

ANNUAL REPORT - WMA

[Cont'd]



- St. Paul's Brass Ensemble provided special music for worship on November 30 and January 11, enriching the congregation's worship with brass music during the church year.
- A Chord with The Lord, St. Mary's youth choir, directed by Christina Oldani and coordinated by Kendra Richter, offered vocal music to several worship services throughout the year.
- This year, St. Mary's welcomed Nathan Larsen as Jubilate Handbell Director, giving thanks for his leadership and the gifts he brings to the handbell ministry.
- Jubilate participated in a Handbell Festival at Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church in Racine on April 18, representing St. Mary's and sharing in a broader celebration of handbell music.

Arts and Sacred Space

- The visual and creative arts offered meaningful ways to enhance worship and mark the seasons of the church year. Paraments, banners, flowers, candles, seasonal decorations and other visual elements helped shape the worship environment and supported the congregation's experience of Scripture, prayer and praise.
- The committee is grateful to Chris Johnson and Gretchen Rasch and all those who helped prepare and care for the sanctuary and other worship spaces. Their creative and behind-the-scenes work contributed to a welcoming and spiritually grounded environment for members, visitors and guests.

Volunteers and Collaboration

- The work of worship is shared by many people. The committee extends sincere thanks to all volunteers who served as readers, communion assistants, ushers, greeters, altar guild members, technology assistants, musicians, choir members, decorators and worship planners. Their faithfulness made regular worship and special services possible throughout the year.
- Collaboration among staff, committee members and volunteers remained essential. We recognize Art Kotenko and Olga Kurpayanidi for their work at the sound board and streaming Sunday services. Their ministry helps us to reach the wider community. The committee appreciates the spirit of cooperation and flexibility shown by all who helped prepare, lead and support worship at St. Mary's.

Looking Ahead

- As St. Mary's looks toward the coming year, the Worship, Music and Arts Committee hopes to continue strengthening worship through thoughtful planning, expanded participation and creative use of music and the arts. Goals for the year ahead include encouraging more members to share their gifts, supporting strong communication among worship leaders, and exploring new ways to engage people of all ages in worship and artistic expression.
- If you are interested in sharing your gifts of music this summer, please send an email to Richard Sjoerdsma, who will serve as special music coordinator for summer worship and may be reached at rsjoerdsma@carthage.edu. Please include the date of service you wish to participate in as well as some song selections you may be considering.
- The committee remains committed to worship that proclaims God's grace, gathers the community in prayer and praise, and reflects the gifts and faith of the people of St. Mary's Lutheran Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Schmit

Worship, Music and Arts Committee Chairperson

ANNUAL REPORT - OFFICE

Beth Kerscher, Administrative Assistant

If you haven't had a chance to come to the church's office lately, please stop by! It is a place of serious business with a flare of joy, fellowship and the active participation of The Holy Spirit on a daily basis - if not multiple times a day! Pastor Jordan has posted office hours twice a week, but she is available many other times - just give her a quick call or email to set up a date! Having her in the office is a key component to the joy and successes that happen there. There are opportunities for volunteers to help out during the week: morning and afternoon shifts available. No long-term contracts needed.

The most notable news from the church office this year is the replacement and ultimate upgrade to our problematic access door system. The staff and many active members of St. Mary's endured a very long time without any workable features limiting use, and creating big problems where there should be none. The dedication and determination of our Property Co-Chairs & Committee resulted in us getting a new, different system for free with credits and refunds we were due. Huge "Shout out" to the Dave's and Keith for staying on top of this whole 'narly situation! Now, when you press the doorbell, a lovely British lady says, "The door is open." - classy!

The church and office staff has a good solid roster of staff members: we bid "farewell" to Bookkeeper Sondra Kuro, Jubilate! Director, Maddie Weirick, and Pastor Debbie Hartfield. We welcomed as new bookkeeper, Susan Peet and new bell director, Nathan Larsen to our staff meetings. We meet approximately every 6 weeks to connect and reconnect with each other. There are always snacks.

One challenge that the office had to address is the complete elimination of the Microsoft Publisher program: the one St. Mary's office uses exclusively to prepare every printed material produced here... so! this old dog has learned a new trick and this Annual Report was prepared on Canva Pro - free to non-profit/churches - and world's of fun to use!

I'd like to thank our church staff roster, our church leadership, committee chairs and the dedicated members for your support and love shown to me in this past year. As this is my 60th birthday year, and my 13th year on staff with SMLC, I have wisdom to recognize how blessed I am to be a part of this amazing faith community as a member and as your church secretary. May God continue to bless each of us as we work together for the Glory of God in Kenosha and in God's world!

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Kerscher



*"You will show me the path of life: in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11*

ANNUAL REPORT - THE FRIENDLY CENTER

Lisa Zanin, Board Member

- The Friendly Center of St. Mary's Lutheran Church is a ministry for seniors to connect with friends, share a tasty meal and experience a wide range of presentations on a monthly basis.
- The Friendly Center has continued this outreach ministry for seniors in Kenosha. Presently, there are 60 active members with an average of 40 members attending each monthly event. There are 8 church affiliations represented in this group with a few members not identifying a church community.
- During the 2025-26 Friendly Center season the board has been busy organizing, preparing and serving meals with the help of Gretchen and her crew. We have offered entertaining as well as informational presentations including: ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) Overview and ADRC Brain Health as well as the Paddy Lynn and Les dramatic show called "Love Letters", Pastor Cindy's travel tour of Norway and John Schoettler's trombone musical ensemble called: Bone Appetite.
- Finally, the members of the Friendly Center have generously supported the community with donations to at least 9 local charities. Some of these organizations include The Shalom Center, Luther's Lunch Box, Breaking the Chains Prison Ministry, The Salvation Army and The Veteran's Pantry of Racine. These donations have been in the form of non-perishable food items, personal and hygiene care products and financial gifts.
- The Friendly Center Board would like to thank all who have offered their help this past year as this support is essential for the Friendly Center as we move into the future.



ANNUAL REPORT - CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Anne Winkle, CIS Chairperson



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

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

Church in Society has supported the following programs and projects:

1. Bread for the World — Covenant member status was renewed for 2026. St. Mary's has been a covenant partner since 1986.
2. Fair Trade — The ministry sold Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolates and olive oil monthly.
3. Lutheran World Relief — 210 quilts and 22 personal care kits donated in 2025.
4. ELCA Outreach Center — snacks for summer campers on June 29 - July 2, 2025. CIS is thankful for the monetary donations and the ministry teams that contributed.
5. Christmas in July — CIS sponsors a collection of personal care items for the Outreach Center during the month of July. Approximately 475 lbs and \$300.00 in 2025.
6. Shalom Center — Volunteers from St. Mary's help at the soup kitchen.
7. CUSH - continues to advocate for the least of these in Kenosha. CIS also supports CUSH with a \$300.00 monetary gift. CUSH celebrated 25 years as an interfaith organization in Kenosha. CIS contributed \$500.00 to this event.
8. Outreach for Hope Bike Ride — September 27, 2025. Ralph Tollas and Andy Schroeder participated.
9. Afghan Refugees — CIS continues to support this endeavor through prayer.
10. "Breaking the Chains" church — CIS board members helped fill 150 Christmas gift bags for the incarcerated on December 15, 2025. Breaking the Chains Church celebrated its 10th year with a dinner on February 1, 2026. St. Mary's donated a quilt and a basket of Fair Trade products to this event.



ANNUAL REPORT - PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Dave Frost & Dave Sandahl, Co-Chairs

Property Committee Update

The Property Committee has not had much significant change over the last year. We continue to maintain our building and grounds with the help and support of many volunteers; we are grateful for their dedication and hours of service. The Committee has done what we can to maintain our budget, however several expenses increased this year beyond our expectations: Electricity, up 8%; Gas, up 13%; and Snow Plowing, up 42%. Additionally, the dishwasher repair completed during last fiscal year we planned to pay from last year's budget was invoiced later than expected and was paid from this year's budget. At the time of submitting this report through eleven months we are anticipating total Property accounts to be over budget by approximately 4%.

Looking ahead, the Property Committee has a significant maintenance issue that will require completion this fall. The two air handling units in the Basement Mechanical Room installed with the 1974 building addition require repairs that we are working to get costs for. One AHU had a leak on the boiler water supply pipe and is currently not operating. This AHU supplies heat to the Basement rooms off the corridor, the Basement main west rooms, the room at the west end of the Gym, the Quilters Storage Room, and Nurse Sue's office. The second AHU was required to shut down to replace the (3) in-operable valves in the Boiler Room and would not return to service once that work was completed for reasons yet to be determined and is also currently not operating. This AHU supplies heat to the Gym.

I would also like to mention that heat from the Sanctuary east radiators that many people have mentioned to the Property Committee members is due to isolation valves that are intended to close and stop boiler hot water supply are no longer sealing properly and therefore are allowing hot water to the radiators. At this time replacing these valves and associated piping is not funded or scheduled.

Highlights of some accomplishments during the past year are:

- Replaced battery on scissors lift and have been able to use it to replace (18) Gym light bulbs and for Good Friday Service Sanctuary preparations and clean up
- Installed new narrow window in Pastor Jordan's office door
- Hosted (2) Spring Elections in the Gym and provided (9) election day handicapped parking signs required by the City of Kenosha
- Worked with Midwest Alarm to replace the problematic entry/access FOB reader system
- Replaced (3) in-operable boiler hot water valves in Boiler Room for work required on Basement Mechanical Room air handlers (explained in the write-up)
- Replaced Fire Alarm panel due to existing one end of service life
- A Flashfire Sugar Maple tree was donated and planted as a memorial for Mary Sjoerdsma in the east parkway

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Frost

Property Committee Co-Chair

ANNUAL REPORT - WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Cheryl Hayes, WELCA Treasurer

St. Mary's Lutheran Women of the Church

Treasurer's Report

6/30/25-6/30/26

Beginning Balance on hand \$1,126.42

Receipts:

Circle Offerings	\$ 489.00	
Thankoffering	\$ 738.00	
Meru Orphanage	\$ 1,395.00	
Blanket Account (postage)	\$ 135.00	
High Tea Ticket Sales	\$ 650.00	
Total Receipts		\$ 3,407.00

Disbursements:

Year-End	\$ 625.00	
ELCA Synod 55%	\$ 226.05	
LWR Postage	\$ 135.00	
Meru Orphanage	\$ 1,395.00	
Thankoffering	\$ 676.12	
Subscriptions	\$ 24.95	
Checks Reorder	\$ 56.00	
High Tea Expenses	\$ 348.83	
Total Disbursements		\$ 3,486.95

Ending Balance on Hand \$1,046.47



WELCA High Tea
'Mad Hatter's Tea Party'
April 18, 2026



ANNUAL REPORT - ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Disbursements & Scholarships - 2025/2026

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

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

The following is a list of grant recipients of St. Mary's Endowment Foundation for the past year (August 1, 2025 through July 31st, 2026)

Salvation Army	ELCA Outreach Center
St. Mary's High School Youth	St. Mary's Middle School Youth
St. Mary's Sunday School	Sharing Center
Kenosha Human Development Services	Kenosha Welcome Center
KAFASI Senior Nutrition Program	Cycling Without Age
St. Mary's Good Samaritan Fund	Walkin' In My Shoes
St. Mary's Quilters	Royal Family Kids Camp
Thirteen Educational Scholarships	St. Mary's Vacation Bible School
Greater Milwaukee Synod Solidarity Pilgrimage to the Holy Land (Pastor Jordan and other Synod representatives)	

To make a donation to St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation or to request a grant for your organization, go to www.stmaryslutheran.org. Click on The Endowment Foundation

The St. Mary's Lutheran Endowment Foundation is proud to announce the follow student as recipients of endowed scholarships and Educational Grants for the 2026-2027 school year. Best wishes to all our college bound students.

Benson Borter	UWM	Alyson Dahl	New York University
Katelyn Dahl	Alvernia University/Carthage College	Emma Eltoft	University of Iowa
Keira Plotner	UW Madison	Ryan Plotner	Carthage College
Ana Geron	Carthage College	Ava Geron	Carthage College
Joshua Manjarrez	Carthage College	Addison Matera	UW Lacrosse
Ashleigh Ours	Carthage College	Linnea Williams	DePaul University
Ben Van Laningham	UW Madison		

All of these scholarships were made possible by the generous donations from:

Agnes Petersen	Dagmar Mead
Lydia Ostergaard	Rev. Siersbeck
Col. Fonk	Bertha Fonk
Betty Kuessow	Dolores Akin
Wayne & Patricia Koessel	



ANNUAL REPORT - ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Steve Seymour, Treasurer

ST MARYS LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT December 31, 2025

	NOV-DEC	YEAR TO DATE	INCEPTION TO DATE
RECEIPTS			
FROM DONORS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,320,302.32
DIVIDENDS & INTEREST	\$ 19,041.31	\$ 97,672.27	\$ 2,457,596.27
REALIZED GAINS (LOSS)	\$ 23,746.96	\$ 23,746.96	\$ 700,097.52
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 42,788.27</u>	<u>\$ 121,419.23</u>	<u>\$ 4,477,996.11</u>
DISBURSEMENTS			
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 241.56	\$ 923.76	\$ 14,344.04
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 44,543.37	\$ 96,748.51	\$ 2,443,252.23
CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRINCIPAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 272,671.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 44,784.93</u>	<u>\$ 97,672.27</u>	<u>\$ 2,730,267.27</u>
BALANCE RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	\$ (1,996.66)	\$ 23,746.96	\$ 1,747,728.84

SUMMARY OF ASSETS

	COST	MARKET	%OF MARKET
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	\$ 95,017.81	\$ 95,017.81	3.23%
THRIVENT FLEXIBLE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	\$ 199,537.61	\$ 199,537.61	6.78%
ELCA MISSION INVESTMENTS	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	3.74%
BOND FUNDS	\$ 77,763.58	\$ 74,957.18	2.55%
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT (CDs)	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	3.40%
PREFERRED STOCK	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
COMMON STOCK	\$ 639,930.14	\$ 1,691,949.24	57.48%
STOCK FUNDS	\$ 390,063.38	\$ 494,871.87	16.81%
BALANCED FUNDS	\$ 135,416.32	\$ 177,110.60	6.02%
TOTAL FUND ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,747,728.84</u>	<u>\$ 2,943,444.31</u>	<u>100.00%</u>





Andy Schroeder
Nomination for Church
Council

Hello, My name is Andy Schroeder and I have been a member of St. Mary's Lutheran Church since 2005. My wife Carol (who, with her 3 kids- Alex, Melissa, and Jarod) had joined St. Mary's in 2003. She and I were married at St. Mary's in February of 2005 by my godfather, Rev. Edward Schroeder. My parents (Art, who did bible studies and cooked for the Friendly Center and Judy Schroeder, who was a diaconal minister here and led the Friendly Center) were members (around late 1990's to 20-teens) before I joined. Actually they introduced me to Carol, thus were instrumental (as well as the Holy Spirit) in leading me to St. Mary's. I did serve a term on the church council around 2009. Why did I say yes to be a part of St. Mary's council now? Well to be honest, I usually tried to find an excuse not to; too busy, not gifted for the role, can be stressful, challenging present times, what will the future be, etc. I was even considering an excuse this time too. But one day when I was out and about, I heard a song. I do not know the name of it or who sang it. But what caught my attention was the line, 'what are you waiting for?' What am I waiting for? Good question.

- ✓ Yes, these are trying times,
- ✓ Yes, our congregation has been hit hard by COVID,
- ✓ Yes, I do not know what the future holds,
- ✓ Yes, I do not have answers for these difficult concepts.

All I can do is try to help in whatever way I possibly can, trusting in God's guidance, prodded by the Holy Spirit, working with fellow council members and pastors to seek a way to keep moving St. Mary's forward in ministering to members/worshippers and to the community. And with the help of God I hope to do that. What are we waiting for?

Your Candidates for Church Council 2026-27



Carole Scotese
Nomination for Church
Council

My name is Carole Scotese. My husband and three children moved here from PA in 2006. I became a member in 2008, and my first time as a Lutheran. I've been a 2nd Presbyterian, Methodist and Church of Christ member over the years. Since my time at St. Mary's: I've been a greeter, led the spiritual gifts portion of the New Member's classes, helped with Altar Guild, usher on Sundays, facilitate the Supper Clubs ministry since 2009, facilitated a 'Make a Difference Day' in 2012 (where members who are able, help out members who are not by doing chores for them), a member of Pastor Raben's E-team, facilitate our Grief Card care ministry, delivered angel tree gifts, help with funeral meals, occasionally read the lessons for worship, and changed the wording on our outdoor church marque (now replaced with a digital screen).

I've also led two self-drive outings. In 2016, a group of 15 members went to Wauwatosa to tour the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, a building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. We learned about the architecture and the Orthodox Church.

[Carole continued]

In 2017, 23 members did a tour of Kemper Center/Durkee Mansion in Kenosha with a lunch. We delighted in learning about the Durkees and the school they created, all historically decorated for Christmas.

I do volunteer work for the Civil War Museum and Kenosha Public Museum. I mentored a KUSD student for 8 years, and co-chaired for the Day Trip committee at Parkside’s Senior group called ‘Adventures in Lifelong Learning’ for 12 years.

I’ve watched many dedicated members over the years serve on church council. It is my turn to give of my time and talents to this worthwhile cause, if most of you agree.



Debra Taylor
Nomination for Church
Council

Introduction & Family

My Mother – Sue Drake and I – Debbie Taylor have been deeply blessed by this congregation from the moment we stepped into the door. Having lived in the Kenosha area for over 30 years with my husband and children, this community is truly our home, and I am deeply committed to seeing our church family thrive.

Church Involvement & Faith Journey

After first visiting in January 2025, I officially became a member last Fall. Since then, I have loved getting more involved, particularly by joining the choir last September. Serving in the choir has been a source of great joy for me, allowing me to praise God while building meaningful connections within the body of Christ. My faith is grounded in serving others, and I believe fostering a welcoming, supportive community is vital to our collective mission.

Professional Background & Skills

I have over three decades of professional experience currently focusing on Quality Assurance, Knowledge Management, and Business Operations. My career has trained me to look at processes with an eye for efficiency, clarity, and continuous improvement. I enjoy organizing information, streamlining communication, and ensuring that initiatives are executed with a high standard of quality service. I am eager to invest in our church’s administrative and operational health.

Vision for the Council

I am seeking a seat on the church council to support our leadership team, ensure sound stewardship of our resources, and help our ministries thrive efficiently. My goal is to use my background in operations and Quality Assurance to help create a smooth, welcoming, and well-organized environment where our community can focus on spiritual growth and impactful service.

*Thank you for your consideration,
Debbie*

Your St. Mary's Lutheran Church Staff & Leadership - 2025-2026



Lead Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick



Handbell Director
Nathan Larsen



Andrea Beer



Associate Pastor (retired 5/2026)
Rev. Debbie Hartfeld

Aurora Faith & Health Team /
Care Ministry Coordinator
Nurse Sue



Dana Larsen



Lisa Rasmussen Zanin



Sound & Video Technician
Art Kotenko



Bookkeeper
Susan Peet



Markie Hylinski



Patricia Mason



Administrative Assistant
Beth Kerscher



Pianist
Willy Mueller



Organist/Piano Accompanist
Deb Black



Choir Director
Dr. Richard D. Sjoerdsma



President
Andy Schroeder



Sandy Bear



Stephanie Raszkievicz



Coordinator of Children's Ministry
Joan Oehlberg



Vice-President
Keith Richter



Secretary
Hollie DeFranco



Acting Treasurer
Steve Hartfield



Youth Director
Kendra Richter



Annual Report 2025-26



MEETING AGENDA

St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation

Financial Report and Member Elections.....Neil Guttormsen



MEETING AGENDA

St. Mary's Lutheran Church Congregation

- Call to Order/Quorum Count.....Andy Schroeder, President
- Open Devotion.....Keith Richter, Vice-President
- Approval of Minutes from 2025 Annual Meeting
.....Hollie DeFranco, Secretary
- Council Recognition.....Andy Schroeder
- Nominating Committee Report.....Dana Larsen
- Election of Council Members.....Andy Schroeder
- Election of Nominating Committee Members.....Dana Larsen
- President's Comments and Announcements.....Andy Schroeder
- Pastor's Comments.....Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubbendick
- Council Election Results.....Andy Schroeder
- 2025-2026 Mission and Ministry Resource Plan.....Dan Neururer
- Lord's Prayer
- Adjournment

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

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