



Annual Report 2023



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83rd Annual Congregational Meeting of
Diamond Lake Lutheran Church

January 28, 2024

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approval of 2023 Congregation Meeting Minutes
4. Congregation Affirmations
5. Children Youth and Family Report
6. Outreach Ministry Report
7. Nominating Committee Report and Elections
8. Financial Report
9. Pastor's Report
10. Closing Prayer

DIAMOND LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING

January 22, 2023

- **Call to order:** A virtual and in person meeting was held via video and teleconference.
 - The meeting was called to order at 11:25 PM by Sue Haffield, Church Council President.
 - An in person and electronic roll call was conducted, and a quorum was met with 81 members.
- **Opening Devotion**
 - Pastor Lee Hallstrom led an opening prayer and devotion.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - Minutes from the January 2022 Annual Meeting were presented
 - Action: minutes were approved without changes.
- **Pastors Report**
 - Pastor Lee Hallstrom reflected on the past year in the church
 - He shared thoughts on the great reset and cultural shift within Church in the past year
 - There is hope most people are still looking for an authentic relationship with God and others
 - Reminded us to rekindle our passion for God's Mission, our creativity, and our hearts to prayer
- **Mission Affirmations**
 - Sue Haffield, Council President presented the mission affirmations.
 - DLLC celebrated its 82nd year of ministry
 - 6 Baptisms
 - 3 new individuals added to the membership
 - 5 Confirmands
 - 5 members called to the Church Triumphant
- **Elections:**
 - Council President Sue Haffield recognized departing Council Members for their service, Addie Royce, Nick Schmidt, Dana Roberts
 - Nick Schmidt from the Nominating Committee presented candidates
 - First Three-year terms: Adam Podratz, James Powell, Jim Teurman
 - Second Three-year terms: Lisa Johannes, Sean Laird
 - One-year term to complete departing member John Powell's 3-year term: Sue Nelson
 - Youth Representative (one-year term): McKenna Laird
 - Congregational Delegates/Representatives:
 - Lutheran Social Services: Nicole Falk
 - Luther Park: Lacy Tooker-Kirkevold
 - Synod Conference: Kris Pearson
 - Gustavus Adolphus Association of Congregations: Brenda Powell
 - Nominating Committee for 2023: Del Hamaker, Norma Williams, Bob Kresse, Alyssa Miller, Sue Haffield, Jan Michaletz
 - *Action: Upon motion, all candidates were elected as presented by the congregation.*

- **Financial Report:**
 - Darren McKigney, Treasurer presented the financial report
 - Audit was completed and we have a clean report
 - Overall contributions were down 33k or 6.2% to last year but down 55k or 10% to budget
 - Expenses were up \$53k to last year having the building open for the full year
 - 2023 Proposed Budget:
 - Budget \$682,500
 - Represents 11% increase to 2022 Actual (673) but below 2022 budget (699k) by 2%
 - Action: Upon motion, the 2023 Budget was approved as presented.
- **Capital Campaign Summary**
 - John Brunsberg presented and update and overview of the capital campaign
 - We have received \$1,862,085 or \$2,200,404 pledged, expecting to receive \$400,000 of outstanding in 2023
- **Outreach Ministry Report:**
 - John Peterson presented the Ministry Report
 - Reconciling in Christ – Entering the study phase of becoming and inclusive church
 - Highlighted the serving ministries of the church, New Creations, Our Saviour's Housing, Welcome Home, Meals on Wheels, and Trust Inc., Gods Work. Our Hands Sunday, and Summer of Giving
 - Many community-focused events came back this year; Fall Fest, Easter Egg Hunt, Lives of Faith + Art, Sunday Suppers, and Better Together Community Worship
 - Journey Towards Justice hosted many events this past year to bring learning into the church
 - Sue Nelson highlighted Riverside Innovation Hub work happening at DLLC
- **Call Committee Report:**
 - Graydon Royce presented the Call Committee Report
 - Interviewed 6 candidates, 3 have moved on to a second round
 - Anticipate making a candidate recommendation by End of January to church council
- No new business was brought forward by the congregation
- **Closing Prayer & Adjournment**
 - Pastor Lee Hallstrom led the meeting in a closing prayer.
 - Action: Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:27 PM

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Kate Sexe

DLLC Congregational Meeting Minutes February 26, 2023
To Vote on Pastor Andrea Roske-Metcalf

Sue Haffield, Council President, call the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. for the purpose of voting for the new Pastor at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church.

A letter from the new Pastor, Andrea Roske-Metcalf, was handed out to congregation members in attendance and was sent via email to the 14 congregation members attending via Zoom.

A quorum was met.

Graydon Royce, Chair of the Call Committee, presented information about Pastor Andrea, and listed the members of the Call Committee: Graydon Royce, Aspen Clausen, Kirk Gallup, Loree Hinderaker, Avery Kaneakua, Lizzie Roberts, Nick Schmidt, Judi Simons, Kristine Spanier, Gene Zemske.

Discussion was held with questions coming from both those in attendance and from the Zoom meeting. Ballots were handed out, per Synod requirements, with instructions to write either "yes" or "no" on the ballot. The ballots were anonymous.

While the ballots were being counted, Sue Haffield thanked the Call Committee and for those who have prayed for this committee during the last few months.

85 votes in total were received with 76 "yes" votes and 9 "no" votes. Gene Zemske certified the count.

After the overwhelming acceptance from the congregation was announced, the request from Pastor Andrea to wait for any announcements or congratulations be kept confidential until Tuesday, February 28, 2023, to give her time to "leave well" from her current church during this transition period.

Pastor Andrea's start date is Monday, March 27, 2023, with her first introduction to worship on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Nelson
Council Secretary

Our Mission Statement: *Stirred by the Spirit of Christ to learn, follow and serve.*

Mission Affirmations

Be it resolved that:

1. We praise God for 83 years of ministry in the Gospel and living our mission: *Stirred by the Spirit of Christ to learn, follow, and serve.*
2. We praise God for the many hours of faithful volunteer service given to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church by so many dedicated people without which these ministries could not be sustained.
3. We will faithfully assist and equip our members to discover, grow and mature their various God-given gifts and help them to use those gifts in opportunities to be of service and support, not only in our own congregation, but also to peoples and congregations in both our local and global community.
4. We praise God for the strong building up of the Body of Christ among the youth and their families throughout the year. We commit to strengthening a caring, deeply relational ministry to, with and by youth at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church.
5. We remember with love and thanksgiving the five members of our congregation who were called to the Church Triumphant during the past year: Enid Erickson, Darlene Fotia, Donna Kollander, Dolores Olson, and Harry Peacock. We pray for their loved ones that they may know God's comfort and peace.
6. We praise God for the continued growth of the Kingdom of God through the baptism of six children: Winston Fisher, Gabriel Olson, Riley Becker, Quinn Reitz, Sonja Kongsjord, James Gallup; and the addition to the church family of 22 new members: Harley & Lana Hanson, Brandon Kongsjord & Molly Giffin, Nila Mayes, David & Karen Minge, Bill Moeller & Cheryle Vold, Phillip & Melissa Olson, Leslie Pitt & Brett Brueske, Joe & Melissa Plummer, Charlotte & Elliot, Drew & Ally Reitz, Linda Torkelson, Dennis & Penny Werneke.
7. We praise God for six Confirmands who affirmed their faith: Joseph Frey, Arlo Klage, Rylan Peterson, Joel Podratz, Sadie Taylor, and Henry Zuckweiler.
8. We give grateful thanks to all members of the church staff for their diligent work and loyal spirit as they carry out their ministries.
9. We will continue to support Diamond Lake Lutheran Church with our financial resources, our talents and our daily prayers as we seek God's will for us as the people of God living and thriving in the community.
10. We give grateful thanks for the efforts of the Diamond Lake Lutheran Church community for our efforts to expand our service to the community through Gustavus Adolphus, Welcome Home, Our Saviour's Housing, Meals on Wheels, New Creations food shelter, EveryMeal, Community Emergency Services, Luther Park, Lutheran Social Services, Trust Inc, and participation in Riverside Innovation Hub at Augsburg College. We prayerfully ask for additional congregational involvement to broaden these programs and expand our outreach into the community.
11. We pray for continued growth of our members as part of small group sharing and outreach projects.

2023 Council

Sue Haffield, President

Sean Laird, Vice President

Sue Nelson, Secretary

Treasurer, Jon Brunsberg

Lisa Johannes

McKenna Laird

Jan Michaletz

Gary Milne

Adam Podratz

James Powell

Kate Sexe

Jim Teurman

Pastor Andrea Roske-Metcalf (April – December)

Lee Hallstrom, Interim Pastor (January – March)

2024 Proposed Council Roster

Bolded names below denote proposed Council Member nominations for congregational election on January 28, 2024.

Name	Term Start	Term End	Term Count and Notes
<i>New Members</i>			
Scott Benson	1/2024	12/2026	
Leslie Pitt	1/2024	12/2026	
Melanie Zaelich	1/2024	12/2026	
<i>Continuing Members</i>			
Jon Brunsberg	1/2024	12/2026	2- (renewing for 2nd term)
Lisa Johannes	1/2023	12/2025	
McKenna Laird	1/2022	12/2024	I-Youth Member*
Sean Laird	1/2023	12/2025	
Gary Milne	1/2022	12/2024	
Sue Nelson	1/2024	12/2026	2- (renewing for 2nd term)
Adam Podratz	1/2023	12/2025	
James Powell	1/2023	12/2025	I-Young Adult Member*
Jim Teurman	1/2023	12/2025	
<i>Permanent Member</i>			
Andrea Roske-Metcalf	Pastor		

* Due to changes in the constitution in 2018, the council membership must include one youth member (under age 18) and one young adult (under age 30) as defined at time of election, for a total of 12 voting members, plus the senior pastor.

Congregational Representatives		
LSS	1 year	Nicole Falk
Luther Park	board member	Dan Miller
Synod Delegate	1 year	Kris Pearson
Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations	1 year	Mary Teurman

2024 Nominating Committee (one-year term. ineligible for consecutive re-election)
Shelly Clausen, Paul Groskreutz, Kathy Gustafson, Olaf Minge, Kate Sexe, Audrey Wessling

PASTOR'S REPORT

*God will delight when we are creators of justice,
And joy, compassion and peace.
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
Justice and joy!*

The date of our annual meeting – January 28, 2024 – marks nearly 10 months to the day from when I first set foot inside the building of Diamond Lake Lutheran Church as your called pastor. In some ways, that day feels like 17 years ago, and in others, it feels like a week ago last Thursday. Meaning, I felt at home here very quickly, and also, nearly every week I learn something new about this community that both surprises and delights me.

Time is funny like that.

Confusion around the passage of time aside, I'm not at all confused about the good match this call feels like to me. Not all pastors are lucky enough to serve a congregation they would choose to attend if they didn't also work there. Not all pastors are lucky enough to be closely aligned with their congregation in terms of theological understandings and how those play into participation in the wider world. Not all pastors are lucky enough to feel both delighted and challenged by their call, by the people alongside whom they are called to minister, by the possibilities that God seems to lay out in front of them.

In the early days of my work here, a few close friends and colleagues said to me, "I hope this congregation knows how lucky they are."

Now, they had to say that – close friends and colleagues are contractually obligated to say nice things about you. But what I didn't realize at the time was just how lucky I would feel after such a short time of serving in this role.

This is due to you – every last one of you who is connected to this place in some form or fashion – and the ways in which you engage in this community for the sake of the Gospel. A few specific notes of gratitude:

To the members of the Pastoral Call Committee – thank you for your hard work and good courage in shepherding this congregation through a longer-than-anticipated pastoral call process. Thanks for your good and faithful discernment with an eye toward the future of this congregation. And thanks for continuing to be supportive during the early days of my ministry in this place.

To the members of the Transition Team and those who headed up the Capital Campaign – I know this is how it's "supposed to go," but it almost never does. What a gift it was to arrive in a congregation that was already looking forward, already doing the good work of asking who you were and who God was calling you to be. What joy it was to simply step into place alongside you.

To Sue Haffield (outgoing church council president), members of the executive team, and members of the church council – thank you for a phenomenal year of visionary lay leadership. Thanks for saying yes to things many churches might not have. Thanks for asking hard questions and forming relationships of mutual trust and care.

To the program/administrative staff (Kathi Gallup, Lacy Tooker-Kirkevold, John Pedersen, Kristine Spanier) – What a gift you are to this congregation, and what a gift to me in my first year in this place. Thanks for all the

mutual and collaborative ministry, for your creative thinking and big imaginations, and for your good humor in all circumstances.

To Pete Anderson, kitchen manager – the food is so tasty and your demeanor is so welcoming. Our bellies and souls are so grateful.

To Keith Koenig, retiring after many years of overseeing the buildings & grounds, to Nate Koenig, responsible for the set-up work many never see, and to Brian Foster, newly on board for this work – space wins. The hospitality you provide to those who set foot in this building lays the groundwork for nearly everything we do.

To those who walk alongside the children and youth of the church (including Mary Teurman, who watches the littlest of the littles!), to those who make sure the young people in this place are seen and heard and loved and that their gifts and full selves are lifted up in this place – your work is perhaps sacred and holy above nearly everything else in this place.

To those who serve on committees and teams and task forces in pursuit of justice and joy in all its forms – your work is the backbone of our community of faith, and your dedication does not go unnoticed.

To the music staff (Dr. Kevin Hobbs, Dr. Bruce Gleason, Chuck Linderkamp) and A/V team (John Nelson, Frank Anderson, Nick Schmidt) – your gifts allow us to worship with all our senses, and for that worship (as well as other programming) to reach those who cannot be here in person. It matters beyond measure!

To John and Sue Nelson, in particular, especially as John looks to step down from his A/V duties – you are the ones who arrive before anyone else, and who leave after everyone else is gone, who go above and beyond for your love of this place. Blessings as you seek to step back a bit; we promise to step up!

To those members who may or may not be included in the groups listed above, but who say yes to volunteer opportunities over and over and over again – I see you. I see your dedication to this community, and I'm grateful. To those of you involved mostly on the fringes, stepping out of your comfort zones to get involved in small but meaningful ways – I'm so glad you're here. It matters. You matter, here in this place.

And to the children and youth of this congregation – you are pure joy. Your movement and energy and endless questions are a wonder to behold. You are not the future of the church, but rather you *are* the church, here and now. You teach us more than you will ever know.

The refrain above is from the hymn *For Everyone Born*, by Shirley Erena Murray and Brian Mann. We've sung it a few times; it's where our "justice and joy" tagline comes from. It sums up this congregation just right, I think, and I feel lucky to be a part of it.

With deep gratitude for the gift to minister among you,
Pastor Andrea

MINISTRY REPORTS

Archives Committee

What is the Archives Committee?

The Archives Committee at Diamond Lake collects and files documents and photos that tell the story of our church from its beginning in 1939 to the present day.

Where are the archives at Diamond Lake?

The archives is located in the narthex (the area that leads into the sanctuary). To find the archives, look for confirmation photos, photos of our pastors and buildings through the years, a baptismal font and lectern from our first building (the little red chapel), and glass display cases containing artifacts from early worship services such as a hymnal, offering plates, and paraments. There are cupboards and a filing cabinet along the west wall for storing church directories, photos and slides, newspaper articles, important documents, and more. On top of the cupboards are "scrapbooks" that illustrate the story of our church by decades.

There's also a workroom in the basement level of the building that provides more storage space, as well as workspace for the committee.

A special thank you to Sue Nelson who applied her scrapbooking skills to making the "decades" scrapbooks. Also, thank you to John Nelson. Few people know that for many years John has recorded every Sunday service and packaged the tape, along with the bulletin for that day, and stored them in the archive's workroom.

Why are the archives important?

Materials in the archives tell us who we are as a congregation and how we have lived as people of God. Without the archives, we would have only word of mouth to tell us who we are and how we came to be.

The Archives Committee decides which materials from the past are important to save. It also decides how best to preserve them. During the building renovation, materials were moved out of the office, library, and Sunday school rooms and stored in the archive's workroom. The committee needs to decide which of these items to keep and how best to store them.

If you are interested in becoming involved in our work, please contact Judy Peacock.

Book Club

2023 Members: Nancy Edwardson, Karen Gabrielson, Kathy Gustafson, Lorie Hinderaker, Jan Michaletz, Judy Peacock, Jane Pingel, Casey Quinn, Lizzy Roberts, Danielle Rolling-Laird, Kitty Rudnicki, Kate Sexe, Judi Simons, Lynne Soderlund, Kristine Spanier, Sara Swenson, Sandy Wahlstrom, Audrey Wessling, Nancy Zemske

2023 was a year of change for the book club. After many years of gathering in the evening, we changed our meeting time to Happy Hour. (What could make us happier than a good book?!) An informal social/gathering time at 5:00 is followed by the book discussion at 5:30. We've added four new members, all with varying opinions and thoughts. At Halloween, some of us dressed in costume and participated in DLLC's "Trunk or Treat." In addition to passing out candy, the kids were invited to choose free books from the large assortment donated by church members. Hopefully, this is the start of a long tradition! Our selections included everything from the perils of the Donner Party to Jane Austen's Persuasion. We're always seeking new members and new titles. There are no tests and no grades! All are welcome!

Jan Michaletz, coordinator

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Childrens Ministry

Childrens Ministry has experienced another year of growth. This time last year we were still doing one room Sunday school for all kids age 3-6th grade, and now we have separated into Kids Club for kids age 3-3rd grade and 456 Club for the 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. 456 Club meets in what was formerly known as the middle school youth room but is now renamed the Club Room! More kids are coming each week and we expect to continue growing in 2024, so if you are interested in volunteering with this energetic and growing ministry, reach out to Lacy to learn more!

Last Summer we had VBS once again and then theme was Ready, Set, Move where we learned to follow Jesus here, there, and everywhere! We had 16 kids at VBS and 5 of them were from the community. It was a fun filled week of moving, dancing, singing, and playing all while learning about Jesus. In the afternoons at VBS we did service projects to teach the kids about giving back to their local community.

We also sent 7 kids to Luther Park again this past summer and they had an absolute blast. They spent the week singing, laughing, playing field games, and worshiping around the campfire. We have a solid group of kids who love our ministry partner Luther Park and don't consider their summer complete without a week at camp. Our partnership with Luther Park continues to grow as more kids and families attend their programs. As a congregation, we have been a part of Luther Park since its inception and our continued support of their ministry means that it will continue to be a safe place people to reconnect with nature, God, and others.

This past year we have really leaned into doing more intergenerational events that bring people together and offer something for people of all ages. In the spring we had the annual Easter Egg Hunt and had over 150 people show up. This year due to unpredictable MN weather, we had to have it inside, but everyone had a great time, nonetheless. We hid eggs all over the narthex and sanctuary and set the kids loose! They weren't as thorough as we thought they would be because people were bringing Lacy eggs that they found weeks after the event, haha. In the Fall we hosted the annual Fall Festival where we had the Kablomlette food truck, a balloon twister, fair hair, face paint, yard games, and a giant inflatable slide! It was a great day to be together in community. Later in the fall we hosted Boo Bash, with an added Trunk or Treat. Inside there were crafts and games, while the parking lot was taken over by bonfires and creatively decorated trunks that were hosted by the wonderful ministries of our church. We had close to 100 people throughout the night and are hoping to grow it even more next year. Our finally family event of the year was our Advent festival where we had snacks, made DIY advent wreaths, and crafted the night away. This event was so much fun and was a great way to kick off the season of Advent.

The grand finale of kids ministry 2023 was the Christmas Program, this year our musical was called "Checkin' it Twice" reminding us what should really be at the top of our Christmas lists. The kids worked hard for 2 months and performed their hearts out in service. I think we will all be singing the song The Christmas Checklist until next December.

Thank you all for a great year in Kids Ministry.

Youth

2023 started with youth musical auditions, a long standing and beloved tradition here at Diamond Lake. We had a full cast of kids and youth that were ready to work hard to put on a fabulous production. They worked twice a week to put on the musical Elijah and they did such a great job! The musical dinner made its post covid return this year and the kids loved being able to help at it. On musical weekend we had a super fun cast party at Graydon and Cynthia's house and then a post-show party at church which was a great time for the youth and adults alike to celebrate a job well done.

The weekend after the Musical a group of youth and youth leaders headed up to Lutsen on the annual ski trip that was revived after Covid. The weather was perfect, and everyone had a great weekend skiing and hanging out. Lacy did a bit more hanging out than others after they had a minor fall the first day that ended in an ER visit and a broken tibia and a displaced ACL. Despite the minor injury, everyone had a great time skiing all day and playing games in our cabin at night.

In the spring we hosted the second annual Cabaret with a multitude of talented performers who delighted us with their jokes, musical talent, and stage presence. We had a wonderful turnout of people who came out to support the youth and fundraise for summer trips. Thank you to everyone who donated silent auction items and bid on them!

A group of youth also attended Midnight Madness this past spring which was an all-night lockout with churches all around the Twin Cities. We went bowling, swimming, to the Movies, and went ice skating, all before the sun came up. It was a fun and exhausting night.

In the summer we had one youth attend high school leadership training at Luther Park where they learned about how to be a peer minister and be a role model for the younger kids. A group of youth also volunteered at New Creations with food distribution. We rounded summer off with a day at Valley fair soaking in the last of the summer sunshine.

In the fall youth volunteered in a variety of ways around church, from helping at the fall festival, helping host parents' night out, assisting with the children's Christmas program, and more. Confirmation started back up in the fall with 16 kids between 7th and 8th grade, which is the largest group we have had in a few years and 6 9th graders affirmed their baptism at our confirmation service in October.

Thank you to everyone who have showed up to support the youth and this ministry this year.

Communications

Church communications were updated and enhanced in 2023 with the ongoing efforts of Kathi Gallup, Office Administrator, the hiring of Kristine Spanier, Director of Communications, and with design assistance from Common Good Creative. Under Pastor Andrea's direction, the following changes were made:

New Monthly Magazine

The Ripple is a 16-page, full-color magazine featuring life milestones, member news, monthly events and activities, articles about community outreach efforts and Lutheranism, photos of Diamond Lake life, and more. It is printed eight times during the program year, with a double issue in December/January and sent to the congregation and church partners/friends. *The Ripple* is written and edited by Kristine Spanier with additional contributions from the congregation and community partners.

Redesigned Bulletin

The worship bulletins are in a new smaller size, using less paper and encouraging more use of the of red hymnals. Covers include engaging images tying into the service theme.

Redesigned Bulletin Announcements

Announcements of the week's news and events are in a new format reflecting the design of *The Ripple* for continuity.

Implementation of new eNews

We now use Constant Contact, an enhanced email platform, to deliver weekly news to the congregation. Recipients of the emails are no longer forced to open an additional document to access Diamond Lake news. The platform also allows us to use colors and photos to create a more engaging electronic newsletter. Metrics show that 70 percent or more of subscribers open the emails each week.

Social Media

Posts on Instagram have tripled since September and increased on Facebook as well. The Blessing of the Animals video was shared by the Minneapolis Area Synod, boosting its reach to 998 people. Everyone should be following our social media accounts to see photos from events and to learn about upcoming activities or late-breaking news.

Redesigned Website

The new year will bring a new website. It features a reorganization of information and includes more detailed information on community outreach, social justice efforts, staff, and service opportunities (inside and outside the church building). New photography is integrated throughout. Placement of some photos and information are still being worked out as 2024 begins.

Community Outreach

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." Mark 16:15.

"Proclaim the good news"! That is what we as people of faith are called to do. To live out the love of Christ in the world. In 2023 we saw this at DLLC through neighborhood events, ministry partnerships, personal generosity, learning and serving our neighbors. DLLC members let their light shine both inside and outside of the church building.

A big strength of the congregation is the strong ministry partnerships that we have built. Through these relationships we are able to widen our reach of who we can serve. There is so much to celebrate this year.

- New Creations Ministries Food Shelf- Each week, dedicated volunteers work alongside our friends and New Creations to meet the need of hunger in our city. Through packing boxes, setting up and bringing food to people cars, helpers meet an immediate need in our neighborhood. We were also able to provide hams for Easter and Turkey's for Thanksgiving!
- Our Saviour's Housing- This year we continued to serve a meal once a month at Our Saviour's Housing. Over the years, hundreds of volunteers have served thousands of meals at the shelter. Seasons change and the decision has been made to no longer serve a meal each month. We will continue to support this great ministry in other ways. We are grateful to all who have served a meal over the years.
- Every Meal- We began partnering with Every Meal, an organization that works to bridge the weekend food gap for school aged kids in Minnesota. We sponsored Barton Elementary School, where each week, DLLC members distribute meals by putting them directly into kids' backpacks. Each week, around 55 kids are given food to take home for the weekend. It is such a blessing and an easy way to be involved.
- Trust Inc.- For over 50 years, TRUST Inc. has brought congregations together to serve the needs of the community by providing programs and initiatives for seniors. TRUST Inc provided the seed money as we were able to work together to offer Sunday Suppers, a monthly meal designed to provide fellowship and good food for all who attend.
- Meals on Wheels- Every six weeks, dedicated drivers deliver food each day of the week to those who need it. A special thank you to Paul Groskreutz for coordinating this important ministry.
- Welcome Home- For 15 years now, DLLC has worked with the Family Program at Lutheran Social Service of MN. Through the time and generosity of this congregation, we can provide furniture, household items, groceries and more as single mothers move into their apartment that becomes a home. This year we turned over all 12 apartment units. Through donations we have now restocked our shelves and provided Christmas gifts for the mothers and kids.
- God's Work, Our Hands Sunday- This year we participated God's Work, Our Hands Sunday alongside congregations from all over the ELCA. Projects included making sandwiches, assembling unhoused care kids, drain stenciling, quilt making and cards for Camp Noah!

Along with our serving ministries, we were able to host a number of community focused events that allow us to meet our neighbors where they are with a posture of curiosity. Events included the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Festival, Boo Bash, and ice cream on the lawn. We were also present at HPDL's Picnic in the Park and the Nokomis Farmers Market. These efforts are more than just getting people to join the church, they are a genuine attempt to get to know our neighbors and hear their stories. It was a ton of fun learning more about our neighbors this year.

Lastly, all of our social ministries have taken big steps this year. We are moving forward on the study phase of becoming an inclusive church as we assembled and commissioned a Reconciling in Christ team to lead the work moving us towards a welcome statement. Journey Toward Justice continues to meet and provide opportunities within our congregation to learn more about issues of racial justice in our society. That has led to conversations with ISALAH that will provide us with more opportunities to strive for racial and economic justice in Minnesota. Our two-year partnership with the Riverside Innovation Hub came to an end but we were invited back to walk alongside other churches as a mentor congregation. Out of that partnership, the Connect ministry was created. Connect will begin to provide the entire congregation with tools to better engage our neighbors. As we get to know them, we are better equipped to share the good news of Jesus Christ with them.

As you can see, 2023 has been a whirlwind year but a great one. We are going outside of our comfort zones to live out our call to love our neighbor and to "proclaim the Good News." This has been a congregation-wide effort and it is clear that the Holy Spirit is working inside and outside of the walls of DLLC.

John Pederson, Director of Community Outreach

Consolation Committee

Submitted by Kristine Spanier

The consolation ministry served approximately 425–450 people (total) at five funeral receptions in 2023, and the cake bakers provided enough cake for all of them (except for a reception where the family chose to bring in their own desserts). While not a funeral, the consolation committee also set up, served, and cleaned up for the reception to welcome Pastor Andrea in April.

Much appreciation to the custodial team who set up and tore down tables and chairs for the receptions, as well as to everyone who served at the events and/or baked cakes in 2023:

Carol Anderson	Sue Haffield	Barbara Ruckes
Frank Anderson	Shelly Johnson	Judi Simons
Lyle Dean	Carolyn Klug	Barb Swanson*
Nancy Edwardson	Bob Kresse	Chuck Swanson*
Jan Evingson	Cyndi Kresse	Cheryle Vold
Karen Gabrielson	Christine McKigney	Audrey Wesling
Kathi Gallup	Jan Michaletz	Darrell Williams
Anne Groskreutz	Karen Minge	Norma Williams
Bob Gustafson	Sue Nelson	Gene Zemske
Kathy Gustafson	Graydon Royce	Nancy Zemske

A special thanks to Gene Zemske and Judi Simons for filling in as leads when I was unable to attend two receptions.

The consolation committee is open to anyone who wishes to join our group. The team sets tables, serves buffet-style food brought in by caterers, washes dishes, and assists grieving families however we can at the events. Although it may sound like "work," we enjoy our team camaraderie, especially knowing that we are helping others during their difficult time. Contact Kristine at kristine.spanier@gmail.com if you would like to help with this important ministry. Or, if you love to bake, I will add you to the list for potential cake bakers. It's an easy and low time commitment way to contribute.

*The Swansons should have been included in the 2022 committee report. I regret the omission!

Greeting Card Outreach

The purpose of this ministry team, started in 2007, is to provide personal, unique, and thoughtful greeting cards to our church members at times of illness, death, baptism, confirmation, holidays for shut ins, birthdays for youth as well as our seniors, thank you cards or other special occasions. Regular contributions to a non-profit cancer outreach have also been created for nearly 11 years. The hand-crafted greeting cards are completed at group meetings by members who enjoy the crafting process as well as sharing time to support others.

Since the beginning, over 12,000 cards have been made and shared. This group meets monthly at church on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 11:00-1:00. All ideas and supplies are provided.

Barb Swanson, Coordinator

Journey Toward Justice Working Group

During the past year, the JTJ team continued to challenge ourselves and the congregation with learning and discussion opportunities surrounding justice and equity. We began by inviting the congregation to a two-part series in January, featuring Rev. Rolf Olson, who focused on the growing threat of Christian nationalism, also known as white nationalism and white supremacy. In February, the team watched and discussed the PBS documentary *Jim Crow of the North*, which takes a critical look at how redlining, freeway construction, and racial bias have existed in Minnesota's past and continue to have an impact on the lives of our neighbors of color. In May we attended the third annual *Rise and Remember* candlelight vigil at George Floyd Square.

Our team struggles with balancing a need to learn about and discuss racial issues with actually taking action to combat racism and inequity in our city and state. In October we met with Ben Whalen, the Minneapolis Congregational Organizer with ISALAH, a multi-faith, multi-race, statewide coalition of groups working toward racial and economic justice in Minnesota. We plan to further explore, through discussions with the congregation, how DLLC is called to participate in ISALAH efforts.

In November we sponsored a two-part series focused on water, agriculture, logging, and other life-sustaining elements, particularly as viewed through the spirituality of Indigenous peoples. The learning experience included the film *Inhabitants: Indigenous Perspectives on Restoring Our World*, followed by group discussion with Dr. Mike Dockry, who builds tribal partnerships to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into natural resource management. Also in November, we were part of DLLC's sponsorship of an ecumenical Thanksgiving service, *Honoring Sacred Waters*, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. The service included the Nibi [Water] Play by the Ikidowin Youth Theater Ensemble.

The work continues. We are grateful for those in the congregation who support and participate in our mission, and we look forward to more courageous conversations and challenges in the future.

Additional Wednesday Evening Programming

After the successful *Lives of Faith + Art* in May 2022, a second iteration of the series was developed. The theme this May was *Lives of Faith + Adventure*.

Speakers

Rev. Andrea Roske Metcalfe
On the Other Side of the Wall: Life &
Accompaniment with ELCA Young Adults in Mexico

Kathi, Kirk, and Geoff Gallup
Two Continents, One Family: An Adoption
Reunion Story

Josephine Spanier
Climate Migration and Women's Rights in El Salvador

Dana Roberts
Climbing Kilimanjaro for Men's Health

September

After the summer break, Wednesday evening programming began again in September with *500 Years After Martin: What Does It Mean To Be Lutheran Today?* Two events were led by Pastor Andrea. Graydon Royce moderated a panel discussion featuring Leslie Pitt, Dan Miller, and Felecia Schmidt.

October

The October series was titled *Spoiler Alert—We All Die in the End: Resources for Being Ready*. Jeremy Norton, a Minneapolis Firefighter/EMT and author of the new book *Trauma Sponges: Dispatches from the Scarred Heart of Emergency Response* discussed the WHY behind having paperwork and other end-of-life planning details prepared. Pastor Andrea led a group of people through the planning of their own funerals and discussed the importance of taking care of details ourselves so loved ones are not burdened by them during their time of grief. Finally, Kris Pearson, Senior Real Estate Specialist, and Allison Fraiser, Elder Law Attorney, spoke about preparing for downsizing and legal details people need to be aware of as they age.

December

In December, Casey Quinn spoke at two events: *The Art of Advent* was a presentation of the Advent story as depicted by world-renowned artists. *God's Palette to the Artist's Palette* was a closer look at multicultural images of the Virgin Mary and Christ child. An art gallery wall was installed in the Commons Area to support this event. Dr. Bruce Forbes presented on his latest research in *Away in a Manger: The Surprising History of Nativity Scenes*. Attendees were invited to bring along their manger scenes for display.

Aside from these programs and the Journey Toward Justice events detailed elsewhere, *The New Frontier Lutheran Radio Hour* returned on November 15 with host Graydon Royce and featuring guest Pastor Andrea. In addition, the first annual Holly Jolly Decorating Party took place on November 29. Participants enjoyed a festive dinner and hot cocoa bar and decked the halls of Diamond Lake, all in under two hours!

Dinner was served prior to each event, and program attendance was solid throughout the year. Thank you to all our engaging, educational speakers and to everyone who attended!

Library Committee

The Library Committee is responsible for maintaining the church library. The children's books are located in the Sunday School area.

Our books are organized and shelved by subject. Borrowing materials is on the "honor system." There is no need to sign a card. Return books in a timely manner to the tray on the far right shelf.

There is additional shelving and CD's in the hall by the coat room.

When using the library area, we trust the users will keep the shelves in good order. Please check your book shelves at home occasionally for materials that might need to be returned.

The committee is most grateful to Lynne Soderlund for her work and dedication to the needs of the library. She will be missed.

Committee members: Lynne Soderlund (retiring), Kristine Spanier, Kathy Gustafson, and Karen Gabrielson

Meals on Wheels

Diamond Lake Meals on Wheels volunteers who drive and deliver meals to South Minneapolis residents that need this support to stay in their homes really “stepped up” this year. Due to a change in congregations that are members of South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels, we were asked to become responsible for two additional delivery routes. That meant we went from delivering meals for five routes to delivering meals for seven routes. Due to the dedication of DLLC volunteers we did so successfully.

The number of volunteers increased from 22 individuals to 27 as five new individuals volunteered, were trained, and are successfully delivering meals on behalf of DLLC.

Thank you to all our faithful volunteers.
Paul Groskreutz

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began in 2006. Through the end of 2023, 355 shawls have been given on behalf of our church.

We lovingly and prayerfully knit shawls for friends and members of Diamond Lake. They are given for a variety of reasons, including: illness, surgery, hospice care, rehabilitation, comfort, loss of parent / spouse / child, and for being homebound. In addition, we make and give a shawl to each new Welcome Home family.

Materials for making shawls has seen a dramatic increase in the cost of yarn, from approximately \$15 per shawl to \$23. Some yarn is purchased from the General fund, but we also rely on donations. Please donate to support this ministry if you are able and consider joining us to make shawls if you can.

We have yarn and needles available if you would like to join this group. We currently knit on our own and drop off finished prayer shawls at the office for distribution.

Coordinator: Lynne Soderlund, 612-205-9063

Property Ministry

Below are just some of the projects that the Property Ministry has been involved in by providing management and labor.

- Working with the construction project from the beginning to end. We are still wrapping up a few things from the project, etc. Bob Gustafson and John Nelson were heavily involved in the project, thank you to them for the many hours they put into the project!
- Some seasonal grounds clean up, spring and fall. Rain garden maintenance.
- Parking lot inspections repaired cracks and milled area out and replaced asphalt.
- Inspected the Sanctuary roof for repairs from the winter month damages due to freezing and ice on the tiles. We will be working on the roof and replacing damaged tiles, and also replacing the remaining rain gutters in the spring of 2024.
- We selected Christmas trees, set them up with decorations in the Sanctuary and Narthex and the Commons area along with un-decorating and removing trees.
- Working with our mechanical contractors on the preventive maintenance of all our mechanical systems.
- Kitchen exhausts systems cleaned and inspected.
- State and City requirements on items like elevator, fire systems, fuel oil tanks, parking lots, landscaping, storm water run-off, fire inspections, etc.
- Flat roofing inspections and maintenance.
- Miscellaneous day-to-day maintenance repairs and projects throughout the church. These projects are completed by Facility Staff, Property Committee and/or outside contractors.
- Property Ministry: Nate Koenig set ups, light maintenance, and cleaning. Keith Koenig facility management, Property Committee Chair. We contract with Dominus Cleaning Services to do much of the weekly cleaning.

2023 budget and expense information:

- Expenses verses Budget
 - Our total budget for the year was \$44,745 and spent \$44,831 finishing the year (\$86) in the red for the year.
- Utility costs
 - The total costs for utilities for the year were \$53,270 compared to last year \$47,225. This number is larger due to the council's goal to open the church to the community and to bring in extra revenue to help DLLC do its ministries.

Every year I sincerely express my appreciation for the fabulous Property Ministry Members and the Facility Staff for their dedication and commitment to God's Ministries and DLLC. They are supporters of all ministries that take place within the walls of the church and its property.

Volunteers:

John F. Nelson, Bob Gustafson, Jeff Simons, Gary Milne, and Ben Sexe. Lyle Dean lends a helping hand quite often with projects.

Staff Members: Nate Koenig and Keith Koenig.

The Property Ministry invites anyone interested in being and part of the fun we have working together in maintaining and keeping the facility and grounds maintained clean and welcoming to our members and visitors. If you are interested, please contact any of the committee members mentioned above.

I would like to thank the members of DLLC. Without your support and financial commitments, the Property Ministry would not be able to maintain this beautiful church we have on Diamond Lake.

I will be retiring January 31, 2024, and will continue to pray for God to bless DLLC in its ministry plans moving forward with Pastor Andrea and staff.

May God bless you and DLLC as you move forward in doing His work.

Sincerely Yours,
Keith Koenig, Retiring Facility Manager

Stewardship

Members of 2023 Stewardship Committee: Jon Brunsberg, Lisa Eckroth, Darren McKigney, Jan Michaletz, Pastor Andrea Roske-Metcalf

For the past several years, we have avoided a traditional stewardship campaign. After an intense (and successful) capital campaign, a global pandemic, and changes in pastoral leadership, we chose to relax our expectations but "hope for the best". But much like our personal households, we discovered a desire and need to plan for expenses, benevolence, and new opportunities. The church council hoped to avoid the annual year-end budget stress.

Our campaign was brief. Pastor Andrea's sermons on new ministries and community needs provided us with motivation beyond simply keeping the church building warm and open. On the other hand, a sinkhole in the parking lot generated a special request for immediate funding. The congregation was encouraged to donate our pocket money and visit the ATM on the way to church. As of this writing in mid-January, the sinkhole fund request has raised \$44,048. The sinkhole has been repaired; remaining funds will be saved for future needs.

On Pastor Andrea's "wish-list" is an item labeled **parish nurse**. Many congregations employ part-time nurses to work with the congregation to monitor health needs and help with home and hospital visitations. This fundraising was in the form of a matching opportunity. Several members stepped forward to provide matching dollars for any raised in the special drive. As of mid-January, the fund stands at \$88,990. Pastor Andrea is in continued conversation with a potential candidate for the position.

Current totals place the estimated pledge amount at \$590,000. This represents 20% more than the previous year, or an increase of \$97,000. Will this cover all budget plans and programmatic hopes this year? **No**, but we will continue to seek missing pledges and perhaps seek some creative fundraising.

We are so blessed to have a generous congregation who responds to community and church needs. Thank you all for sharing your resources with DLLC!

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Michaletz
Stewardship Committee Chair

Worship & Music

We are blessed to continue bringing music and new kinds of worship to the congregation! We have been energized with Pastor Andrea's leadership as we engage in different ways of being in church.

The senior choir and bell choirs are still going strong under the leadership of Dr. Bruce Gleason and Chuck Linderkamp. We were fortunate to be joined for several services by guest instrumentalists and the Agape Quintet (twice last year!). Our youth choir, led by Graydon Royce, is busy preparing for his new musical, "Tween Jesus." Last February, the youth performed an updated version of "Elijah."

And of course, we have been blessed to have Dr. Kevin Hobbs as our organist/pianist/accompanist.

During Lent our singers helped lead the traditional Holden Evening Prayer service; we're excited for the new direction our Lenten services will take this year!

As always, we are grateful to the congregation for your flexibility, support, and appreciation of the efforts of all who help bring worship to life.

Worship and Music Committee

AFFILIATE REPORTS



**SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS**

January 8, 2024

**South Minneapolis Meals On Wheels
Letter To Member Churches**

To the member churches of South Minneapolis Meals On Wheels:

This letter begins with gratitude for volunteers, congregations, staff, individual donors, and Metro Meals On Wheels. Working together, we have all made it possible to serve our neighbors 17,183 healthy meals at their homes in 2023. (For comparison, we delivered 17,308 in 2021 and 15,146 in 2022) Meal recipients were our neighbors who are elderly, have a disability or are unable (either temporarily or long-term) to prepare meals. The majority of meals were delivered hot, daily, Monday-Friday with additional meals for weekends. In addition we delivered frozen meals to a limited amount of clients. These meals are delivered following safety protocols to keep our clients and volunteers safe from Covid-19 transmission.

Financially, we were blessed to receive additional funds through Metro Meals On Wheels. Metro was also able to provide funds for clients this year through "The Wellness program" which helps fund meals for those who are not able to pay themselves. These funds enabled SMMOW to focus on its mission with less pressure to raise fund or to raise our prices in 2023.

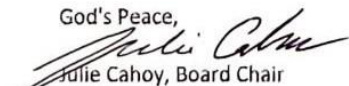
SMMOW began as a joint ministry project of area churches, with the first meals delivered in January 1973 (2023 was our 50th year) on china plates and with real silverware. That ministry continues to meet today's needs, through the 501(c)(3) incorporated charity formed and supported by the member churches.

SMMOW's meal ministry is delivered, managed, and supported by volunteers who come principally from its member churches and who are bolstered by others from the wider community. Volunteer drivers are the heart of SMMOW. They come from member churches and deliver meals with a smile and kind connection. Drivers are encouraged, scheduled and supported by volunteer coordinators from member churches. Volunteers from the churches serve on the managing board of SMMOW and its committees. Church members individually donate to support SMMOW financially. Going forward, our greatest single need is for volunteers to participate in this ministry.

Member churches not only support SMMOW by encouraging their parishioners, each member church has committed to make an annual contribution to provide SMMOW with a stable source of basic funding. As we begin 2024, we ask each church to be aware that, SMMOW depends upon your faithful contributions to sustain the ministry.

We are grateful to everyone who aided the accomplishment of the work done in 2023. We look forward to continuing service in 2024. Challenges and possibilities include continuing to follow Covid 19 guidelines, ensuring meal quality, re-energizing our member churches and church members for this ministry, seeking new member churches/organizations, volunteers and keeping our prices down for our clients.

God's Peace,


Julie Cahoy, Board Chair
For the SMMOW Board

PO Box 17210
Minneapolis, MN 55417
sompismow@gmail.com

812-721-5487

southmplsmealsonwheels.com

• ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2023 •

Greetings to you from your partners in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! The definition of community at Gustavus has always included the wider ELCA community. The network of institutions and relationships which holds our Lutheran congregations, synods, camps, colleges, seminaries, and social agencies together plays a vital role in nourishing and advancing our collective and important contribution to the world. We all make a greater impact because of this diverse network to which we belong.

Through the Gustavus Association of Congregations, the Office of Church Relations at Gustavus is connected to over 500 congregations from across the country. These relationships are an important source of Christian faith inspiration and ministry encouragement for the college. We have so very much to be grateful for and always look forward to our time together at the annual Gustavus Association of Congregations business meeting in April 2024.

As you gather for congregation annual meetings and synod assemblies, we would like you to know our gratitude for your ministry and hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk alongside you in mission. The Office of Church Relations at Gustavus exists because as a college we live from our Christian faith and desire to be in service to the wider community within which we are rooted. We seek to be a place you might consider as a ministry partner and resource for your congregation's educational goals and growth.

MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

• **Annual Gustavus Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 27, 2024**

The Annual Business Meeting of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will gather for a luncheon meeting and feature updates from the Gustavus President and Chair of the Board of Trustees as well as inspiration from Gustavus students. For more information: gustavus.edu/businessmeeting.

• **The Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics — JUNE 15-21, 2024**, is an exciting resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. The theme for the 2024 Academy is "How and Why We Sleep, Revelations in Rest." For more information and to nominate a high school student: gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy.

• **Annual Nobel Conference® — OCTOBER 1-2, 2024** "Sleep Unraveled."

Sleep is a universal human experience and yet its importance is often overlooked. Nobel 60 — Sleep Unraveled brings together an interdisciplinary panel of experts to explore the centrality of sleep for human health and mental well-being. In addition to its role in physical rejuvenation, sufficient high-quality sleep is crucial for cognition, memory, learning, and general health. Sleep loss — whether triggered by noise or light pollution, stress, overwork or conflict with circadian rhythms — has been associated with high blood pressure, weight gain, diabetes and a plethora of other medical conditions. The conference will also delve into the neurological and psychological processes of sleep, the cultural evolution of sleep practices and the social justice implications of a twenty-four hour convenience society that condemns workers to permanent sleep deprivation. More details can be found at: gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference.

• **Christmas in Christ Chapel — DECEMBER 6-8, 2024** This annual tradition in Christ Chapel celebrates and reflects upon the birth of Jesus Christ through worship that features music, dance, spoken word, and the visual arts. Ticket information and archived live stream services can found at: gustavus.edu/events/cc.

For more information about these events and the many resources we offer congregations, please contact the Office of Church Relations or visit us on-line at: gustavus.edu/churchrelations. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Grady St. Dennis
Associate Vice President of Mission/Executive Chaplain

BISHOP'S ANNUAL REPORT

*Day by day ... they ate their food
with glad and generous hearts,
praising God and having the good
will of all the people. – Acts 2:46-47*



Minneapolis Area Synod
of the ELCA

Grace, peace, and hope through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In May, we meet for our 2024 Synod Assembly under the theme “With Glad and Generous Hearts.” The phrase describes the early church as they gathered on Pentecost. It is also an appropriate description of the past year of our life and ministry together.

In 2023, our hearts were gladdened by:

- Your congregation, along with the other 136 congregations in our synod, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, nurturing community, and loving neighbors and neighborhoods.
- The privilege of accompanying congregations in 72 Call Processes; presiding at 14 Ordinations and 30 Installations; and walking with 34 people preparing to become pastors or deacons.
- 142 lay leaders and 28 clergy from 31 congregations learning to be church in the 21st century through our Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices intensive learning communities.
- 6,500 people receiving our weekly enews. (Sign up at mpls-synod.org/sign-up to feel more connected.)
- 100s of rostered and lay leaders involved in synod sponsored peer groups, conferences, and retreats.
- 100s of leaders from synod congregations helping pass the state’s “100% Clean Energy By 2040” and “Restore The Vote” legislation that advance both climate justice and racial justice.
- 100s of leaders faithfully serving as Deans, on Synod Council, and Candidacy, Audit, Program Committees.
- 15 gifted and devoted synod staff members: 10 funded by Mission Support from you and other congregations, and 5 funded by Lilly Endowment and other external grants.

We praise God for the congregational generosity that makes all this happen. At the same time, we recognize that mission support from congregations has declined 16% over the past 10 years, resulting in a reduction in synod staff hours. Especially as we prepare to elect a new bishop this spring, we invite you to consider strengthening your support for the future of the synod’s work.

Conference Assemblies are just around the corner: Saturday, February 10, 9:30 a.m. – Noon. Of particular importance will be conference nominations for bishop as well as for voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, July 28 - August 2, 2025. We encourage congregations to send the same voting members to both the Conference and Synod Assemblies.

As we look at declining mission support or grieve the closing of a congregation, we can become discouraged. In such moments, I encourage you to listen to a remarkable conversation from our 2023 Synod Assembly. Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Otis Moss III, was asked: “what do you say to those who think the church is dying?” Filled with courage and hope, Moss responded, “the church is not dying, it is being born, refashioned, and remade. The early church was an alternative community. Today we use the metrics of the market to evaluate the church – buildings, budgets, numbers. But, the early church looked at **impact**: were people hearing the good news of Jesus who lived and died for our salvation? Was suffering being relieved? Were people being welcomed and healed?” (mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly-2/2023-synod-assembly-archives 4:57:27 of the second day)

Rev. Moss reminds us that we are called to be alternative communities. What might it take to measure our churches by **impact**? The work of synod leadership is to support the 137 communities and the thousands of leaders who are making an **impactful** difference in the 21st century: sharing the good news of Jesus, extending radical welcome into beloved community, engaging their neighborhoods in love with justice.

I am filled with both gratitude and sadness as I write this, my final annual report to congregations. I have loved serving as your bishop and am profoundly grateful for this calling. We pray for the year ahead, trusting in the goodness and faithfulness of our God, made known in Jesus Christ.

Bishop Ann Svenningsen

FINANCIAL REPORT



January 20, 2024

Members of Diamond Lake Lutheran Church:

We, the undersigned, have examined the balance sheet and related statements of revenue, expenditures and other transfers of Diamond Lake Lutheran Church for the year ending December 31, 2023. Our examination was limited to test checking the recorded receipts and disbursements, verifying fund balances and transfers, reconciling the checking account and verifying balances in savings and investment accounts.

In our opinion, the accompanying statements present fairly the financial information set forth therein.

We wish to convey our thanks to the Treasurer, Jon Brunsberg, and the Church Staff. All have been most cooperative.

The Audit Committee


Russ Michaletz
Darren McKigney

5760 Portland Avenue ~ Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417
P: (612) 866-2579 ~ F: (612) 395-5373 ~ dllc.office@dllc.org ~ www.dllc.org

**DIAMOND LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
INCOME STATEMENT - CURRENT FUND
December 31, 2023**

	2022 Full Year Actual	2023 Total Budget	2023 Full Year Actual	2023 % Actual To Budget
Revenue				
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$ 468,948	\$ 560,000	\$ 460,724	
Sunday School Offerings	-	-	-	
Mission	-	-	-	
Lenten	1,703	-	3,268	
Easter	4,021	-	2,497	
Thanksgiving	980	-	185	
Christmas	3,230	-	2,220	
Flowers	1,501	-	1,425	
Miscellaneous	12,411	-	12,801	
Building Rental	11,654	-	11,462	
	<u>504,448</u>	<u>560,000</u>	<u>494,582</u>	<u>-11.7%</u>
Net Asset Released-Capital	75,250	100,000	98,489 (1)	-1.5%
Net Asset Released	<u>93,449</u>	<u>22,500</u>	<u>119,206 (2)</u>	<u>429.8%</u>
Total Revenue	<u>673,147</u>	<u>682,500</u>	<u>712,277</u>	<u>4.4%</u>
Benevolences				
Minneapolis Area Synod	\$ 12,500	\$ -	\$ 16,000	
Meals on Wheels	2,000	-	2,000	
Luther Park	3,000	-	3,000	
Grief Coalition	-	-	-	
Our Saviors Shelter	2,000	-	2,000	
Other	9,439	33,000	5,753	
New Creations	2,000	-	2,000	
Community Emergency Services	2,000	-	2,000	
	<u>32,939</u>	<u>33,000</u>	<u>32,753</u>	<u>-0.7%</u>

(1) Staffing salary and benefits from Capital Campaign Funds per plan.

(2) Released last of PPP Funds (\$20,598), Bonn-Social Concerns (\$25,000), Memorial Funds (\$23,608) and Endowment Fund Interest (\$50,000). Funds used to balance the 2023 budget.

**DIAMOND LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
INCOME STATEMENT - CURRENT FUND
December 31, 2023**

	2022 Full Year Actual	2023 Total Budget	2023 Full Year Actual	2023 % Actual To Budget
Expenditures - Continued				
Committees				
Worship / Music	\$ 10,991	\$ 8,000	\$ 11,631	45.4%
Pastors Discretionary	131	1,000	2,791	179.1%
Christian Education	4,317	10,000	7,627	-23.7%
Nursery Expenses	-	300	190	-36.8%
Volunteer Coordinator	73	350	338	-3.4%
Youth Activities	3,356	3,000	683	-77.2%
Stewardship	-	500	444	-11.2%
Computer	8,856	2,500	2,707	8.3%
	<u>27,724</u>	<u>25,650</u>	<u>26,410</u>	<u>3.0%</u>
Support				
Advertising	-	1,500	3,639	142.6%
Automobile Expense	-	2,500	-	-100.0%
Council Expense	650	500	484	-3.1%
Community Involvement	3,971	5,000	4,822	-3.6%
Continuing Education - Staff	415	1,600	2,971	85.7%
Flowers	2,865	2,000	2,129	6.5%
Insurance	23,123	23,000	25,671	11.6%
Salary & Housing	404,015	410,750	436,485	6.3% (1)
Group Insurance & Pension	47,864	50,000	38,360	-23.3%
Payroll Taxes	19,090	21,000	19,823	-5.6%
Postage	1,830	2,000	2,113	5.7%
Building and Grounds	40,963	42,000	42,162	0.4%
Office Supplies	14,201	14,000	15,393	9.9%
Property Taxes	974	1,000	974	-2.6%
Utilities	50,117	45,000	55,498	23.3% (2)
Other Expenses	2,406	2,000	2,588	29.4%
	<u>612,483</u>	<u>623,850</u>	<u>653,114</u>	<u>4.7%</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>673,147</u>	<u>682,500</u>	<u>712,277</u>	<u>4.4%</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

(1) Higher costs associated with the transition from Interim Pastor to new Pastor.

(2) Tough winter 2022/2023 - December 2022 utilities paid in January and February through April.

DIAMOND LAKE LUTHERN CHURCH

FUND BALANCES

January 1 - December 31, 2023

<u>Current Fund</u>	Balance 12/31/22	Receipts	Disburse- ments	Investment Increase (Decrease)	Balance 12/31/23
Current Fund	\$ -	712,277	712,277	-	\$ -
<u>Restricted Funds</u>	Balance 12/31/22				Balance 12/31/23
J. Bonn (Social Concerns)	32,762	-	25,000	-	7,762
Lew Bonn Fund - Seminary	17,719	-	-	-	17,719
Lew Bonn Fund - Seminary Interest	14,476	-	-	-	14,476
Van Fund	17,576	-	437	2,118	19,257
	\$ 82,534	\$ -	\$ 25,437	\$ 2,118	\$ 59,214
<u>Endowment Funds</u>	Balance 12/31/22				Balance 12/31/23
Endowment Fund	\$ 602,863	-	-	-	\$ 602,863
Endowment Fund - Interest	344,302	-	50,000	44,470	338,772
	\$ 947,164	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 44,470	\$ 941,634
<u>Agency Funds</u>	Balance 12/31/22				Balance 12/31/23
Emergency Fund	\$ 2,028	-	-	-	\$ 2,028
Expense Reserve - PPP Funds	20,598	-	20,598	-	-
Library	979	-	-	-	979
Welcome Home	(134)	2,994	1,743	-	1,117
Music Fund	400	-	-	-	400
Memorial Funds	40,433	5,914	40,571	-	5,776
Social Concerns (includes Angel Fund)	(765)	4,962	5,365	-	(1,168)
EveryMeal Fund	20	7,775	6,538	-	1,257
Parish Nurse Fund	500	48,529	-	-	49,029
Youth Fund	3,354	10,965	10,723	-	3,595
Youth Fund - Scholarship Gift	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Luther Park Building Fund	410	4,603	4,590	-	422
Pie Sale	7,582	-	-	-	7,582
Computer Fund	5,000	-	5,000	-	-
75th Anniversary Fund	857	-	-	-	857
Quilting Ministry Fund	5,855	-	-	-	5,855
Lakeside Gathering	1,831	-	-	-	1,831
	\$ 90,449	\$ 85,741	\$ 95,128	\$ -	\$ 81,061
<u>Building Funds</u>	Balance 12/31/22				Balance 12/31/23
Building Improvements (Sinkhole Fund)	\$ 12,035	42,005	13,025	-	\$ 41,014
Rain Garden	740	-	-	-	740
Stirring the Spirit	448,384	361,038	517,571	-	291,850
	\$ 461,158	\$ 403,043	\$ 530,597	\$ -	\$ 333,604

DIAMOND LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
December 31, 2023

<u>Assets</u>	Current		Current Restricted	Endowment	Agency	Plant Funds	Building Funds	Total
Cash In Bank	\$	-	\$ (214,003)	\$ 121,935	\$ 81,061	\$ -	\$ 333,604	322,598
Vanguard MM Funds	-	-	27,031	-	-	-	-	27,031
ELCA Endowment Fund	-	-	246,187	819,699	-	-	-	1,065,886
Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	3,677,988	379,892	4,057,880
Totals	\$	-	\$ 59,214	\$ 941,634	\$ 81,061	\$ 3,677,988	\$ 713,497	\$ 5,473,394

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Funds Held for Others								
Notes Payable - Capital Building Loan	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81,061	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81,061
Unrestricted Fund Balance	-	-	-	338,772	-	-	379,892	379,892
Restricted Fund Balance	-	-	-	602,863	-	-	-	338,772
Building Funds	-	-	59,214	-	-	-	333,604	995,681
Invested in Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	\$	-	\$ 59,214	\$ 941,634	\$ 81,061	\$ 3,677,988	\$ 713,497	\$ 5,473,394

**Capital Campaign - Summary By Year
(Actual Values Through 12/31/2023)**

Year	Contributions	Paid Expenses	End of Year Balance	Notes
2018	\$1,701	\$0	\$1,701	Polishing The Diamond - Balance
2019	\$294,904	\$40,400	\$256,205	Pre-Campaign Contributions
2020	\$534,430	\$106,677	\$683,958	Campaign Year 1
2021	\$538,767	\$812,584	\$410,141	Campaign Year 2
2022	\$492,283	\$454,040	\$448,384	Campaign Year 3
2023	\$361,037	\$517,571	\$291,850	Post-Campaign Year 1
Totals	\$2,223,122	\$1,931,272	\$291,850	Expenses Exclude Loan Outstanding

Fairly likely 2024 Contributions	\$21,000
2024 Total Estimated Gifts Available	\$312,850

Loan Outstanding - Principal:	\$379,892	November 2022 - 5 Yr. Loan @ 4.0%
		To Pay Primary Contractor
		\$350,000 Principal Paid in 2023

Overall Campaign - High Level Summary

Total Pledged:	\$2,200,404
Actual Contributions Through 12/31/2023:	\$2,233,122
Over/Under:	\$32,718

**Diamond Lake Lutheran Church
2024 Proposed Budget**

	2022 Total Actual	2023 Proposed Budget	2023 Total Actual	2024 Proposed Budget	Change Budget To Actual	% Increase Budget
Revenue						
Contributions						
Regular Offerings (attributable)	\$ 478,882	\$ 530,000	\$ 468,894	\$ 530,000	61,106	13.0%
Miscellaneous/Loose-Normal ⁽¹⁾	\$ 13,912	\$ 15,000	\$ 14,226	\$ 60,000	45,774	321.8%
Earned Revenue/Rents	\$ 11,654	\$ 15,000	\$ 11,462	\$ 30,000	18,538	161.7%
Supplemental Fund Raising		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,264	64,264	100.0%
Total Contribution Revenue	504,448	560,000	494,582	684,264	189,682	38.4%
Net Asset Released-Capital Campaign	75,250	100,000	98,489	50,000	(98,489)	-100.0%
Net Asset Released-Endowment	40,000	22,500	50,000	50,000	-	0.0%
Net Asset Fund Reserves	53,449		69,206	0	(69,206)	-100.0%
Total Revenue	673,147	682,500	712,277	734,264	21,987	3.1%
Our Missions (Expense)						
Missions of the Church / Benevolence	32,939	33,000	32,753	40,000	7,247	22.1%
Expenditures						
Committees						
Worship / Music	10,991	8,000	11,631	11,000	(631)	-5.4%
Pastors Discretionary	131	1,000	2,791	3,000	209	7.5%
Christian Education	4,317	10,000	7,627	10,000	2,373	31.1%
Nursery Expenses	0	300	190	300	110	57.9%
Volunteer Coordinator	73	350	338	350	12	3.6%
Youth Activities	3,356	3,000	683	3,000	2,317	339.2%
Stewardship	0	500	444	1,000	556	125.2%
Speaker Support	0	750	0	750	750	100.0%
Total Committees	18,868	23,900	23,704	29,400	5,696	24.0%
Support						
Advertising	0	1,500	3,639	5,500	1,861	51.1%
Automobile Expense	0	2,500	0	1,000	1,000	100.0%
Community Involvement	3,971	5,000	4,822	5,000	178	3.7%
Council Expense	650	500	484	500	16	3.3%
Continuing Education - Staff	415	1,600	2,971	4,000	1,029	34.6%
Flowers	2,865	2,000	2,129	2,200	71	3.3%
Insurance	23,123	23,000	25,671	27,700	2,029	7.9%
Supply Preachers			0	3,000	3,000	100.0%
Salary & Housing	404,015	410,000	436,485	428,964	(7,521)	-1.7%
Group Insurance & Pension	47,864	50,000	38,360	40,200	1,840	4.8%
Payroll Taxes	19,090	21,000	19,823	23,500	3,677	18.5%
Postage	1,830	2,000	2,113	2,800	687	32.5%
Building and Grounds	40,963	42,000	42,162	41,000	(1,162)	-2.8%
Office Supplies	14,201	14,000	15,393	16,000	607	3.9%
Computer	8,856	2,500	2,708	5,000	2,292	84.6%
Tech / Online Production	0		0	5,000	5,000	100.0%
Property Taxes	974	1,000	974	1,000	26	2.7%
Utilities	50,117	45,000	55,498	50,000	(5,498)	-9.9%
Other Expenses	2,406	2,000	2,588	2,500	(88)	-3.4%
Total Support	621,340	625,600	655,820	664,864	9,044	1.4%
Total Expenditures	673,147	682,500	712,277	734,264	21,987	3.1%
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%

- (1) Normal miscellaneous contributions and special requests.
(2) Capital Campaign support for staffing ended in 2023.
(3) As in past years, there are some Restricted and Agency Funds available to help balance the budget.
(4) The proposed "Stretch" Budget is a 3.1% increase over the 2023 actual expenditures.