

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)

HUTCHINSON, MN

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

MEETING ~ SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 AT 12 NOON

# ANNUAL MEETING

OUR MISSION IS:

**BUILDING FAITH**

*"EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY,  
FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST"*

*EPHESIANS 4:12*

TO LIVE OUT THAT MISSION, GOD CALLS US TO:

FOLLOW JESUS

ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL

INVITE ALL PEOPLE

TEACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH

HELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED





# 2024 Church Leadership, Personnel and Volunteers

## **Church Council Officers**

President .....	Dennis Langehaug
Vice President .....	Jon Kamrath
Treasurer .....	Al Liepold
Secretary .....	Amanda Schueler

## **Pastoral Ministry**

Pastors .....	Scott Grorud, Dave Wollan
Mission Ministry .....	Paul Knudson (Part-time)
Visitation Pastor .....	Paulus Pilgrim (Part-time)
Pastoral Associate .....	Jeff Amundson (Part-time)

## **Lay Ministry Staff**

Director of Children and Family Ministry .....	Laura Stowman
Director of Music and Worship .....	Austin Willhite
Director of Pastoral Care and Evangelism .....	Marsha Schmit
Director of Youth and Family Ministry .....	Kristen Durst
Administrative Assistant .....	Wendy Magruder
Custodial/Maintenance .....	Owen Weikle (Part-time)
Finance Coordinator .....	Sara Wegner (Part-time)
Nursery Attendant (Sundays) .....	Monica Schiller (Part-time)

## **Music Ministry**

Worship Leaders - Sunday Mornings .....	Andy and Tabetha Dawkins, Ronda Eckhart, Leah Kamrath, and Lara Liepold
Assisting Musicians and Vocalists .....	Justin Beck, Evan Boike, Kevin Elton, Mona Hjerpe, Mike McDowell, Kaylee Scheevel, and Bailey Willhite
Organists .....	Sharon Barton and Ronda Eckhart

## **Wedding Consultants**

Niki Pokornowski, Wendy Magruder, and Kristen Durst

## **Volunteer Office Assistants**

Monday .....	Linell Loncorich and Angie Lohrenz
Tuesday .....	Sharon Romo
Wednesday .....	LoAnn Hanson
Thursday .....	Muriel Dobratz and Lynn Lange
Friday .....	Kathy Athey and Maria Weikle

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**Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda**  
**Sunday, January 26, 2025**

Call to Order

Adoption of the Agenda

Opening Devotions

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Leap of Faith Capital Campaign

Auditors' Report

Pastors', President's and Ministry Team Reports

Order of Business:

Election of Church Council and Ministry Team Members

Approve 2025 Budget

Other

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

**Please bring this report with you to the annual meeting.**

# **Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes**

## **January 28, 2024**

- I. Call to order at 11:59 am by Mona Hjerpe, Congregational President
- II. Adoption of Agenda
  - A. M/S/C to adopt agenda as printed on page 4 of the Annual Report
- III. Opening Devotions by Pastor Dave Wollan
  - A. Led the congregation in remembering the ‘Here is the Church’ rhyme and that the most important part of the church is people inside
  - B. That being said, there are many people working hard on the Phase II Building Project
  - C. Matthew 7 – about building your house on the rock. As we build our new building, the Holy Spirit will build us, the church, on the foundation of Jesus
- IV. Secretary’s Report
  - A. A revision was brought forward to amend the Annual Meeting minutes from January 29, 2023, to correct the spelling of John Olsen’s name.
  - B. M/S/C to accept the minutes as amended from the Annual Meeting dated January 29, 2023 as printed on page 6-7 of the Annual Report
- V. Treasurer’s Report
  - A. A video summary was presented by Ian McDonald.
  - B. The summary report is printed on pages 26-27 of the Annual Report.
  - C. A more detailed report is in the Financial Reports Addendum 2023.
  - D. There were no questions.
  - E. M/S/C to accept the Treasurer’s Report
- VI. Faith Forward/Faith Internship Community/Ansgar House
  - A. The original Faith Forward: \$150K for the Next 150 short-term capital campaign has been completed with the purchase of the Ansgar House and the start of the internship program. That account has been closed.
  - B. Line items were added to the budget for FLIP expenses, and maintenance of the Ansgar House will come from the same fund as maintenance of the church building.
  - C. The three interns presented what they have learned so far in their program, appreciating the warm welcome, enjoying serving the church, being able to observe how the church uses all the gifts that we have been given.
- VII. Auditors’ Report
  - A. The report is printed on page 9 of the Financial Addendum; no irregularities were found.
- VIII. Pastors’ Report
  - A. Printed Report is on page 9 of the Annual Report.
  - B. Presented by Pastor Scott, Ephesians 3:20-21.
  - C. It’s as exciting to watch the ministry going on in the church as it is to be doing it
- IX. President’s Report and Ministry Team Reports
  - A. Mona Hjerpe presented. The printed report is found on pages 8-9 of the Annual Report
    - i. A privilege to see the level of activity that goes on around the church.
    - ii. You won’t regret accepting a call to serve on a ministry team or church council.
  - B. Ministry Team written reports begin on page 15 of the Annual Report. There are six ministry teams. Thank you to those who serve on them

## X. Order of Business

### A. Election of Church Council and Ministry Teams

- i. 27 members are nominated, 12 agreed to a second term.
- ii. Lynn Lange filled the last opening on the Nominating Committee.
- iii. Call for any nominations from the floor.
- iv. M/S/C for the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the election of new members.

### B. Proposed By-law change

- i. Include the composition of the Personnel Committee and how its members are chosen, as well as how it conducts annual reviews of the church staff. Include language about review of the employee 401K plan.
- ii. Details on the proposed changes are found on page 5 of the Annual Report.
- iii. M/S/C to approve the proposed changes.

### C. Approve 2024 Budget

- i. The budget is found on page 27 of the Annual Report as well as more detail in the Financial Reports Addendum 2023.
- ii. Proposed budget is \$993,335. Benevolence, health premiums, website updates and new ministry programs contribute to the increase.
- iii. M/S/C to approve proposed 2024 budget.

### D. Phase Two Building Committee and Architect Presentation

- i. Megan Piehl gave an overview of the committee's efforts so far and members of it in attendance were recognized. Megan then introduced Brian Berg and Kevin Zachman.
- ii. Brian gave a presentation showing images of what the new sanctuary and multipurpose space would look like.
- iii. Currently projected around 22,000 sq ft with an approximate cost of \$450/sq. ft.
- iv. Questions were taken from the congregation and answered by the architects, pastors and committee members. All questions voiced at the meeting, as well as those written on cards collected after the meeting, were given to the committee for consideration.

## XI. Closing Prayer led by Pastor Scott Grorud.

## XII. Adjournment

- A. Thank you to all who served and helped prepare for the meeting.
- B. M/S/C to adjourn the meeting at 1:44.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda Schueler, Congregational Secretary

# Special Congregational Meeting

## Held in the Faith Lutheran Church Sanctuary

### November 24, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Langehaug at 9:15 a.m.

Pastor Scott began with a devotion on vision and unity, based on Acts 10, and led the congregation in prayer.

Introduction of Phase II Finance Team (P2FT members): Jessi Boike, Sara Wegner, Jon Gelschus, Ian McDonald, Mary Christensen, Tim Piehl, Pastor Scott and Pastor Dave.

P2FT members addressed commonly asked questions. A paper FAQ is available from the church office.

- **JESSI:** One of the most commonly asked questions we've heard is what is the timeline of this project? Capital campaigns traditionally last for three years, because of turnover in church membership and changes in their financial situations. The actual building project could not begin until enough gifts have been received to arrange financing, finalize our building plans and get bids. Those decisions would also be made at a special congregation meeting.
- **JON:** What would this capital campaign look like? If the Leap of Faith campaign is approved today, it will begin on Sunday, January 12, the KICKOFF day, when all the details of the campaign would be announced. After that, many small group meetings will be held to explain the vision and all the details, along with one-on-one visits for those who request them. There are plans for a devotional booklet to surround the campaign with prayer. The last Sunday of February would be LEAP DAY, when financial pledges would be submitted.
- **IAN: Financial background:**
  - a. Our architects' current cost estimate for Phase II is \$10-12 million.
  - b. Our lender for Phase I has said the church would be able to borrow only about \$3 million. The church would not attempt to borrow more than that even if it could. The project must be financially feasible.
  - c. Our congregation paid off a 25-year, \$3.2 million mortgage in just 10 years, so we have a great record of financial responsibility.
  - d. Gifts given for capital campaigns are kept entirely separate from the General Fund that supports Faith's ongoing ministry. Those funds are never commingled. We have met our annual operating budget in all but one of the last 14 years, and that one shortfall was quite small.
  - e. We reviewed previous capital campaigns at FLC along with county and city demographic information.
  - f. As the P2FT, we know that the Leap of Faith is a major challenge, but we believe it is achievable, even though it is a very large amount.
  - g. We have asked about the commitment of Faith's leadership to this campaign by the church staff, Phase II Building Committee (P2BC), P2FT, church council and ministry teams. Of the 47 responses submitted, 100% supported this effort.
- **TIM:** How could the family of Faith meet such a large goal?
  - a. Some people have been blessed to give large, up-front gifts.
  - b. Others are able to give weekly or monthly gifts from ongoing income.
  - c. Many of us could include the church in our wills or estate plans.
  - d. Retired people with RMD's can give them directly to the campaign.
  - e. Every gift of every size is needed and equally appreciated, but this goal will require all of us to stretch ourselves in faith.
  - f. Gifts can be given by check, electronic fund transfers, appreciated stock or assets, and other means.
- **MARY:** We do believe the goal can be reached, but people have already asked what happens if the gifts and pledges received fall short of the goal. The short answer is that the congregation will decide, at a meeting like this one, how to proceed. Many options might be considered, but for now, we want to encourage confidence, eagerness and faith that we can meet the goal before us. In any case, the ministry needs that are driving Phase II will not diminish and, by God's grace, may only grow in the future.



- PASTOR DAVE: This project could be our legacy for the future. The current sanctuary was built in 1938 when the Great Depression was not yet over. All of us here have been blessed by the legacy of those faithful donors who made this building a reality. This is our opportunity to create a legacy to bless future generations of Faith Lutheran Church, far beyond what any of us may live to see personally.

Questions from the congregation:

- How many family units are in the congregation? About 750; other data was also taken into account
- Any alternate plans if we don't raise enough money? The focus is on the goal as it stands now. If we need to revisit down the road, those decisions will be made by the congregation at a special meeting.

Pat May made a motion to move forward with the Leap of Faith capital campaign to raise funds for the completion of Phase II of the Faith's long-term building project.

President Langehaug asked for a second on the motion. Second by Dick Desens. The vote was taken by written ballots that were distributed, collected and counted by members of the Management ministry team. Results of the vote were: Yes – 183 and No – 35. The motion carried by a margin of 84%.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned by President Dennis Langehaug at 10:01 a.m.

## Pastors' Report

“Do not forsake me, for if I am left to myself, I will certainly bring it all to ruin! Amen.” That quote comes from one of Martin Luther’s sacristy prayers. A copy of the prayer hangs in Pastor Dave’s office and in the sacristy of the sanctuary. It is the prayer of our hearts as we preach, teach and provide pastoral leadership here at Faith Lutheran. This petition was particularly important this year, and will be in the year to come, as we navigate some very important decisions here at Faith.

But let’s not get ahead of ourselves! We should first celebrate some friendships we made this past year:

- The FLInterns! The first year of the Faith Lutheran Internship Program was all we could have asked for! Trevor, Joshua, and Courtney were a blessing to our Faith family, and were equally blessed by their experience with us! The staff really embraced their mentorship roles with the FLInterns, and the congregation made them feel welcomed and supported. It was disappointing that we were unable to secure any interns for the 2024-2025 program year—although that opened up another opportunity (see below)—but we already have several interested young adults for the fall of 2025.
- Juliano and Fabi Peter! With the Ansgar house unoccupied by FLInterns, Faith Lutheran was able to accommodate a couple from Brazil for part of their sabbatical. It was a delight to host Pastor Juliano and his wife Fabi. In their six weeks with us they made many connections at Faith, and enjoyed space to rest and recalibrate for ministry. They were here for only a short time, but we miss them!

In addition to hosting ministry folks and attending to the regular pastoral duties that fill our weeks, we spent a lot of time laying the groundwork for what will fill our time during the first part of 2025—the Leap of Faith capital campaign.

- Giving All That We Have was our fall preaching theme about the many facets of Biblical stewardship. Stewardship is often thought to apply only to giving and finances, which we did address, but we also examined how we are stewards of our families, our vocations, our bodies, and even our faith.
- P2BC and P2FT—We are grateful for the hard work and commitment of both our Phase II Building Committee and our Phase II Finance Team. Both groups met frequently and worked hard over the year, working on the questions of “What?” and “How?” We are also thankful for Jessica Boike and Sara Wegner, who came on part-time starting last summer to prepare and run the upcoming Leap of Faith campaign.

We continue to give thanks for the privilege of serving here at Faith and witnessing all the ways that God is at work in this congregation. We are so grateful for all the servant volunteers, the elected leaders, and our excellent, gifted and hard-working staff. We are thankful to our wives, Andrea and Shelly, and our families for their understanding and support. But most of all, we are thankful for the God who has graciously kept us from bringing it all to ruin!

Grace and peace to you all!

Pastor Dave Wollan

Pastor Scott Grorud

## Congregational President’s Report

Dear fellow members of Faith Lutheran Church, God’s blessings on us all!

The last two years have been a great learning experience for me as to what really goes on in our church. I see a vibrant church that is alive with programs, our youth, and all aspects of our ministry. This personally has been a great blessing to me and I humbly thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this way.

I am impressed at every level of our congregation, starting with our pastoral staff, to our supporting staff, to the volunteers, and all the members I served with on the church council. I see leadership and enthusiasm in all they do at all levels. I feel honored and blessed to have worked with all of them, and I praise God for them.

We continued throughout the year to work on the everyday care of the church, things that may go unnoticed. We repaired the roof over the gathering space outside the sanctuary and put new screens over the baffles in the bell tower. We fixed leaks in various areas and built a new room in the back narthex of the sanctuary to house As We Go Ministries, an auxiliary ministry of Faith Lutheran Church. Much of this work was done with volunteer help and donations. I thank everyone who took part in these projects.

There are so many ministries and programs that take place daily within the walls of our church, almost too many to mention. Whatever we do and have done in our church is done with joy and enthusiasm. I thank God for all these people who give so much just out of love for Christ and for their congregation.

As we enter into a new year, the congregation has given a strong vote of approval to seek to raise the funds needed to complete Phase II of Faith's long-term building plan. This effort will require everyone to get on board in order to make it happen. It will take a commitment from our entire congregation in order to succeed. In this congregation-wide project, small gifts are just as important as large ones, but we are all called to give as generously and sacrificially as God has blessed us to do. It will not happen overnight, but we have the gifts to make it happen if we all pull together. This can be a very exciting time as a congregation as we move forward with this process.

I will close this report with a call to the whole family of Faith Lutheran to get involved and serve. You will find it very rewarding.

God's blessings to Faith Lutheran Church and to each one of you!

Dennis Langehaug  
President

## **Report from Pastor Paul Knudson, Missions Ministry**

The following is a report on my activity in mission endeavors:

- I work with the leadership of the Augustana District Board of World Missions with special focus on our Ethiopian partners and their witness outreach through evangelists.
- I connect with the Tartu Academy of Theology in Estonia and work towards finding ways to increase their partnerships here through the AD.
- I work with New Hope Mission Society in communications, thank-you letters and newsletter preparations.
- I am the staff connection to our congregation's Church in the World ministry team which oversees our global and local/regional partnerships.

Other responsibilities and items:

- I still do limited visitations of homebound and hospitalized members.
- I am decreasing my hours primarily to Tuesdays and Wednesdays in 2025.
- I do occasional pulpit supply at area congregations.

## **Report from Pastor Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation Pastor**

Visiting seniors and others does not seem like hard work to me. Often I feel like I receive more than I give. From visiting an elderly lady who always follows receiving the Lord's Supper with praying aloud a post communion prayer she learned years ago in her confirmation instruction, to sharing the difficult struggles of a cancer sufferer who ends our visit with a solid declaration of her faith in God who is holding her in His merciful care—my heart is warmed and strengthened. I feel so blessed to be visitation pastor here at Faith Lutheran Church.

So I thank all of you, and our heavenly Father, for the privilege!

I am further energized by the support groups we sponsor and facilitate here at our congregation—the grief support group, caregivers, and the cancer group (FACe). Also, I cherish the growth in faith and pastoral care fed by working with Jeff Amundson and Marsha Schmit; plus pastors Scott, David and Paul. We all work so well together to address the needs of members in their time of special needs.

Needless to say our monthly gatherings for Seniors' Potluck strikes a note of joy that fosters gratitude to God and His children for uniting us in love and witness. Please join us.

Praise God!  
Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

## **Report from Pastoral Associate Jeff Amundson**

I am joyful and thankful to God in His many gifts and blessings, especially being able to continue to serve Him and Faith Lutheran. While embracing the "new normal" for myself, due to illness I have had many wonderful experiences and service opportunities.

The Fellowship Against Cancer (FACe) Group continues to meet and discuss topics related to cancer including faith, family, treatment, terminal prognosis, and the challenges of living with the changes that cancer brings to people and those around them. Many call it dealing with their "new normal." We have had nearly 50 people become a part of the group and currently have about 15 "active" members. We had our third annual summer gathering and are planning our fourth. What a great group and ministry.

The last year gave me the chance to meet and have private worship and communion with many Faith members. The time spent together in worship and in visiting is so wonderful. I believe I get more joy out of the time than the people I visit. Leading worship and Bible study in care facilities is very rewarding, reaches out to many desiring the Word and includes non-members as well as members of Faith. I hope to grow in my involvement next year, as God grants me the strength and blessings to do so.

I continue to help out in missions, mostly as Treasurer of New Hope Mission Society. This last year has been challenging, as economic times have impacted donations, especially in the first six months. Since then, we were able to finish slightly ahead of costs and nearly on budget. Now, 2025 brings a new year of opportunity for NHMS.

It has been a great blessing to help out in Faith's worship services on occasion, especially Mission Sunday, Bless the Years Sunday, and just recently in the December 29 service. I also added choir to my clipboard of fun and several miscellaneous office activities. Together, Patsy and I continue to help out in other areas including ushering, reading, and Holy Communion. Overall, it was a good year, and I look forward to 2025 with hope and excitement on where God will take me, and us!

Jeff Amundson, Pastoral Associate

## **Report from the Director of Pastoral Care and Evangelism**

*"I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever."*

**Psalm 86:12**

Aren't we just so blessed? We can openly worship our Lord, praising His name in this beautiful place we call Faith Lutheran! We can pray and read our Bibles publicly with no fear! We can give of our time, our gifts and from the abundance that God has given us!

I do enjoy coordinating people to help in worship and throughout the church. It can be a challenge, of course, but I am so thankful for YOU who give of your time and gifts to help Faith Lutheran be the dynamic place that it is. Thank you for stepping up! Coordinating new members offers the opportunity to get to know those joining and plugging them in when they are ready as well.

Each year that I am blessed to work alongside Pr. Paulus as my mentor, I realize what a gift he is! Jeff Amundson and I have continued with our mentor meetings, and this year have been studying the book, *Elders Rising* by Roland Martinson. We have also been helping some with the Senior's Potluck and in other ways he wants us to be stretched in ministry.

I also assist Pr. Paulus in our Grief and Caregiver Support Groups, Befrienders, and in the Senior Ministries Task Force. We really work well together and have been doing so for over 25 years!

My work has continued in Pastoral Care for which I have a true passion. The four pastors, Jeff and I meet weekly where we confidentially give updates on the needs of those we care for here at Faith. I also have the privilege of organizing and keep track of our visits with shut-ins, and the communion services and Bible studies at our care facilities in town. I love being able to do some home visits myself, including to families who have had their first baby! (It's tough, but someone has to do it!)

I pray for God to bless you abundantly in 2025 and thank you for the privilege of working at Faith!

Together in Ministry,  
Marsha Schmit

## **Report from the Director of Youth and Family Ministries**

2024 was a year marked by growth, joy, hope, and energy. I am incredibly grateful to continue to serve in this position. My days are filled with laughter, deep conversations, and interacting with our amazing young people in what they love to do and telling them about the One who loves them so!

**Middle School:** What a fun-filled year in middle school ministry! Our middle schoolers love to be in this building. Whether it's playing hours of foursquare, talking in small groups, and learning about the Bible; they love to be here. Our Wednesdays are loud and boisterous. I was able to lead our confirmation retreat in a new location this year, a place that I attended as a camper, Inspiration Point. It was a powerful weekend spent learning about relationships and having fun. Our ninth-grade class was on this retreat and all 19 of them were confirmed on October 27. What a joy to know our Confirmation kids and to walk through these formative years with them.

**High School:** Wednesday nights are my favorite nights! Our high-school ministry has been booming here at Faith. This past summer, we had a record breaking attendance night of over 70 people for youth night! It was crazy. Each week we have between 30-40 youth in this building ready to dig into the Bible and various topics, talking about what it means for us. This is a group that loves to learn and dig in deep. I am also grateful for a consistent group of adult leaders who love our youth well and multiply my work as the youth director. I am so grateful for their volunteerism, as it is a rarity to find consistent leaders for the consecutive number of years that they have been active.

**Mission Trip:** We took our annual mission trip down to Bayou La Batre, Alabama this past summer with 57 youth and 11 leaders. The home of fishing, football, and Youthworks! We enjoyed being embraced by the community and feeling appreciated for the work that we did while we were down there. We had a lot of variety in our week. From cemetery clean up, Salvation Army, playing Bingo, and helping with Boys and Girls clubs, we were richly blessed in our serving. These mission trips are amazing and it is hard to pick a favorite moment, but one I had on this trip was when one of our youth, Kylie, was baptized in the Gulf of Mexico. We were told it was unlikely we would be able to go into the ocean as the riptides had been causing issues but God made a way for us to take Kylie into the ocean for Pastor Dave to baptize her. It was an incredible and encouraging night. Thank you to our congregation for your continued support of these mission trips. We are so blessed and I do not take that for granted.

**Interns:** We wrapped up our first program year of the Internship program and what a blessing it was. I am so thankful for the work our interns put in for the spring semester as they began to shine in their gifts. Laura and I were able to bring on Luke Wollan as our summer fellow for children, youth, and family ministry. He was an immense blessing to our summer programs but especially to me. Luke is so knowledgeable in all that he does in relation to youth ministry and was able to fill in for me while I went through several medical events with my kidneys. With my direction, he led several youth nights and a fundraiser for the mission trip. He was truly an answer to prayer as God provided exactly what was needed for this program. I remain assured that he is going to be a phenomenal youth director and/or pastor someday soon.

**Prayer Request** - Please be in prayer for God's continued faithfulness in our internship program as we start to look for our next interns. After a break, it would be wonderful to be able to have a strong class for the next program year.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support of youth ministries at Faith Lutheran Church. I do not take for granted serving in this church. I am privileged and humbled to serve here.

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,  
Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

## **Report from the Director of Children and Family Ministries**

### **School Year**

**Great Start:** Was created to replace Release Time. Great Start was on the scheduled two-hour late start times from 7:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. This ministry expanded to include Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. We limited the number of students to 45, which filled up fast! There was no cost to the program, but donations were accepted to cover the cost of the Laabraton Bus that picked up the children at the end of Great Start and donations for cereal, milk, and snacks. The students started with breakfast and quiet activities, then split into rotations of games, crafts, and Bible story time, we met up for Matins and ended together with a snack. We had seven volunteers, and three staff members participate in helping with the program. This program was highly successful and a huge blessing to the families who participated!

**Aftershock:** Was created to replace Great Start. The school district moved from two-hour late starts to two-hour early release days. Children in Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade are now picked up from Park, Tiger and West Elementary by the Laabraton Bus around 1:30 p.m. They are dropped off at church and picked up by parents at 4:30 p.m. While at Aftershock, children have snack and quiet time, and rotations of crafts, games, and a Bible Story. We meet together for worship and end with a snack and more quiet time. Another great new ministry! Serving 40 children and supported by three staff members, a few adults, and numerous high-school helpers.

**56er's:** This Wednesday after school ministry continues to be a success! We have 25 students who come from 2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. We have a hang-out time, snacks, a Bible lesson, and a game. While the FLIPterns were here they helped with this program, which allowed for better opportunities to bond with the students.

**Sunday School:** We kicked off the 2024-2025 school year on September 8 at Library Square. Students had class at picnic tables and Faith Rocks was at the band shell. This is always a great way for students to ease back into Sunday School and for new students to feel comfortable meeting their teachers and classmates. Since we have 180 children registered, a fourth 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class was created. In total, there are 16 classes with a regular attendance of 125 students per Sunday.

**Christmas Program:** Since we have so many students in Sunday School, the children had to split their Christmas Program. This year the Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup>-grade students sang four songs at the 10:10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service on December 15 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>-grade Sunday School students presented a Christmas Program at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**B23:** Parents and their children, birth to three years old, meet once a month from 9:10 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. during the school year to learn about Jesus and how to teach the faith at home. Children play in the nursery while the parents meet in the conference room across the hallway.

**Sprouts:** Sprouts has really grown in attendance this year, with about 30 students attending (max. has been 45 students). Volunteers lead a pre-written lesson for children based on the Gospel reading for the day during the sermon of the 10:10 a.m. Foundation worship service. We are always looking for more volunteers.

**Nursery:** Erika Smith finished the 2023-2024 school year in the nursery and then Monica Schiller was hired to staff the nursery from 8:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. each Sunday during the school year to provide parents with babies and toddlers the opportunity to attend Digging Deeper classes and 10:10 worship services with less distraction.

### Summer Ministries

**God Squad:** On Wednesdays in the summer, from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., the summer intern, Kristen, and I led games, a Bible study and small groups for children who completed 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We had fewer students this summer, but the conversations were still wonderful!

**Vacation Bible School:** Held from June 24 – June 27, from 9 a.m. – noon, at Faith Lutheran Church with 107 children signed up to participate in Scuba VBS. Faith partnered with Christ the King to teach children that God is real, He loves us, and He is always with us.

**Mystery Bus:** Ran June 18 - 20, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. with 21 students attending. Mystery Bus is a fun-filled local mission trip for middle school students, with service projects and team building in the morning and an activity for fun in the afternoon. Service projects included organizing medical supplies at Global Health Ministries, packing food for Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen, serving at Mt. Carmel Ministries in Alexandria, and at Place of Hope in St. Cloud. Activities included a high ropes course at Kerfoot, playing in the lake at Mt. Carmel, and playing at AirMaxx.

**Day Camp:** August 5 - 8, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We were at Christ the King Lutheran Church with kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Time filled with worship, crafts, and games, and 53 children attended. The program was led by counselors from Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps.

**Bible Camp:** This year 12 children attended for either half of the week or for the entire week July 14 – 19 at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps. The cost of camp was lower due to the amazing financial support of donors from our church to go towards camper scholarships!

**Interns:** Kristen and I had one summer intern this summer, Luke Wollan. Luke learned how to work as a team, connect with youth, helped with VBS, led lessons and games for God Squad and FLY, helped with Middle School Madness, helped with Mystery Bus, and met one-on-one with either Kristen or me each week.

## **Report from the Director of Music and Worship**

Dear family of Faith Lutheran Church, welcome to 2025 and another year of ministry in our one true God. Yet again, we have been blessed by wonderful music this year and we have achieved goals which I am eager to lay out in the paragraphs below. I also want to make you aware of some goals that we have yet to meet as well as encourage you to consider prayerfully how you might be an instrument in achieving them!

### **Faith Singers**

2024 was another year of fun with the Faith Singers! Members participated with the mass choir in the annual *Coming Together in Song* concert for Common Cup Ministries on Sunday, November 24. Faith Singers did not have a solo piece this year. 2024 was my second year serving as co-conductor/artistic director for the event with my colleague Shannon Watts at Christ the King Lutheran Church. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Messiah sing was cancelled in May. We will regroup and I am confident and excited that the concert will resume this spring. Last year, I reported that Faith Singers had been on the decline with participant numbers over the past couple of years (21 members in 2021, 19 members in 2022, 16 members in 2023). However, I am excited that this year we gained some members again! The current 2024/25 season roster includes 16 active members who participate on three or more Sundays a month, two active members who participate seasonally (wintering members), two active members who

participate one to three times a month, and one active member who participates on occasion with a total of 21 active members. There is still room to grow! This is one goal for Faith Lutheran through the music department to consider this year. We have 40 robes and are currently only using half of them! Music in the church is first and foremost for the glory of God, but it is also for us, God's people. Community is essential in achieving this goal. I pray that if you feel called into this ministry, you first pray about it, and then come and give it a try!

### **Ringers Of Faith**

Ringers of Faith, WOW! This fun-loving group remains one of the highlights during my work week. Ringers' membership has remained steady at 10 to 11 members over the past four years. With five octaves of bells available, there is potential to double our numbers. I would love to see member participation grow! Ringers has proven to be a place for fun, community, and a unique musical experience.

### **Faith Kids' Music Club**

Faith Kids' Music Club (FKMC) is in its second year at Faith. FKMC is a Wednesday program for kids in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>-grade. Last year's roster included 16 kids and this year we had a decline in registration to 8 kids, half of the previous year. We have many great children—and family—related ministries at Faith that appeal to the broad group of whatever age or demographic is targeted. FKMC is different in that the programming is refined to music and worship activities, drawing a small subset of interest from a small age range within our children at Faith. Meaning, it is normal for this ministry to see smaller numbers in registration when compared to its counter parts such as 56er's, for example. However, this is no excuse to self-limit our growth! Keep these goals in mind when you consider if FKMC may be right for your child or grandchild:

- 1) **Worship Ownership** – The first goal of FKMC is to encourage a sense of ownership over worship, that the kids feel they have a part in leading, teaching, and planning worship. Rather than learning a song or two for one Sunday during offering (which is fine, too!), the purpose of this goal is to teach them about worship and why it is important. We then plan a part of worship that will enhance the Word or music in some way that is meaningful for them and the congregation. When kids feel proud of something they have done, they want more! This goal will encourage the kids to participate in worship more, as well as other church activities.
- 2) **Positive Musical Experience** – It is no secret that the long tradition of choral music and broader sacred music is being lost in our youth today. Lately, I have realized that our youth are not encouraged and therefore do not understand how to participate in traditional and contemporary music-led worship and that they are not familiar with how to read basic music. To combat this problem, the second goal of FKMC aims to provide kids with a positive experience in traditional and contemporary worship music early on. The purpose is to instill an appreciation for all types of music in worship and that no style is better than the other. Community is important in a musical group and that is especially true for kids! FKMC is a place for all kids who want to be involved in music or worship in whatever way they are gifted. This goal will promote Faith as a place where positive musical learning experiences encourage future musicians of the church.
- 3) **Intergenerational Connectivity** – The final goal for FKMC is to promote kids working with adults. As FKMC continues, they will be working with Faith Singers and Ringers of Faith. Kids look up to adults who participate in activities that they are also interested in. This shows kids that their learning does not have to stop once they get older and that they have potential in music ahead of them. Music is a life-long activity meant for all ages.

One obstacle we face with FKMC is getting the kids to church. With the grade levels split between Tiger and Park Elementary schools, we have some kids who wish to participate but cannot get to church. If this is an area in which you feel called to help, let me know.

If you want to know more about Faith Kids Music Club, I invite you to experience one of our sessions on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Foundation, or stop by my office for some discussion!

### **Fundraiser**

During the summer of 2024, the music department at Faith ran an equipment fundraiser to raise money for needs and some wish list items that would enhance the music ensembles and programming at Faith. The fundraiser was titled *Notes of Change*. I am happy to report that the goals of this fundraiser were met entirely! Here are a few items that were purchased with the funds raised: four (gently used) timpani drums, dry-cleaning for all 40 choir robes and stoles, a new sound board for park worship, two new iPads for office and worship use, many new and entertaining instruments for Faith Kids' Music Club (shakers, rhythm sticks, djembe drums, boom whackers, etc.) Thank you for supporting the music programs at Faith Lutheran Church!

### **Worship Activities**

First Word worship continues as normal with traditional, organ-led music. The organ had some issues late summer leading up to Reformation Sunday. Faith Lutheran has a four division, three manual electric Allen organ, aka, a large instrument! Allen is an American electric organ company with its factory located in Pennsylvania. Allen has a location in Minnesota called Allen Organs of the Twins Cities. This branch services the greater Midwest, including all of North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and parts of Wisconsin. After several attempts to contact and talk to an Allen representative and technician, one was finally scheduled, and repairs were made in early fall. The organ at Faith is nearly 30 years old. Though Allen organs has promised a life-time supply of parts for each of their organ models, our organ is nearing the end of its life, and we may need more frequent repairs and service calls in years to come, despite the dwindling number of qualified technicians available.

Sanctuary worship continues as normal with a blended style of traditional and newer hymns mixed with classic contemporary music.

Foundation continues to grow with two new musicians added this past year. We now have 13 members that rotate in the Foundation band to lead contemporary music on Sundays.

### **Technology/Equipment**

Our worship technology systems continue to operate well with minor adjustments and repairs along the way. A new copyright license was reviewed and implemented, bringing our current copyright status to seven active licenses that cover the use of all music and worship materials, both live and recorded, inside and outside of worship times at Faith Lutheran.

### **Other Ministries/Events**

- June 27 – Kurt Weber and Ash St. John concert
- July 16 and 17 – CPH Augsburg Summer Music Clinic (Austin attended)
- August 26 – Andy Squyres concert
- September 5 – Hutchinson Area Worship Leaders (HAWL) community concert
- November 24 – *Coming Together in Song* Common Cup Ministries fundraiser concert

### **Prayer Request**

*Gracious God, you have provided for the people of Faith Lutheran in countless ways over this past year. We thank you for the many blessings we receive daily and through time. As we complete this year and begin another, continue to watch over and guide all that we do that our ministries may be pleasing to you and serve you and your people to grow in faith, love, and obedience to your will. We ask this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.*

Soli Deo Gloria, Austin



# MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

## Children, Youth and Family Team

2024 members: Jamie Kaping, Tara Strey, Jessi Boike, Lola Bradford, Tayja Mackendaz, Kati Katzenmeyer, and Kristen Durst and Laura Stowman (staff advisors).

The Children Youth and Family ministry team has a wide variety of programs, activities, and ministries that it works with every year. The team supports Christian parents in nurturing the faith of children and youth in the church by various means. In 2024, we worked together in the following areas:

- **Community Outreach Meal:** The CYF team served walking tacos, chips and queso, and cookies or bars on Sunday, October 13, 2024.
- **Faith Family Fun:** Family events organized by our team to bring generations together. Events included hosting a multi-generational game day called Cabin Fever with the Congregational Life Team, swimming at the Hutchinson Middle School Pool, having Fall Kickoff at Library Square with outdoor Sunday School, leading Operation Christmas Child packing event during Sunday School where we packed 175 boxes, and hosting a Happy Birthday Jesus Party.
- **Supported our Director of Children and Family Ministries in the following ministries:** Vacation Bible School, B23, Mystery Bus, Sunday School, Sprouts, Christmas Program, and Day Camp.
- **Supported our Director of Youth and Family Ministries in the following ministries:** Confirmation teaching and service, Youth Night, God Squad, and Mission Trips.

## Church in the World Team

Members: Pastor Paul Knudson (Staff Advisor), Rebecca Dressen (Chairperson), Jan Kreie (Council Rep), Lesley Brellenthin, Dorothy Desens, Lisa Ishihara, Lynn Gifferson, Carol Otto and Connie Saloum

The Church in the World committee supports both local and global missions. Our efforts focus on building and nurturing relationships with our community, local organizations, ministry partners, and mission organizations, both near and far. Through these partnerships, we can enhance the impact of Faith Lutheran's mission efforts, reaching those in need and sharing the love of Christ with all.

Local Missions: We've continued our support for community initiatives like the community meal and Blessing Box, and have partnered with organizations such as Common Cup, UCAP, and HOMES to further serve our neighbors. These partnerships help extend our reach, allowing us to contribute to the broader work being done in our area. Additionally, each year we have the opportunity to designate funds for special local initiatives, allowing us to address new and ongoing needs within our community.

Global Missions: This year, we had the privilege of welcoming several mission partners from around the world. Katie Weikle, a Faith Lutheran member, shared her incredible work in Nuremberg, Germany, with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). We were blessed to hear songs and stories from Mattias Haamer and his wife, from Tartu Academy of Theology in Estonia, who are dedicated to restoring Christianity in a nation that was once deeply rooted in the faith. We were inspired by the work of Paul and Thelma Bernhagen from Camp Penuel in Costa Rica, where they provide a safe space for children and bring the message of Jesus' love through camp programs. Pastor Juliano and his wife Fabi, who stayed in the Ansgar House, shared their ministry and efforts to spread the gospel through their congregation in Brazil. New Hope Mission Society, our largest global mission in southern India, offers Bible college training to reach Muslim populations and provides a safe space for worship. This year, Abdul Messiah spent two months in the US sharing their work.

The Church in the World team is blessed to be part of such an impactful ministry that spreads the word of God, supports those in need, and brings value to both our community and beyond.

Rebecca Dressen

## Congregational Life Team

The Congregational Life Ministry Team seeks to integrate church members into the life and mission of Faith Lutheran. Members include Tanja Glaser, Shelly Grorud, Tammy Kirchhoff, Juli Monahan, Patty Pearce, Monica Schiller, and Marsha Schmit (Staff Advisor).

## Highlights from 2024

- We welcomed Shelly Grorud to our ministry team.
- Assisted the Children, Youth and Family Ministry Team with “Cabin Fever” event on March 10.
- Coordinated a spring-themed food drive.
- Hosted the annual “Lenten Picnic” on March 13, serving over 100 members. Free-will donations were split between the McLeod County Food Shelf and Meghan’s Place, to be used for supplies for the treats they make for many of Faith’s social events.
- Cards were written to 16 students receiving their First Communion.
- Hosted the annual “Sundaes on Sunday” after both worship services on August 18.
- Served root beer floats at the Faith Open House on August 22.
- Coordinated and served a community outreach meal on September 8. Repeated the popular “Faithdoba” with chicken, rice, lettuce, beans, cheese, and many more fixings.
- Cards were written to 25 confirmands to celebrate this milestone in their faith life.
- Hosted the annual “Pie/Dessert Social” following the Thanksgiving Eve service on November 27.
- Coordinated donations for “adopt a Senior for Christmas” through CHAP Ministries for seniors living in group facilities in McLeod County.
- Hosted the annual “Cocoa and Cookies Social” following the Advent service on December 18.

If you have ideas for activities or events to promote fellowship and member involvement in our FAITH family, please contact a ministry team member.

Shelly Grorud

## Discipleship Team

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.* 1 Peter 4:10-11

Members of the Discipleship Team: Jackie Backen, Nick Brellenthin, Cheryl Buboltz (Council Rep), Shari Dorival, Julie Renkes, Tim Meier, Nicki Scharn, Joy May (Council Rep), and Wendy Magruder (Staff Liaison).

The Discipleship Ministry Team Purpose: To support group activities that encourage unity and growth as the body of Christ.

The Discipleship Ministry Team was involved in many great activities in 2024!

- All new members of Faith Lutheran Church were personally called within a month or so after joining Faith.
- We provided treats in the park one Sunday.
- We hosted a date night on August 8!
- We served the Community Meal on July 14. We planned to serve a brown paper bag lunch at Veteran’s Park, but it was really hot that day, so we served the meal at Faith.
- We organized and delivered May Day baskets to homebound members of Faith.
- We planned and coordinated the Soup & Chili Supper and served about 85 members with about two dozen amazing soups and chilis.
- We mailed anniversary cards to members of Faith.
- We hosted a Security Event/Active Shooter Training in August.
- For 2025, we are challenging the congregation to read the Bible in a year through Bibleopoly.

Submitted by Joy May

## Management Team

The Management ministry team oversees the finances and property of the church by:

- Supervising the budget process of the church and the allocation of all funds.
- Securing adequate insurance to protect the church and its properties.
- Keeping record of all money and property donated to the church, and investing or disbursing of funds as directed by the church council or congregational meeting.
- Providing monthly financial reports to the church council.
- Overseeing the maintenance and improvement of the church properties.  
Recommending, supervising and supporting the church custodian(s).

Highlights from the Management team's work in 2024:

- Completed the roofing project over the Main Street entrance
- Fixed compromised screens in the bell tower to prevent animal intrusion
- Replaced the basketball hoop on the north end of the parking lot
- Converted the "cry room" at the back of the Sanctuary to an office for As We Go... Ministries. As We Go... had been located in a basement classroom; however, due to the need to use the classroom for Sunday School, it needed to be moved.
- Repaired the ceiling in the Sanctuary gathering space after water leaks were confirmed to be resolved.

Respectfully submitted by Jon Kamrath

## **Music and Worship Team**

January 2024: The team discussed Phase II ideas. A reminder was given about the Annual Meeting on 1/24/24 and members were encouraged to attend.

February 2024: Discussion was held regarding the free community meal that was served on March 10. We served sloppy Joes, chips and dessert. We also discussed the Maundy Thursday service, finding individuals to play disciples and the light meal that was to be served to those helping between services. A Thrivent grant was obtained to help offset costs.

March 2024: The community meal on 3/10/24 was a success and about 50 people attended. The committee planned the service and meal for Maundy Thursday, and it was shared that all disciple roles and the role of Jesus had been filled. Practice times were set as well. It was shared that the next meeting in April would be the annual church council and ministry teams retreat starting at 5:30 p.m.

April 2024: Austin shared that FLIntern Joshua would be helping in the role of worship producer for the last month of his internship. Having this additional help will free up Austin to be in other areas of the music ministry over the next few weeks. Hjerpes confirmed that we could use their trailer for the summer worship services, which is very appreciated. On May 22 the team loaded the trailer. An update was given on the repair and cleaning of the bells. On May 9, the company that had been hired to do the maintenance was at Faith. Members of the Ringers of Faith were also at church that day to help them if needed. The Ringers of Faith played a few weeks later so the congregation could hear the newly shined-up bells. Recap of the Maundy Thursday service was held, and it was the consensus that everything went very well. Many of those who participated in the reenactment had shared that they would be happy to help again.

May 2024: Plans were made for the first Sunday worship service in Library Square. The bell repair went smoothly, and the bells now look and sound great. It was also shared that the benefit of Joshua helping in the role of worship producer was noticed in many ways. This help allowed Austin to be able to focus more on ensembles and other areas of music worship. This was shared with the council as well. The team discussed use of the music fund and Austin prepared a list of things that would continue to benefit the music ministry at Faith.

June 2024: Park worship schedule continued smoothly.

July 2024: Austin attended the Concordia Publishing Summer Music Clinic at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, so he joined us via Facetime to share some of the ideas in which the music fund can be used. The team decided on a date to unload the trailer after summer worship. Austin spoke to someone who would be coming to Faith to look at the organ for possible issues and needed repairs. Estimates will be sent once the representative has made the initial visit. Travel also would be covered. Discussion was held on possibly hosting a concert at the church to help with fundraising. It was also shared that the actual music fundraiser was also going well. The team held a discussion about the upcoming Open House. The team also was scheduled to bring treats to the Library Square on 9/1/24.

August 2024: The team met in the music room so that Austin could share some of the items that were purchased with the fundraising donations. Choir robes also had been cleaned and pressed. The team prepared 56 invites to the upcoming Faith Kids Music Club eligible students to be sent out. The team reviewed the flyer that will be given out at the upcoming open house. There will be a free concert at Faith on 9/5 at 6:00 p.m. Committee members offered to help set up and will meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. The concert was hosted by the Hutchinson Area Worship Leaders held in Library Square and proceeds from a free will offering were donated to Common Cup. Another concert was on Monday 8/26 with music by Andy Squyres. The committee provided treats. The summer worship trailer was unloaded on Thursday 9/12 at 5:00 p.m.

September 2024: Discussion was held regarding summer worship in Library Square and everyone felt it went well. Recent concerts and events were reviewed and again the team felt they went very well. There was discussion about a winter concert to be held in January or February 2025; more information to follow. Austin shared that fall music ministries were underway. The new timpani's had been carefully moved to their area in the balcony. The summer trailer was emptied, and a special thanks went to Keith Froemming for vacuuming it out and getting it ready to return to the Hjerpes. Austin shared that Faith would be hosting the Augustana District Woman of the Word Gathering and he, along with Emma Wollan, and Pastor Dave would lead the worship sessions of the day.

October 2024: Reformation Sunday was on October 27 and the timpani's were used for the first time. All Saints Sunday was observed on 11/3. The Common Cup Coming Together in Song Fundraiser was held on 11/24 at 3:00 p.m. at Christ the King. Austin received five responses regarding the January or February concert. More discussion was planned on this for the November meeting.

November 2024: December 12, Kurt Weber and Ash St. John were at seniors' potluck. On December 22, the choir went caroling. The congregation was invited to attend, and they went to Woodstone, Prince of Peace, and Harmony River. December 24, Christmas Eve services, Austin asked for help at the 11:00 p.m. service to set-up and take-down candelabras on the pews. The service was planned to be dimmer lighting with candles. The winter concert will possibly be held in February 2025.

Submitted by Karna Blake

## Seniors Task Force Report

Our Seniors' Task Force is responsible for overseeing our programs and activities that serve our seniors' needs and serving opportunities.

Each year, the first Sunday in the month of May witnesses our congregation's focus on our senior members. Bless The Years Sunday highlights their value and importance in the history and current strength of Faith Lutheran Church.

Our purpose is to show that Faith Lutheran cares for those who have advanced in age as God Himself cares. Gray hair, frequent disabilities, lower energy levels, and slower mobility does not mean elders are of less importance to God's people. They can and do contribute in so many ways.

So our Seniors Task Force facilitates a "Bless The Years" Sunday annually, a day on which elders serve as ushers, readers, communion helpers and even acolytes, making their presence for worship visible and significant. Also, the May *Faith Matters* contains a "Spotlight on Seniors," which tells the history and faith life of one of our Faith Lutheran couples or individuals, as a witness to what God does by way of leading us through life in faith in Him, even as we age.

Current task force members are: LoAnn Hanson, Virginia Brodd, Lynn Splittgerber, David Franzen and Patti Anderson.

## Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW) Report

The following events were scheduled for 2024: Annual rummage sale, Mugs & Muffins, Augustana District's annual Women of the Word (WOW) Gathering, and Christmas Luncheon.

The rummage sale was held in April and despite the chilly, rainy weather, we raised \$7,000.

Mugs & Muffins continued as a bi-monthly event under the leadership of Sarah Hingst with a variety of interesting topics presented by area speakers.

In September, the FLCW hosted the Augustana District Women of the Word Gathering at Faith. The day began with rain, but became a beautiful fall afternoon. Registrations totaled 110 women attending from many churches in the district. The event theme was Praise, Pray, Proclaim. Pastor Dave Wollan and Emma Wollan led a praise worship service to begin the day. Gretchen Ronnevik spoke on Pray and Proclaim. There was a presentation of stories of women of the Bible and an Augustana District business meeting. A delicious luncheon was served. It takes many people to organize and work an event of this size. A special thank you to all the women and men who helped make it successful.

The November annual meeting began, after the worship services concluded, with an appetizer buffet and hot apple cider. The following women were elected officers for 2025: President Renee McRaith, Vice President Jan Kreie, Treasurer Mary Ann Ward and Secretary Barb Hedin.

The Christmas Luncheon, with beautifully decorated theme tables, was well attended including four men. Pastor Donna Olsen spoke on her journey to becoming a pastor and her quilting. Austin and Bailey Willhite sang a beautiful duet, *Silent Night, Night of Silence*.

Disbursement of the money raised this year went to local and international groups: Faith Lutheran Church Missions & Outreach, Common Cup, New Hope Mission Society Sewing Project, Meghan's Place, FLC Hunger Appeal, McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Abuse, Orphan Grain Train, Global Health Ministries, FLC kids weekend food backpacks, Faith Kid's Music Club, YWAM Ukraine Aid, Meals on Wheels, Woodstone and Harmony River. Note: Ansgar House will receive funds when interns are residents again.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barb Hedin

## Faith Lutheran Quilters Report

The quilters are a very busy group that meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The Orphan Grain Train and Global Health Ministries are the two main organizations that benefit from our donations. Items donated to these organizations this year included:

188 quilts	381 T-shirts	2,500 bandages	14 bed pads
178 assorted blankets	24 book bags	99 uniforms and gowns	2 pillows
222 pillowcase dresses	1,391 pairs of socks	21 body slings	

Many of our volunteers work from home on their own time and a few work at church one or two days a month, preparing materials for the monthly work day. We would like to invite anyone (with any skill level) to join us. We offer on-the-job training for anyone interested.

A big thank you to Hutchinson Health and Harmony River for all of their material donations that support our ministry. Thank you also to those who deliver these items to Orphan Grain Train and Global Health Ministries.

Submitted by Diane Ferguson

## Confidential E-Mail Prayer Chain

*“Don’t worry about anything; instead pray about everything...”* **Philippians 4:6**

We currently have 31 men and women who receive prayer requests via e-mail. Our prayer warriors pray specifically upon receiving a confidential prayer request.

If you would like to become a Faith Lutheran prayer warrior, please send me your e-mail address. You can also submit prayer requests to me at [grjohn45@gmail.com](mailto:grjohn45@gmail.com)

Geri Johnson

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

*“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. I always pray for you and I make my requests with a heart full of joy...”* **Philippians 1:3, 4**

Our Faith Lutheran Prayer Shawl Ministry began in May of 2006. We have ten women actively involved in this ministry. In 2024, we presented 36 shawls. Over the past 18 years, we have presented 1,062 shawls! They have been given to residents of nursing homes/care centers, missionaries serving abroad, injured soldiers, deployed soldiers, Common Cup Ministry, those who are hospitalized, those who are mourning the death of a loved one, our youth, foster children, and the Hutch Health Cancer Center, just to name a few. The shawls serve as a physical reminder that we remember the recipients in prayer.

*“Children are a gift from the Lord, they are a reward from Him.”* **Psalms 127:3**

Faith’s Prayer Shawl Ministry includes prayer blankets for newborn babies. A prayer blanket is presented to families of Faith when a child is born. This year we presented eight of these blankets. Over the years we have given out a total of 184 blankets.

We supply yarn for our shawl makers. The yarn is purchased through donations from the Faith Lutheran Church Women’s Ministry, the Endowment Fund, and individuals. Thank you for your continued support. Thank you to all who create our beautiful shawls and blankets.

Each shawl and blanket is photographed and the picture is placed in an album with the name of the person who made it. When it is given out, the name of the recipient is recorded by the photo and also on a spread sheet.

If you knit or crochet and would like to become a part of our Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact me at 320-587-6733 or grjohn45@gmail.com.

Geri Johnson

## **Personnel Committee Report**

Current members of the Personnel Committee are: Mona Hjerpe, Dennis Langehaug, Jon Kamrath, John Olsen, Chris Wilke, Brett Johnson, and Sara Wegner (chair).

The personnel committee is responsible to review staff benefits, compensation budgets, make any needed updates to the church's Employee Policies and Handbook, and work closely with staff and pastors on any staff concerns, issues, or hiring needs.

In September, 2024, we welcomed Monica Schiller to the staff as the nursery coordinator and thanked Erika Smith for her time serving in the role.

We thank the staff for their dedication and service to the congregation and community. Also, we thank the many volunteers for your time and commitment to support Faith Lutheran's staff and ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Wegner, Personnel Committee

## **Faith Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Report**

Members: Scott Ziegler, Chair; Kyle Schantzen, Treasurer/Secretary; Andy Reid, Virginia Brodd, Bob Winslow

The Faith Lutheran Endowment Fund Committee for the year 2024 continued to follow the intended purpose of the fund to enhance the outreach mission of Faith Lutheran Church. During 2023, the Endowment Fund earned \$38,238 of investment income. The By-Laws state that 20% needs to be reinvested and the remaining amount was disbursed in 2024. The Endowment Fund did receive new donations of \$1,023 for the 2024 year to be invested.

In 2024, the committee dispersed income totaling \$30,600 as follows:

- Global Mission – K.K. Alavi's work in India, Augustana District/Tabor, YWAM for Katie Weikle, TAT, Global Health Care, Samaritan's Purse
- Regional Missions – Ingham-Okoboji Camp, Mt. Carmel Bible Camp, Luther House of Studies, Abdul Messiah, Institute of Lutheran Theology, Lutheran Seminary Scholarship
- Local Mission – HOMES, The Closet – McLeod County, Student Scholarships, Common Cup, Christian Counseling Fund
- Special Mission Needs – Youth Mission Trip, New Hope Mission Society – Bible College, Rev K.K. Alavi Support, FLC Alumni Ministry Support, Augustana District, FLIP Internship Program

Respectfully submitted, Scott Ziegler, Chair

## **New Hope Mission Society (NHMS) Report**

This last year was full of many challenges for the society and the associated mission efforts in India. The year started with very low donations and by mid-year we were very far behind on our budget and expenses. A donation drive was launched in the second half of the year and, thanks to God, we ended slightly ahead of budget and expenses. We have a big challenge ahead of us in 2025 as we plan our general support and some strategic project support for our friends in India.

Speaking of projects, we began two in November of 2024 and fundraising for them continues to March 1, 2025. One project is to upgrade the on-site water pond. Its walls are crumbling and need to be rebuilt. This water source provides clean spring-fed water, not only for the Bisharah complex, but also for the community, especially during drought periods. Sharing this water with others provides an opportunity to share the Word through voice and example. The amount needed is \$5,000 and we have a matching donation of up to \$2,500. To date we still need about \$800 to reach our goal.

The second project is building a shelter for persecuted Christians. It will allow people, often families, to get back on their feet after committing their lives to Jesus. Their conversions to Christianity often elicit abusive treatment and loss of employment, money and their homes. The shelter will help get them a place to live while they make connections with "Christian-tolerant" people in India. This usually means new jobs, schools, home and friends. Finishing the multi-level shelter will cost \$15,000 and we have a matching donation of up to \$5,000. To date, we still need about \$5,500 to reach our goal by March 1, 2025.

The Bisharah Mission continues to reach out to many people with the Word of God and the number of related house churches continues to grow each year. The number of students at Shaliach's Institute Bible college also continues to grow and many of the graduates have become leaders of new house churches as they spread the good news of Jesus in India. The sewing project continues to teach a vocational skill to many women so that they can earn an income. Outreach continues to help the community through hunger relief and disaster relief. This not only shows others what it is to be a believer in Jesus, but also opens doors to sharing and maybe others joining the Christian family.

Please pray for K.K. Alavi. He has been struggling with numerous health issues and mobility challenges. Recently, he was diagnosed with cancer and is currently undergoing treatment in India. Please ask God for strength, support and healing for this beloved servant of God, missionary, and leader of the Bisharah Mission.

NHMS also has a partnership with Dr. Christoph out of Germany whose mission, G-News, bears witness to Jesus Christ to the Muslim world. We support one of his witnesses in Nigeria, Brother Titus, whose life is in constant danger for the witness he leads. We also have a presence to international students in the Twin Cities led by Frank Hutten.

It is truly amazing what is being accomplished while being under the scrutiny of anti-Christians and oppressive governments. God truly is acting in their efforts, protecting them and uplifting them. Prayers are greatly appreciated, as well any donations you feel so moved to give.

Jeffrey Amundson  
Pastoral Associate - Faith Lutheran Church  
Treasurer New Hope Mission Society

## **Common Cup Ministry Annual Report**

*"The mission of Common Cup Ministry is to gather and share spiritual and financial resources of area churches into one 'Common Cup' so that we may minister to those in need."*

Common Cup Ministry is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization governed by a board of directors from member churches and area ministerial associations. The board of directors meets monthly. Member churches are encouraged to have a representative to serve on the representatives council which meets monthly.

Bev Bonte is the Director of Common Cup Ministry, Inc. Jen Wicklund is the Program Director, and Diane Pedersen is the bookkeeper.

Through a voucher system, Common Cup funds are administered by volunteers to help those who fall through the cracks of other assistance. These vouchers assist with rent, lodging, transportation, utility bills, laundry, clothing, medical resources, etc. We make referrals to McLeod Emergency Food Shelf, and maintain a mini food pantry at the CCM office. CCM promotes participation in the Fare for All food buying coop. We support and help promote Laundry Love in both Hutchinson and Glencoe.

The CCM Thrift Store in Glencoe serves through both receiving donations of household items, and offering these items for re-sale and to those in need.

Volunteers are always needed. Our volunteers offer spiritual ministry as well as financial and emotional resources and support. For opportunities please call Director Bev Bonte at her direct office line: 320-234-8344 or e-mail her at [commoncupmn@gmail.com](mailto:commoncupmn@gmail.com), or call Jen Wicklund at 320-583-9929 or e-mail her at [jenwicklund@gmail.com](mailto:jenwicklund@gmail.com). Thank you to all who give so generously of your time!

As our programs have grown our office and workspace have become issues. Please be in prayer about our space needs.

Our outreach programs for McLeod County residents include the

- 1) Annual Back-to-School Supply collection and distribution (served 550+ students)
- 2) Annual Warm Coat collection and distribution, (approximately 600 people were served). We continue throughout the winter to provide each of these items per requests.
- 3) Weekend Backpack Feeding Program for K-6th graders in McLeod County (385 students currently served)
- 4) Bi-monthly distribution of diapers in Hutchinson and Glencoe (over 120 bags given per month)
- 5) Food products delivered to area REACH programs
- 6) Personal care products delivered to McLeod County schools, senior and family housing facilities.

The Annual Meeting of CCM will take place Monday, April 28, 2025 at 12:00 noon at Hunter's Ridge Community Church in Hutchinson. Each CCM member church selects one person (its representative to CCM) to be a voting member. New board members will be elected, reports on our financial position and outreach programs will be given. All are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Thank you to Faith Lutheran and its members for your generous gifts and for your willingness to volunteer. Through the generosity of our member churches, businesses and individuals, we have been able to continue to provide assistance to individuals and families with an immediate need and to provide resources for assistance through other programs offered in McLeod County.

Geri Johnson  
Faith Lutheran's Representative to CCM

## **2024 Augustana District Annual Report For Congregations**

Dear Friends in Christ:

As 2024 comes to a close, I've been hyper-aware of all the transition stories we find in Scripture. Consider the stories of Abraham who is called to leave his homeland on an unknown journey, Joseph who is thrust into positions of leadership in Egypt after arriving there as a slave, Moses who shepherds God's people through the wilderness for 40 years, and the people of Judah who are led into exile in Babylon only to return 70 years later. These accounts are but the tip of the iceberg when it comes to characters of the Bible who find themselves in flux.

We have also found ourselves in a season of transition and flux here in the Augustana District in 2024. When the announcement came that Pastor Randy Freund was leaving the role of Service Coordinator, it was uncertain what the future would hold. Randy's absence leaves a hole in our district that cannot ever totally be filled, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for all the growth and stability he brought to us during his tenure. Not only do I want to thank Randy, but I also want to thank the Augustana District Council and the transition team that worked diligently to chart a path forward. Ultimately, the decision from these district leaders was to take the Service Coordinator position and divide it into 3 roles: the District Coordinator, the Theology Coordinator, and the Mission & Stewardship Coordinator. Why adopt this model? There are two reasons. First, to ensure that our core values of "church, theology, and mission" are well cared for. Second, rather than taking a full-time pastor out of the parish to fill Randy's shoes (which would only further add to the clergy shortage), this model allows pastors to stay in their pulpits while also serving the needs of the district. I was hired as the District Coordinator in September, followed by Rev. Dr. Marney Fritts as Theology Coordinator and Rev. Nate Hanson as Mission & Stewardship Coordinator in December.

As Marney, Nate and I meet together, I only become more and more excited about the days that lie ahead for the Augustana District. The coordinator team is already dreaming up new ways we can support and nurture our district's congregations and pastors. After all, this is what LCMC districts are designed to do: encourage and surround you, the local body of Christ, and be a resource for any number of joys and concerns that arise in your faith community. I am available for consultation with congregational leadership and pastors on conflict response, church council retreats, and call committee coaching. Marney is available for questions on keeping good theology at the forefront of everything you do in your church and is also working in tandem with the Board of Theology and Ministry to ensure we continue to have a strong pastoral endorsement process. Nate is passionate about domestic and international missions, and will help you become connected with a ministry you can support, while also engaging the Board of World Missions on how we can help fulfill the Great Commission globally.

All of this is to say, our God has been and continues to be faithful to the Augustana District. As he was for Abraham, Joseph and Moses, God continues to match us step-for-step as we walk into this new season. The Creator of the universe, who hung the stars in place, and has numbered the hairs on your head, is a promise keeper. And his promise is never to abandon or leave his people. As new congregations join the district, and as you encounter new challenges and opportunities right out your own back door, Marney, Nate and I, along with the rest of the district staff, stand ready to answer the phone and be there for you.

In closing, I want to acknowledge Augustana District Office Administrator Wendy Magruder, Financial Coordinator Niki Pokornowski, Program Coordinator Rev. Becky Hand, and Webmaster Karen Eckstrom. Further, I am grateful for Todd Johnson, the Augustana District Council Chair, who has been an excellent leader during this time of transition. With a group of exceptional, dedicated individuals like this, an enthusiastic coordinator team, and the cross of Jesus Christ standing at the center, we are well-equipped for whatever is coming in 2025.

In His Service,  
Rev. Aaron L. Deutsch  
*Augustana District Coordinator*



## 2024 Membership Updates

### Received through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Harley Albrecht	Camdyn Hirman	Keegan Niebuhr
Beckham Barlow	Treyton Hirman	Harper Petersen
Elliott Baum	Declan Icenhower	Jake Petersen
Justin Beck	Asa Kamrath	Lincoln Petersen
Luka Breeggemann	Ian Knoll	Rory Petersen
Aaron Burkstrand Jr.	Easton Kurth	Watson Schloeder
Reese Burkstrand	Berkley Krause	Scarlett Schmidt
Camden Draeger	Henry Lange	Alyana Strei-Watts
Aaliyah Flores	Aniston Lauer	Alaina Thompson
Alexander Flores	Noah Lauer	Bjorn Stowman
Armando Flores	Claire McLain	Laketon Trout
Aryahna Flores	Kylie Neuberger	Grady Yanish

### Confirmed in their Faith on October 27, 2024

Brody Adams	Morgan Gehrke	Brooklynn Merkins	AnnaBeth Schiller
Ryeleigh Bening	Jacob Hanson	Zachary Padrnos	Maddox Schumacher
Vincent Burkstrand	Kellen Karg	Andrew Pesavento	Lily Solien
Eli Duering	Lukas Liepold	Aiden Rath	Makaila Wakefield
Aryahna Flores	Sydney Loe	Malea Rude	

### New Members in 2024

Justin Beck	Nikki Krueger
Evan Boike	AJ and Emily Lyons with Clayton
Jude and Stephanie Burgoyne with Lila	Hudson and Jess Maiers
Alexandria Burkstrand	Joan Neubarth
Donna Cole	Justin and Britt Schwecke with Emersyn and Sophie
Steve and Jodi Drew	Mark and Margaret Simonson
Joan Halter	Noah Sturges
Brian Hill	Bre Tasche
Shannon Kling	

### Married in 2024

Joshua and Madeline Fernandez	Hudson and Jess Maiers	Tanner and Kayla Timm
Tucker and Livia Gifferson	Brendan and Faith Mois	Austin and Bailey Willhite
Kendall and Jessica Glaser	Jordan and Morgan Nelson	
Dick and Kathy Lennes	Dylan and Megan Reid	

### Deaths in 2024

Orvis Baumgardt	Janet Kilian	Linda Pagenkopf
Gary Degn	Raymond Krueger	Roselyn Peterson
Tammie Dehn	Phyllis Lamp	Marian Skaar
Darlene Erickson	Howard Madsen	Marlin Torgerson
Trevor Evans	Dorin Martin	Tim Wakefield
Kenneth Holler	Ardell Novotny	
Trudy Johnson	Alvin Otto	

# Faith Lutheran Church Council and Ministry Team Members

## Congregational Officers

President: Jon Kamrath (2025)  
Secretary: Niki Pokornowski (2025)

Vice-President: Scott Glaser (2025; president-2026)  
Treasurer: Al Liepold (2025)

## Church Council and Ministry Team Members

### *Children, Youth and Family*

#### **Church Council Representatives**

Lola Bradford (2025)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2026)

### *Church in the World*

#### **Church Council Representatives**

Sharon Jenkins (2025)

Kim Pearson (2026)

Connie resigned the council position, but remains on the ministry team.

### *Congregational Life*

#### **Church Council Representatives**

Tanja Glaser (2025)

Monica Schiller (2026)

### *Discipleship*

#### **Church Council Representatives**

Cheryl Buboltz (2025)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2026)

### *Management*

#### **Church Council Representatives**

Jon Kamrath, President (2025)

Scott Glaser, Vice-President (2025)

Niki Pokornowski, Secretary (2025)

Al Liepold, Treasurer (2025)

### *Worship*

#### **Church Council Representatives**

Karna Blake (2025)

Dave Skaar (2026)

### *Nominating Committee*

Andrea Wollan (2025)

Randy Redman (2025)

Lynn Lange (2025)

#### **Members**

Tayja Mackendanz (2025)

Jessi Boike (2025)

Kati Katzenmeyer (2025)

Jamie Kaping (2026)

Tara Strey (2026)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2026)

#### **Members**

Dorothy Desens (2025)

Carol Otto (2025)

Rebecca Dressen (2025)

Connie Saloum (2025)

Lisa Ishihara (2026)

Patti Lenz (2026)

#### **Members**

Shelly Grorud (2025)

Tammy Kirchoff (2025)

Juli Monahan (2026)

Sue Alrick (2026)

#### **Members**

Julie Renkes (2025)

Shari Dorival (2025)

Tim Meier (2025)

Barb Hedin (2026)

Berta Yukel (2026)

Mike McDowell (2026)

#### **Members**

Maria Weikle (2025)

Lenny Rutledge (2026)

#### **Members**

Sandy Curtiss (2025)

Roxanna Boe (2025)

Mona Hjerpe (2025)

Emily Troska (2006)

Mary Parker (2026)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2026)

Shelly Kirchoff (2026)

John Langins (2026)

Kevin Elton (2026)

# Financial Reports 2024

Faith Lutheran Church  
335 Main Street S.  
Hutchinson, MN 55350  
320-587-2093

\*Full financial reports are available under a separate cover and can be found in the church office.

