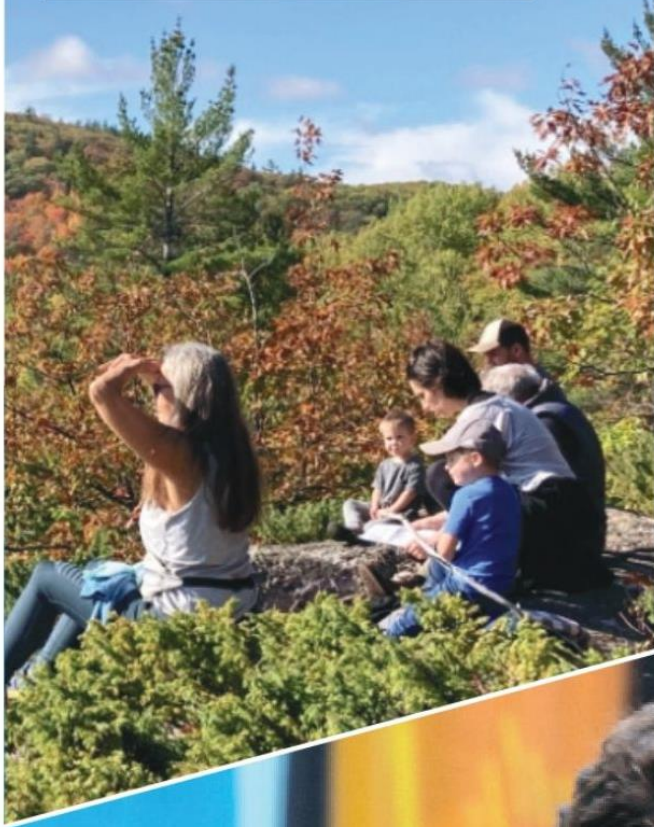




Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH BROOKINGS



ANNUAL REPORT
2024

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

All around us, we see signs of God's love and goodness. A person who has stepped away from church for many years steps back into a congregation, feeling the call of the Holy Spirit. Young adults feeling isolated in a digital-first world start gathering in person in a small group, enjoying the warmth of a hug and a new friend asking about their week. A mother plants a garden, and it yields fruits and vegetables, giving her nutritious food for her kids and extra produce to sell at the local market. Everywhere we look, we see signs of Christ's love. In Psalm 93, we read: "More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore" (4-5).

God's love is a majestic thing, and it moves us to share it in word and deed. The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, across our country and around the world.

I am so grateful for you, dear church. Your generosity to each of these three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has bolstered the church's ability to share the message of God's love to people who are longing for it. Through your

**"MORE MAJESTIC THAN THE THUNDERS
OF MIGHTY WATERS, MORE MAJESTIC
THAN THE WAVES OF THE SEA,
MAJESTIC ON HIGH IS THE LORD!
YOUR DECREES ARE VERY SURE;
HOLINESS BENEFITS YOUR HOUSE,
O LORD, FOREVERMORE."**

—Psalm 93:4-5

financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices, you've helped carry this message of God's majestic love. Thank you, dear church. As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to stand steadfast in God's promises, sure of God's love and goodness.



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE	REPORT
3	Agenda
4	Minutes from 2023-24 Annual Meeting
5	Minutes from May 4, 2025 Special Congregational Meeting
	Statistics
6	Letter from Pastor Jess
8	Letter from Pastor Trey
9	Letter from Ross Abraham, Church Council President
10	Children, Youth and Family
12	Events and Facilities
13	Property Committee
14	Music Department
15	Mission Coffeehouse
16	First Lutheran Preschool
17	Cemetery Committee
18	FLC Foundation
19	Mission Quilters
20	Belize Mission Team
22	Hospitality, Nominating & Internship
23	Finance Task Force, WELCA & Altar Guild
24	Resolution A

Financial Reports - see supplement to come

2024-2025 FLC ANNUAL MEETING

Opening Liturgy

I. Call to Order and Welcome — Council President Ross Abraham

II. Approval of Minutes

A) From the September 29, 2024 Annual Meeting

B) From the May 4, 2025 Special Congregational Meeting

III. Pastor's Message

IV. Acceptance of Written Reports

V. Balance Sheet

VI. Ministry Spending Plan

VII. Elections

A) Council

B) Cemetery Board

C) Audit Committee

D) Nominating Committee

E) Lay Voting Members to 2026 Synod Assembly

VIII. Resolutions

A) Resolution of Remembrance

Closing Prayer

MINUTES FROM 2023-24 ANNUAL MEETING

Opening Devotions from Pastor Jess Daum

I. Call to Order and Welcome — Council President Ross Abraham

II. Adoption of the Agenda

A) Motion to adopt the agenda made by Dave Lenander and seconded by Stuie Lewis.

B) Discussion: Audit Committee Report added after Elections.

C) All approved.

III. Approval of Minutes from the October 1, 2023 Annual Meeting

A) Motion to approve the minutes made by Stuie Lewis and seconded by Dave Lenander.

B) All approved.

IV. Pastor's Message

V. Acceptance of Written Reports

A) Motion to accept written reports made by David Meyer and seconded by Nancy Schade.

B) All approved.

VI. Balance Sheet

VII. Ministry Spending Plan

A) Motion to approve the ministry spending plan was made by Lonnie Bayer and seconded by Stacy Horst.

B) All approved.

VIII. Elections

A) Council – Melody Thompson - Elected with 52 votes

B) Cemetery Board – Bob Algood - All approved

C) Audit Committee – Susan Robbins - All approved

D) Lay Voting Members to 2025 Synod Assembly – Dan Krogstad, Dale Wiseman, Kris Seas, Pat Anderson, Sam Amundson, Kyle Gains (youth) - All approved

IX. Resolutions

A) Resolution of Remembrance - All approved

B) Resolution for Funding of a Project to Replace our Boilers - All approved

Closing Devotions from Pastor Trey Daum

MINUTES FROM MAY 4, 2025 SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First Lutheran Church Special Congregational Meeting – May 4th, 2025
Held at First Lutheran Sanctuary at 9:35 am.

Open with Devotion – Pastor Jess Daum

In attendance, _88 voting members signed in as attending this meeting.

A Motion was made by Paul Johnson and seconded by Lisa Svobodny to open the meeting and consider the resolution brought to congregation by the council.

New Business

April FLC Council minutes is requesting this meeting based on their carried motion, “Motion to support the Property Task Force to proceed in selecting a quote for the Roof/Drain Replacement and set up tentative dates for work. Agree we will set a congregational meeting/vote on May 4th, with the resolution being that the congregation agree to enter in a contract with said contractors to do the work asap.”

Pastor Jess gave an overview of what the resolution would involve. Based on findings from the Property Task Force, congregational approval is being requested to spend not more than \$115,000 towards this Roof/Drain Replacement. Congregational approval required per our constitution if spending over \$35,000.

Dale Tidemann, from the Property Task Force, gave a presentation on their findings and the need for expediting this project.

Congregational discussion followed.

A Motion to Call a Vote on the Resolution was made by Dr. Chris Larson, seconded by Cathy Voelzke. All attending voted in approval.

Motion to adjourn

Made by Ross Abraham, seconded by Melody Thompson. All approved.

STATISTICS

STATISTICAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024
THROUGH
AUGUST 31, 2025

	As of 08/31/2024	As of 08/31/2025
Baptized Membership	2024	2017
Baptisms	14	17
Funerals	16	18
Weddings	2	4

A PATHWAY OF STEPPING STONES

Looking back on the past year in our congregation, we can see the stepping stones behind us that represent great challenges and great accomplishments as we live our mission: Fostering faith. Creating community. Loving all. This path stretches out before us into the future as well. With every step, or leap, we take, we can feel God's Holy Spirit upholding and guiding us along the way. Here are a few of the stepping stones worth highlighting as we reflect on another year of God's faithfulness:

Approving the Replacement of our Boilers

Pastor Trey and I have been here as called pastoral leaders for four years! That's a stepping stone in itself. Greater, though, is the number of years the congregation has discussed replacing the boilers, in operation for more than 30 years. At last year's Annual Meeting we made the decision to borrow a loan for the replacement of these integral pieces of heating equipment. Work will take place before the 2025 heating season.

Commissioning of a Property Task Force

In order to ensure that our building serves as a tool for ministry for generations to come, the Church Council and I invited three gifted members of the congregation to establish a property task force. This Task Force engaged in professional assessments of the building, created a list of priorities, presented those to council and the congregation, and embarked on the most urgent projects: replacement of the Sanctuary roof, replacement of aged electrical panels in the historic portion of our building, mechanical needs related to the boiler, and a safety upgrade for Sanctuary loft railing. This team is also preparing for the planned project of restoring the mosaic on the front of our building which will take place this fall. This Task Force is recommending a Property Committee for the life of the congregation, and I whole-heartedly agree. We'll look to establish that this year.

Annual Stewardship Appeal

For the first time in quite a while, we conducted an intentional, structured annual stewardship appeal. Sharing the story of our shared mission and its impact, we invited pledges to represent our financial commitment to the life of First Lutheran and our faithful response to God's generosity toward us. The large majority of pledges represented increased giving. It was a wonderful tradition to reestablish, and I look forward to celebrating Stewardship with you all again this year. We continue to tell the stories of lives impacted by the Gospel thanks to faithful giving and God's grace! These stories are now included with your quarterly giving statements.

Vision for a Future Outdoor Sanctuary

Last year a group of SDSU students and their professor from the school of architecture helped us collect our congregation's dreams and the Holy Spirit's imagination about how we might expand our worship experience into the outdoors and create a new space for congregation members, newcomers, and neighbors to connect with God and each other. We have those initial plans now in hand. We await with patience the Spirit's movement as we hope to bring this Outdoor Sanctuary to life on the far north end of our property one day.

Commissioning of a Finance Task Force and Business Manager Job Description

We are a complex and robust financial organization! With a preschool, a coffeehouse cafe, three cemeteries, an international ministry in Belize, and a congregational life full beyond these ministries, it is a lot of work to keep our finances, HR, and other administrative business in the best possible order. So, thanks be to God for the support of the Council to commission a Finance Task Force of three capable FLC members. Also, it's a great steppingstone to be investing in a more full staff to help us all carry out the mission God gives us.

The Start of a Creation Care Team

This year has marked the beginning of a new way to engage faith and the world as a Creation Care Team comes to life at FLC. This crew will help us all better appreciate and tend the glorious and precious creation that God has made and loves. Look for ways to join the learning and action to come including a Season of Creation in worship this fall and Harvest Fest October 8th.

Replacing our Roof and Updating Electrical

What a big step we took this summer as we needed to replace the Sanctuary roof. At the same time, our property assessment revealed that several electrical panels needed replacement as soon as possible. The roof project cost around \$116,000. The electrical work came in over \$30,000. None of this was a part of our budget for the year, but some things simply must be done as they arise. This money was largely raised right away, and we need only about \$30,000 to cover the costs fully. Thank you for understanding the need to tend this holy place that was built by the generations before us through great sacrifice. One day our family of faith who will gather here to sing, pray, hear the Word of God, and share in the Sacraments will be grateful for you and the way you gave what God had entrusted to you to ensure this sacred space would remain.

Meeting our ELCA Ministry Partners and Growing with Pastoral Intern Hannah Reeves-Fleming

An unexpected stepping stone appeared on our path this year as we were given the opportunity to host Intern Hannah for a twelve month seminary pastoral internship. What a blessing! Intern Pastor Hannah's presence has brought so many good things to share. It has renewed a partnership with Lake Whitewood Lutheran Church. It has brought a new and gifted voice to worship leadership, preaching, pastoral care, and teaching here at FLC. Through her internship project, it has brought a great awakening to the wide and deep ministry we are a part of thanks to our ELCA ministry partnerships. We've met and deepened relationships with our Nicaraguan Lutheran companions, St. Dymas prison ministry, our South Dakota Synod, Church on the Street, Pueblo de Dios, the University Lutheran Center at SDSU, and Shepherd's Table. And we are not done yet! I can't wait to see how many stones on the path ahead will be possible thanks to these partnerships.

THE PATH AHEAD...in the year to come, we will continue to travel the way of faith together as we follow Jesus. Here are some Stepping Stones in view as we take the next faithful steps:

Continued Care for our Property as a Tool for Ministry

We are not done yet tending a long list of important projects that will maintain our property as a tool for ministry. As we assess that list for urgency and importance, the Council, Property Task Force, and Finance Task Force will work together to determine the best forms of funding. We will share updates about work completed and projects coming up, and those anticipated in the near future. If you have a passion for a project, notice a need, or want to know how you can help, you can visit with myself, Doriane Paso, Director of Events and Facilities, or a member of any of those leadership teams. It is a large group effort to steward our facilities!

Growing Faith Stepping Stones for All Ages and Stages of Life

Stepping Stones Ministry is one of the highlights of Faith Formation with First Lutheran. We offer several opportunities for children, youth, and their caring adults to be formed in faith as they grow. This year we are adding to the slate of Stepping Stones so that every elementary year will offer a faith step. Looking ahead, we also hope to expand Stepping Stones in early childhood and for adults. Thanks to the CYF Team and staff for support of these important moments and the resources we are offering to help parents fulfill the promises they made at the baptismal font, and to accompany the baptized as we walk through all the stages of life.

Dreams Becoming Plans

Maintaining our building and expanding ministry programming are not our only priorities. We are the ones God is calling to help share the Gospel of Jesus' saving grace in this time and place. We are called to reimagine what Church can be as we seek to live and share the promise God has given us. The Holy Spirit helps us dream. Our mission statement helps us prioritize. Listening to one another and bringing our gifts to the table help us start to make plans to live into the dreams we begin to see. This year we will keep on seeking the vision of the future God holds for us, and we will continue to step into it together.

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Jess

LETTER FROM PASTOR TREY

Associate Pastor

Dear First Lutheran Church,

As I reflect on the past year, my heart is full of gratitude for the privilege of serving as one of your Pastors. It's a profound joy to witness the many ways God is at work, both in our church ministries and through each of you in your daily lives—at home, at work, and throughout our community.

Over the past year, our worship life has been a particular joy. We moved from the sacred stillness of Advent to the explosive joy of Easter, proclaiming God's Word, lifting prayers, and making Christ known in every service. Our caring ministries also continue to be a beautiful reflection of Christ's love, offering comfort in times of need and celebrating in moments of joy. Your dedication to these ministries is truly inspiring.

I am especially grateful for the many hands that make our ministries possible. My heartfelt thanks go to our dedicated music staff: Rick Jensen, Pat Anderson, Mary Ermel and Barbara Horten. Their leadership is a tremendous blessing to all who find hope and belonging in worship. I also want to thank Craig Vostad and Jacob York, our AV tech team, who ensure our services are seen and heard clearly, both in person and online. A special thank you also to the countless volunteers who share their gifts and time, including our ushers, scripture readers, altar guild members, and guest musicians.

I also want to express my profound gratitude for the church staff who support these ministries. My thanks to Senior Pastor Jess, who serves as the vital hub for our pastoral, staff, and council support. I'm grateful for Intern Pastor Hannah Fleming, who has been a creative and faithful colleague and a joy to work with. A special thank you to our office coordinator, Cyndi Johnson, whose quiet dedication in preparing bulletins and compassionately coordinating our pastoral-care-by-mail ministry is a true blessing. My thanks also go to our unsung heroes: our janitors, facilities staff, and finance and administrative teams.

I am increasingly appreciative of our church council, who preserve and protect the integrity of our congregations' systems and ministries. A special word of thanks to outgoing council members who conclude their role. Finally, it is you, the congregation, who provides these ministries and entrusts them to pastors, staff, and ministry leaders to steward on your behalf.

Looking ahead, I am filled with great hope for what God has in store for us. May the year ahead be one of continued faithful proclamation, fervent praise, and fruitful prayer

To God be the Glory,

Pastor Trey

The front of the sanctuary decorated for Christmas



LETTER FROM ROSS ABRAHAM

Church Council President

Greetings, fellow members of FLC! What a privilege it has been to serve on the First Lutheran Church Council for the past four years with two of them as president. There have been many changes during my time on the council such as seeing our pastors develop from being the new faces at the front of the church to the familiar and friendly pastors we now know. We have weathered a derecho, we've seen and participated in the evolution of post-pandemic FLC, and I've gotten to see how the inner-workings of our church are handled.

In general, the Council receives numerous reports and helps to guide the various entities operating within the church, offering approval or suggestions regularly. The meat and potatoes of our monthly meetings is to review the church finances. At the recommendation of our finance task force, audit team, financial director, and almost anyone who has worked with our finances, we have been replacing our old financial software with a new system called Aplos. The changeover is nearly complete and Aplos should make it much easier to enter our financial information, track our status, and generate reports. The council continues to make good on our promise to the congregation when we hired a pastoral couple to have an annual ministry review and conversation with our pastors. We hired a company to do a thorough inspection of our physical property and our property task force pared down the list of items that needed attention to the top 10. We have been busy attending to those items including re-doing the roof above the sanctuary, replacing our boilers (at last!), modernizing some electrical systems, and renovating the mosaic on the southern exterior of the church – “Touchdown Jesus”. The urgency of the roof replacement was a bit of a surprise and I am amazed and grateful for the generosity of our congregation to help make those repairs a reality. The council helped implement an annual fall appeal and FLC received our church directories! We also approved hosting pastoral intern Hannah Fleming and have welcomed her into our church and community. We have started the process of bringing back official committees to the church (nearly all were dismantled about 20 years ago by pastor Scott, which was a trend at the time) and are developing bylaws and growing members to serve on them. We have also weighed in on various staffing issues and updates.

It may not sound like the most exciting list of activities, but the council's time together is useful, productive, rewarding, and at times . . . even fun. Now that my term limit is up and I leave the council, I plan to stay involved with the church in a variety of ways. I would encourage you to be involved as well, whether it be through committees, task forces, boards, or any of the many activities that go on in church. I would highly recommend that you seize that opportunity. What a wonderful way to meet new people, make new connections, and play an important role in your faith community. I believe I have learned more about FLC in the last four years than I had in the previous 23 that I've been a member of First Lutheran! I'm excited to see all that the future holds for FLC and what we can do together in our church community!

Yours in Christ's service,
Ross Abraham

The front of
the sanctuary
decorated for
Easter



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

Rose Baerenwald, Director

Hello FLC Members! It's time for a Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) reflection of the past year. When I started back in October of 2024, I walked into a fulfilling ministry that has been established well before I arrived, but there is always room for growth! With this report, we will dive into each section of the CYF acronym. Let's dive in!

CHILDREN

This past year was filled with a lot of fun activities from Journey to Camp! Journey is our Wednesday and Sunday school for friends that are 3 years old through 5th grade. Our theme was Peacemakers. We learned about different peacemakers throughout the bible from Jacob and Esau to Ruth and Naomi. We learned through crafts, games and focusing on the story. In December we had a Christmas Program, special thanks to Tiff Lewis for taking the lead for the Christmas Program and music throughout the year of Journey. I want to personally thank all the volunteers that helped out with Journey. You all rock!

This past year we had a lot of Steppingstones, from focusing on the Lord's Prayer to Holy Communion. We are currently working on setting up a Steppingstone for every age with the plan to introduce one new Steppingstone every year for the age groups that currently don't have one.

Vacation Bible School was originally scheduled for July 28th-31st. But with the threat of severe weather on July 28th, we decided to not meet that night but we had VBS in person from Tuesday-Thursday. We used the curriculum from ELCA World Hunger 'At the Table'. We learned that all are welcomed to God's Table - even Sandy the Seagull joined us!

This summer we had around 30 people go to camp. Between Outlaw Ranch and NeSoDak, our friends who went to camp learned that God's Word Comes Near. I hope to grow the number that to go to camp, as I'm a huge believer that everyone needs to experience camp in some way, shape, or form.

YOUTH

This past year in Confirmation we dove into studying The Apostle's Creed, Prayer, a couple of stories from the Bible and service-learning opportunities in our church and town. During Lent, we focused on the theme 'Tree of Life' and how our own faith is incorporated to the tree. In October we had twelve 10th graders affirm their baptismal promises that were made when they were baptized.

9th graders have a special opportunity! They are invited to Youth Group, as well as a monthly gathering with their grade. We spent time diving deep in the Wholeness Wheel as they prepare to put together their faith projects and affirm their baptismal promises in their 10th grade year.

In Youth Group, after I got hired back in October, we got to know each other. We did some fun games and a few crafts. We dove into a bible study during Lent. We talked about how can we intergrate our faith to the 'Tree of Life'. A special thank you to Stue Lewis, Diane Almos, and Geoff Gayne for being mentors for our high school friends.

In November, our Confirmation and Youth Group friends went to NeSoDak for a weekend retreat! This year the theme was "Stick Season", based off the song by Noah Kahan. We dove into the Theology of the Cross, what is a Stick Season, and how can we navigate when we are going through our own Stick Season. We had a lot of fun playing games, doing crafts and tying in to how can we incorporate music to our faith.

In July, 9 high schoolers got the experience to go to North Carolina for a week to help our neighbors in Winston-Salem. We stepped out of our comfort zones and leaned into being uncomfortable (within reason) through service learning opportunities. I saw these high schoolers really embody what it means to be Un-Rest. Un-Rest was our theme for the week, with 2 Chronicles 15:5 being the theme verse for our time in Winston-Salem. Thank you for keeping these youth in your prayers and for your financial support.

This next year, summer 2026, we will be going on an Outdoor Camp Adventure. Keep an eye out for more information about the High School Trip for 2026!

FAMILY

This year we've had a lot of events for families of all ages! In December, we kicked off the Advent Season with Advent Fest. We had breakfast food out for all to take and had a couple of craft options: make your own Advent wreath and make a 'stained glass' manger.

In January we kicked off the start of Journey, Confirmation, and Youth Group for the New Year. We had a Game Night! We had a blast with fellowship and fun!

Right after Easter, our Confirmation groups and Youth Group each put together a skit for our Easter Vigil! We had fun going through the stories throughout the church. Afterwards, we enjoyed some SDSU ice cream as a celebration for another fun year of Journey, Confirmation, and Youth Group. Thank you to Barry and Jane Dunn for providing the SDSU ice cream for our celebration!

As a kick-off to VBS, we had a First Lutheran Church Pool Party! We had around 75 people show up! We had a lot of fun at the pool. We might have to make this an annual thing for our congregation! Keep an eye out during the summer for that announcement! 😊

We have a lot of amazing fun things in the world of CYF this next year! We are introducing a couple of new things. Journey is being offered for our friends that are 4 years old through 5th grade. We are introducing a new program through the Nursery called Junior Journey. This is for our friends that are from birth through 3 years old with a brief story and activity in the nursery during the time when Journey meets.

I want to thank you for supporting this ministry for our children, youth and families.
I'm excited for another year!

God's Grace and Peace,
Rose Baerenwald
CYF Ministry Director



2025 SENIORS



2024 AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM CLASS

EVENTS AND FACILITIES

Doriane Paso , Director

As Director of Events and Facilities I am privileged to arrive to work every day to the wonderful aroma of coffee, scones, and caramel rolls. Best job ever! The Welcome desk in the Mission Coffeehouse is the perfect place to greet all who come to First Lutheran Church. It's a joy to see a visitor cozied up with a book by our bright, plant-filled windows, or a group of friends sharing conversation over coffee. Behind the scenes, countless small but important tasks keep our space welcoming, many of them carried out faithfully by Greg Silva and Tim Lindgren. From changing lightbulbs to ensuring every corner is clean, their daily work makes a visible difference. If you see them around, please take a moment to say thanks!

This last year we didn't see too much snow, which was a relief for backs and budgets alike. Which is good, as our Property Committee hit the ground running this year. Please read Dale Tidemann's contribution to this Annual Report for more on their work.

I am especially grateful for the generosity of our congregation. Because of that generosity, the Sanctuary roof is now brand new, the hidden drain problem has been solved (see photos on opposite page), and we will soon install new boilers at the end of August. Early this fall, our iconic Christ Our King mosaic will also be expertly restored, preserving the sermon and the welcome for future Brookings citizens and visitors.

I want to thank our Property Committee for their well-organized collaboration: Dale Nussbaum, Tim Pederson, and Dale Tidemann, THANK YOU!

Big thanks to our Safety Committee as well: Tony Sonnenburg, Scott Holm, Jen Swartz, and Tim Swartz. We are quietly working away to improve the safety of our preschool students and to create procedural manuals for all of us, THANKS!

Thank you, too, to the volunteers who just turn up to kill weeds: Thanks, Lyle Anderson! and to Doug Odegaard, who faithfully shows up to mow our lovely campus. And thank you Ron Langner for all the outdoor plant advice and care.

Finally, thank you Greg and Tim! And thank you, First Lutheran Church Congregation, for allowing me to be a small part of the great whole that is our beautiful community.

Our combined efforts help create a safe, beautiful, and functional environment where ministry and community life can flourish. These efforts, by both staff and volunteers, are more than just maintenance. They directly support First Lutheran Church Brookings' mission of fostering faith, creating community, and loving all.

Through every person welcomed, through every repair, polished window, and freshly cleaned carpet, we live out these priorities in tangible ways, turning brick and mortar into instruments of ministry.

In Him,
Doriane Paso
Director of Events and Facilities

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Doriane Paso, Tim Pederson, Dale Nussbaum, Dale Tidemann

This committee was formed in October of 2024, and was commissioned to discover, investigate, recommend, and help resolve existing and potential issues with the facility and property. To accomplish this the committee took the following course of action:

1. Coordinate professional assessments of the facility
2. Consolidate and rank the findings from these assessments
3. Make recommendations on the resolution of the top findings

Four different assessments were conducted within the following categories and completed by the organizations listed below:

- Structural and Architectural – Banner Associates
- Electrical – Clites Electric
- Heating and Cooling – Ekern Plumbing and Heating
- Plumbing – Courtesy Plumbing

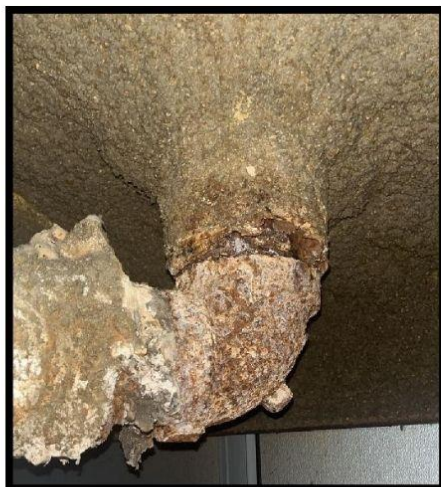
Over 160 items were identified as existing or potential issues with the facility that need attention. These items were ranked based on safety, preservation of facility, service interruption, building and electrical code, professional recommendations, and cost effectiveness.

The following items were some of the top items that have been completed or are in the process of being addressed. Many other items are also in planning and scheduling phase.

- Boiler replacement (carryover from last year)
- Sanctuary roof and roof drain replacements
- Mosaic restoration
- Electrical breaker box upgrades
- Boiler pump controls upgrade
- Balcony railing
- Exterior caulking
- Sidewalk drain covers and trip hazards
- Sump pump replacements

The entire property team would like to thank the staff, council, and congregation for the tremendous outpouring of support to help maintain and preserve the wonderful facility that we are blessed with.

In Christ,
Dale Tidemann



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Pat Anderson, Director

"My life flows on in endless song..."

ELW 763

As the music coordinator for the 8:30 service, my responsibilities include assisting Pastors Trey and Jess with selecting hymns and liturgies appropriate for the church year. In addition, I direct the Sanctuary Choir and play the organ once a month.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Mary Ermel serve as our primary organist and choir accompanist.

Rick Jensen continued as the Praise Band coordinator this year. He has a talented, committed group of musicians that lead the 10:30 service.

It is difficult to condense an entire year into this report but I will give a brief summary of activities.

- *The Sanctuary Choir sang and led worship services three Sundays a month. Thank you to choir members and Mary Ermel, choir accompanist, for their commitment. We have become a family and welcomed some new members to our family this year. As a scholarship recipient, Lewis Jenkins sang in the choir and played handbells this year. Also, Kali Snaza and Susan Immanuel joined us.
- *Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services featured the choir, Rick Jensen and Dave Law, guitar.
- *For Palm Sunday, a Children's Choir joined the Sanctuary Choir for special music and Easter brought Brass instrumentation to enhance our worship experience.
- *The First Lutheran Handbell Choir rehearsed weekly and played once a month. Barbara Horten is the director of this talented group and Cathy Moklebust, a handbell ringer, composer and arranger wrote music that this group premiered!



Above: the brass players who blessed us on Easter morning; Mary Ermel at the organ; the Handbell choir

Right: the Sanctuary Choir along with the Children's Choir Palm Sunday Choir provided special music on Palm Sunday at both services



MISSION COFFEEHOUSE

LaDeane Harrison, Manager

As I move into my third year as the manager of the Mission Coffeehouse, I look forward to it being just as amazing as the past two. I am blessed to be working with so many wonderful volunteers who support the purpose of our ministry.

The Mission Coffeehouse is not just an ordinary coffee house. We strive to change lives in many ways:

- The Mission of the Month speaks for itself as we continue to donate monthly tips to the chosen organization.
- The volunteers are our main staff, who dedicate their time to making our coffeehouse what it is today. Without all of you, the MCH wouldn't be possible.
- We purchase fair trade products, one being the wonderful coffee from Kool Beans. Thank you, Kurt and gang, for your continued support and service. We also have several different unique gifts that can be purchased that we receive through fair trade companies. New products are always ordered and available for purchase around the holiday season.
- A quaint and unique gathering space is an attraction on its own. Groups throughout the days and weeks bring in smiles, conversations and contentment. Thank you to all our customers that make our day with their presence.

Let's have another great year. Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow!

LaDeane Harrison

2024 - 2025 TRIP JAR TOTALS

MONTH	ORGANIZATION	TIP JAR TOTAL
September	Smile Train	\$1,519.98
October	Margo's Place	\$1,789.90
November	Project Joy	\$2,045.42
December	ELCA Good Gifts (\$1,169) Heifer Int'l (\$997)	\$2,166.00
January	Kelly McGeough Foundation	\$1,283.25
February	Brookings Chapter-Nat'l Foundation for the Blind	\$1,640.29
March	SD Synod Nicaragua Companion Synod	\$1,818.88
April	S.T.A.R.S. (Special Training And Riding Skills)	\$1,536.61
May	St. Dysmas of South Dakota Prison Ministry	\$1,509.64
June	Friends of the Brookings Public Library	\$1,294.97
July	Brookings Multicultural Center	\$1,243.65
August	Days for Girls	\$1,453.88
TOTAL		\$19,302.47



FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

SueAnn Mouw, Director

First Lutheran Preschool is so fortunate to have a highly educated, creative and caring staff. They have developed a very successful curriculum and student testing technique that has been recognized by the kindergarten screeners and teachers throughout the area. And this year we are going to add the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness curriculum to ensure FLP graduates have the very best start to their academic education.

According to Valora Washington Ph.D. in an article titled “Why Preschool Matters–Now More Than Ever” Children that attend high quality preschool programs receive the benefits of increased school readiness and higher self-esteem and motivation for achievement. Washington also states, “As educators of young children, we play a critical role in supporting parents, programs, and public policies that improve children’s quality of life.

Did you know that kindergarten is now considered the new first grade? Making preschool a valuable start to our children’s educational process.

Did you also know that because First Lutheran Church understands the importance of a preschool education it generously helps fund FLP. This allows us to keep the cost affordable for most families. Therefore, we must keep looking for creative ways to help finance First Lutheran Preschool.

The staff and I want to take this opportunity to thank the First Lutheran Church staff and the congregation for your continued support. We are very grateful for your understanding of this important mission.

Respectfully submitted,
SueAnn Mouw, Director



Left: The Journey students entertain with their Christmas program in December
Right: the Journey students blessed us with special music on Palm Sunday

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Dale Nelson, Chair, Kathy DeKraai, Secretary, Mark Foster, Bob Algood

First Lutheran Cemetery is open for burials to non-members as well as members. Costs for niches in the Columbarium vary by level. Contact our sexton, Dan Billet, for more information at (605) 695-5197.

The cemetery requires much annual maintenance to provide perpetual care. Contributions and memorials to the Cemtery fund are welcome for maintenance as well as continued improvements. In addition to First Lutheran Cemetery, this congregation also provides lawn care maintenance at Pioneer Cemetery and Sterling Lutheran Cemetery.

2025 improvements, etc:

- *New East entry signage with new FLC logo.
 - *Existing flagpole moved and centered to north of Columbarium. Thank you to Mark foster for providing new replacement flags as needed in 2024 and 2025.
 - *New solar light installed on flagpole providing continual lighting of American flag.
 - *Continued removal of storm damaged trees and fencing north edge of cemetery property.
 - *Painted masonry 'pillar caps' at main cemetery entrance.
 - *60 'new trees' doing well with adequate moisture and minimum watering needed in 2025.
- Thank you to Dale Nussbaum and Dan Billett for providing equipment needed for watering 'new trees' since June 2023 planting.

Discussions at spring and fall meetings included:

- *Mowing, trimming and weed control options.
- *Pest and gopher control options.
- *Rotation of term lengths.
- *East entry signage surround (possibly brick).
- *Main entrance brick pillars - repair or replace (tabled for future consideration).
- *Additional columbariums - 2 bases set (tabled for future consideration).

We are seeking volunteers for planting, watering and weeding columbarium areas.

Regular maintenance has made spring and fall cleanup much easier. This year's fall cleanup will be scheduled at a later date. Thank you to all the energetic volunteers for their help.



The Cemetery Committee
L-R: Mark Foster, Dale Nelson, Kathy DeKraai, Brenda and Bob Algood

Dan Billet, cemetery Sexton, lawn care provider, weed puller, tree waterer and all-around great supporter of the cemetery



The new sign at the east entry featuring the new FLC logo and some new rules

The FLC Foundation allows the management of the church's long-term assets to be separated from the day-to-day management of the Church. This ensures the demands of the present do not cause the opportunities of the future to be neglected.

The Foundation currently has endowment funds designated in support of:

*Youth *Cemetery *Preschool *Scholarships *Sabbatical *Seminary Scholarships

The Endowment Funds are invested in the ELCA Pooled Trust and are managed by the ELCA Endowment Fund to provide perpetual support to each of their designated areas. All gifts to the FLC Foundation are invested with only the earnings being used each year. If you are interested in supporting these programs in a perpetual way, we encourage you to contact any of the Foundation Board members.

The ELCA Pooled trust posted the following annual returns as of June 30, 2025:

1 year = 12.5% 3 years = 11.1% 5 years = 9.2% 7 years = 7.4%

*Performance figures were obtained from the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust
2nd Quarter of 2025 report. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

On 6/30/2025 the Foundation had total assets of \$2,420,340.00. For the twelve months ending 3/30/2025 the Foundation made distributions totaling \$104,443.00.

Details of the distributions made during the last year are as follows:

- *\$11,372.00 was distributed in support of the FLC Cemetery
- *\$16,000.00 was distributed to our youth through the FLC Scholarship Fund
- *\$ 9,196.00 was distributed in support of the FLC Youth program
- *\$20,972.00 was distributed via the Seminary Scholarship Fund
- *\$ 2,124.00 was distributed via the Preschool Fund
- *\$ 1,920.00 was distributed via the Sabbatical Fund
- *\$42,859.00 was distributed via the Undesignated Fund

These distributions are only possible because of the generous support received from the many people who care deeply about the ministries of First Lutheran.

If you have any questions about the FLC Foundation or would like to make a gift that will have a perpetual impact on the ministries of First Lutheran, you can contact Pastor Jess or the church office.

FLC Foundation Board

*"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,
so, thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all God's love."*

With faithful support from First Lutheran Church (FLC) members and friends, FLC Mission Interest Quilters made and distributed more than 400 quilts and other items to the following agencies locally and worldwide:

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) – 410 quilts

Graduation Seniors – 3 quilts

Thank You Gifts – 3 lap robes/table runner

LWR Personal Care Kits – 50 kits

Foster children in Brookings schools -24 back packs

Brookings Humane Society -- 30 # of towels

Donations to FLC members - 14 lap robes

Salvation Army - 23 quilts

Mission Bandages - 1 shoebox full

Brookings Fire Victims - 10 quilts

Sleep In Heavenly Peace - 6 quilts/stuffed animals

Margo's Place - 6 comforters & pillows

Income: The Mission Quilters received income from memorials, monetary donations, personal gifts, and proceeds from the sale of quilts and seasonal items in the amount of \$ 5,806.00 to cover expenses for quilting supplies and special mission projects. We also raffled a quilt to raise \$345.00. Donations of gift cards from Thrivent Action Team Projects amounted to approximately \$3,000.00.

Expenses: Total expenses for the year amounted to \$ 5,516.97. A donation of \$500 supported the Belize Mission student scholarship program to cover school tuition, supplies, and transportation. The quilters also sponsored a \$500 college scholarship for an FLC member student. Additional donations included \$500 to SD Lutheran Outdoors, \$250 to help cover a campership of a FLC member, and \$800 for the FLC boiler and/or roof project. Additional expenses included purchasing fabric and supplies for the 460 plus quilts and home décor items distributed in the community. We also cover the shipping costs (for one LWR quilt at \$2.80) and for Personal Care (Health) Kits (for one kit at \$1.50).

Special Projects: On Saturday, June 7, 2025, the FLC Quilters held a Quilting Bee for the third year and invited members of FLC, the local community, and area churches in Medary Conference to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Approximately sixty plus individuals including men, women, and youth worked together to finish 60+ quilts during the day. Additional fabric was purchased and the noon meal costs were provided through a Thrivent Action Team Project. A special feature for the 2025 Quilting Bee was having 4 families with 3 generations each of grandparents, parents, and grandchildren, all working together to create quilts for mission outreach. The day was a most successful adventure and a strong example of an intergenerational project for our church.

Additional projects this year included donating items for the Church on the Street in Sioux Falls and providing a meal for the VBS students and their families.

FLC Quilting Members: Two quilting groups meet weekly throughout the year: a Monday evening "Sew What" group and a Tuesday morning group with approximately 25 members working each week. We welcome new members at any time to either of the quilting groups – no matter what the skill level or past sewing experience is! We always look for volunteers to help cut fabric squares, assemble and tie quilts, bind or hem quilts, enjoy the fellowship, and support the mission outreach program of First Lutheran Church. Fabric donations of curtains, sheets/pillowcases, tablecloths, etc. are always welcome.

We are most appreciative of the fabric items and monetary donations that members of our church and community have provided us with for the many projects completed throughout the year. Thank you to all that have assisted us in many ways. We have been blessed!

Thanks to God for inspiring generosity and joy in serving.

BELIZE MISSION TEAM

Debbie Pederson, Mary Moeller, Jean Gentry, Dee Shanley and Jim Schade

***“We all are one in mission,
we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together
that all may know Christ’s love.” -Lutheran Hymn Project, 2024***

With thanks to God for generous donors, the Belize Mission Committee reports the following support provided to Alvin L. Young Nazarene (ALYN) High School in Succotz, Cayo District, Belize, Central America through the First Lutheran Church ministry:

- Tuition scholarships for 32 ALYNHS students
- Additional support for lunch, school supplies, and transportation to school
- Sewing supplies for Dee Shanley’s classroom, where she volunteers as a teacher
- Financial support for teacher’s aids in the sewing room
- Content area books and art supplies

In addition, since 2013, FLC has annually supported traveling teams of volunteers to serve at the school by transporting school supplies and completing projects on the campus. This year a student travel scholarship was awarded to Carmen Moeller (pictured at right helping some of the children with a craft project).



In 2025, five volunteers served in the following ways:

- We developed relationships with students, their families, school staff and community members, following the ELCA Accompaniment Model for serving others as partners. This involves getting acquainted with students, their families, and visiting their homes.
- Jean Gentry supported Dee’s classroom by helping students with sewing. During Jean’s several weeks stay, she taught art education and reviewed scholarship applications.
- The team of Lynn Verschoor, Danielle Schultz, Carmen Moeller and Mary Moeller helped by guiding students to write thank you notes; providing vocabulary instruction; leading arts/crafts sessions for younger students; cleaning and painting window frames in Dee’s new and expanded classroom. They were in Belize for nine days.
- Carmen and Mary presented perspectives on alcohol abuse during chapel services.



In July 2025, Mr. Bay Rivas, principal of ALYNHS, was hosted by Nancy and Jim Schade in Brookings. During his five-day visit, Mr. Bay met with Pastor Jess, Intern Hannah, the FLC Mission Quilters, and the Tuesday Bible study group. He toured the Schade winery, the farms of Matt Lefers and Suzanne and Jim Hegg, McCrory Gardens, Sioux Falls sites, and local museums. He spoke at the Belize Donor Appreciation luncheon to around 63 supporters. Mr. Bay expressed deep appreciation for the on-going relationship between his school and FLC. He left with “Dakota Hope” in his heart.



**BELIZE MISSION TEAM
FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 24/25
AS OF AUGUST 8, 2025**

REVENUES FROM FUNDRAISING	AMOUNT
Purses for a Powerful Purpose	\$14,623.98
Deck the Hall	\$1,895.00
Scholarship Donations	\$12,705.00
Belize Mission Donations	\$9,088.13
TOTAL. REVENUE	\$38,312.11

EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
Alvin Young Nazarene High School	
40 High School Scholarships	\$18,000.00
Food Program	\$6,500.00
Facility Projects	\$3,149.66
Sewing Program	\$7,271.31
Higher Ed Scholarships	\$1,300.00
Travel Scholarship for Student	\$2,000.00
Food for Thought	\$1,000.00
Purses and Summer Luncheon Expenses**	\$3,452.39
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,673.36

**Some of the costs of the Purses event and the Celebration Luncheon were covered by the donations of Thrivent Gift Cards by Members of First Lutheran Church.

PHOTOS:

Left page bottom (l-r): Missionary Dee Shanley with one of her students; Mary Moeller with one of the students and her scholarship sponsor; one of the volunteers and a student hang curtains in the school; Faye Dahl and Principal Rivas chat during his visit with the quilters. Right page (top-bottom): Principal Rivas is shown how to tie quilts by Kathy DeKraai and Bev Pottratz; the quilters gifted Principal Rivas one of their beautiful quilts; the group of volunteers from FLC & other churches who visited ALYNHS.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Currently the hospitality committee meets about twice a year. The purpose of the committee is to assist with new membership meal/meetings. Members order and make food for the informational meetings for prospective members considering joining First Lutheran Church. Pastor Jess presents details and responsibilities about joining our church. Other committee members introduce themselves and share why they joined the church and what they enjoy about our church family as well as answer questions. On New Member Sunday the committee hosts a welcome reception for new members in the Mission Coffee House between services!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of Brenda Algood, Kay Dahl and Pastor Jess met in August. The Nominating Committee is instructed by the Constitution to prepare a list of nominees for the Congregation Council, Audit, Nominating and Cemetery Committees. For the upcoming year, we have two openings for Church Council, Audit and Nominating Committees and one opening for Cemetery. Individuals who have accepted will be voted in at the annual meeting scheduled for September 28, 2025.

Prior to May 2026, the Nominating Committee will be looking for interested people from the congregation to attend the Synod Assembly, May 29th – May 30th in Sioux Falls.

The Synod Assembly is a one year term and First Lutheran can bring 8 members. The Synod requests:

- 6 lay voting members
- 1 lay voting member, age 16-21
- 1 lay voting member who is a person of color and/or a person whose primary language is other than English.

If you have an interest in attending the Assembly, please reach out to any of the Nominating Committee members noted above or one of the Pastors.

Respectfully Submitted: Brenda Algood on behalf of the Nominating Committee

INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

The Internship Committee for Intern Hannah Fleming provides support to Intern Hannah during her tenure at First Lutheran Church. Chris Larson, Marge Brenden, Molek Zarpeleh and Lon Moeller represent FLC on the committee. Teresa Christensen and Deb Miller represent the Lake Whitewood congregation.

The committee's role is to support Intern Hannah by providing feedback at monthly meetings. Areas of observation include leadership, theological articulation, leading worship, teaching adults and youth, evangelism, pastoral care and administration.

In addition to the monthly meetings, the committee provides a formal mid-term and final evaluation. To support these evaluations the committee members strive to observe the evaluation areas during Intern Hannah's tenure.

FINANCE TASK FORCE

The Finance Task Force devoted its efforts this year to strengthening the church's financial systems and supporting staff in their work. Early in the year, we identified insufficiencies in our existing accounting software and systems. After reviewing multiple options, we recommended Aplos as a replacement, and we have been actively supporting staff as they learn and continue to integrate the new system into daily operations.

We also assisted with the hiring process for our new business manager, offering input on job descriptions, finance policies, and budget formation. In each of these areas, our focus has been on improving efficiency, ensuring transparency, and maintaining sound stewardship of the church's financial resources.

The Finance Task Force looks forward to continuing to work with staff and leadership in the year ahead, building on this year's progress toward sustainable, well-supported financial operations.

Thanks!
Tyler Holmquist

WELCA

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

WELCA is for all women who are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All women of First Lutheran Church in Brookings are welcome to attend. The WELCA chapter in Brookings discontinued meetings in 2016. We are trying to reorganize and bring back this important mission at FLC.

We hosted the fall meeting for the Medary conference in September, 2025. Approximately 40 people attended. The Mission Quilters helped to host this event.

In October, we held an informational meeting. Several women in attendance were interested in attending a monthly Bible Study. So, in November, we began a monthly Bible Study which meets on the third Thursday at 10:00 am in the FLC parlor. In April, nine members prepared 38 frozen crock pot meals. These meals are available in the downstairs kitchen freezer. These meals are available for anyone to use or give to someone who is ill or going through a trying time.

We invite all women to join us to participate in Bible Study or fellowship. More programs will be coming in the coming year.

Brenda E Hayne

ALTAR GUILD

Deb Bortnem and Diane Almos, Co-Chairs

We currently have 16 members, and each person typically works 2 times a year on a Sunday morning preparing the sacraments and serving. The chair for the month and one other person cover both services as well as one service in the summer. If you would be interested in being involved with this you can contact Deb Bortnem, Diane Almos or the Church office.

RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE

Origin: Church Council

Whereas: the following persons connected to First Lutheran Church died in the faith in the past year (September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025) and have been committed to the Lord of Life:

*Ken Ahartz
Robert Johnson
Mavis Krogman
Lillian Osvog*

*Kermit Bortnem
Allan Jones
Dean Krogmann
Ray Peterson*

*Diane Virchow Bunker
Candy Jones
Leona Krogmann*

*Lyle Howey Jr
Kent Kiepke
George Madsen
Barbara Telkamp*

*Robert Howey
Edwin Kirchhevel
Lilly McMacken
Larry Vander Wal*

Therefore: Be it resolved that we commend our siblings in Christ to the eternal care of a gracious and loving God.



Pictured in same order as listed above, across, then down

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH BROOKINGS
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 31, 2025

INCOME		EXPENSE	
OFFERING/DONATIONS	\$ 978,910	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE - SERVICES	\$ 66,569
FOUNDATION PROCEEDS	104,943	BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	11,855
MCH INCOME	95,751	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	3,450
INTEREST INCOME	49	UTILITIES	74,539
OTHER DESIGNATED	224,250	VEHICLE & MILEAGE EXPENSE	307
BUILDING INCOME	2,372	TAXES	1,919
FUNDRAISER	1,351	INSURANCE EXPENSE	48,274
PRESCHOOL	132,956	INTEREST EXPENSE	5,997
CEMETERY INCOME	40,658	CREDIT CARD EXPENSE	5,445
BELIZE INCOME	28,933	STEWARDSHIP EXPENSE	11,084
MEMORIAL	1,065	FUNDRAISING EXPENSE	6,429
CYF	6,713	CONGREGATIONAL LIFE EXPENSE	24,472
MCH TIP JAR	14,268	ADVERTISING & MARKETING EXPENSE	803
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,632,220	OFFICE EXPENSE	14,337
		PRINTER & PRINTING EXPENSE	416
		BANK FEES EXPENSE	634
		CONT. EDUCATION/CONF.	2,891
		TRAVEL	3,940
		CYF EXPENSE	21,060
		WORSHIP & MUSIC EXPENSE	4,848
		CEMETERY EXPENSE	36,653
		SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	259
		COMPENSATION	870,429
		SYNOD PARTICIPATION	13,660
		MCH TIP JAR	14,268
		CONTINUING EDUCATION	4,271
		FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTIONS	17,500
		MISSION TRIPS	1,030
		BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE	30,267
		MCH COGS	71,562
		TECHNOLOGY & SOFTWARE	983
		PRESCHOOL EXPENSE	4,724
		MCH OPERATIONS EXPENSE	1,542
		PASTORS DISCRETION	597
		BELIZE EXPENSE	36,052
		BUILDING INTERIOR OPERATIONS EXPENSE	2,315
		PROPERTY OPERATIONS EXPENSE OUTSIDE	5,244
		PAYROLL EXPENSE	2,958
		TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 1,423,583
		CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 208,637

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH BROOKINGS STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF AUGUST 31, 2025

ASSETS

FB&T CHECKING	\$	217,174
UNDEPOSITED FUNDS		475
BUILDING AND LAND		12,856,900
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS - BUILDING		109,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	13,183,549

LIABILITIES

BENEFITS PAYABLE	\$	4,063
SALES TAX PAYABLE		1,000
BOILER LOAN		106,596
MCH GIFTS CARDS PAYABLE		990
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		14,489
CREDIT CARD PAYABLE		1,113
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	128,251

NET ASSETS

GENERAL/ OPERATING	\$	12,760,788
DESIGNATED FUNDS		260,419
BELIZE		19,355
CEMETERY		14,736
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$	13,055,298
TOTAL LIABILITIES + NET ASSETS	\$	13,183,549

24-25 BUDGET TO ACTUALS and 25-26 PROPOSED BUDGET

FLC 2024-25 BUDGET to ACTUALS and 2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET				
INCOME				
Account Name	2024-'25 Budget	2024-'25 Actual	NEW NAME	2025-'26 Budget
BUDGETARY INCOME	\$ 895,567	\$ 982,682		\$ 1,030,415
Envelope Offering	\$ 851,892	\$ 978,910		\$ 1,018,500
Loose Offering	\$ 37,089	\$ 3,723		\$ 5,000
Radio Broadcasts	\$ 400	\$ -		\$ 420
Interest/General Checking	\$ 75	\$ 49		\$ 79
Thrivent Funds	\$ 856	\$ -		\$ 899
Handbell/Choir Donations	\$ 1,188	\$ -		\$ 1,247
Sugg Facility Use Gratuity	\$ 4,067	\$ -		\$ 4,270
DESIGNATED GENERAL PURPOSE	\$ 137,887	\$ 336,971		\$ 130,078
Youth & Family	\$ 10,659	\$ 6,713	CYF	\$ 7,000
Wedding Fee Income	\$ 1,350	\$ -		\$ 1,418
Foundation income	\$ 113,375	\$ 104,943		\$ 108,150
Memorial income	\$ 1,595	\$ 4,065		\$ 2,057
Capital Campaign	\$ 4,428	\$ -		\$ 4,649
Preschool Gifts	\$ 6,480	\$ -		\$ 6,804
PRESCHOOL	\$ 148,862	\$ 132,956		\$ 125,000
Preschool Tuition	\$ 148,862	\$ 132,956		\$ 125,000
COFFEEHOUSE	\$ 119,432	\$ 110,020		\$ 113,320
MCH Fill the Cup	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
MCH Tip Jar	\$ 19,662	\$ 14,268		\$ 14,696
MCH Sales	\$ 99,770	\$ 95,752		\$ 98,624
CEMETERY	\$ 56,313	\$ 40,658		\$ 50,000
Cemetery Income	\$ 56,313	\$ 40,658		\$ 50,000
BELIZE	\$ -	\$ 28,933		\$ 42,000
Boiler Loan Y 1 of 5	\$ 39,520	\$ -		\$ 29,101
TOTAL	\$ 1,397,581	\$ 1,632,220		\$ 1,519,914
EXPENSE				
BENEVOLENCE/MISSION	\$ 48,336	\$ 44,523.68		\$ 50,753
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 24,176	\$ 15,995.25		\$ 22,885
COMPENSATION	\$ 798,203	\$ 870,428.82		\$ 889,730
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	\$ 9,369	\$ 11,409.37	CONT. EDUCATION / CONF.	\$ 11,750
WORSHIP/MUSIC/ARTS	\$ 8,496	\$ 4,847.50		\$ 6,921
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES	\$ 15,815	\$ 21,059.83	CYF	\$ 21,700
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	\$ 24,562	\$ 25,274.88		\$ 25,000
MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION	\$ 13,200	\$ 17,512.84	STEWARDSHIP	\$ 3,000
PROPERTY/FINANCE	\$ 242,306	\$ 229,198.91		\$ 269,146
PRESCHOOL	\$ 8,292	\$ 4,724.49		\$ 6,292
COFFEEHOUSE	\$ 106,628	\$ 73,104.83		\$ 80,415
MCH Tip Jar	\$ -	\$ 14,268.23		\$ 14,696
CEMETERY	\$ 32,963	\$ 36,652.60		\$ 28,500
FOUNDATION	\$ 18,845	\$ 17,500.00		\$ 18,025
Boiler Loan Y 1 of 5	\$ 39,520	\$ -		\$ 29,101
Multifunction Outdoor Sanctuary	\$ 3,870	\$ -		\$ -
Belize	\$ 3,000	\$ 37,082		\$ 42,000
	\$ 1,397,581	\$ 1,423,583		\$ 1,519,914
CAPITAL SAVINGS FUND 2% - Goal to begin saving if ahead for the year				

1. NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

(2 vacancies)

_____ Andrew Sogn (4 year term)

_____ (Candidate to be named at Annual Meeting) (4 year term)

_____ Write in candidate _____

2. NOMINATIONS FOR CEMETERY COMMITTEE

(1 vacancy)

_____ Brad Dahl (4 year term)

_____ Write in candidate _____

3. NOMINATIONS FOR AUDIT COMMITTEE

(1 vacancy)

_____ Erik Dahl (4 year term)

_____ Write in candidate _____

4. NOMINATIONS FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(2 vacancies)

_____ Doris Hornby (4 year term)

_____ Tiffany (Tiff) Lewis (4 year term)

_____ Write in candidate _____



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH BROOKINGS

PO BOX 300 BROOKINGS, SD 57006
(605) 692-6251
www.firstlutheranbrookings.org

Date: September 19, 2025
To: First Lutheran Church Congregation
From: First Lutheran Church Audit Committee
RE: Annual Audit Report

The First Lutheran Church (FLC) Audit Committee consisting of Tyler Holmquist, Jim Schade and Susan Robbins, recently completed an informal audit of the FLC financial accounts. The scope of the audit included:

- Review of donor contribution verifications
- Review of checking account transactions in sampled months
- Review of payroll distributions
- Review of authorized signors, credit cards and corresponding controls
- Review of Mission Coffeehouse and FLC Preschool transactions
- Review of assets and liabilities as presented on a balance sheet
- Review of written Offering Counters Procedures and Policy

In this process the committee recognized the changes in bookkeepers over the past year as well as transition to a new accounting software program. The committee is content with the financial tracking and controls in place. Some formal recommendations will be made to the church council to assist with efficiencies in areas related to staff roles and the accounting software.

Respectfully submitted,

FLC Audit Committee

Tyler Holmquist, Jim Schade, Susan Robbins

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Confident in God's generosity and gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us praise God and give thanks ...

God, we praise you and give you thanks.

You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.

We praise you for food that nourishes us.

You rescued your people from slavery.

We praise you for freedom.

You gave us prophets to correct, rebuke and encourage us.

We bless you for your justice and mercy.

You gave us your Son, Jesus, to love, redeem and save us.

We praise you for his death and resurrection.

You gave us your Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and Comforter.

We bless you for the gifts of every tribe and nation.

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift
and commission us again to be your servant people.

Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Send us in your love and mercy,
that the world may know you and praise you.

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,
2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 840

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name, that we might be a blessing to others. In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at **[LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA](https://www.lutheran.org/sfia)**.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America