additionally, in conjunction with the 2023–25 National Youth Project, *More Precious*, which stems from Isaiah 43:4, participants at CLAY learned more about the trauma and tragedy surrounding human trafficking. The National Youth Project is introduced biennially, seeking to encourage youth participation on a current social justice issue.

At the conclusion of the event, it was revealed that the next CLAY will take place in 2027 in Nanaimo, BC. Learn more about the next event at ClayGathering.ca. •

Letter from Bishop Trish Schmermund

January 2026



Grace and peace to you from Jesus who loves us.

Across the Synod of Alberta and the Territories congregations will soon hold their annual meetings. While this may seem to be business as usual, these meetings are important ministry moments.

It's not an easy time to be the church. Old certainties no longer carry the assurance they once did. And yet, we are developing new ways to put faith into action. Congregations are adapting! We are courageous partners with one another and the Holy Spirit.

Our Synod exists not as an institution hovering above congregations, but as an extension of our shared commission. Collaboration with the Synod and with one another is not an administrative obligation; it is a theological practice. It is one of the ways we live out our baptismal promise and participate in God's work of justice, compassion, and renewal. When we collaborate, we make room for gifts to circulate, for burdens to be shared, and for imagination to multiply. Thank you for your benevolence – gifts that enable administration of calls, training leaders, nurturing young people, guidance through conflict, and much more.

We are in an era calling us from a focus on self-sufficiency and survival, to bighearted giving, partnership and trust. This is our hope for the future.

We give to ministries near and far because we understand that our tithes change lives. Luther encouraged us to be "curved out" (to be mindful of others, not just ourselves) because it teaches us to rely on God's provision. Our financial resources are for the good of all.

Church is created by and for relationship—with God, with one another, and with the world. As such, we are called to intentionally develop ways of working together that uphold accountability and mutual responsibility. In this time of change, trust for one another will be like the cement between our building blocks.

Partnership stretches us. It invites us beyond constraining patterns and deceptive independence. It asks us to trust that God is at work not only in our own context, but in the wider body to which we belong. In a culture that prizes self-sufficiency, choosing interdependence becomes a quiet, countercultural witness to the gospel.

These gestures may seem modest, but the Spirit has a long history of accomplishing much from humble beginnings: a few loaves, several fish, and willing hearts. As we move through this new year together, I invite your congregation to lean into a shared life. Pray for one another across regions.

Engage in synodical initiatives--not as obligations but as opportunities for connection. Let us know where you need help. Be curious, generous, and brave--together!

Thank you for your witness, your perseverance, and your willingness to walk this shared road. May the Spirit continue to shape us together for the sake of the world God loves.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bishop Trish Schermund".

Rev. Trish Schermund,
Bishop Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



2025 Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids (BB4CK) community group at Lutheran Church of the Cross

This is our 6th year being at ELCOC and we are very fortunate to use the kitchen, and storage room throughout the school year.

We are supporting 7 schools in and around the church, ranging from kindergarten to grade 12 students. These students know they can count on our volunteers to show up twice a week to make a lunch for them. It is nutritious lunch that follows the Canadian food guide: protein, fruit, vegetables, dairy, and nutrient dense snack.

Our volunteer base consists of 21 dedicated people who commit their mornings to support the students in Calgary. Out of this group, 7 are from our ELCOC community and 14 are from the other areas of Calgary but we all come together with a great sense of purpose and energy.

From January 1 to December 18, 2025, we have made 11,224 lunches! These numbers are predicted to continue to climb.

If you're every interested in volunteering with us, please find the link in the church website. If your corporate organization is looking to get involved, please contact BB4CK directly and they'll find space in the downtown kitchen to keep you engaged.

Thank you to LCOC for your space and willingness to support this wonderful Calgary charity.

Gail Moody
Volunteer kitchen lead at ELCOC



Background:

What is Calgary Alliance for the Common Good (CACG)?

How is ELCOC connected?

- CACG is an “umbrella” organization with about 30 member organizations in Calgary, mainly churches, synagogues, trade unions, academic institutions, and individuals. CACG uses an annual discernment process with its members to determine its priority campaigns aimed at improving the quality of life for citizens of Calgary.
- CACG is guided by the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), a multinational citizens’ advocacy organization based in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- CACG’s major political engagements are with City of Calgary and Province of Alberta, especially concerning their budget priorities and the impacts of these on the quality and availability of supports in identified priority areas.
- Its funding sources are member organization annual dues and individual contributions, as well as fundraising events. Its 2024 budgeted expenditure was \$284K.
- ELCOC has been a member organization since CACG formally established its charter in 2019.
- ELCOC contributes about 1% of its annual revenues or roughly \$2,500 per annum.
- CACG has a Strategy Team that meets every month to plan campaigns and organize and mobilize actions required to further these (including letter-writing campaigns, meetings with City Council or provincial government, public demonstrations, and related actions). From ELCOC, Pastor Lindsey and Paddy C. are members of this team.

Review of 2025 CACG Activities:

- CACG held a Mayoral Forum attended by over 600 people at Knox United Church in October 2025. The new Mayor, Jeremy Farkas, was in attendance and committed to continuing dialogue with CACG in its major concerns.
- Good Jobs, Mental Health/Addictions and Affordable Housing are the campaign priorities for 2026.
- Research Action Teams (RATs) have been formed for each of these. From ELCOC, Jean Dacko is a member of the Mental Health/Addictions RAT.
- Jean Dacko is also involved with a committee concerning cuts to AISH programming for persons with disabilities.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Paddy Colfer



Cantaré Children's Choir, formed in 1997 by Founder/Artistic Director Catherine G-C, is one of Canada's premiere programs for children/youth dedicated to providing an extraordinary choral music experience through excellence in performance, outstanding music education, and community outreach through song and touring. Cantaré has established an enviable reputation for the musical sophistication, gorgeous tone, and impeccable technique its members express.

THE BACKSTORY: Cantaré has leased space at Lutheran Church of the Cross since the summer of 2017. It has been an excellent partnership between the two organizations with both benefitting from our sharing of resources, vision and staff. Cantaré utilizes Meeting Rooms 1 and 2 [off the Fellowship Hall] as office space and the former "nursery" as a storage space for its significant music library and other resources. On rehearsal nights we use most of the building, including the sanctuary, fellowship hall, narthex and north meeting room. Previously, Cantaré rented space at Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church, Glendale School, Haddon Road School/Akiva Academy, St. Stephen's Anglican Church and St Paul Anglican Church.

HOW DOES IT LOOK NOW? Every Tuesday and Wednesday evening the facilities of LCC are bustling with children/youth ages 6 to 18, and young people ages 18 – 40, who fill the space with their exuberant energy and glorious singing. Our Kodaly classes for children ages 3 to 6 happen during the day on Monday and Thursdays. Cantaré also has workshops on the occasional weekend. Get in the Groove takes place over two weeks in the summer. Cantaré takes over the entire building and it bustling and shaking with the energy of enthusiastic young people. Sometimes we also book the space on weekends to offer our nationally acclaimed workshop program or extra rehearsals as needed.

WHAT DOES CANTARÉ DO? Cantaré provides world class music training to young people. Cantaré's central tenet: "More Than Music" stresses using collective singing to develop young people into sensitive, creative, and engaged artists who are passionate justice seekers and informed global citizens. Singers develop a comprehensive musical foundation at an early age so they can thoughtfully engage with numerous musical styles from around the world in their youth. Choristers in Cantaré become comfortable tackling masterworks of the Renaissance, Baroque, and Romantic Periods along with Contemporary gems - including 18 commissioned works. The choir extensively explores global political and musical history in rehearsals, connecting a budding worldview with their increasing sophistication of musical expression. Cantaré's award-winning program has received a host of accolades including First Prize in the National Music Festival.

In its vibrant musical community, Cantaré is the proud partner of Calgary Opera and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, producing over 80 productions with the two companies in the choir's 27-year history. The choristers are the Resident Artist of the Field Of Crosses Memorial Project, singing on Global TV's Remembrance Day Broadcast every year, and stewarding the Act Of Remembrance in their communities. Cantaré undertakes regional, national and international tours to share their gift of music with audiences far and near – like our trip to Newfoundland

in June 2024 for the international HarbourVoices Festival [of the 45 choirs that participated in the festival, Cantaré was one of 10 choirs chosen to perform individually as well as part of the massed choir!]. Cantaré continues to nurture a network of alumni excellence across the world in all career fields, as our alumni have gone on to represent us and sing together in the Alberta Youth Choir, National Youth Choir of Canada, the World Youth Choir, and in a host of amateur and professional choirs across Canada.

LCC can be proud that it is helping to make possible a world class program right here in our community!!

WHAT'S THE BENEFIT TO LCC? Cantaré pays \$2000 rent each month which provides a consistent revenue stream for the congregation. You should know that Cantaré paid the FULL amount of the rent throughout the ENTIRE pandemic even though we did not use the space because of lockdown restrictions.

Cantaré is an excellent partner for LCC. Cantaré has dedicated space at specified times for rehearsals and workshops BUT the church still has lots of access to the facility to implement their own programs – unlike when FACE was our renter and the Fellowship Hall was off limits to the congregation from Monday to Saturday.

Cantaré is also great partner with LCC because we each share our resources. Did you know that the chairs you sit on in the Fellowship Hall belong to Cantaré? The table in the south meeting room is Cantaré's? Or that they decorative elements you sometimes see in worship [fabric, lanterns, Christmas decorations, stand lights [to name a few] are also on loan from Cantaré. Likewise, Cantaré benefits from utilizing some LCC resources.

Cantaré staff provide a presence in the building when the church staff is not available, accepting deliveries, answering questions, being on watch for the building both within and without and making sure that all is well. Because we are here a lot, we take care of many details around the building like steam cleaning ALL of the upholstered chairs in the building; touch cleaning stains in the carpet; a deep clean of the choir loft area; regular vacuuming; watering the trees in times of intense summer heat; We do so because this is our home.

You should also know that our Cantaré families are BIG supporters of LCC's clothing give away project, especially bringing bags and bags of children's clothing.

Cantaré sometimes uses the facilities for concerts – for which an additional rental fee is paid. Cantaré's reputation within the arts community is also helping to attract other musicians and ensembles to host their performances here – rental of our space could become an important part of LCC's revenue stream.

The BEST outcome of this agreement is that it consolidates Catherine's activities into one facility – she no longer spends big chunks of time driving Crowchild Trail, nor moving equipment from one place to another. It is easy for Catherine to attend to church matters by walking down the hall from the Cantaré office which happens frequently through the day! This has been an enormous benefit to Catherine's well being! Catherine is personally and professionally pleased to amalgamate two "lives" into one. It is absolutely a win-win arrangement for all!

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Glaser-Climie
Artistic/Executive Director
Cantaré Children's Choir



KURIAKOS

SYLVAN LAKE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP ASSOCIATION
Report to Congregational Annual Meetings - January 2026

*Kuriakos seeks to be accountable to the people, congregations and church bodies the Association serves.
This report is for publication in your annual report or newsletters.*

Join our Association! Visit www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/congregations

Membership is open to all Lutheran, Anglican, and Moravian congregations in Alberta.

Members are all congregations that have donated in the past year.

Current member list at kuriakos.ab.ca/about/association

AGM: The 2025 financial review will be presented at the **Annual General Meeting at 2:30 pm, March 21, 2026 at Kuriakos.** Virtual attendance is available.

Thank you for your support of Kuriakos. We're privileged to work with your congregation. Together, we are growing the next generation of leaders in our world and church. At Kuriakos, we provide an opportunity for members of the church to live together in a way that isn't always found in the outside world. Outdoor ministry provides programs and facilities that bring people together in community, for connection, renewal, and re-creation. We look forward to using this special place, this holy ground, to support your leaders and members.

Get involved! visit www.kuriakos.ab.ca for the latest news and information.

- **Let neighbours and friends know** about the great community at Kuriakos
- Invite Kuriakos to lead a **Camp Sunday service at your church**
- **Volunteer for a Service Project or Committee**
- **Join us for Kuriakos Gathers Together**, our annual fundraiser, on April 25
- **Suggest to young folks in your community** to join our staff or volunteer teams

Above & Beyond Capital Campaign



In 2023, we launched our Campaign to accomplish several goals: 1) secure 11 acres of land to connect all of our property and allow space for the future of our programs and community; 2) improve accessibility of the Kuriakos Centre, especially the washroom facilities; 3) improve staff housing and office spaces. **In 2025 we accomplished goal one: we bought the land!** ...in the same way you buy a house: with a down payment and a mortgage still to pay off. We have until 2029 to pay the balance of \$1.1M. **Your support is still needed!** At the

same time, we now have the ability to move forward with our next goals of the campaign. Look for improvements in the coming year!

2025 in REVIEW

- We saw many staff changes, saying goodbye to **Art** (late 2024) and welcoming **Kristian** back to the role of Executive Director; welcoming **Cera Yorke** on board as our Administrative Director; saying farewell and godspeed to **Paul Kopjar** and **Kendra Freeland**.
- A largest-ever group of high-school-aged **Leaders in Training** took part in our program, with many interested in returning as staff in 2026.
- **Family Camps** were the best-attended in a decade as a new generation of camp alumni returned with young families, and new-to-Kuriakos families also came for recreation and renewal.
- **\$12K of camperships** were offered, enabling more kids than ever to enjoy the gift of camp - thanks to the generosity of individuals and congregations.
- Total number of campers has steadily climbed since 2022.
- New fall retreat programming like **Worship by Heart** brought some people to Kuriakos for the first time.
- More schools participated in our **Kuriakos Outdoor School (KOS)** programming than ever before.
- **View our Courier for more updates and messages from staff**
www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/contact-us, scroll to Kuriakos Courier

2026 Program Dates

Winter	
Homeschool Days	Last Mondays
Campus Student Retreat	Jan 23-25
Confirmation Retreat	Jan 30-Feb 1
Men's Retreat	Jan 30-Feb 1
Lenten Prayer Retreat	Feb 20-Feb 22
Spring	
Annual General Meeting	Mar 21
Leaders-In-Training Retreat	Mar 27-29
Holy Week Individual Retreat	Mar 30-Apr 3
RENEW Women's Retreat	Apr 10-12
Kuriakos Gathers Together	April 25
ABT Synod Youth Gathering	May 1-3
Spring Work Week	May 11-15
Family May Days	May 15-17
Congregational Staff Retreat	May 19
Summer	
Prime Time	June 28-Jul 3
Senior Youth	June 28-Jul 3
Junior Youth	July 5-10
Leaders in Training	July 5-10
Family Camp I	July 12-17
Wilderness Camp	July 19-24
Kids' Camp (5 nights)	July 26-31
Mini Camp (2 nights)	July 29-31
Kids' Camp (4 nights)	Aug 3-7
Skills Camp	Aug 3-7
Family Camp II	Aug 9-14
Fall	
Living Our Faith Together retreat	Sept 12-14
Family Adventure Weekend	Sept 18-20
Worship by Heart retreat	Oct 8-10
Fall Work Week	Oct 12-16
Thanksgiving at the Lake	Oct 16-18
Fall Confirmation Retreat	Nov 20-22

Or book Kuriakos for your own
community retreat!

2024 Membership**Partners - 18** (We'll likely be at 25+ once everyone renews!)**Members- 3**

Many congregations provide financial support as part of their annual budgets or through special gifts. Program revenue covers roughly 1/3 of the cost of hosting campers. This is a wonderful opportunity to bless kids and families in need, giving them the best week of their year. Consider promoting a Kuriakos retreat as a congregational event, or sponsoring camperships for your local community.

FINANCES - The tentative budget for 2026 proposes an annual operational revenue of \$898,475, fifteen percent larger than 2025. We have seen increased costs, particularly in staffing and building maintenance, and have raised program and rental rates accordingly. And we continue to rely on the generosity of our Kuriakos community, congregations and individuals to support our operations. **Camperships are available for all programs**, particularly for children and youth. We believe no one should miss out on camp!

Percentage of Operating Revenue (as reflected in the 2025 preliminary statements)

Donations + Fundraising 25% Program Registrations 41% Guest Groups 21% Grants 10% Property Income 2%

Kuriakos Debt Load	Dec 31/2025	Dec 31/2024	Dec 31/2023	Dec 31/2022	Dec 31/2021	Dec 31/2020
	\$387,231	\$405,110.71	\$447,174.26	\$505,835.31	\$523,535.12	\$540,323.23

STAFFING

We are thrilled to announce the hiring of **Sarah Shentaler** and **Ruben Thalathoti** as our new **Program Leads**. Sarah has served as a program staff member and coordinator since 2022; this winter she has been our intern. Ruben was a cabin leader in 2024 and our *Leaders in Training* Coordinator in 2025. Both bring a commitment to the mission and values of Kuriakos, experience with our programs, and passion for trying new things. As Program Leads they will together be responsible, with the guidance of the Executive Director, for the overall planning and delivery of all our programs - summer camp, retreats, and KOS groups. Please pray for them in this new role, and for the whole staff team as we head in to another program season.

CURRENT KURIAKOS BOARD (Term: March 2025 – March 2026)**Chairperson:** Rev. Phil Penrod (Beaumont)**Vice-Chair:** Leah Wetter (Calgary)**Treasurer:** Ben Ledene (Calgary)**Secretary:** Gabby Laughland (Edmonton)**Vision Committee:** Kurt Hanson (Calgary), Anna Henkelman (Sylvan Lake)**Governance Committee:** Rev. Matt Gillard (Hanna), Rev. Doug Heine (Hinton), Heidi Miller Zerr (Airdrie)**Stewardship Committee:** Lana Costello (Calgary)

At our 2026 AGM we'll be electing **new board members**. **Is God calling you to this role?** Please reach out to Kristian for conversation.

Additional volunteer working groups are established to assist staff with duties, including Capital Campaign, Property, Bylaws Review and KGT. **These committees are generally short-term and focused on a specific task or event. We'd love to add you to our teams!** Contact kristian@kuriakos.ab.ca to get matched up with a job.

Camp Sundays

Our team would love to join your congregation for worship, as a part of our partnership in ministry. We can help lead songs, share a devotional message, or lead activities for kids. Then we'd join announcements at the end and hand out S'More kits to go. Contact sarah@kuriakos.ab.ca to set up a date!

Looking ahead to 2026

- **February 20-22, Lenten Prayer Retreat.** Facilitated by Carmen Beck, this retreat will focus on prayer practices and include lots of time for individual prayer and reflection. A perfect way to prepare for the season of Lent!
- **Congregational Staff Retreat Day on May 19** – We're hosting a free retreat and networking day. Enjoy lunch and the afternoon at camp, plus time to learn, reflect and share with colleagues and peers.
- **Day Camps and Service Teams** – Congregations can have teams of 2-3 Kuriakos Summer Staff to come for a week, to join in their ministry, perhaps a VBS. We can support your program or take care of activities and registration.
- **Work Weekends** at May Long Weekend and after Thanksgiving are a great gathering of our community... and essential to keeping our property and facilities operating. Come as a family or congregation to join the fun!
- **Kuriakos Gathers Together Fundraiser.** Join us in-person or online on April 25 for our annual celebration and auction.
- **Family Camps** – (2 in July and August). Come for a day or stay for the whole week. All ages welcome, with or without kids.
- **Looking for Great Staff:** We appreciate referrals of summer staff, SITS (age 14-16), STANDS (age 16-18), GAPS (age 18+), Interns, spring and fall programmers, nurses, and resource people. Apply online or email sarah@kuriakos.ab.ca for more info.

Rev. Kristian Wold
Executive Director

kristian@kuriakos.ab.ca

5-39317 Range Road 24
Lacombe County AB T4E 2R7
587-468-CAMP (2267)



Lutheran Campus Ministry

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Calgary is a not-for-profit organization that relies heavily on the goodwill of others to keep operating. We believe it is important to provide students in a secular setting a space where they can explore spirituality, where they can meet like-minded young adults, and where they can feel safe expressing who they are.

We are a space of sanctuary for young adults. We work directly in post secondary institutions and bring the ideologies of liberal Christianity to students through out the Calgary area. But our programs, and everything we do, is built and operated so that everyone - regardless of orientation, background, or belief system - feels welcome to come and be a part of our community. We are a community that is open to all, and we advocate for the inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community in all aspects of life and spirituality. We are working to unite people across boundaries, provide students with open and safe spaces, and to show that spirituality works in a university setting.

Each year we interact with over 1,500 young adults. We bring community, connection, acceptance and experiences to these people. We bring community-building drum circles to students every week, free meals and deep conversation during our simple suppers, the experience of contemplative reflection during our worship services, and so much more to students every single day and week. But to keep doing this we need great people to help us along. The staff and resources needed to run all of our programming are enormous and, of course, all of it takes money.

Due to the nature of the people we work with, we can't rely on them to keep us running and funded. Students and young adults are such a necessary part of the churches future that we must continue to engage with and provide programming for them.

As such, we need your help to keep bringing spirituality and safe spaces to young adults throughout the Calgary area. Your faithful donation mean students and young adults will keep receiving healthy meals, community-building activities, and a fully-inclusive space. It also allows us to keep providing a space for liberal Christianity on university campuses.

We thank Church of the Cross for your ongoing care and support of our ministry!



The Campus Ministry's Impact BY THE NUMBERS

45

AUDIENCE

Average students/young adults per week participating in Campus Ministry programming across YYC.

PROGRAMS

Currently, the Campus Ministry runs 6 programs with a team of three people. This includes two weekly drum circles, two weekly dinners, and a monthly theology discussion for students.

6

2

CAMPUSES

We currently work at the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University.

LITRES OF FREE FOOD

On average, the Campus Ministry team is feeding 20 litres of soup each week to students and young adults. This meal is free, nutritious, vegan and gets students eating in community.

20





Southwood Community Connectors

Southwood Volunteer and previous Community Connector, Teresa, and Southwood Community Social Worker, Sarah, would like to thank the LCOC for providing us with the space and the support for two amazing programs we have partnered on. We would love to partner with you on other projects and help spread the word about the wonderful things you are doing in the community of Southwood.

Calgary's Cooking is a Community Kitchen program with a long history of providing food insecurity support and education in Calgary. Through the generous donation of the LCOC kitchen space and meeting space once a month, we have been able to bring the program to Southwood and provide participants with an opportunity to plan and cook meals together. Through the planning meetings and cooks we are forming new friendships, learning meal planning and cooking skills, and bringing home a variety of affordable and nutritious meals for our freezer.

We meet at the LCOC on the first Thursday of the month from 10am-1pm for our planning session and then again on the second Thursday of the month from 10am-3pm for our cook. At different times, participants have donated extra meals to LCOC to provide to individuals or families at their discretion.

We are always looking for more participants. If you are interested or know of anyone who could benefit from this program please contact Teresa. Participation is open to anyone over the age of 13 and is not restricted to Southwood residents. For more information on Calgary's Cooking you can visit their website <https://www.ckpcalgary.ca/calgarys-cooking>

Southwood Community
Calgary's Cooking
Cooking Group

Planning Meeting
First Thursday of the Month, 10 AM - 1 PM

Cook
Second Thursday of the Month, 10 AM - 3 PM

Lutheran Church of the Cross
10620 Elbow Dr. SW Calgary

For more information and to register contact Teresa:
info@southwoodcc.ca or apply at
www.ckpcalgary.ca/calgarys-cooking

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

SOUTHWOOD COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Another collaborative program we have been running with the LCOC has been the Community Movie nights. Cantaré has generously shared the use of their projector, and we have projected movies on the wall in the fellowship hall. The movies ran successfully from October 2024 through March 2025, pausing for the Spring and Summer months due to later sunsets and light entering the hall. Since curtains have been installed in the Fellowship Hall movie nights have returned and are planned to continue year-round. The movie nights have been



well attended by both members of the congregation and Southwood community members. LCOC has purchased an annual public performance rights license for a great selection of movies and we have been able to use budget through the Community Social Work program to purchase popcorn, water, and juice boxes. This has been a great opportunity to welcome community members of all ages into this beautiful space for an enjoyable free night out. We are looking forward to continuing monthly family friendly movies and there is the possibility of hosting movies with discussion after. We are hoping to increase attendance and invite feedback on how we might get the word out more effectively. The Movie Nights are supported by a core group of Church volunteers and City of Calgary Volunteers. Please contact Sarah, if you are interested in movie selection or to help on movie nights.

Southwood Community Garden applied for a Neighborhood Grant to install additional raised garden beds to create more space for neighbors to garden and grow together. The expanded garden provides space for a local junior high class and two daycare groups to plant and harvest together, becoming a vibrant community space for all ages to grow, learn, and share in the joy of gardening.



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Social Worker
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Southwest Area Refugee Mission (SWARM)

SWARM is a CRA registered charity, combining the talents and resources of 14 Calgary area We are Lutherans (and non Lutherans) from congregations all over Calgary.

Highlights of 2025:

- We continue to assist new Canadian families who arrive as refugees from all over the world. -
- We have been part of a sponsorship of a family from Afghanistan (parents and young adult daughter), and are currently part of another reunification sponsorship of siblings from Somalia.
- We assist Ukrainian evacuees to find their way through the paperwork for new work visas, temporary and permanent residence visas, etc.



- SWARM Furniture Bank has closed - You may now contact these places to share your gifts of furniture and household items: The Mennonite Central Committee Store, WINNS, The Helping Others Network, ReStore – Habitat for Humanity, Calgary Drop-In Free Good Program.
- We have helped families access the Food Bank and work in a church/community garden.
- With help from many congregations, we provided Christmas hampers and Christmas trees and lights for many new families.
- We continue to coordinate with other agencies in the city (CCIS, Centre for Newcomers, CIWA, etc),
- Congregations continue to support our work, provide facilities to meet, encourage and facilitate monetary donations, welcome newcomers into their midst and help them.

How Can You Help:

- Personal visits to new families to encourage them and help them know that they are welcome and that there are Canadians who care. They can practice their English, learn about resources and customs, and feel connected. Contact Marla M. at calgaryswarm@gmail.com
- Employment opportunities - this is a big need: email calgaryswarm@gmail.com

We meet regularly: Our CORE committee meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Advent Lutheran Church and on Zoom. You would be welcome to join us. Contact calgaryswarm@gmail.com

DONATIONS (TAX RECEIPTS AVAILABLE):

100% of all donations go directly to supporting families. Cheques may be made directly to "SWARM" and sent to Southwest Area Refugee Mission, 8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary, AB, T2H 0Z4.

Donations may be made via e-transfer: CalgarySWARM@gmail.com

Recognizing the Stranger (RTS)

Background

- Recognizing the Stranger is a teaching program developed by Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) Northwest for use by churches to develop a stronger sense of “the church’s presence in the world at community and civic levels”, to support us to engage in a more meaningful way with community concerns.
- The initiative is led by an inter-congregational group currently attended by Lutheran Church of the Master (Airdrie), Emmanuel Lutheran, First Lutheran, and ELCOC.
- Participants for ELCOC are Pastor Lindsey, Earl O., Hilary G., Sasha C., Judy S-I., and Paddy C.

Planned Next Steps

- We will continue to attend these monthly RTS sessions and will continue to learn about leadership development and fostering ELCOC’s presence in the world.
- We will speak with the congregation in due course about the potential for wider congregational involvement in RTS and the follow-up that emerges at its conclusion in Spring 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Paddy Colfer

