



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

**St. Jacobs Lutheran Church
2023 Annual Meeting
January 14, 2024**

Table of Contents 1

Council and Boards Nominating Ballot 2

Secretary Report 3

President Report 4

Pastoral Report 5-6

Board of Ministry Report 7

Board of Education Report 8

Quilt Report 9

Financial Secretary Financial Statement (checking account)10

Financial Secretary Savings Account Statement 11

2024 Proposed Budget 12-13

Appendix

 SD Synod Reports/Vision/Budgetary Information 14-21

 Shetek Lutheran Ministries Report 22

 Lutheran Outdoors 2023 23

 Lutheran Social Services 24

 Bethel Lutheran Home 25-28

 Church on the Street 29

 Vanco / Giving Authorization / Thrivent Federal Credit Union 30

ST. JACOB'S CHURCH COUNCIL AND BOARDS 2024 BALLOT

Position / Person	Years position held	Term expires end of	
PRESIDENT			
			Kathy Carmen
VICE PRESIDENT			
			Nancy Roberts
TREAS/FIN SEC			
Lisa Busser	2020-2022-2023		
SECRETARY			
Susan Bunjer	2022-2023		
BOARD OF MINISTRY-THREE YEAR TERM (MAY HOLD TWO TERMS)			
Nancy Fods	2022-2023-2024	2024	
Kathryn Foster	2022-2023-2024-2025	2025	Lisa Busser
BOARD OF TRUSTEES-THREE YEAR TERM (MAY HOLD TWO TERMS)			
Pat Schut	2022-2023-2024	2024	
Robert Smith	2022-2023-2024	2024	
Jeff Ordal	2023-2024-2025	2025	
Tyler Busser	2023-2024-2025	2025	
			Dan Foster
BOARD OF EDUCATION-THREE YEAR TERM (MAY HOLD TWO TERMS)			
Madison Busser	2022-2023-2024	2024	
Tammy Fods	2023-2024-2025	2025	
Sarah Medina	2021-2022-2023	2023	Sarah Medina
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE-THREE YEAR TERM (MAY HOLD TWO TERMS)			
Aggie Fods	2022-2023-2024	2024	
Pam Schut	2022-2023-2024-2025	2025	
Nancy Fods	2021-2022-2023	2023	Nancy Fods
SYNOD CONVENTION-ONE MALE AND ONE FEMALE			
From the floor			
BETHEL DELEGATE (ONE YEAR TERM)			
Dawn Barber			
BETHEL BOARD OF DIRECTORS-THREE YEAR TERM (MAY HOLD TWO TERMS)			
Dawn Barber	2023-2024-2025	2025	
NOMINATING COMMITTEE-nomination comes from floor at annual meeting			
From the floor			

St. Jacob's Secretary's Report

1-22-23 Annual Meeting

President Dan Foster called the meeting to order.

Pastor Herb led with a prayer.

Secretary report was reviewed and approved by Dale Schut, seconded by Lisa Busser.

President's report was reviewed. Called Pastor Herb to our Congregation. Due to wind storm trees had to be removed and replaced. Updated landscaping around the church. Last year was the 140th year Anniversary of the Church, so we celebrated with cake. Thanked everyone for their time and talents given to the Church.

Pastor's report was reviewed. Pastor Herb talked about traditions and values of the Church and good old days. As a Congregation we need to ask what does God call us to do? We need to be creative and step out of the box and ask who we are in this place. Pastoral acts were reviewed.

Board of Ministry report was reviewed.

Financial Secretary report was reviewed. Trying to close the women's account, having some difficulty because of names on the account. Motion to approve the financial report was made by Dale Schut and seconded by Stan Fods.

Proposed budget was reviewed. Discussed disconnecting the phone, as everyone has cell phones. A new insurance provider was found as old provider not covering Churches. Motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Dale Schut and seconded by Stan Fods.

Nominating committee presented 2022 Nominees:

President: Dan Foster

Vice President: Leon Busser

Financial Secretary: Lisa Busser

Secretary: Susan Bunjer

Board of Ministry: Susan Bunjer

Board of Trustees: Tyler Busser

Board of Education: Tammy Fods

Synod Convention: To be determined

Memorial Committee: Pam Schut

Bethel Delegate: Leon Busser

Bethel Board of Directors: Dawn Barber

Nominating Committee: Pam and Dale Schut and Verlyn Fods.

Lisa Busser made a motion to accept nominations and Dale Schut seconded.

New Business: Ash Wednesday is February 22, St. Jacob's will have the 8:15 service. We will have the March 1st service and will rotate with First. Pastors preaching will be round robin from area Churches. Will have Lenten meals. We would like to do more Hand and Feet service projects. Scott Barber from Ecolab will be treating attic for flies and around foundation for other pests. Foundation does need some tuck pointing, was scheduled for last year but didn't get done. Outside lighting in front of the Church was discussed. Estimates for pole/lights and internal electrical fuses/breaker box will be gathered. Would like to get Steeple fixed and lite again. Discussed switching to all grape juice for communion, no problem with switching.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dale Schut, seconded by Lisa Busser.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Susan Bunjer

St. Jacobs Lutheran Church 2023 President Report

Another year has come and gone in what seems like a blink of an eye. Our little church has seen many wonderful years, and it makes me feel fortunate to be a part of this community. People are always willing to help when someone is in need, and this mindset doesn't stop there. I am happy to report that our church is doing quite well and that we have had another great year, thanks to the generosity of our congregation.

I would like to thank everyone for all of their time and talents that they have offered throughout the year. I know you may feel that it goes unnoticed, but it certainly does not! We all appreciate what you do.

We have several projects planned for the future and I am looking forward to those being completed.

I would like to thank Pastor Herb for all that he brings to our ministry and worship service every Sunday. His stories are fun to listen to!
I would also like to thank Kim for all that she does for us behind the scenes, she is a true asset to our church.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president.

Sincerely,
Dan Foster

St. Jacobs Lutheran Church 2023 Pastor Report

Our annual meetings are about several things. We get involved in setting the plan for the future. We lay the foundation for the things we feel are important for the coming year and we call upon leaders of the congregation to help us make those dreams a reality.

We also discuss and report the things that have happened in the last year. This is where we find our own history, where we take some time to reflect on what has gone on in our church community. Our own history-making reminds us of who we are as God's people in Christ and sets the foundation for who we will be in the years to come.

We also accomplish many things, you support the many ministries of the synod with your benevolence, you support other vital ministries as well as is outlined in the budget and annual report.

When I look back at all the things you do, which take a lot of time and organization, and sometimes hard conversations, I see one thing, hope. Hope, in seeing that there is value in what you do and in reaching out to the community around you. Hope, that you plan on sticking around for a while, even after 130 years of ministry. Hope in believing that the word of resurrection is something that you hold dear and with all that happens here, that word of redemption and new life in Jesus Christ is here.

In the coming year, it is my intention to further equip you for witness and service of this new life and hope in Christ. This is one of the charges in the letter of call that has been issued to me from you. By meeting in small groups to discuss and reflect on things that we experience and see in the world and how we interpret them through a Lutheran lens, it will provide us with a couple of things. To see the goodness of God in all creation, to know of the redemption and new life Jesus gives to us each day, and to experience authentic relationships in a community formed by the Spirit.

It is my hope that you see that God is present with you in all you do and that you continue to grow and nurture the faith and freedom that Christ has given to you. And in the coming year, you will see that maybe, there is something else that we can do together to experience God's word of hope in a new way.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

Pastor Herb

2023 Pastoral Acts

BAPTISMS (6)

Thomas Henry Jones – 3/26/23
Leon David Pemberton – 4/16/23
Jack Leroy Amundson – 7/30/23
Blakely Marie Burgeson – 4/23/23
Cillian Thorwald Brown – 9/24/23
Bregan Rae Steineke – 11/5/23

FIRST COMMUNION (3) 4/16/23

Aaliyah Vande Vooren
Elise Van Hal
Kevin Husman

TRANSFERRED IN (0)

THIRD GRADE BIBLES (4) (10/1/23)

Miles Amundson
Javier Medina
McKenzie Overgard
Arianna Vande Vooren

CONFIRMATION (10) (10/29/23)

Sawyer Foster
Oakley McMillen
Kobe Krome
Madison Pitts
Lucas Ellison
Tobin Lamer
Zoey Lamer
Gavin Crosby
Ryan Lehman
Erika Caspers

FUNERALS (4)

John Henry Crittenden – 1/3/23
Pauline Kay Larson – 4/11/23
William “Bill” Wood – 4/24/23
Jeanelle Nelson Stene – 5/9/23

St. Jacobs Lutheran Church 2023 Board of Ministry Report

Members of the St. Jacob's Board of Ministry for 2023 are Kathryn Foster, Nancy Fods, and Susan Bunjer. The Board of Ministry is responsible for finding people for altar care (flowers, paraments, and communion preparation) and to lector for all Sunday services and Special services as required. The Board of Ministry is also available to help the Pastor in any other way needed.

St. Jacob's collected toys for Sharing Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who donates their time and talents to serve our congregation, through being a lector, communion preparation and serving, altar care, altar flowers, and special music.

Submitted by Susan Bunjer

St. Jacobs Lutheran Church 2023 Board of Education Report

Members of the St. Jacob's Board of Ministry for 2023 are Sarah Medina, Madison Busser and Tammy Fods.

A Bible study, 12 Women of the Bible, was held at St. Jacob's on Sunday evenings. In the spring six women from the Old Testament were studied and in the fall six women from the New Testament.

In the spring, Sunday School was taught by Doreen Fods and assisted by Addy Fods. The Sunday School children waived palms and sang for Palm Sunday. We want to thank Doreen for her many years of teaching Sunday School.

The fall brought us back to Sunday School. We are using a One Room Sunday School Curriculum that spans all ages. We have studied creation and Abraham.

The Sunday School children had a Christmas Program during the Sunday service on December 17. They performed a finger play, sang "Away in a Manger", and acted out the Christmas story. Thank you to Dustin Carman, Sawyer Foster and Daniela Medina for narrating, the congregation for singing robustly, Amanda and Austin Gaspar for playing Mary and Joseph and Esme Gaspar for being baby Jesus. Lunch was served after the program.

St. Jacobs Lutheran Church 2023 Quilt Report

In 2023, the Quilters who met on Wednesday mornings stopped assembling quilts. I wanted to continue the legacy of the Quilter's Group giving quilts to the Seniors. I reached out to all that participated in assembling quilts to learn the process, and invited them to continue on our Friday and Saturday work sessions. Jeanelle Stene was instrumental in guiding what was done in the past and our modifications to our assembling the quilts today. She is greatly missed in our work sessions, but so happy we were able to learn from her experiences. Another great resource we have in our church is Dorothy Jorgenson who donated 94 quilt tops. This will sustain our work for many years.

Thank you to the at least 22 people who helped learn how to tie, sew seams, cut out backing and batting, and those who helped wash quilts. Because of a Thrivent donation, we were able to purchase batting, thread, string, and sheets for backing. We were able to donate 10 senior quilts to both St. Jacobs and First Lutheran Church, 2 quilts for others in need, and 18 quilts to the Children's Home for Christmas.

Thank you for all that have helped assemble quilts including men, women and confirmation kids. You are all welcome to come for however long you can. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for Quilting Work weekends, typically Friday evening after work and/or Saturday morning. If you are looking to help in other ways, please let me know 605-941-2611 or thuntimer@sio.midco.net.

Submitted by Tammy Huntimer

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church 2023 Financial Secretary's Financial Statement

Checking Account Balance 01-01-2023	\$	50,148.92
 <u>Receipts for 2023</u>		
Congregational Offering	\$	61,829.00
Thrivent	\$	198.00
Dividends	\$	28.59
Hall rent	\$	200.00
Lenten supper-Confirmation Kids	\$	855.00
Goldenwest Refund	\$	19.96
Loose Offering	\$	167.00
Subtotal	\$	63,297.55
 <u>Donations</u>		
Funeral lunch donation	\$	300.00
Subtotal	\$	300.00
 Total Receipts for 2023	 \$	 63,597.55
 Total Amt. Available for 2023	 \$	 113,746.47
 Total Expenses for 2023	 \$	 48,432.49
 Checking Account Balance 12-31-2023	 \$	 65,313.98

**ST. JACOB'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 SAVINGS ACCOUNT STATEMENT**

	Building Fund Balance 01-01-2023	\$ 32,144.50
<u>RECEIPTS for 2023</u>		
Donation from Women's fund		\$ 4,115.05
interest Income		\$ 143.39
Donations		<u>\$ 1,077.00</u>
	Subtotal	\$ 5,335.44
Withdrawals/transfers		<u>\$ -</u>
	<i>Building Fund Balance 12-31-2023</i>	<i>\$ 37,479.94</i>

	Memorial Fund Balance 01-01-2023	\$ 5,326.72
<u>RECEIPTS for 2023</u>		
Interest Income		<u>\$ -</u>
Donations		<u>\$ 25.00</u>
	Subtotal	\$ 25.00
Paper Statement fee		<u>\$ -</u>
Withdrawals/transfers		<u>\$ -</u>
	<i>Memorial Fund Balance 12-31-2023</i>	<i>\$ 5,351.72</i>

	Olive Bohlen En. Fund bal. 01-01-2023	\$ 2,919.74
<u>RECEIPTS for 2023</u>		
Interest Income		<u>\$ -</u>
Donations		<u>\$ -</u>
	Subtotal	\$ -
Paper Statement Fee		<u>\$ -</u>
Withdrawals/transfers		<u>\$ -</u>
	<i>Olive Bohlen En. Fund Bal. 12-31-2023</i>	<i>\$ 2,919.74</i>

ST. JACOB'S 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

Pastoral Ministry	2023 Proposed	2023 Actuals	2024 Proposed
Salary	\$ 13,429.00	\$ 19,996.20	\$ 21,000.00
Pension/ support/life insurance	\$ 1,930.00	\$ 2,339.53	\$ 2,360.00
Insurance/\$250 medical reimbursment	\$ 750.00	\$ 2,040.76	\$ 2,250.00
Disability	\$ 408.00	\$ -	\$ -
Workman's Comp	\$ -	\$ 296.71	\$ 300.00
Mileage	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Housing Benefit	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security	\$ 1,372.00	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00
Meeting Expense	\$ 100.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00
Continuing Education	\$ 100.00	\$ 125.19	\$ 150.00
Pulpit Supply	-	\$ 157.82	\$ 150.00
Subtotal	\$ 22,739.00	\$ 25,031.21	\$ 27,860.00
Intern Expenses			
Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rent/Housing Allow.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Utilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mileage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intern Fee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Shared Expenses			
Office Secretary/ SS	\$ 3,450.00	\$ 3,088.95	\$ 3,600.00
Worship/Service	\$ 400.00	\$ 510.48	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies/Postage	\$ 750.00	\$ 700.15	\$ 800.00
Confirmation	\$ 100.00	\$ 91.44	\$ 100.00
Office Telephone	\$ 500.00	\$ 479.63	\$ 500.00
Copier Lease	\$ 750.00	\$ 978.34	\$ 1,000.00
Miscellaneous (Banquet)	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Adult Education Supplies	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Subtotal	\$ 6,225.00	\$ 5,848.99	\$ 6,775.00
Total Shared Expenses	\$ 28,964.00	\$ 30,880.20	\$ 34,635.00
Grand Total of 1/4 Statement			
	\$ 28,964.00	\$ 30,880.20	\$ 34,635.00

ST. JACOB'S 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

Our World Mission	2023 Proposed	2023 Actuals	2023 Proposed
ELCA	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
SD Synod Registration	\$ 260.00	\$ -	\$ 260.00
Bethel Home	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Subtotal	\$ 2,260.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,260.00
Our Church Home			
Organist	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 1,500.00
Treasurer	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Worship/Service	\$ 400.00	\$ 408.29	\$ 400.00
Grounds Mainten.	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
Sunday/Bible School	\$ 400.00	\$ 319.60	\$ 400.00
Repairs/Maint.	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 762.70	\$ 2,000.00
Custodian	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Electricity	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,076.33	\$ 5,000.00
Water	\$ 600.00	\$ 631.50	\$ 600.00
Insurance	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,738.00	\$ 4,000.00
Building Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00	\$ 249.50	\$ 200.00
Telephone	\$ 200.00	\$ 34.37	-
Subtotal	\$ 16,100.00	\$ 14,400.29	\$ 16,900.00
Miscellaneous Expense			
The Lutheran	\$ 200.00	-	-
Outdoor Improvements	\$ -	\$ 130.00	\$ -
World hunger	\$ -	-	\$ -
Mission trip	\$ -	-	\$ -
Lenten Suppers	\$ -	\$ 855.00	\$ -
Special Offerings, Souper bowl	\$ -	\$ 167.00	\$ -
ELCA Table of Grace	\$ -	-	\$ -
Trans. to Building fund	\$ -	-	\$ -
Pastor Appreciation Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,152.00	-
St. Jacob's Expense Total	\$ 18,560.00	\$ 17,552.29	\$ 16,900.00
Total Previous Page	\$ 28,964.00	\$ 30,880.20	\$ 34,635.00
Grand Totals	\$ 47,524.00	\$ 48,432.49	\$ 51,535.00
Inside property: \$164,000 with replacement costs			
Building: \$1,000,000 with replacement costs			
Liability: \$1,000,000 /Wind & Hail deductible \$10,000; all other is \$2500			



Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Triune God!

On behalf of your close to 200 partners across the South Dakota Synod I come to you to say *thank you*. *Thank you* for your generosity! Your benevolence to the ministry of the South Dakota Synod doesn't just keep the lights on and pays salaries, but mainly supports ministry on the ground. Please take a look at the "2023 South Dakota Synod Ministry Celebrations" insert included in this annual report. You will notice that YOU showed up in many and various spaces. Sometimes your presence was felt close to home through a grant you may have received or a synod staff that came to visit. At other times your presence impacted ministry in other parts of the world, such as our companion partners in the Lutheran churches in Nicaragua and Cameroon. *Thank you* also for your generosity above and beyond your benevolence. Our partners in Cameroon appreciated the synod's \$52,000 gift to support putting roofs on churches. The generosity of the congregations in the synod never ceases to amaze me, and I give thanks for your continued generosity as we journey together in Christ!



While many places celebrated an abundant year of ministry, I also want to acknowledge that for other ministry sites 2023 has not been as hoped for. Our mission statement commits us to "Journeying Together in Christ" and is based on Luke 24:13-34. Two disciples are on the road post resurrection and ponder in disbelief all the things that have happened before their eyes. They were overwhelmed and didn't know what to make of it all. I have heard from many ministry sites a similar account about 2023. "Bishop, things in 2023 were not as we had expected and hoped for. What do we do now?" In Luke's story Jesus, unrecognized by them, joins them and walks alongside to listen and remind them of the promises in scripture. But it isn't until they sit down at the table, and Jesus breaks bread that their eyes are opened. They recognize who he is and that the 'holy heartburn' they had experienced along the way was a sign that their love for Jesus and the way he calls them to live has changed them forever.

How about your community of faith? Where do you hear the promises of scripture assure you that God's got a plan for you and your ministry? Where are you called to follow the 'holy heartburn' God's Spirit ignites in you as you are fed at the table of love? I pray that your annual meeting will be an experience where you can voice what you had wished for as well as lament the unmaterialized hopes. And at the same time, you can hear where God promises new life and renewed faith in your very own midst.

Your South Dakota Synod staff and partners across the church are committed to accompany you in your ministry ventures, whether it means to take small courageous steps or giant leaps of faith. We are here to journey with you in Christ. Therefore, it is with great joy and delight that I am announcing to you that we, the South Dakota Synod, are a recipient of a \$1,137,384 grant Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative. Details about the grant can be accessed through the synod's website www.sdsynod.org as well as through the synod office. The STAR (Small Town and Rural) Table also offers two types of grants, which are only possible

through the generosity of the people and congregations of the SD Synod when we gather for rural ministry fundraisers. Again, details about the grant opportunities, and how you can apply for a grant are found on the synod's website www.sdsynod.org.

Last but not least, I would like to invite you to the 2024 Synod Assembly on May 31st and June 1st at Our Savior's in Sioux Falls, SD. We will gather under the theme of "(Re)Connect." It will be a celebration of the partnerships we share across the synod and the wider ELCA. Stay tuned for more information about the business coming before the assembly and the fun opportunities. I hope to be able to welcome you to the assembly in person, be in conversation with you and hear about ministry in your world and how you might best be accompanied as well as accompany your fellow members of the SD Synod and the ELCA.

Journeying with you in Christ,



Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

"How Much Is Enough?"

That's a bold question to open an annual report to all of those congregations whose generous mission support is an essential reason that planned giving ministry recognized its **40th anniversary** in the South Dakota Synod this year. We celebrated all of those who have been a part of Lutheran Planned Generosity and its predecessor organizations at the 2023 Synod Assembly, and issued a challenge to identify **40 gift plans to honor 40 years of generosity**. It's not too late for you to be a part of the celebration--just contact us and let us know that you have made a gift in your will or through a beneficiary designation, or would like to do so. For all of those who are a part of this history and continue to generously support ministry in the Synod and around the world, **thank you!** You are making a difference!



Back to that opening question. Relax and breathe a sigh of relief. We're not going to give you rules or scripture verses to calculate the expected size of your gifts. Rather, it's an invitation to each of us to better understand **"How much is enough FOR ME?"** In a world that tells us we should constantly strive for a bigger bank account, a larger home, a newer car, a longer vacation and the next promotion, it's easy to get lost and overwhelmed in the striving and never know when we've reached the point that we have enough. Because God entrusts us as stewards and caretakers, not owners, of all that we have, maybe an understanding of what that number is would be helpful for each of us. **What if** God continues to place more resources under our management to allow us to **simplify our lives by supporting ministry and serving our neighbors** instead of adding another zero to the balance sheet?

If you've never thought about your "enough" and how God might be calling you to make a difference through generosity, **we're inviting you to the conversation**. LPGSD is here to help you think about how your life can make a difference for your loved ones, your church, your community and all of those in need around the world.

It might be a gift in your will, or as a beneficiary designation from your IRA or investment account or life insurance policy. Or maybe using a tool that creates tax savings and income for you today AND a gift to ministry later.

In addition to this work with individuals and families, LPGSD also walks alongside congregations hoping to create or revitalize their own legacy through an **endowment fund**, offering members the opportunity to share in the ministry and outreach of their Christian family. Did you know that **more than \$650,000** was distributed to ministry from South Dakota endowment funds held at the ELCA Foundation in 2023? Your personal legacy plan might even include a family endowment or a gift to establish an endowment at your own congregation.

How much is your ENOUGH? If you discover that God is calling you to generosity beyond that number, LPGSD would be honored to explore the options and help you design a plan that takes advantage of the right tools to benefit your family and support God's work.

Contact Kathy McHenry at **605.274.5030** or **kmchenry@sdsynod.org**.
Visit our website at **www.lpgsd.org** or find us on Facebook.

your life can make a difference

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Proposed Mission Plan
02/01/2024 - 01/31/2025**

	Adopted 2023	Revised 2023	Proposed 2024
Revenue			
Mission Support			
Undesignated Mission Support	1,870,465	1,750,576	1,803,094
SD Synod Mission Support	25,000	28,675	28,675
Total Mission Support-Congregations	1,895,465	1,779,251	1,831,769
Program Ministry Income			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Income	45,000	45,000	45,000
Total Program Ministry Income			
Other Income			
DEM Support Staff Income	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	10,000	10,000	10,000
SDS Travel LLC Income	5,000	5,000	5,000
Misc Income	1,000	50,000	1,000
Total Other Income	26,000	75,000	26,000
Total Revenue	1,966,465	1,899,251	1,902,769
Expenses			
Churchwide Ministries	43%	43%	41%
Churchwide Support	804,300	752,748	739,269
Region III			
Region III Support	7,260	8,004	8,004
South Dakota Ministries			
South Dakota Partnership Ministries			
SD Ministries Support	10,750	12,330	11,757
Luther Seminary	74,492	69,925	71,989
Church Colleges (ELCA Pool)	6,445	6,049	6,228
Lutheran Social Services	74,492	69,925	71,989
Campus Ministry	131,356	123,302	126,942
Lutheran Outdoors	37,151	34,873	35,903
South Dakota Supported Ministries			
Heartland Ephphatha	6,445	6,049	6,228
Youth Ministry	3,600	9,600	7,200
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	0
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Woyatan Lutheran/Wambli Ska	19,000	19,000	19,000
Lutheran Planned Generosity	58,300	58,300	58,300
Total Shared Ministries	423,063	410,385	415,538

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Proposed Mission Plan
02/01/2024 - 01/31/2025**

	Adopted 2023	Revised 2023	Proposed 2024
Executive Leadership			
Bishop	96,675	99,034	102,005
Assoc/Director of Ev Mission	6,375	10,533	10,849
Assoc-Mobility/Candidacy	79,909	82,132	84,596
Executive Staff Benefits	106,192	86,940	89,546
Exec Travel/Continuing Ed	34,800	36,800	36,800
Program Ministries			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center-Director	98,872	96,302	99,257
Youth Gathering Synod Coordinator	6,959	0	0
Companion Synod Coordinator	15,839	18,008	18,521
Support Staff and Office			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefit	167,359	171,874	176,980
Synod Office Expenses	69,264	70,681	66,791
Augustana University Occupancy Fee	27,876	30,108	30,108
Synod Committees			
Synod Council	3,000	6,000	5,000
Support to Ministries Committee	2,100	3,100	3,100
Candidacy Committee	2,250	7,000	6,000
Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee	1,550	1,000	1,000
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	200	200	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,500
Mission & Outreach			
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	4,000
Mission Strategy Table	2,000	2,000	2,000
Contingency	5,122	902	1,705
Total South Dakota Ministries	731,842	728,114	739,958
Total Expenses	1,966,465	1,899,251	1,902,769
Net Total	0	0	0

In the fall of 2019, the South Dakota Synod engaged in an intentional listening and learning process.

Here is a brief summary of the results:

What gives you joy?

- Music
- Multi-generational ministry opportunities
- Purposeful gatherings
- Purposeful volunteering
- The Gospel

What keeps you up at night?

- Economic hardships
- Polarization in our society
- Mental Health
- Fear for the future of "the Church"

How do you envision your relationship with the synod staff?

- Resources
- Relationships
- Programs
- Communication
- Faith formation

"Fitting who we are into pews made for who we were."

- Participant from 2019 Listen, Learn, Care Event



These results shape our strategic vision and mission.

Why even be "synod?"

We are synod because we are called to journey together in Christ. - Luke 24:13-35

How will we journey together in Christ?

- **Relating** with intentionality
- **Networking** across the church
- **Equipping** leaders for ministry
- **Sharing** leadership

With confidence in Christ's Love for All.

Let's imagine every moment as a classroom, an opportunity to learn, grow, adapt, and lean into the vision God has for the church of today and tomorrow. - Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

What we do together:

- **Intentional Accompaniment**
 - In transitional times for ministry sites and leaders
 - through the Rural Liaison
 - through disaster response
 - through a West River Liaison
 - digital sermon resources
 - Digital Ministry Task Force
- **Networking Across the Church**
 - First peer mentor groups
 - regular Zoom gatherings for lay and rostered leaders
 - connecting with our ministry partners
 - J-Term practica with Augustana University and Wartburg Seminary
 - Rural strategy conversations
- **Equipping Leaders for Ministry**
 - "A Life of Faith" video series
 - E-learning and resource hub
 - Story Junction Pilot Project with LEAD
 - Mental Health First Aid
 - Psychological First Aid
 - Sprinkles of Grace grants for early childhood ministry
- **Sharing Leadership**
 - opportunities to serve on synod committees and task forces
 - permission-giving leadership





An Introduction to the Journeying Together in Christ Grant from Lilly Endowment

As we announced earlier this month, the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has been awarded a grant of over \$1.1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative.

The grant will be used by the Synod to live fully its vision of “Journeying Together in Christ,” by relating to congregations with intentionality, equipping leaders for ministry, networking across the church, and advocating for shared leadership, especially among our rural congregations.

The Synod developed the work of this initiative in response to three critical questions posed by Bishop Constanze Hagmaier and her staff in 2019 at statewide “Listen, Learn and Care” events: “What gives you joy?” and “What keeps you up at night?” and “How will we journey together?” One person’s poignant response resonated deeply: South Dakota ELCA churches are struggling with “fitting who we are into pews made for who we were.”

This grant will be used in two focus areas. First, it will be used to engage both lay and rostered congregational leaders by leveraging digital technologies to create *Connect*, a Synod-wide community hub for learning, resources and conversation. Next, it will be used to engage congregations with innovative Rural Immersion Ministries which will create congregational learning experiences designed to recognize and bridge the rural/urban cultural divide.

These projects are being funded through Lilly Endowment’s Thriving Congregations Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to encourage the flourishing of congregations by helping them deepen their relationships with God, enhance their connections with each other, and contribute to the vitality of their communities and the world.

The work of this grant award will be closely aligned with the Synod’s existing and emerging resources, expertise, and experience. However, it is important to note that this grant is funding **work outside of the 2024 Mission Plan approved by the 2023 Synod Assembly. Therefore, it is critical that congregations and organizations continue their mission support to the South Dakota Synod to ensure that the regular and essential work of the Synod continues.**

If you would like to find out more about the work that the grant award will enable, there will be two virtual informational meetings on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024** that will be open to all members of the South Dakota Synod to attend - one at **12:30pm CT** and one at **7:30pm CT**. Both sessions will include time for attendees to ask questions about the grant. More information on how to attend these meetings will be provided in the Synod’s weekly e-newsletter and the Synod website (www.sdsynod.org).

2023 MINISTRY CELEBRATION



Our Synod's vision of Journeying Together in Christ has continued to focus our work. We invite you to take a few moments to review the list below which celebrates some of the ministry we shared together in 2023. **Journeying together in Christ as the South Dakota Synod, in 2023 we:**

- Applied for and received a grant of **\$1,137,384** from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative for new initiatives that are not included the Synod's Mission Plan. Please reach out to Synod Staff for **more information!**
- Completed explorations for two new potential church plants, with plans to start a worshipping community in **Box Elder** and **Shepherd's Table in Sioux Falls**.
- Walked with the **40** people in various stages of **Candidacy** and have **4** new entrance interviews scheduled in 2024!
- Received **3 new first call candidates**.
- Completed **23 Ministry Site Studies** and extended **28 calls!**
- Ensured that nearly every congregation has a called pastor, interim pastor, Synod Authorized Minister, or lay leader to care for God's people (thank you to all of you who are helping out with area congregations and filling in!).
- Distributed **\$77,137** to date through the Seminary Debt Reduction Program.
- Granted **\$123,000** in scholarship funds to seminary students, **\$11,400** in internship site assistance, and **\$82,990** to Luther and Wartburg Seminaries, for a total of **\$217,390** in support of seminary education.
- Created a **pilot rural J-term** program with Wartburg Theological Seminary, which will begin in January 2024.
- Received **\$113,635** in grants from ELCA Christian Community & Leadership.
- Held a **Synod Assembly**, where we gathered again as a community to conduct the business of the synod.
- Hosted **Spring and Fall Theological Conferences**, where we continued to support the continuing education of our Rostered Ministers either online or in-person.
- Supported the congregations and ministries of the synod through **visits** by synod staff, both **digital** and in-person.
- Hosted a "**Lay Leader Night**" to support congregational lay leaders and supported rostered leaders with regular **in-person and virtual meetings**, such as monthly rostered minister virtual check-ins, Synodically Authorized Minister, Senior Pastor, and Interim Pastor check-ins, and a First Call and Senior Pastor Retreat.
- Pr. Alan Blankenfeld, Synod **Rural Ministry Liaison** continued to journey with our rural ministry sites. In the past year, Pr. Alan has worked directly with **34 communities and congregations in transition**.
- Continued the work of the Rural Ministry Table, which is currently working on **Small Town and Rural (STAR) grants**, grants funded by the generous donations to rural ministry in the Synod.
- Partnered with **Bergen Lutheran** to hold a **Threshing Bee** which resulted in gifts of **\$51,324** to support rural ministry in South Dakota.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported the ministry of the South Dakota Synod this past year! God has called us to be the body of Christ together, and this is an active and healthy body. We look forward to continuing our journey with you in 2024 and beyond!



Shetek Lutheran Ministries

14 Keeley Island Dr.

Slayton, MN 56172

(507)-763-3567

camp@shetek.org

www.shetek.org

Executive Director – Marv Nysetvold

Program Director – Lexie Blaschko

Greetings from your camp – Shetek Lutheran Ministries!

This summer we served 770 total campers, which includes our youth campers, cross-generational campers and our SOS campers. We are close to serving as many campers as before the pandemic. 2023 was a 24% increase in camper numbers over 2022 and about 94% of the campers we had in 2019. One of our greatest challenges continues to be finding young adults who are willing to serve for the summer. Our summer ministry team of 20 young adults served faithfully this summer and grew in their faith and in their leadership skills. We were blessed with 7 international counselors this past summer from the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Zambia, Mexico, Zimbabwe and two from South Africa. Shetek will be inviting several international counselors in 2024 also.

Our "Building on the Foundation" capital campaign continues with primarily the congregational phase. Several congregations have run successful campaigns in their congregations so far. We will be contacting all our 100 member congregations to give them the opportunity to participate. We continue to visit with prospective major donors, those who give or pledge \$5,000 or more for the campaign. We have met our phase 1 goal of \$1,500,000 and our total so far in cash and pledges is about \$1,613,000 as we work towards our challenge goal of \$2,000,000. The new lodge is done and is being used by a variety of different groups from scrapbooking groups, Scout groups, family gatherings and college students. The Property Committee and Board are working on plans for the first new cabin and we hope to begin construction in the spring.

Some improvements in 2023 – we upgraded the sound system in the chapel, replaced the reverse osmosis system in the Dining Hall, had to replace the motor on the pontoon, repaired the east wall of the chapel and painted it, painted 3 cabins along with the office, and removed several trees.

I am thankful for our year round staff who continue to work as a team to serve our guests and campers and provide great hospitality. Shetek welcomed Gaelyn Gernentz in March to our Housekeeping team, Deb Ness in June to our Summer Food Service, Joe Koenigs in June to our Maintenance team, and Alexandra Cowell began in September on our Housekeeping team.

We are so grateful for the many campers and guests that came this year. Shetek has impacted so many lives over the years. One of our Counselors in Training (CIT) had this to say about last summer.

"I feel closest to God when I am at camp. I consider camp to be my second home during the summer. This summer, I felt called and was able to have the opportunity to spend about 6 weeks volunteering at camp and I learned a lot. I learned how to respond to stressful situations better, I was able to make, renew, and grow friendships, and I strengthened my leadership skills by helping lead activities like games, worship, reading scripture, and more. I feel that I grow in my faith on a deeper level and grow closer to God everyday there."

Shetek continues to receive estate gifts periodically, which we are very thankful for. Over the years, these thoughtful gifts have really benefitted the ministry at Shetek. If you're interested in finding out more about how to support Shetek in this way, please let us know. We have access to a gift planner at no cost to our donors.

Thank you for your support and prayers!

Marv Nysetvold, Executive Director

Shetek's Board of Directors in 2023 – Ashley Benson, Lindsey Cartwright, Tyler Egge, Pastor Bailey Landa, Logan Gooch, Sarah Kirchner, Pastor Jeanette McCormick, Leon Mortland, Pastor Elizabeth Pagnotta, Pastor Juanita Parker, Pastor Michael Stangeland.

Shetek's staff in Dec. 2023 – Lexie Blaschko, Sandy Carlson, Tom Carlson, Katie Chapman, Alexandra Cowell, Nora Dahlhoff, Michelle Flanagan, Gaelyn Gernentz, Sharon Haugen, Mike Kastner, Joe Koenigs, Jean Larson, Deb Ness, Marv Nysetvold, Jessica Van Dam, Jane Wahl.

LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA



2023

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you, to all of the individuals and congregations that supported the ministry of Lutherans Outdoors(LO) with financial gifts. Also, thank you to all of the individuals who attended summer camps, retreats, and travel experiences. LO cannot be the ministry that welcomes all to explore and experience Christ's love in community and creation without you!

REIMAGINING LUTHERANS OUTDOORS

The Board of Lutherans Outdoors emphasis in 2023 was the **REIMAGINING** of Lutherans Outdoors. Eight Task Forces have met, and continue to meet, diving into eight audits of the ministry. These eight areas are Philosophy, Finance, Financial Development, Marketing, Governance, Facility, Program, and Staffing. Results so far include the development of new Core Values where we promise to **EXPLORE FAITH, WELCOME ALL, BUILD LEADERS, and CARE FOR ALL CREATION.**

There are nearly 100 recommendations that have resulted from these eight audits. The recommendations will provide guidance for the Strategic process LO will develop for the next several years. The final results of the **REIMAGINING** will be presented to the Board of Directors at their January meeting, with a presentation to the voting members at the LO 2023 Annual Meeting in June 2024.

STAFF UPDATES

During 2023, Lutherans Outdoors said goodbye to Teri Gayer, who served many roles with LO during the past 30-plus years, most recently as the Director of Klein Ranch. During the celebration of 50 years of ministry at Klein Ranch last July, Teri was recognized for her ministry.

In May, LO said hello to Skylar Schwab, who assumed the Program Director position at Outlaw Ranch. Klaire Hudson resigned earlier in the spring from this position after serving in this role. Skylar jumped right into a busy summer and we are very excited she has joined the LO family!

SUMMER 2023 | SUMMER 2024

Our summer camper attendance increased by 15% as a whole in 2023. Outlaw Ranch saw a 22% increase boosted by nearly 100 more Family Campers. Klein Ranch saw a 19% increase. NeSoDak saw a 4% decrease in campers. The total camper number was nearly 1,350.

Our Adult Travel Experiences had over 60 participants to our two destinations: Holden Village and Branson. In 2024, Experiences will be to Minneapolis for a theatre event in April, to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in September, to the Smokie Mountains and Dollywood in October, and a return to Branson in November.

The new Horse Corral at Outlaw Ranch was completed in 2023. This great addition provides a wonderful place to care for the horses and a safe place for campers to begin their horse care education and rides each week.

**Join Lutherans Outdoors for Summer 2024 "Created To Be!" Register at losd.org.
"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well" Psalm 139:14**

In the Hills. On the Prairie. At the Water.



all healthy
all safe
all accepted



all with

2023 Annual Report to Congregations

All With Your Partnership in Healing Outreach

Runaway & Homeless Youth have brighter futures. **93%** returned to their family or transitioned to a safe living environment and **100%** enrolled in school or a GED program at discharge.

Children & teens are healing from trauma. **89%** of youth in Foster Care and **91%** of youth in Residential Treatment showed reduced trauma symptoms over the course of their time with LSS.

Mentors are making a difference. **97%** of high school mentees are on track to graduate with their class in May and **92%** indicate they have improved self-esteem.

Families are safer. **65%** of individuals in family violence intervention demonstrate a reduction in criminal thinking. This is a staggering **increase of 29%** from when the program was transitioned to LSS.

LSS Strategic Plan In Action

This year marked the first year of our new strategic plan in action. Our board of directors, executive team and leadership developed a four-year strategic plan and line of sight that guides our work toward making the greatest contribution to accomplishing our vision that all people in South Dakota will be healthy, safe and accepted.



Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen
President/CEO

We continue to identify areas for positive impact through listening to unmet community needs, collaboration and strategic priorities that are family-centered and ensure equitable access for those we serve.

Our operational strategies prioritize workforce & inclusivity within our organization and communities, financial viability of the agency and our services, and sharing the positive impact our work makes in the community through storytelling.

This Year At A Glance

Expanded Mentoring Services to serve youth in more communities throughout the state

Strengthened efforts to prioritize family role in an individual's success by elevating youth & family voice

Implemented Strengthening Families, a curriculum that helps build strong communication between parents and their children and helps families navigate conflict

Resettled 197 refugees through traditional resettlement and 290 Ukrainian refugees through Uniting for Ukraine pathways. We are expecting an additional 400 traditional and 50 U4U.

Bethel Lutheran Home, Inc. - 2023 Congregation Report

Since Bethel Lutheran Home opened its doors on March 25, 1962, we have had the amazing opportunity to serve thousands of residents as an extension of your Church. You continue to bless us with good people, both by electing excellent delegates and by referring friends and family who need our services. We are so grateful for all that you do for Bethel Community!

Our 62nd annual corporation meeting is scheduled to be held on January 22, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church, to review the fiscal year end 2023 audited financial statement for Bethel Lutheran Home, Inc. January will now become our new Annual Meeting date due to the complexity of our audit as well as the time it takes Casey Peterson to complete the required documentation.

I want to take a few moments to thank everyone for their renewed service to Bethel and our mission in Lake County. Your generous gifts, both monetary and valuable time, have made a dramatic improvement in the lives of the Residents, staff, and our "Community." Every one of you has profoundly impacted our lives and I truly want to say "Thank You" from the Bethel Community.

Staffing Impact at Bethel

Staffing remains the one of our largest challenges ending 2023 and entering 2024. Locating, hiring, and maintaining normal staffing has remained a challenge. However, by the end of 2023 we have seen a dramatic increase in applications as well as new hires which has led to a reduction in Agency staffing needs. We have had 5-6 open CNA positions since March 2021 which we have filled 50% of these openings the end of 2023 alone. CMS requires nursing facilities to maintain specific staffing levels. If the facility misses this benchmark, CMS can impose monetary penalties. To combat this, we utilize Agency staffing to fill open positions to maintain a census and provide quality care. The problem this presents is we must pay temporary staffing companies approximately 50% more than we are able to pay our full-time and part-time staff.

Decreased staffing numbers also affect the number of residents that we can effectively provide care for. Currently our census is on average 54 residents or 91% occupancy. It is important that the quality of care should not be compromised to keep Bethel full. We will increase census as staffing allows. Bethel is among the top 10% of Long -Term Care facilities in South Dakota based on census, most facilities at this time average a 75%-85% occupancy.

Operational Updates

Bethel's revenue had a small decrease in revenue \$6,232,669.59 compared to \$6,632,460 in 2022. Our Profitability, Activity and Efficiency (Return on Capital Employed) ratios have all decreased due to our Agency staffing as well as current inflation rates. Of note, thanks to our South Dakota Legislature our profitability has increased in July 2023 due to the passing of the Medicaid Increase to 100% methodology. Working capital or the time to collect payments was 13.63 days in 2022 currently we are at 13.00 days in 2023.

Capital Improvements

The roof over the Bethel Home needs to be replaced as was stated in the 2021 report with a cost of approximately \$300K. Bethel applied for a grant to replace the existing HVAC system with an upgraded filtration system that will be compliant with new air quality standards and was awarded \$251,912. The contract was awarded to Barger Electric with the project beginning September 2022 and this project ended in September 2023. Bethel now has a new HVAC system as well as each room

now has its own “fresh air” return. We have added (4) reverse flow isolation rooms for respiratory illnesses if needed.

Technology Improvements

- In 2023 we did not improve any technology assets as Bethel was in a good position. In 2023 we dramatically improve our Cyber Security posture through a grant received by DSU to assess and mitigate Cybersecurity concerns. Thanks to a grant through DSU we implemented a new VPN, Multi-Factor Authentication software among many other safeguards to ensure our resident information is secure. This grant will allow for our system to be actively scanned and defended by local vendors in Madison as well as the State of South Dakota. These services will be paid for in the year 2023 and potentially going forward depending on continued Federal Grant Funding.
- We installed a new PA system to allow for facility wide communication as our old system is no longer functioning and not able to be repaired.
- We upgraded our Camera Security system by purchasing a new server as well as a new camera by the employee entrance. This system was over 10 years old and not able to be upgraded due to age.

Additional Updates for FY 2023:

- Thanks to a very strong push in this legislative session a 24% increase and rebase for Nursing Home Medicaid reimbursement passed which equates to a 100% reimbursement based on the current model. The new reimbursement will help alleviate some of the financial burden while potentially helping with recruitment and infrastructure needs.

Census

- Total Admissions in the past 12 months = 14
- Total Discharges in the past 12 months = 26
- Occupancy rate for the past 12 months = 90%
- BLH 42% Private Pay, 49% Medicaid, 8% Medicare A
- BLH had a 20% increase in the number of Medicaid patient days.
- BLH had a 4% increase in the number of Medicare patient days.
- BLH had a 21% decrease in the number of Private Pay patient days.
- Bethel Suites occupancy rate for the past 12 months = 100.00%
- Bethel Suites 66.7% Private Pay, 33.3% Medicaid

Rate Changes

- BLH Private Pay Rate: \$278/day
- BLH Medicaid Rate: \$230.04/day.
- Bethel Suites Private Pay Rate: \$3750/month
- Bethel Suites Medicaid Rate = \$2,777/month
- Apartment rent: \$1272/12 apts. and \$1380/4 apts
- Twin Home Maintenance Fee: \$550/month
- Patio Home Rent: \$1710/4 and \$1735/2 (Bethel pays the FDN \$4,905/month to pay on the collateral real estate mortgage promissory note)

Star Rating

- Bethel Lutheran Home currently has a 3-star facility rating. Five stars is the highest rating a facility can achieve. This rating is a snapshot in time of a nursing home's quality measures, which include infection rates, our ability to take care of our residents' pain levels, and quarterly staffing levels and annual survey results. In April 2019, CMS changed the criteria of its rating criteria which resulted in over 70% of nursing homes in the U.S. dropping a star rating.

Overview of challenges facing Bethel

- CNA turnover rates and competition with staff agencies. Currently we pay a single Agency CNA at a significantly higher rate than our "organic" staff. This is a non-sustainable model; we are in drastic need for CNAs in Long-Term Care.
- Capital improvements – Bethel is getting older, and several updates are needed.

Current Board Members

- Jackie Voelker – Colman Lutheran – **President**
- Pastor Karl Breddin – Pastor St. John's Lutheran – **Vice - President**
- Maria Feldhaus - Bethany – **Secretary**
- Mark Schultz – At-large member – **Treasurer**
- Nancy Bloker – Grace Lutheran
- Pastor Herb Wounded Head III – St Jacob's Lutheran
- Phil Hoffman – First Lutheran Colton
- BeBe Abraham – St John Lutheran, Ramona
- Natalie Olson – Lake Madison
- Kim Callies – At-large member
- Pastor Steve Lindley – Trinity Lutheran
- Dawn Barber – St. Jacob's – Colton
- Pastor Ramona Hayes – Our Savior's Lutheran – Flandreau

Governing Board Vacancies in 2024

- At-large – Vacant
- At-Large - Vacant
- Midway Lutheran – Vacant
- St. John's Lutheran - Madison - Vacant

I want to thank the outgoing Board members for their dedicated service to Bethel Lutheran Home.

***Jeremiah Schneider, Administrator
Bethel Lutheran Home***



Church on the Street

Annual Report 2023

ChurchontheStreetsf.org

Church on the Street continues to show up with the good news of Jesus, especially where folks are experiencing homelessness and poverty. You'll find us on the streets, visiting folks in shelters, cars, hospitals, laundry mats, and jails. This year, our offices moved to 515 N. Main. Ave inside the Multi-Cultural Center and are accessible through the Minnehaha County building, so more people are stopping by since they're already in the building for other things. Skylar Allen, Director of Organization, oversees record growth in food requests, with 242 families accessing the pantry during the year's first quarter and 885 families in the fourth quarter.

Also, this year, we and several of our partners worked with Sioux Falls Thrive to get the Eat Well Sioux Falls Mobile Market into food deserts in our town. Luke Senst is the Market Manager in addition to being our Director of Media Ministries. The mobile market is one example of how partnerships and collaborations are how we help share God's love in tangible ways.

Finally, it is a blessing to be Church together, sharing the best and worst of life and leaning on the promises of our Savior. Harriet Monson, Director of Laundry with Love, said it best: "One of the best moments for me this year was when the young single mom who moved into a place with a washer and dryer (so she doesn't need our services anymore) but she came back to visit."

Thank you for all the ways you are part of Church on the Street through your prayers, financial donations, in-kind donations, visits, and sharing our story. You are a blessing!

It's great to be Church together!

Rev. Chris Matson, Pastor & Mission Developer

515 N Main Ave

Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Chris@churchonthestreetsf.org

605-215-1143

AUTHORIZATION FORM:

The Simply Giving® Program
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Name of the organization: First Lutheran Church, Colton, SD

R OFFICE USE ONLY	ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____ Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation		
Last Name		First Name
Address		
City		State Zip
Email Address		
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th	FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ —
		AMOUNTS: \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ <p style="text-align: right;">Total</p>
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)	Routing Number: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____	

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check at the bottom of this page.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give,
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead;
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need,
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion; here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

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