



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 Sjoberg (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 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 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." •

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2025 Annual Report Hope Lutheran Church

2025 AGM Minutes

MINUTES

FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

HELD AT HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

3527 BOULTON ROAD NW, CALGARY

on Sunday February 23, 2025 @ 11:30am

1. Opening Devotion
2. Declaration of Quorum – Joyce declared a quorum of over 25 members present.
3. Adoption of Agenda – **Brian Weatherill made the motion to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Hazel Mitschke. Motion carried.**
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 25, 2024 – **Anne Harding made the motion to approve the minutes for the annual meeting of February 25, 2024. Motion seconded by Kathryn Jamieson. The motion carried.**
5. Reports (see Ministry Reports contained within this booklet) – **Brenda Kurtz made the motion to accept the reports. Motion seconded by Marianne Astle. The motion carried.**
6. Treasurer's and Auditors' Reports – Joyce presented the budget in accountant Laura Ost's absence. Operating revenue exceeded budget by 10% due to an increase in rental income of just over \$15,000 and offerings higher than budget; operating expenses lower than budget by \$5,600 (no pastor salary for June or July).

Contributions to Synod remain the same as in 2024. "Maintenance and repair" is everything that pertains to the building. Insurance is another big cost at \$24,000.

We collected \$53,016 more than we spent last year. That money is sitting in our chequing account.

Questions on revenue: is cell phone tower rental fixed? (Yes, not up for renewal for 2025 or 2026).

Question on balance sheet (p. 28 of the report): is the cash in interest-bearing account? No, it's a chequing account. Could some of it be put into a GIC? Joyce says there are some plans for this money (wait for 2025 budget portion).

Joyce pointed out the "restricted funds" (see p. 29) have a narrow focus. "Interior design" fund has over \$11,000. Memorial fund grows quickly each year: if a deceased person's family has asked for any memorial donations to Hope Lutheran, that is where it goes (currently just under \$29,000). There are also transportation fund & youth event funds. Altogether this totals around \$48,000. When we come to budget for 2025 Council is asking for permission to spend money

from two of these funds—interior design and memorial fund. [Question: any of the memorial fund unusable because it was designated for a specific goal? Answer: None.]

Financial statement review performed by Cameron Runka and Dale Ham with assistance from Reg Erdhardt. Note the transition to Power Church—lots of work involved in that transition, but it will simplify our accounting and save us a lot of money going forward.

Question: is the new floor finished? Joyce said yes and the repair work that occurred in 2024 did not cost the church anything.

Mark Kuziej made the motion to approve the treasurers and financial report. Motion seconded by Janet Scott. The motion carried.

7. 2025 Budget (see proposed budget within this booklet). We are being fairly conservative in that we are not anticipating a lot more in our offerings. \$332,000 over the \$331,000 that we garnered in 2024. Rental income was estimated at \$65,000. Contract negotiations were not yet completed with all of our renters when the budget was done, but they are complete now. But many of our one-off rentals come throughout the year (recitals, etc.).

Question on the biggest renters. Joyce pointed out that the Pre-Kindergarten group uses the old sanctuary several hours on some weekdays and locks it up the rest of the time. Peter Chau's Chinese congregation – they are a mission church and so the money for their rent comes through the Synod. New Territories is there four days a week doing different programs. New Territories is not paying market rent, and putting a lot of pressure on our staff and building (\$1,100 a month). Question on if we provide supplies to them? Answer: No.

Question: is there a contract with the Korean church as well? Answer: Yes, at \$200/month. They have been extremely flexible.

To have our revenue equal our expenses in 2025 when we are in desperate need to complete more roof repairs (should come in slightly under \$30,000) –we don't feel we have enough coming in from offerings to pay for roof repairs. We are suggesting to use some of the accumulated \$53,000 in "profit" from last year to pay for the roof, i.e., we will be dipping into our existing bank account balances. We could have paid for it last year, but exercising caution given loss of pastor etc.

Question: will this fix our roof issues that we're aware of? Answer: this is the last go around from many years ago when we started doing phased repair work, but when they are in there, they might find something from the original work that was done nearly ten years ago.

Question: Is there an estimate of what repairs will cost? Answer: Not a current estimate, no. Working off an older estimate and have padded it up. That was before talk of tariffs etc. \$30,000 should cover it, hopefully.

Note 3 on the transfer from existing funds: desire to use money from the interior design funds because we should be replacing things.

\$13,000 for the memorial garden project that was approved last year – we hired a landscape architect last year and he was able to put together ideas, but first the bushes and trees needed pruning. We are at the point now where we can turn to beautification. We plan to carry on and this year spend the \$13,000 that was approved for use from the memorial fund last year.

Another \$1,500 – we need a flagon and paton, and we would like to get a new pascal candle. This totals asking for permission to use \$14,500 from the memorial fund.

Also requesting to use \$10,000 (might be a generous estimate) from the interior design fund. This is for kitchen repairs / upgrades – we have a gas-powered stove and the pilot light is very finicky and turns on without people knowing it. It needs to be replaced. Electrical work needs to happen in the kitchen because fuses blow. \$10,000 out of the interior design fund would allow us to get the electrical work done and the gas-stove removed and a proper electric plug for a new electric stove put in. Question: Would we save on our insurance if we went from gas stove to electric? Answer: This should be looked into.

Question: why we can't replace the gas stove? Answer: Evacuations have been very stressful with renters etc. Gas stoves are a very high safety issue.

Year's calculation on a pastor salary has been estimated on Pastor Greg's level of education & length of service. Mary's salary for 2025 is a higher grade level of work for the accounting (some hours). Synod recommended for non-rostered employees a 3% increase.

\$37,000 – includes \$30,000 for roof repair but allowing \$7,000 for other repairs.

Groundskeeping – 2024 includes the extensive tree and bush trimming (total over \$20,000). This year budget is less -- \$9,000.

Instrument maintenance is going up because we need to get our grand piano tuned more often. Necessary for our recital rentals to have this in tune.

Seed money of \$1,940 for the Gathering Table initiative (for purchasing bread, etc.)

Third and final year of our \$20,000 commitment to Campus Ministry. Question on Pastor Margaret's salary – has she gone from full-time to half-time due to becoming the assistant to the Bishop? Answer: Position with the bishop is more like a 0.3 not half time (in terms of pay). Campus Ministry program still has a full program & university staff at Mount Royal, University of Calgary, and SAIT.

Rita Thurn made the motion to approve the 2025 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Brenda Kurtz. The motion carried.

8. Nominations for New Council Members

Anne Harding and Rachel Schmidt's names were put forward as new members of the council. Joyce asked for any other nominations from the floor. Rita Thurn has put her name forward. Question on whether Rita is eligible for Council an employee (answer: yes). **Brian Weatherill made a motion to accept the three new members on council. Hazel Mitschke seconded. The motion carried.**

9. Open Forum – Questions on the Call Committee's process. Answer: nominations are asked for. Bishop speaks directly to the candidates to make sure they are interested.

Reg thanked Joyce for her hard work. Joyce states that this will be her last AGM as council chair.

10. Closing – Cindy motion to adjourn.

Note on Council Nominations and Elections: Our council may consist of 6 to 12 members, plus the Pastor. The Council at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting elects or appoints the officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

2026 AGM Agenda

AGENDA

FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH HELD AT HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH 3527 BOULTON ROAD NW, CALGARY,

AB

on Sunday February 22, 2026 @ 11:30am

1. Opening Devotion
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 23, 2025
5. Chair's Report
6. Pastor's Report
7. Financial Reports
8. Proposed Bylaw Changes
9. Proposed Organizational Changes
10. Proposal for Members of Unity Mission to Join Hope
11. Proposed 2026 Budget
12. Nominations for New Council Members
13. Open Forum
14. Closing

MESSAGES

Message from the Bishop

January 2026

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus!

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,

Rev. Trish Schermund, Bishop

Synod of Alberta and the Territories, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Pastor's Annual Report

SEASONS OF LOVE

The church calendar comes with seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. But also, a congregation goes through various seasons. And with changes comes newness. Hope is certainly in the midst of a “seasonal” change. But through any changes we walk through, there is always the constant of the Love of God experienced and shared with one another. Call it the season of Love. Which, by the way, happens to be one of my favorite Broadway songs of all time, from the show, Rent.

https://youtu.be/1Yvy6Q1ztME?si=e4V104UjW-P3_diD

Annual reports are a time for a congregation to measure what has taken place in the past year. The numbers and the reports speak of what has happened at Hope over the last 525,600 minutes. Each report tells a deeper story. A story of Hope, grace and, most importantly; love. A season of love. Sharing joy, laughter, heartbreak and sorrow. Together we received and shared the love of God. So, I invite you to look at this year's annual report as a story of the life of love shared in and through Hope Lutheran Church. 2025: A Season of Love.

A New Call, A New Season

As I reflect on 2025, I am deeply grateful for the way God has been at work among us at Hope Lutheran Church. This year marked a significant new chapter in my ministry, as I began my call here with you. From the very beginning as your interim, I have experienced this congregation as a community rooted in faith, open to growth, and eager to listen for where the Spirit is leading.

Beginning a new call is always a sacred and humbling experience. I give thanks for the warm welcome, patience, and encouragement I have received from all of you. Together, we have taken time to learn one another's stories, traditions, and hopes.

Hope Lutheran Church carries a strong legacy of faith, service, and community presence. In 2025, we honored that legacy while also recognizing that God continues to call us forward into new possibilities for ministry in a changing world.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Worship has remained at the heart of our life together. Through the seasons of the church year, we gathered around Word and Sacrament, trusting that Christ meets us there.



Our worship life has reflected both tradition and thoughtful adaptation, as we seek to be faithful to our Lutheran identity while remaining accessible and meaningful for today's worshippers. The scriptures, music, prayer, and sacraments continue to shape us as disciples who live out God's grace in daily life. I am so grateful for all the myriad gifts and talents that are employed to make our gatherings inspiring.

A Year of Visioning and Discernment

One of the most important developments in 2025 has been our intentional work of visioning and discernment. Together, we have begun asking essential questions:

Who is God calling Hope Lutheran Church to be in this time and place?
How do we serve our community with faith, relevance, and compassion?
What does faithful ministry look like for the future?

Through conversations, council leadership, ministry planning, and congregational engagement, we have taken meaningful steps toward clarifying our values, mission and direction. This process has not been about quick answers, but about faithful listening — to Scripture, to one another, and to the Holy Spirit.

Embracing Transformation

Transformation is rarely easy, but it is always part of God's work. In 2025, we have shown a willingness to reflect, adapt, and grow. Whether through worship practices, communication, outreach, or leadership development, we seek to meet people where they are while remaining grounded in the Gospel.

This transformation is not about abandoning who we are — it is about becoming more fully who God has created us to be.

Ministry Beyond the Walls

Pastoral care, teaching, and community engagement have remained essential parts of our shared ministry. Through hospital visits, home and care home visits, counseling, Bible studies, Confirmation and adult education, community outreach and congregation partnerships, we have continued to live out Christ's love beyond Sunday mornings.

Hope Lutheran Church remains a place where people can encounter grace, healing, and hope — not only in the sanctuary, but in daily life.

Looking Ahead with Hope

As we look to the future, I am confident that God is leading Hope Lutheran Church into a season of renewed purpose and faithful witness. The foundation is strong, the Spirit is active, and I believe we are committed to walking together in faith.

Thank you for your trust, your prayers, and your partnership in ministry. It is a joy and an honor to serve as your pastor.

Celebrating the seasons of love together in Christ,

Pastor Greg Smith

2025 Statistics

Baptised

March 30 – Elijah Gingrich

Married

May 17 - Andrew Scholz and Sydney

Lafond

August 2 – Laura Proctor and Christopher
Nowell

August 25 – Garry Williams and Annette
Dobson

Confirmed

Patrick Mullrooney and Findlay Drysdale
(pictured below)



New Members

Loey Haugen-Svensson

Caleb Haugen-Svensson

Raini Svensson

Cody Jassman

Isabel Jassman

Ralph Ulmer

Patricia Ulmer

Denise Philips

James Philips

Lea Seminuk

Transferred to another Lutheran Church

Bonnie Johnson

Rita Thurn

Lori Thomas

Tony Thomas

Died

March 1 – Wayne Hauck

March 6 – Ed Maier

July 25 – Kathryn Jamieson

November 2 – Ted Pattinson

November 5 – Victor Wilhelm

December 25 – Toni Hencke

Council Chair Report

If I had to describe 2025 at Hope in one word, it would be movement.

A significant moment of grounding and hope this year was the work of the Call Committee, whose careful discernment led to the calling of Pastor Greg as Hope's permanent pastor. Their work was marked by prayer, deep listening, and a clear trust in the Spirit's leading. In calling Pastor Greg, Hope affirmed a mandate for innovation and transformation. For work that is firmly rooted in Lutheran theology, and courageous enough to meet the realities of this moment. That call has given both stability and momentum to changes that followed.

Some of the movement in 2025 was long overdue and carefully discerned. This year we undertook an organizational review; work that required honesty, courage, and a willingness to name what was no longer serving our ministry well. It wasn't flashy work, but it was faithful work. It asked us to look closely at how we steward people's time, energy, and gifts, and how we structure ourselves to sustain ministry not just for today, but for the years ahead.

Other movement arrived less expected, carried in quietly by the Spirit. Conversations with our neighbours at Unity unfolded not because we set out with a plan, but because relationships, trust, and shared curiosity made space for something new to emerge. Those conversations invited us to imagine what it might look like to walk together, to listen deeply, and to remain open to where God might be leading both communities.

Through it all, one truth has been unmistakable: Hope Lutheran is held together by people who show up.

This past year, that showing up took many forms. It looked like staff carrying heavy and complex portfolios with care and professionalism. It looked like volunteers quietly keeping the lights on, the books balanced, the building cared for, worship prepared, meals cooked, children welcomed, and neighbours supported. It looked like council members, committee members, musicians, caregivers, leaders, and helpers giving generously of themselves—often behind the scenes, often without recognition.

To each of you: thank you. Your paid and volunteer work is not simply “helping out.” It is ministry. It is how Hope lives its calling to care for one another and to bear witness to God’s love in the wider world.

I’d also like to offer a special thank you to Lea Seminuk, who stepped in as interim office administrator during the fall to help out during Mary’s leave. We are grateful for her artistic and administrative gifts, positivity, and care.

An Invitation as You Read On

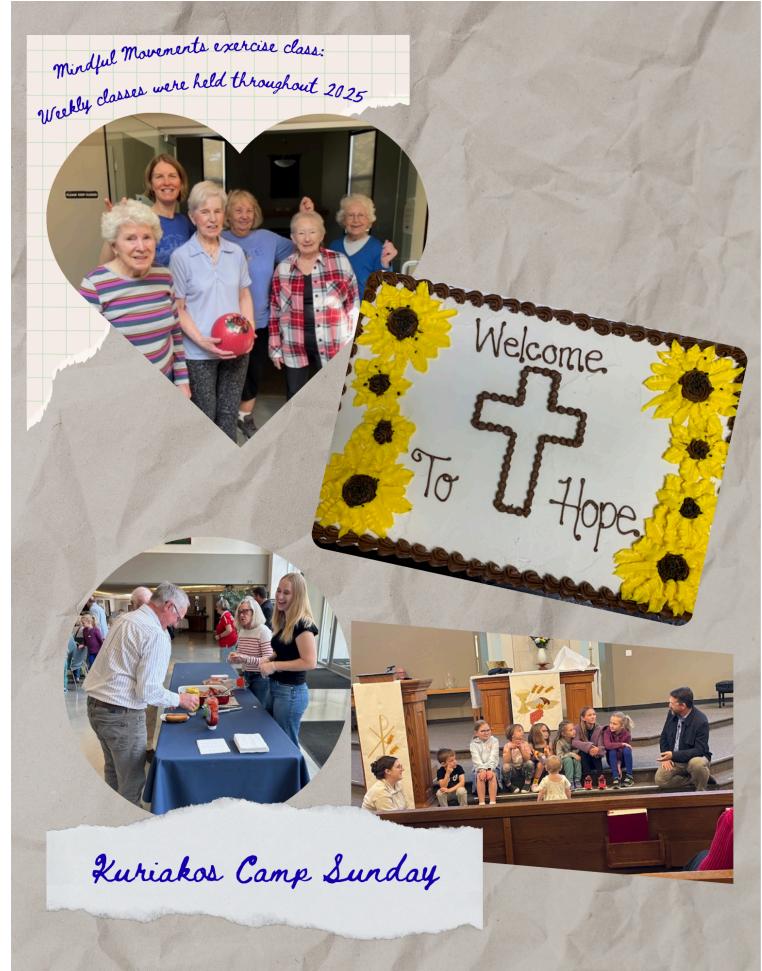
This year’s Annual Report is offered less as a list of activities and more as a collection of stories. Stories of people, relationships, experiments, and faithful persistence. As you read, we invite you to pause and notice what brings you joy, gratitude, or even curiosity.

Celebrate what we have done together, with the help of God. Listen, too, for where you might feel stirred or called. Called to participate, to lead, to serve, to imagine, or simply to belong, as we continue this work together into the future.

Change is rarely easy. But 2025 reminded us that change can be holy, especially when it is rooted in trust, shaped by discernment, and carried forward by a community that refuses to walk alone.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude for what has been, humility about what we are still learning, and hope for what God is continuing to unfold among us.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Harding



COMMUNITY LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Worship and Music

Those involved in worship and music planning for our Sunday services conducted a survey in June 2025 to get a sense of what our congregation would like to see more or less of during our services. As might be expected the responses were varied but there was a common theme to support both the familiar and to try new ideas. Thanks to the musical talents of Greg Watson, Anne Harding, Nathan Gingrich and Jocelyn Smith, as well as others, who led us during the season of Lent during our Gathering Table evenings, we introduced a less formal style of worship on the 4th Sunday of each month. This style of worship is as meaningful to some, as the familiar structure of our hymn book is to others. Whatever the style of music or dialogue spoken is, our goal for our worship services remains constant – to acknowledge and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ our Saviour, and to offer worship and gratitude to God our Father.

-Joyce McKenny

Altar Guild Report

The Altar Guild is an arm of the Worship Committee, responsible for duties pertaining to altar care and worship services.

Margaret Kirkaldy has been responsible for altar cloths- changing, laundering (and mending as required), hanging seasonal banners and changing the paraments that correspond to the liturgical year, and the care and maintenance of all of these items. As a seamstress she has made new altar cloths, linens for Holy Communion, as well as cloths to cover tables for urns at funerals. Other Altar Guild responsibilities are as follows:

Holy Communion

- Wine and grape juice purchases - Port wine by the case from local liquor outlet
- Ensuring supply of wafers/ gluten free wafers and supply of glasses; refilling trays
- Preparation and set up of Communion
- Communion linens-launder / iron
- Polish silver items as required

Candles

- Altar: changing as necessary, care and maintenance of candlesticks and followers, ensuring supply.
- Votives: replacing, cleaning of candle holders and table; tapers for lighting votives; ensuring supply.
- Christmas Eve: ensuring handheld candles are ready; replacing and cleaning holders as necessary
- Paschal / baptismal candle
- Advent wreath candles; Advent wreath

Flowers

- Ordered and picked up weekly from our supplier - Petals 'n Blooms
- Palm branches; Easter and Christmas flowers

Additional duties associated with Lent and Easter:

- Providing ashes for Ash Wednesday, draping; processional cross for Easter Sunday / Easter season

- Albs for assisting ministers are checked, repaired and laundered as needed.

Margaret has worked quietly behind the scenes for over 30 years! Glenn has been her right hand for the last few of those. I am indebted to both of them and so grateful for their faithful service. After all those years, Margaret rightly deserves to retire and go on permanent sabbatical. Is someone willing to step into the gap? We need you! Sincere thanks to Laura Ost and Anthony Parker for being on call and providing backup for Communion duties when needed. Above all, my heartfelt gratitude to my rock, Jim, who has assisted me every step of the way. None of what I do as sacristan would be possible without his patience and help. Thanks be to God for blessing us with his gifts and the opportunity to serve!

If any of the duties outlined above appeal to you as something you could do, please speak to me, or to Jim, or to Joyce McKenny as Worship chairperson.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen B. Lee (Kathy)

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Social Ministry

Hope Lutheran supported several charities this year through our Charity of Choice program (different charity every 2 months). Recipients of donations this year included: Alpha House, SWARM (with extra support for a family from Ukraine), Discovery House, Camp Kuriakos, CLWR and Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Our Stitching for Hope group has had a busy year. They donated baby items and blankets to Santanonymous and also forwarded donations of wool, fabric and supplies that they couldn't use to Ugaama Grandmas.

A special focus for Hope this year was our Fall Fair, an idea initiated by our Stitching for Hope group. Preparations for the fair included a pudding making event, a salsa party and MANY at- home bakers and canners working to provide items for the baking and preserves table.

Collaborating with Brentwood, we collected puzzles, books for Carrol Place and clothing for Mustard Seed.

Outreach

- Mindful Movements Exercise Class throughout the year - folks outside of Hope have participated
- Music Gala in February - 30 musicians from Lutheran Churches - collected donations for the Food Bank
- The Gathering Table - throughout Lent and Advent
- Stampede Breakfast - served approx. 175 people!
- Supported Calgary Unity Mission VBS (40 kids) and VBS collaboration with Advent and Hope (18 kids)
- Kids Camp Sundays - collaboration between Hope & Advent - began in October and held once/ month
- Annual Lutheran Campus Ministry Fundraiser at Hope

Respectfully submitted by Marcia Nerbas & Zena Kuziej





Giving Thanks

2025-2026

Recognizing and giving Hope Lutheran Church for their generous support of Campus Ministry!



Thank you for your faithful support of Lutheran Campus Ministry. Over the past year, the ministry has offered deep pastoral care-accompanying students through loneliness, mental health crises, hospitalization, and family strain, and reminding them they are not alone. Weekly programs such as Women's Circle, along with retreats and special events, have provided spaces for community, prayer, and honest conversation, even as the community has navigated grief and shifting partnerships.

Behind the scenes, careful planning, staff support, and grant applications have helped sustain this work. Your prayers and generosity make this life-giving ministry with students possible and deeply appreciated.

**“Everything that is done in
the world is done by hope.”**
– Martin Luther

Property

Over the past year, our Hope church property has seen substantial improvements. Outdoors, the second phase of our landscape project was completed, highlighted by the removal of the juniper garden on the north side and the installation of fresh sod. These changes have made yard cleanups much easier and have greatly enhanced the overall appearance of our grounds.

Inside the building, we installed a new kitchen stove to better serve our community and repaired electrical issues in both the kitchen and kitchenette, ensuring greater safety and functionality. Routine inspections maintained the heating and cooling systems, while minor repairs in the fellowship hall and classrooms—including fresh paint and updated lighting—helped create a more welcoming environment for everyone.

We are grateful to Mark Kaminski and all the members who contributed their time and effort, from raking leaves and mowing lawns to planting flowers and tending to the beds. The care and upkeep of our property truly depends on the dedication of our church community, and every contribution no matter how big or small is deeply appreciated.

- Marianne Astle



NEW INITIATIVES

Facility Use and Rental Policy

Hope Council has been working diligently with our Pre-K renters to support their transition into a licensed daycare operating within our church facility. To make this endeavor a reality, we will be installing a fence around the side yard outside of the Pre-K entrance, providing a safe and secure outdoor space for the children. Additionally, signs will be installed on three parking stalls at the east end of the building, near the kitchen door. These signs will reserve these three parking spaces exclusively for Pre-K parents for pickup and drop off from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM on weekdays only.

Our facilities were well used in the past year. We had many recitals, a few concerts and many other groups that use our space for weekly or monthly meetings.

Members of Council have also been working on a facility rental policy. This policy will ensure Hope is operating rentals within CRA guidelines while helping us make better use of our biggest asset: our building. In an era of ever-rising costs, we aim to proactively ensure that our various renters are meaningfully contributing to the maintenance and care of our church property. Even more importantly, it is our ultimate “hope” to align our rentals more emphatically with our mission. We are asking ourselves, how can sharing our space with community groups and nonprofits work in tandem with witnessing Jesus’s love to the world? This question is one we hope will be answered in 2026. - Marianne Astle

The Gathering Table

Soup and Bread suppers during Lent have been a long-standing tradition at Hope. The Gathering Table continues that tradition. Our purpose has been twofold:

1. To provide opportunities for fellowship and worship in informal setting.
2. To reach out into the surrounding community and extend an invitation to visit Hope and to enjoy our hospitality.



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Within our congregation, bonds of friendship have been strengthened. Friends and family members who no longer worship at Hope have joined us and it has been wonderful to welcome back familiar faces. Leah Runka organized hosts and conversation starters for each table. There were many positive comments regarding the opportunities to get to know members on a deeper level.

Our outreach efforts included personal invitations and dropping postcards in the neighbourhood. Thank you, Anne and Bobby! We have also advertised on community bulletin boards. The response has been very limited. We had a couple of community members attend one or more suppers. On average about 35 people attended each week. A huge thanks goes out to the members of Hope who made soup and brought bread each week.

The Gathering Table was held during Lent and Advent 2025. We look forward to continuing the tradition during Lent 2026.

Submitted by,

Joanne Seminuk

Walking Together: Unity and Hope

One of the most unexpected (and Spirit-led) threads of 2025 was the deepening relationship between Hope and Unity Mission.

In August, leaders from Unity met with members of Hope Council to share their desire for shared ministry and to explore what it might look like to become more closely connected. What began as a conversation rooted in openness and trust grew into a season of listening and discernment. Rather than arriving with a predetermined outcome, both communities committed to asking faithful questions together: What is God already doing here? What is being asked of us now? And how might we walk together in a way that honours who each community has been?

As those conversations continued, curiosity gave way to trust, and a deeper sense of possibility began to emerge. A couple of months later, a joint Task Force of Hope and Unity leaders was formed to take this discernment further. Their work was intentionally relational and deliberate, grounded in prayer, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to transparency.

The Task Force met regularly to explore not only practical considerations such as governance, facilities, and finances, but also the less tangible and equally important questions of culture, worship, community identity, and pastoral care. This was slow, careful work, undertaken with the understanding that faithfulness sometimes means resisting urgency in favour of clarity and shared understanding.

Throughout the process, no assumptions were made. The work remained exploratory rather than prescriptive, with both communities attentive to the Spirit's leading and respectful of one another's histories and hopes for the future.

The result of this discernment is a proposal that reflects months of conversation, learning, and relationship-building. It is offered not as an endpoint, but as an invitation. An invitation to imagine shared life and ministry together in a way that honours our Lutheran roots while responding creatively to the realities of this time.

At the Annual General Meeting, Hope members will be asked to consider and endorse this proposal. As with so much of the story told in this report, this moment invites us not only to decide, but to listen—to one another, to our shared journey, and to where God may be calling us next.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Harding

Kids' Camp Shared Ministry

In 2025 Hope collaborated with other Lutheran congregations to provide children's ministry programming.

In July, Pastor Margaret Koizumi and I helped Unity staff program and implement a VBS program (which was held at Hope Lutheran Church) for the Unity community. Over 40 children attended. In August members of Hope and Advent coordinated and implemented a VBS program at Advent Lutheran that welcomed almost 20 Advent and Hope children.

Advent Lutheran has been holding Kids' Camp Sundays for a while; Hope families were excited to become a part of this wonderful idea! In October 2025, Hope and Advent held the first joint Kids Camp Sunday. Children from the Unity community have also been attending. This monthly event has become a great opportunity to make new friends over pizza lunch and fellowship. The children have enjoyed participating in worship and experiencing different ways to serve. They have been exploring Bible stories and enjoying many activities.

Confirmation has also been a joint collaboration this year, including confirmands from Advent, Church of the Cross and Hope. These students are encouraged to worship together on Kids' Camp Sundays and also enjoy pizza lunch before they head off to their confirmation programming.

Submitted by,

Zena Kuziej, Church Coordinator



Calling Pastor Greg

On November 2, 2025, Hope celebrated the installation of our new pastor, Greg Smith, and formally welcomed his family, Jocelyn, Seth, and Keltie, to our fold! This ceremony marked the culmination of nearly a yearlong period of discernment by the Hope Lutheran Call Committee, composed of Gretchen Albers (chair), Anne Harding (secretary), Nathan Gingrich, Vince Frattaroli, Reg Erhardt, Janet Scott-Gattinger, and Greg Watson.

After nearly a decade of serving as Hope's pastor, Kristian Wold became the executive director at Camp Kuriakos in spring 2024. Pastor Kristian's departure came at a liminal time for Hope. Our congregation had recently celebrated a milestone anniversary—sixty years as a community of faith in the Brentwood community. Sixty years was a significant achievement. But anniversaries can be tinged with sadness, particularly while comparing "then" with "now," and Hope's "Diamond Jubilee" was no exception. Old photographs of crowded Sunday School classrooms and bustling Vacation Bible Schools can make us worry that our heyday is behind us. Stories of our founding pastors evangelizing door-to-door in Brentwood (and finding many enthusiastic members!) can make us feel like our relevance to our immediate community has long since faded. Hope has not felt immune to the post-COVID trends of declining attendance and the larger Church's search for relevancy in a fast-paced, increasingly divisive world.

In this context, the Call Committee sought to update our congregational profile—our "advertisement" to applicants—with deliberation and care. We wanted to depict honestly not only what Hope has been, but what we currently are (worries and doubts included!). We also hoped it might be possible—during the liminal time of calling a new pastor—to plant the seeds of what we might become. We engaged with the congregation at a special meeting, informally in small groups, one-on-one, and through online surveys and a box for handwritten notes. We asked all of you to help us put into words what traditions and values Hope holds most closely, and what new ways of ministering to our community we were most eager to try.

In June 2025, the Call Committee recommended to Hope's Council that Pastor Greg be called to serve as Hope's next pastor. Happily, Council was unanimous in affirming that recommendation. We felt very confident that Pastor Greg is the right person to walk along with us as Hope writes its next chapters. Our congregation felt confident, too. Along with indispensable input into our congregational profile, we received so many notes from members during the committee's work that simply stated: "We want Pastor Greg!" We felt that as interim pastor, Pastor Smith had already shown a willingness to walk humbly alongside us through liminal times—through the messy middle—and, further, to keep walking alongside us through this liminal time called "life." We had felt his openness to engage in the uncomfortable questions with us, to ask ourselves what we might need to let go of in order to hear God calling us to take up something new.

We hope that the Call Committee's period of soul-searching and engaging with the broader congregation has laid some groundwork for the newer Visioning Committee, which began meeting late in 2025. We happily pass the torch to them in working on a five-year plan. We feel very blessed to have Pastor Greg and his family with us in the work of renewing our vision for witnessing Christ's love to the world, and we look forward to what is to come!

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Albers, Chair, Call Committee



Fun for All at the Fall Fair

The Stitchers group came up with the idea of a craft fair and from there it took on a life of its own. Under the tutelage of Marcia, Joanne, Margaret, Marianne, Mary and Zena, the idea grew into the fall fair. What began as a simple gathering of creative minds quickly expanded into an event that brought the whole community together.

There was carrot pudding making, Saturday salsa, and many more hours spent stitching, canning, preserving, jewelry making, woodworking, sewing, and baking! Every member contributed their talents, transforming ordinary weekends into exciting workshops filled with laughter and camaraderie. The Friday before was a busy afternoon of setup and display making. How best to show off everyone's efforts? Young and old came together and voila—the setup of tables and the café was complete. The energy in the room was palpable as volunteers carefully arranged their creations, each display telling a story of passion and skill.

On the day of the fall fair, our church welcomed a steady stream of visitors—some were there just to look around, others came to taste the offerings, and many ended up making purchases. The preserves went flying off the tables, with jams, jellies, and baking a close second. The café saw many people sit down for a quiet cuppa and chat, turning strangers into friends over homemade treats. Smiles and laughter filled the air, and the fair buzzed with excitement as people explored the variety of crafts and local delicacies.

The fair ended with door prizes drawn and with four very grateful winners. The anticipation as names were called added an extra layer of fun to the day, and the winners left with both prizes and cherished memories. All in all, the fall fair was a huge success! The new tables are on their way, purchased with the proceeds from the fair, and lessons learned are ready to be implemented in the 2026 Christmas fair. The event not only raised funds but also strengthened community spirit, leaving everyone eager to gather again for even more festive fun next year.

Preparations included making carrot pudding, a salsa party, endless hours of baking and stitching.

Respectfully,

Marianne, Joanne & Marcia



Rooted in Hope: Looking Ahead Together

In 2025, Hope Lutheran entered a season of intentional visioning with a simple and humbling realization: although our life together has been rich and faithful, we had never clearly articulated who we are as a community of faith—what makes Hope unique, what we are called to hold most dearly, or how we are being called to live out God’s work in this time and place.

This work began in the summer with the formation of a Visioning Committee, tasked with listening carefully to the congregation and helping to name what has often been felt but not spoken. The committee included James Gattinger, Rachel Schmidt, Nathan Gingrich, Kyle Bakx, Victor Wilhelm, Anne Harding, and Pastor Greg, with Reg Erhardt joining in December.

Through prayerful conversation and reflection, the committee listened for the stories, practices, and values that shape Hope’s life together. This work affirmed that Hope’s identity is grounded not in programs or structures, but in relationships, worship, service, and a shared commitment to living out our Lutheran faith with integrity and care.

Here’s a snapshot of the words our community used to describe Hope at its best:

A central part of this process has been discerning a set of core values that name what is essential to who we are and how we live together. These values are intended to serve as a shared compass—guiding decisions, shaping ministry priorities, and focusing our energy in the years ahead.

Building on this foundation, the visioning work will also produce a proposed vision statement with a five-year time horizon. This statement is intended to ground Hope’s work ahead, offering clarity and shared direction as we continue to respond to God’s call in a changing context.

At the Annual General Meeting, members will be invited to consider and endorse this proposed vision. Together with the core values, it will serve as an anchor for future planning, leadership development, and ministry decisions, helping ensure that Hope’s growth and change remain faithful to who we are and attentive to where God is leading us.

Visioning is not a one-time task, but an ongoing practice of listening—to one another and to the Spirit at work among us. Rooted in hope and guided by faith, we step forward together, trusting that God is still shaping Hope Lutheran for the sake of the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Harding



Belonging
Grace
Faithfulness
Compassion

How we live out our faith together

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Hope Finance Committee

As Hope Lutheran does not have a designated treasurer, a finance committee was formed in 2025. The main purpose of the committee is to oversee the stewardship of Hope's financial matters. The committee meets once a month and provides guidance to Council with respect to financial matters. The current members of the committee include Anne Harding, Dale Ham, Cam Runka, Lois Hansen and Steve Medhurst. Within the finance committee there is also a subcommittee which is responsible for reviewing and advising with regards to Hope's investment portfolio. Hope applauds the above church members for their continued dedication serving on this committee.

Treasurer's Report

This report will explain the financial results for 2025 and present Council's recommendation for the 2026 Budget. Many thanks to Cam Runka, Dale Ham, Brenda Kurtz and Reg Erhardt for performing the audit this year and the fine job that they do in our service and to Mary Snyder and Maryanne Kissinger our bookkeepers for their services again this year.

The 2025 Budget forecasted a balanced operating budget, but actual results yielded an **operating surplus of \$13,765**. However, when capital spending is taken into account our overall result is a **surplus of \$7,704**. Although a surplus is being reported, Hope's cash balance declined from 2024.

The summary of 2025 operations in Schedule 1 and the following notes will attempt to provide understanding to this year's operating results and explain the largest variances.

Regarding Revenues being unfavorable to the Budget by **(\$16,017)**:

- Note 1 - Offerings for the year were higher than budget by \$41. Envelope Offerings were lower than Budget by (\$670) and Loose Offerings were higher than budgeted by \$711. Envelope Offerings were up \$2,742 from 2024.
- Note 2 - Investment Income was favorable to the budget by \$3,721 due to interest earned on investments of \$ \$819 and the Change in Value of Investments improved by \$4,102.
- Note 3 - Administration revenue was realized due to the Fall Craft Fair \$2,652 and miscellaneous revenues of \$836.
- Note 4 - Rental Income was higher than Budget by \$6,615. Our building usage has thankfully seen greater activity this year.
- Note 5 - This can be explained as the 2025 budget showed a \$30,000 transfer from the current account to cover roof repair costs. This is an error in developing the 2025 budget. The Transfer of \$24,500 in 2025 is an accounting entry to recognize that we are using funds from the Memorial account (\$14,500) and Interior Design account (\$10,000) to cover expenses for landscaping and electrical work. This is not a receipt of cash.

Regarding the Expense side of Operations- expenses were lower than Budget by **\$29,781**:

Salaries and Benefits were favorable to the Budget by **\$12,416**

- Note 6 - Wages and Benefits were less than budgeted in part due to Pastor Greg moving to 80% salary.

Committee & Activities Expense were favorable to the Budget by **\$6,686**:

- Note 7 - Fellowship & Outreach expenses were favorable to Budget by \$3,059. Our support for Lutheran Campus Ministries is also included in this category. We budgeted support of \$20,000 and did meet this commitment. Most of the other accounts were favorable to budget: Gathering Table \$1,508, Fellowship \$828, Advertising \$500, Coffee \$332.
- Note 8 - Worship expenses were favorable to the Budget by \$1,659. Favorable to the budget were Worship Resources \$1,500 and Communion Supplies \$94. Worship Supplies \$233, Instrument maintenance \$950, Special Musicians \$55; Flowers (\$535) and Copyright Licensing (\$639) were unfavorable to the budget.

Administration & Property expenses were favorable to the Budget by **\$6,686**:

- Note 9 - Office Expenses were unfavorable to the budget by (\$6,345) This due to hiring HR Consultants (\$4,613); temporary office assistance (\$1,261) and bookkeeping help (\$2,112) offset by favorable Office Supplies \$798 and Postage \$1,659.
- Note 10 - Maintenance and repair expenses were favorable to the budget. Expenses included phase 1 of a 3-phase program to repair the roof. Electrical repairs were performed in the kitchenette. The kitchen stove was changed from gas to electric due to a safety issue. Landscaping project was undertaken. Over stating contingencies in the budget was a factor.
- Note 11 - Safety was favorable to the budget by \$5,107. Over stating contingencies in the budget was a factor.

Capital Expenditures

- Note 12 - Capital expenditures undertaken in 2025 totaled \$6,061 and included the purchase of a new kitchen stove \$1,240; classroom tables \$2,485 and a new office computer \$2,336

In summary, we are reporting an operating surplus but an overall cash reduction due to capital expenses. We saw our cash balance reduced this year which will be concerning going forward if we continue to draw this down into 2026 and future years.

Yours sincerely

- Steve Medhurst

Statement of Operations for Year Ended December 31, 2025

Schedule 1

Account Category	Account Group	Account Detail	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance 2025 Actuals vs Budget	Notes
			2024	2025	2025		
Revenues	Offerings	Envelope Offerings	326,588	330,000	329,330	(670)	
		Funds	-	-	-	-	
		Loose Offerings	3,244	1,200	1,911	711	
	Offerings Total		329,831	331,200	331,241	41	1
Committee & Activities	Fellowship & Outreach	710	-	210	210		
	Worship	1,400	1,401	1,310	(91)		
	Committee & Activities Total		2,110	1,401	1,520	119	
Administration & Property	Administration	5,774	-	3,487	3,487	2	
	Investment Income	7,560	1,200	4,921	3,721	3	
	Rent	68,205	65,000	71,615	6,615	4	
	Cell Phone Tower	20,000	20,000	20,000	-		
	Transfers	3,516	54,500	24,500	(30,000)	5	
	Administration & Property Total		105,055	140,700	124,523	(16,177)	
Revenues Total			436,997	473,301	457,284	(16,017)	
Expenses	Wages & Benefits	Pastoral	115,874	150,041	126,935	23,106	
		Pulpit Supply	450	2,500	698	1,802	
		Program Coordinator	34,451	35,208	43,204	-7,995	
		Director	3,377	3,600	2,455	1,145	
		Organists	5,373	5,400	4,924	476	
		Administration	35,059	37,521	43,522	-6,001	
		AV Coordinator	5,176	5,000	5,075	-75	
		Custodian	1,842	1,800	1,841	-41	
	Wages & Benefits Total		201,600	241,070	228,654	12,416	6
Committee & Activities	Pastoral	118	400	141	259		
	Education	1,234	1,540	1,255	285		
	Fellowship & Outreach	24,862	28,140	25,081	3,069	7	
	Funeral Receptions	817	1,000	51	949		
	Worship	6,059	8,400	6,741	1,659	8	
	Stewardship	486	200	225	-25		
	Council Discretionary	157	500	500	500		
	Committee & Activities Total		33,732	40,180	33,494	6,686	
Administration & Property	Office	12,929	12,500	18,845	-6,345	9	
	Cleaning Supplies	3,520	4,000	3,190	810		
	Communications & Network	5,088	3,850	3,687	163		
	Insurance	23,990	26,000	27,244	-1,244		
	Maintenance & Repair	57,569	95,600	84,228	11,372	10	
	Safety	8,766	9,600	4,493	5,107	11	
	Utilities	17,296	20,100	21,669	-1,569		
	Administration & Property Total		129,158	171,650	163,356	8,294	
Synod & Ministry	Synod & Ministry	18,000	18,000	18,000	0		
	Conventions	5,017	2,400	15	2,385		
	Synod & Ministry Total		23,017	20,400	18,015	2,385	
Expenses Total			387,508	473,300	443,519	29,781	
Extended Ministry	Synod & Ministry	Directed Giving	25,030	16,326	16,326		
		Directed Disbursements	25,030	16,326	-16,326		
	Synod & Ministry Total		-	-	-	-	
Extended Ministry Total			-	-	-	-	
Surplus / (deficit)			49,489	1	13,765	13,764	
Capital Expenditures					(6,061)	6,061	12
Overall Surplus / (Deficit)					7,704	7,704	

Statement of Operations for Year Ended December 31, 2025

Schedule 2

Directed Giving Receipts	TOTAL
Calgary Urban Project Society	\$ 275
Camp Kuriakos	\$ 1,329
CLWR Canadian Lutheran World Relief	\$ 2,442
ELCIC Synod Designated	\$ 850
Calgary Interfaith Food Bank	\$ 220
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$ 2,340
Charity of Choice	\$ 7,450
The Refugee Mission (SW Conference)	\$ 1,400
Lutheran Hospital Ministry	\$ 20
 Total Receipts	 \$ 16,326

Directed Giving Disbursements

ELCIC Synod Benevolence	Note 1	\$ 18,000
Calgary Urban Project Society		\$ 275
Camp Kuriakos		\$ 1,329
CLWR Canadian Lutheran World Relief		\$ 2,442
ELCIC Synod Designated	Note 1	\$ 850
Calgary Interfaith Food Bank		\$ 220
Lutheran Campus Ministry		\$ 2,340
Charity of Choice	Note 2	\$ 7,450
The Refugee Mission (SW Conference)		\$ 1,400
Lutheran Hospital Ministry		\$ 20
 Total Disbursements		 \$ 34,326

Notes

1. 2025 actual congregation support to ELCIC was budgeted at \$18,000.
2. Charity of Choice details:

Calgary Alpha House Society	\$ 1,945
Captain John Palliser School	\$ 915
Discovery House	\$ 2,000
Interfaith Foodbank	\$ 60
Veterans Foodbank	\$ 2,480
CLWR Canadian Lutheran World Relief	\$ 50
Total Special Designated Giving	\$ 7,450

Hope Lutheran will continue to process directed donations from members for Lutheran Hospital Ministries, CLWR, The Food Bank, CUPS, ELCIC, SW Refugees, Camp Kuriakos and Lutheran Campus Ministry. We encourage our members that wish to donate to other charities to send their payments directly to those charities as Hope cannot collect on their behalf. Charity of Choice will continue in 2026. Every 2 months we will have a different charity people can support. Thank you all for supporting this benevolence program. We will continue to support Lutheran Campus Ministries through 2026 as a Charity of Choice.

Balance Sheet

		2025	2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash		\$ 119,236	\$ 139,110
Guaranteed Investment Certificate			
BMO Investment Savings Account	Note 1	\$ 29,309	\$ 28,592
Portfolio Investments	Note 2	\$ 58,592	\$ 54,461
GST Receivable		\$ 2,440	\$ 1,307
Accounts Receivable		\$ 3,108	
Total Current Assets		<u>\$ 212,685</u>	<u>\$ 223,470</u>
Fixed Assets			
Land		\$ 10,910	\$ 10,910
Parking and Grounds		\$ 69,252	\$ 69,252
Buildings		\$ 1,964,466	\$ 1,964,466
Furnishings and Equipment	Note 3	\$ 380,216	\$ 374,155
Less Accumulated Amortization	Note 4	\$ (449,697)	\$ (421,349)
Total Fixed Assets		<u>\$ 1,975,146</u>	<u>\$ 1,997,433</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$ 2,187,831</u>	<u>\$ 2,220,903</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	Note 5	\$ 7,089	\$ 4,188
Offerings Received for Specific Purposes but not spent	Note 6	\$ 29,043	\$ 52,023
Current Principle Repayment of Business Loan			
Total Current Liabilities		<u>\$ 36,132</u>	<u>\$ 56,210</u>
Long Term Liabilities			
ATB Business Term Loan			
CEBA Loan			
Deferred Rent		\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100
Total Long Term Liabilities		<u>\$ 2,100</u>	<u>\$ 2,100</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>\$ 38,232</u>	<u>\$ 58,310</u>
Net Assets			
Invested in land, buildings and equipment		\$ 1,491,236	\$ 1,491,236
Unrestricted net assets		\$ 658,363	\$ 671,357
Total Net Assets		<u>\$ 2,149,599</u>	<u>\$ 2,162,593</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity		<u>\$ 2,187,831</u>	<u>\$ 2,220,903</u>

Notes

1. HLC has an investment account at the Bank of Montreal.

Bank of Montreal Investment Account changes

	2025	2024
BMO account beginning balance	\$ 28,592	\$ 27,389
Change in Valuation	\$ (29)	
Interest earned	\$ 756	\$ 1,204
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 29,319	\$ 28,592
Less		
Bank Charges	\$ 10	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
BMO account year end balance	\$ 29,309	\$ 28,592

2. HLC had an investment account at the ATB holding a conservative ETF. The initial investment was established in 2021 for \$50,000. The finance committee saw an opportunity to increase the yield on this portfolio and transferred the proceeds of this account to another product offering a higher rate of return, however this means a little more variability in the value of the investment from month to month.

ATB Investments Account Changes

	2025	2024
ATB Investment account beginning balance	\$ 54,461	\$ 48,160
Interest, Dividends	\$ 4,132	\$ 6,301
Market Changes and Adjustments	<hr/>	<hr/>
ATB Investment account year end balance	\$ 58,592	\$ 54,461

3. Capital expenditures during the year totaled \$6,061 and included a new kitchen stove \$1,240, classroom tables \$2,465 and a new office computer \$2,336
4. Amortization of assets is determined as Building & Parking Lot at 1% and furniture and Fixtures at 5% on a declining balance basis. No change in methodology from prior years' calculations.

Asset Category	Amortization Rate	Historical Cost	Accumulated Amortization	2025 Amortization	2025 Capital Additions	2025 Net Book Value	2024 Net Book Value
Land		\$ 10,910	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,910	\$ 10,910	\$ 10,910
Landscaping & Parking	1%	\$ 69,252	\$ 9,096.14	\$ 601.56	\$ -	\$ 59,554	\$ 60,156
Building	1%	\$ 1,964,466	\$ 250,168.56	\$ 17,142.96	\$ -	\$ 1,697,154	\$ 1,714,298
Furnishings & Equipment	5%	\$ 374,155	\$ 162,082.78	\$ 10,603.55	\$ 6,061	\$ 207,529	\$ 212,070
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$ 2,418,782	\$ 421,347	\$ 28,348	\$ 6,061	\$ 1,975,148	\$ 1,997,433

5. The Accounts Payable balance in 2025 is comprised of various payable account balances as outlined below:

Enmax Corporation	340.98
Direct Energy Business	1,493.24
DIRECT ENERGY Regulated S	858.89
ELCIC Group Services Inc.	<hr/>
	4,395.78
	<hr/>
	7,088.89

6. Change in the Restricted Funds balances are shown in the following chart:

	2024		2025	
	Balance	Additions	Disbursements	Balance
Emergency Fund	\$ 383			\$ 383
Interior Design Fund	\$ 11,446		\$ 10,000	\$ 1,446
Memorial Fund	\$ 32,498	\$ 1,520	\$ 14,500	\$ 19,518
Transportation Fund	\$ 1,398			\$ 1,398
Youth Events Fund	\$ 6,298			\$ 6,298
Total	\$ 52,023	\$ 1,520	\$ 24,500	\$ 29,043

Cash Position as at December 31, 2025

Schedule 4

The cash balance in Hope's current account at ATB decreased by \$19,875 from 2025 due to the operational expenditures for the roof and electrical repairs exceeding the cash generated by the 2025 operating surplus.

**Year to Date Cash Flow Schedule
For Month Ended December, 2025**

Opening Cash and Liquid Assets Balance - December 31, 2024		\$ 222,163
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (14,583)	
Less non cash items	\$ (28,348)	
Depreciation	\$ 14,500	
Transfer from Memorial Account	\$ 10,000	
Transfer from Interior	\$ (10,735)	\$ (10,735)
Operating Surplus / (Deficit) before non cash items	\$ (149)	
less Change in working Capital Balance		\$ (149)
less Capital Expenditures	\$ 6,061	
less non cash items		\$ 6,061
Capital Expenditures	\$ 6,061	\$ 6,061
add Change in Specified Fund Balances		
Memorial Account Fund receipts	\$ 1,520	
less Memorial Account Fund disbursements	\$ 1,520	\$ 1,520
Closing Cash and Liquid Assets Balance - December 31, 2025		207,036
	2024	2025
Chequing Acct Balance	139,110.40	119,235.17
GIC		
BMO Savings	28,592.14	29,308.98
ATB Investment	54,460.91	58,591.89
Total Cash Balance	222,163.45	207,136.04

The following schedule shows where we are with our discretionary cash available for 2025 operations

Cash and Investments

Schedule 5

	2024	2025
Cash and Investments		
Chequing Account	139,110.40	119,235.17
BMO Investorline	28,592.14	29,308.98
ATB Investments	54,460.91	58,591.89
Total Cash & Investments	222,163.45	207,136.04

Other Information

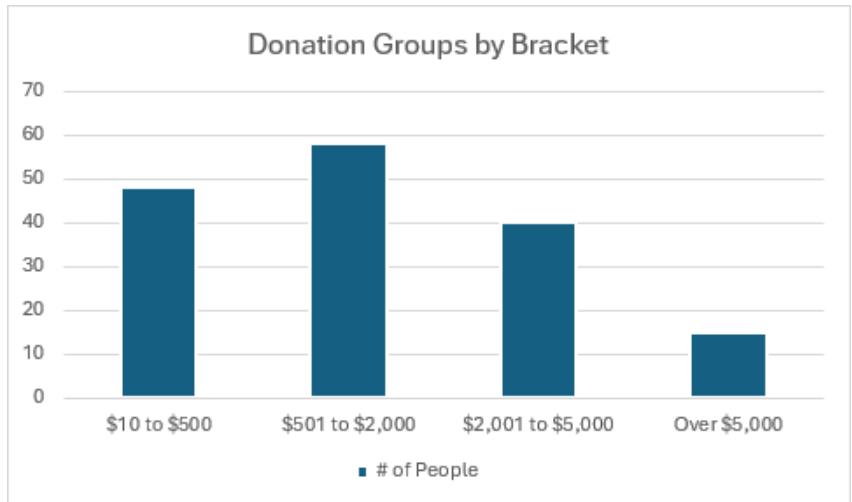
Charitable Donations of Securities

Hope Lutheran Church has a securities trading account at the Bank of Montreal. The reason for this is so that if anyone would like to make donations of stocks and bonds to Hope it can be done in an efficient manner. Donations of securities as charitable donations may have positive tax benefits that people can take advantage of. We were able to use the investment account again this year as we received a donation of shares.

2025 Offerings

This chart reflects the number of people whose annual total donations to Hope Lutheran Church fell within four different groupings (or brackets).

The total number of people counted was 161 (this does not include loose offerings).



Financial Reviewers' Statement

2025 Financial Statement Review Hope Lutheran Church

Introduction

The review of the 2025 financial statements and procedures for Hope Lutheran Church was conducted on January 28th and 29th, 2025. The review team consisted of Cameron Runka and Reg Erhardt, with the assistance of Brenda Kurtz. Dale Ham provided comprehensive accounting information and responded to all inquiries from the reviewers. Mary's meticulous organization of the filing system greatly facilitated the review process, making it easy to track both revenue and expenses. The donation receipting process was efficient and matched the corresponding revenue figures in the Financial Statement. Sincere thanks are extended to Zena and Dale for their work and cooperation. Additional appreciation is given to the offering counters—Steve Medhurst, Marianne Astle, Dorothy Schumaker, Cam Runka and Lois Hansen—for their dedication. A special note of thanks goes to Lois for clearly outlining the data entry procedures.

The following steps were undertaken during the 2025 review:

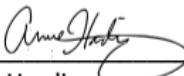
1. Reviewed a sample of four months of expenses and verified that they corresponded with the bank statements.
2. Examined sample expenses, including credit card transactions, ensuring each was properly coded, recorded, and filed. Large roof repair and landscaping invoices were adequately detailed.
3. Confirmed that monthly bank account reconciliations were completed.
4. Checked that all offering counting sheets and summary documents were properly filed.
5. Matched a sample of four months of donations to the deposit book and corresponding bank statements.
6. Verified that all donations, rental income, and other revenue were accurately reported in the year-end financial statement.
7. Confirmed investments year end statements are accurately reflected in the financial statements.
8. Compared the total of received donations to both the year-end financial statement and the bank deposits, ensuring that all figures balanced.
9. Reviewed the procedures for offering counting and deposit, finding them to be effective and reliable.
10. Confirmed that all required Synod payments were made.
11. Checked that Extended Ministry receipts balanced with the related expenditures.
12. Ensured that the 2024 Charities return was filed and approved by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
13. Reviewed all year-end receivables and payables, finding satisfactory explanations for each.
14. Verified that the church's insurance policy is active and in good standing.
15. Verified there is an equipment inventory spreadsheet but needs some updating.
16. Ensured that the Financial Statement and year-end report accurately reflect the accounting records.

Conclusion

Based on the procedures performed and the evidence reviewed, it is the opinion of the reviewers that the church's books and records are in good order, and the financial statements are a fair and accurate representation of the church's financial affairs for 2025.



Cameron Runka
Reviewer



Anne Harding
President

2026 BUDGET

Council is presenting a \$10,033 deficit budget for 2026 for the congregations' approval. The 2026 Budget is shown in Schedule 6. The highlights of the budget are explained in the following notes:

Revenues

Overall Revenues will be in line with 2025 but for a variety of different reasons

Offerings revenues

- Note 1 - \$342,625 Offerings are forecast moderately higher than in 2025. With the prospect of Unity Church's dissolution and its members becoming members of Hope, the council decided we would see an increase in offerings for 2026.

Committee Activities

Admin & Property

- Note 2 - Rental Income – \$71,130 We are confident that rental income will continue at levels we experienced in 2025. A portion of the rental income comes from Synod's continuing rental support for Unity through 2026.
- Note 3 - Grants - \$11,250 Two grants from ELCIC, one the Creative Initiative Fund, the other continuation of Unity's children and mission ministry funding.

Expenses

Salary and Benefits in this Budget are increasing by (\$36,404) from last year's level. Reasons for the increase include:

- Note 4 - Recommendation from Personnel Committee and HR Consultants to hire an Operations Manager. Council approved this recommendation. This change will also result in changes to existing office staff job responsibilities. The addition of this position increases salary and benefits by \$61,457. The goal is to fill this position with the ideal candidate by April 2026.
- Note 5 - Pastors' basic salary increased to meet Synod guidelines for his length of service. Pastors' salary is an increase of 3% from his current salary. All of our paid positions are being increased by 3% retroactive to January 1, 2026. The cost of benefits is also increasing. CPP, EI and Pension expenses will be increasing.

Committee and Activities expenses in this Budget are lower than last year (\$14,749):

- Note 6 - Hope has completed its 3-year commitment of funding Lutheran Campus Ministry at \$20,000 per year. Lutheran Campus Ministry will be supported in 2026 using the Charity of Choice program.
- Note 7 - Chinese Ministry - \$5,500 Discussions with Unity Church members who desire to become members of Hope was the continuation of several existing programs. ELCIC is currently funding these programs and will continue to do so for 2026. Once Unity is dissolved the remainder of these funds will be directed at Hope.

Administration and Property are forecasted to decrease by (\$1,731)

- Note 8 - Insurance - \$31,464 this amount is anticipated to be 15% higher than 2025.

- Note 9 - Maintenance & Repair includes the 2nd phase of roof repair. Grounds keeping and Janitorial services are in line with last year. 2026 budget allowance is line with 2025 expenditures.
- Note 10 - Safety expenses should be lower in 2026. Safety inspection contracts were renegotiated resulting in cost decrease.
- Note 11 - Support for the Synod will increase to (\$20,000) for the year.
- Note 12 – A capital expenditure of \$5,000 has been listed for 2026. This will be used to install a fence complete with slats and gate on the southeast corner of our property by the Pre K door. Its purpose is to allow Pre K to operate a Daycare service along with its regular program. This should result in an increase in rental revenues from Pre K.

We are presenting this budget again with our continuing support for the Synod and investment in our staff and building while trying to be as lean as possible. Thank you for your support.



2026 Budget

Schedule 6

Account Category	Account Group	Account Detail	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026	Variance 2026 Budget vs 2025 Actuals	Notes	
Revenues	Offerings	Envelope Offerings	330,000	329,330	342,625	13,295		
		Funds	0	0	0	0		
		Loose Offerings	1,200	1,911	600	(1,311)		
	Offerings Total		331,200	331,241	343,225	11,984	1	
	Committee & Activities	Fellowship & Outreach	0	210	0	(210)		
		Worship	1,401	1,310	1,200	(110)		
	Committee & Activities Total		1,401	1,520	1,200	(320)		
	Administration & Property	Administration	0	3,487	2,390	(1,097)		
		Investment Income	1,200	4,921	1,200	(3,721)		
		Rent	65,000	71,615	71,130	(485)		
		Cell Phone Tower	20,000	20,000	20,000	0		
		Transfers	54,500	24,500	10,000	(14,500)	2	
		Grants	0	0	11,250	11,250	3	
	Administration & Property Total		140,700	124,523	115,970	(8,553)		
Revenues Total			473,301	457,284	460,395	3,111		
Expenses	Wages & Benefits	Pastoral	150,041	126,935	113,541	13,394	4	
		Pulpit Supply	2,500	698	1,380	(682)		
		Program Coordinator	35,208	43,204	12,120	31,083	5	
		Director	3,600	2,455		2,455		
		Organists	5,400	4,924	5,734	(810)		
		Administration	37,521	43,522	42,578	943		
		AV Coordinator	5,000	5,075	5,054	20		
		Custodian	1,800	1,841	1,841	0		
		Manager			61,457	(61,457)	6	
		Community Care Coordinator			21,352	(21,352)	7	
	Wages & Benefits Total		241,070	228,654	265,058	(36,404)		
	Committee & Activities	Pastoral	400	141	240	(99)		
		Education	1,540	1,255	850	405		
		Fellowship & Outreach	28,140	25,081	4,920	20,161	8	
		Funeral Receptions	1,000	51	400	(349)		
		Worship	8,400	6,741	6,535	206		
		Stewardship	200	225	300	(75)		
		Council Discretionary	500		0			
		Chinese Ministry			5,500	(5,500)	9	
	Committee & Activities Total		40,180	33,494	18,745	14,749		
	Administration & Property	Office	12,500	18,845	16,854	1,991		
		Cleaning Supplies	4,000	3,190	2,700	490		
		Communications & Network	3,850	3,687	4,756	(1,069)		
		Insurance	26,000	27,244	31,464	(4,220)		
		Maintenance & Repair	95,600	84,228	81,755	2,473	10	
		Safety	9,600	4,493	2,682	1,811		
		Utilities	20,100	21,669	21,414	255		
	Administration & Property Total		171,650	163,356	161,625	1,731		
	Synod & Ministry	Synod & Ministry	18,000	18,000	20,000	(2,000)	11	
		Conventions	2,400	15		15		
	Synod & Ministry Total		20,400	18,015	20,000	(1,985)		
Expenses Total			473,300	443,519	465,428	(21,908)		
Surplus / (Deficit)			(1)	13,765	(5,033)	(18,797)		
Capital Expenditures					(6,061)	(5,000)	1,061	12
Overall Surplus / (Deficit)					7,704	(10,033)	(17,736)	

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Rationale for Proposed Bylaw Amendments

The proposed bylaw amendments are intended to strengthen the governance, continuity, and flexibility of Hope Lutheran Church while remaining fully aligned with our Constitution and congregational practices. Collectively, these changes modernize timelines for the Annual General Meeting, clarify and simplify Council composition and elections, reinforce staggered three-year Council terms to support leadership continuity, and ensure greater clarity and consistency in nomination and officer election processes. The amendments also recognize current communication practices by formally permitting electronic notice. Together, these updates support effective succession planning, clearer accountability, and more sustainable lay leadership in service of Hope's mission and ministry.

[Link to current Constitution and Bylaws](#)

Below is a **clear redline comparison** showing the **current bylaw text** with **proposed changes marked** using:

- ~~strikethrough~~ = removed
- **bold text** = added

PART I – Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Section 1

Current

The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held in the month of **January of the succeeding year**.

Proposed (Redline)

The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held ~~in the month of January of the succeeding year within one year and forty-five (45) days of the previous year's Annual General Meeting, on a date determined by the Congregational Council.~~

PART II – Nominations and Elections

Section 1 – Composition and Terms of Council

Current

The Congregational Council shall consist of **twelve elected members**. At the commencement of each year, the members shall fill terms as follows: **four for three-year terms; four for two year terms; and four for a one-year term**, so that at the end of each year there will be at least four council vacancies.

Proposed (Redline – replace entire section)

The Congregational Council shall consist of ~~twelve elected members no fewer than seven (7) and no more than thirteen (13) elected members~~.

~~At the commencement of each year, the members shall fill terms as follows: four for three year terms; four for two year terms, and four for a one year term. All elected members of Council shall serve three-year terms only.~~

Terms shall be staggered so that, as nearly as possible, one-third (1/3) of the Council is elected each year, resulting in approximately one-third of members serving in their first year, one-third in their second year, and one-third in their third year.

No Council member may serve more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms. Eligibility for re-election shall be restored after a break of at least one year.

The Congregational Council shall ensure that elections are conducted in a manner that maintains staggered terms and continuity of governance.

Section 2 – Nomination Committee Timing

Current

A committee to nominate candidates for each Congregational Council vacancy to be filled at the annual meeting of the congregation shall be appointed by the Council **in November prior to the annual meeting**.

Proposed (Redline)

A committee to nominate candidates for each Congregational Council **vacancy position to be elected** to be filled at the annual meeting of the congregation shall be appointed by the Council **in November prior to the annual meeting no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting**.

Section 3 – Nomination Process

Current

The nomination committee shall present to the annual meeting of the congregation at least one nominee for each **council vacancy** together with a list of the number of vacant one, two and three-year terms. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the annual meeting. Only persons who give their consent shall be nominated.

Proposed (Redline – replace entire section)

The nomination committee shall present to the Annual General Meeting ~~at least one nominee for each council vacancy together with a list of the number of vacant one, two and three year terms a slate of nominees sufficient to fill the number of Council positions to be elected in accordance with Part II, Section 1 of these Bylaws.~~

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting, provided that the nominee has given prior consent.

Section 5 – Election of Officers

Current

Candidates thus elected will be assigned to vacant terms on Council...

...At this meeting the council shall elect from its membership a vice-president and a secretary...

The Congregational Council shall also elect a treasurer and a financial secretary who need not be members of the Congregational Council.

Every second year... the Congregational Council shall elect... **for a two-year term**, a president...

Proposed (Redline – replace entire section)

~~Candidates thus elected will be assigned to vacant terms on Council...~~

~~Every second year at its first meeting... the Congregational Council shall elect... for a two-year term, a president~~

At the first meeting of the Congregational Council following the Annual General Meeting, the Council shall elect from among its members a President, Vice-President, and Secretary, who shall serve one-year terms.

The Congregational Council shall also elect a Treasurer and a Financial Secretary, neither of whom is required to be a member of the Congregational Council.

All officer elections shall occur annually.

PART VI – Mailings

Section 1

Current

Mailings to congregation members required pursuant to notice provisions in the constitution may be sent by post or placed into the members' mail boxes in the narthex of the church.

Proposed (Redline)

Mailings to congregation members required pursuant to notice provisions in the constitution may be sent by ~~post or placed into the members' mail boxes in the narthex of the church~~ post, placed into the members' mailboxes at the church, or by electronic communication, including email or other electronic means customarily used by the congregation.

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.

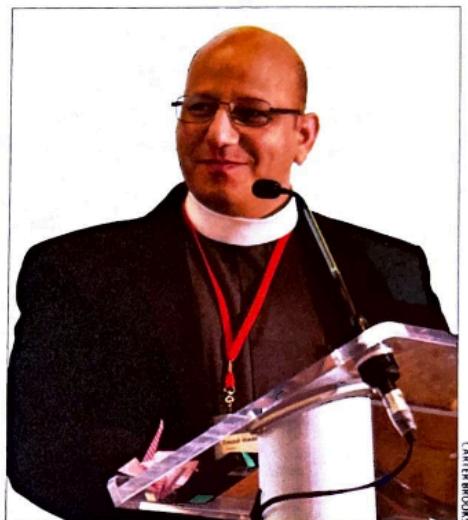
The past two-and-a-half years have been extremely challenging for the people of the ELCJHL. The growing conflict and tension continues to take a toll on many church members – our global mission partners in the East.

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.

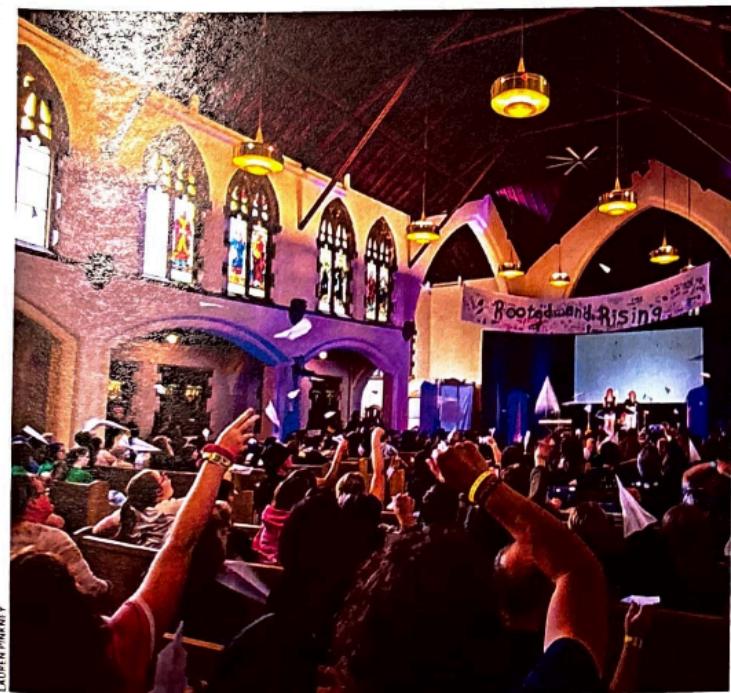
"Your support is meaningful for us, it will help us continue to minister, to be with the people, to continue opening our schools and giving severance to our teachers," said ELCJHL Bishop-elect Imad Haddad. "But at the same time, it will help us help families who are in very bad situations because of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



ELCJHL Bishop-elect Imad Haddad.

CALIBRE PHOTOGRAPHY

CLAY 2025: ROOTED AND RISING



LAUREN PHINNEY

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. •

OPENING WORSHIP

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

You are encouraged to acknowledge Indigenous lands in a way appropriate to your context at the beginning of your annual meeting. The following words are provided as an example.

We acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the [Name of Indigenous Peoples for where your community is located]. We recognize and respect their enduring presence on this land and express our gratitude for the opportunity to live, work and learn on their territory. /

Let us take a moment to reflect on the history of this land and to consider our roles in working towards reconciliation and understanding.

PRAYER

Leader: Gracious God, thank you for this opportunity to gather as your people. As we meet, may we be mindful of the mission and ministry to which you have called each of us. To share your love and grace with everyone we encounter.

All: Amen.

READING

Hebrews 10:23–25

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

CLOSING WORSHIP

Leader: Faithful God, as you have journeyed with your people throughout the ages, continue to journey with your people here and now. Thank you for our time together, to reflect on the mission and ministry of this place. May our hearts be renewed to be your signs of grace and love in our community.

All: Amen.

- Opening and closing worship prepared by Deacon Gretchen Peterson. -



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada

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HYMN – All Are Welcome, EvLW 641

LITANY

Leader: God's grace and unconditional love calls us to be a diverse, inclusive community.

All: We celebrate all and uphold life-giving relationships.

Leader: As we join together for this time of meeting, for the business of this congregation,

All: May we not only be mindful of this congregation, but remember the needs of the community beyond these walls.

Leader: Provoke in us your spirit of compassion, kindness and goodness.

All: So we might be your hands and feet in the world, to bring your love to everyone.

Leader: Be with us always. Remind us of your generosity,

All: So we may be signs of that generosity out in the world.

Leader: God of hope and love,

All: Amen.

HYMN – God is Here Today, ACS 993

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!