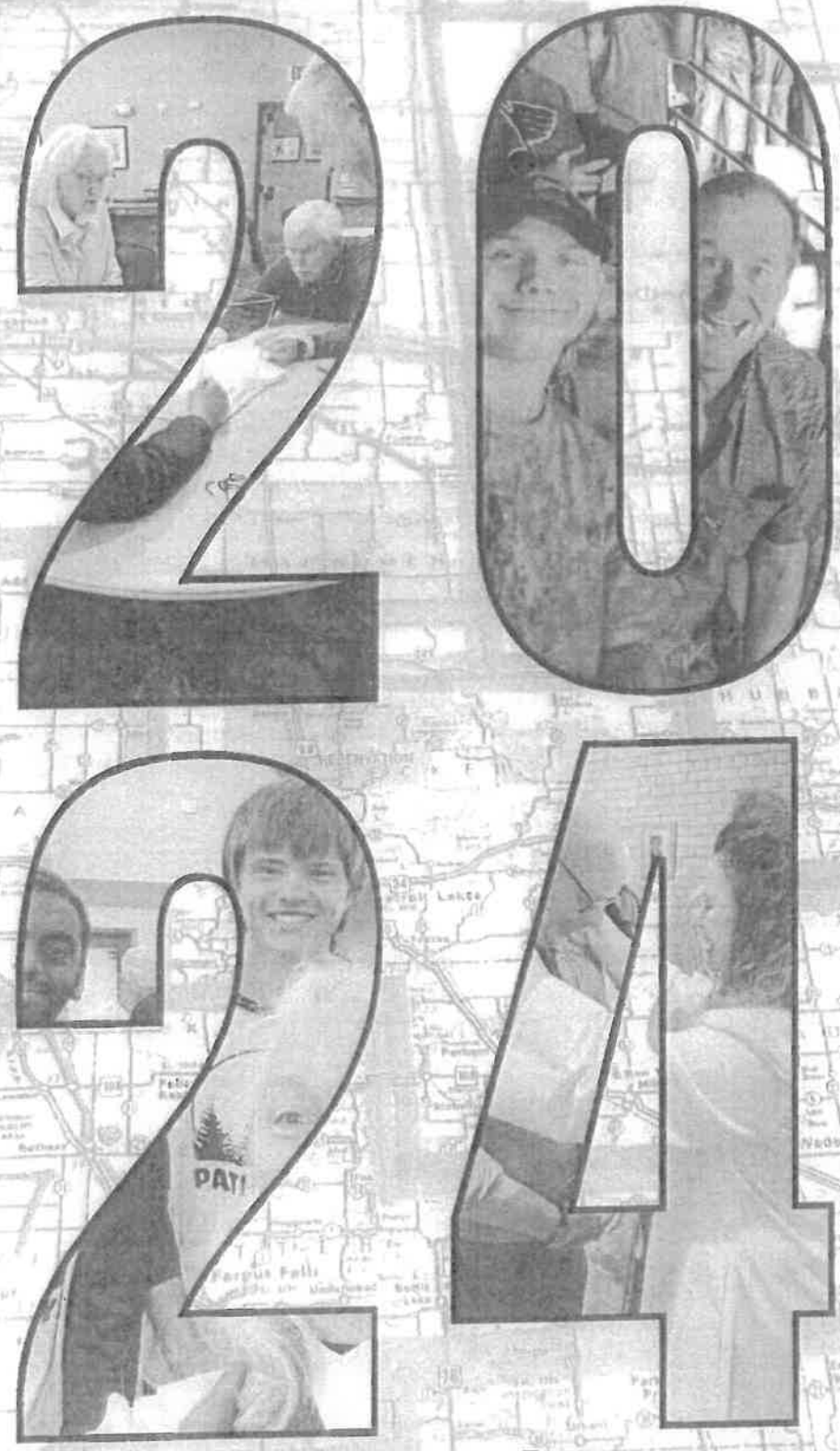
Wabanica Copy

Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



2024 Annual Report

Wabanica Lutheran Church 2024 Annual Meeting
February 9, 2025
9:45am

1. **Call to order**
2. **Devotions/prayer**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Secretary's Report Feb. 4, 2024**
5. **Financial Reports**
    a. Treasurer's Report
    b. Financial Secretary's Report
6. **Reports**
    a. **Synod Report**
    b. **President's Report**
    c. **SAM/CYF Report**
    d. **Committee Reports**
        i. Buildings and Grounds
        ii. Congregational Life
        iii. Hospitality and Service
        iv. Outreach Ministry
        v. Endowment
7. **Old Business**
    a. Cemetery Policy
8. **New Business**
    a. Review/Adopt Mission Plan 2025
    b. Review Parish Agreement Bylaw
    c. Council Elections
    d. Volunteers Synod Assembly May 30- June 1, 2025 Moorhead
    e. Pizza Night Donations
9. **Adjournment and Lord's Prayer**

Wabanica Lutheran Church - Annual Meeting Minutes - February 11, 2024

President Roger Erickson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with 28 members present.
We opened with the litany and hymn as printed, and Calista led us in prayer.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Brian Peterson, second by Jody Horntvedt, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.
Secretary's Report: Motion by Gloriann Fischer, second by Lynne Reierson, to accept the Secretary's Report from the January 22, 2023, Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: The Financial Secretary's Report shows a total General Fund income of $94,889.00. We donated generously to Missions, with a total of $8,120.00. The Treasurer's Report shows a General Fund balance on hand of $51,352.65 to start the new year. Motion by Carol Erickson, second by Bruce Streich, to accept the financial reports. Motion carried.

Synod Report: Printed and included in our handout - please read!

Minister's Report: Calista thanked us for her time on maternity leave and for stepping up to lead in our congregation as needed. Her star word for our parish in 2024 is relationship: "How can we be creative in growing relationships with our neighbors, both inside and outside of our parish?"

Committee Reports
The complete Committee Reports and photographs are included in the Annual Report itself and we are pleased with all we have been able to do this year. Accomplishments for 2023 and goals for 2024 are included in the individual reports. Thank you to all who serve in any way, as we keep looking for ways to involve more people.

The Wabanica Endowment Fund Committee report is included for the first time.
Memorial/Cemetery Fund: deposit of $25,000 on April 14, 2023, with current value $27,164.59. Mission Fund: deposit of $25,000 on April 14, 2023, and $50,000 on August 10, 2023, with current value $78,648.11. As we agreed at the January 2023 Annual Meeting, no money will be distributed from either fund until 2025. Gifts can be made to either of the endowment funds at any time by contacting the Financial Secretary.

Old Business
A. Cemetery Policy: We have updated the fees for nonmembers, but also have limited space available, so policies need to be put into writing and followed. Also some items that concern upkeep need to be clarified, such as dates about removal of artificial flowers, and encouraging the use of shepherd's hooks for ease of mowing (25 have been donated). Ken Horntvedt, Eugene Mollberg, and Jody Horntvedt will be meeting to work on the wording of these policies.

New Business
A. Mission Plan for 2024: Jody Horntvedt moved that the annual payment to the Financial Secretary and to the Treasurer be increased to $200 each. Second by Gloriann Fischer. This motion will be included in the overall approval of the Plan. Our percentage of Parish expenses will be 47%, based on pew pad tallies of all three churches. The monthly amount to meet our 2024 Mission Plan is $7,790.00 and monthly amount for Parish expenses is $4,182.00. Motion by Bruce Streich, second by Jody Horntvedt, to approve the 2024 Mission Plan. Motion carried.

B. Council Elections: After discussion, the following slate of officers was put forth: President - Roger Erickson (2 years), Vice president - Brian Peterson (1 year), Secretary - Shelley Pepera (2 years), Treasurer - Doris Nelson (1 year), Financial Secretary - Ken Horntvedt (2 years), Member at Large - Gloriann Fischer (3 years), Member at Large - Leah Larson (2 years). Motion by Bruce Streich, second by Doris Nelson, to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers. Motion carried.

C. Synod Assembly Volunteers: We are in need of 2 voting delegates to the Synod Assembly at Concordia College, Moorhead, on May 17-18. No volunteers today, so Council will pursue.

D. Pizza Nights: Ken Horntvedt prepared the informational summary which states that we have donated $25,322.00, to 9 local organizations over the years. Council will soon be deciding the recipients of the Pizza Night fundraisers for April-September 2024 - suggestions are welcome and will be discussed.

Motion to adjourn by Ken Horntvedt. second by Carol Brune. Motion carried and we adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Perala, Secretary

Parish Budget

		2024 Budget	Amount spent as of 12/31/24	Proposed 2025
Office Expenses				
	Copier Maintenance/Lease	$4,800.00	$4,020.89	$5,000.00
	Internet/Phone	$2,000.00	$2,000.28	$2,000.00
	Website	$445.00	$490.00	$500.00
	Breeze Database	$850.00	$864.00	$850.00
	Paper/Office Supplies	$2,800.00	$1,986.18	$2,800.00
	Postage	$600.00	$1,078.29	$1,100.00
	Worker's Comp Insurance	$1,552.00	$574.00	$700.00
	Parish Insurance (Church mutual)	$681.00	$683.32	$700.00
	J&L Tax	$1,800.00	$1,800.00	$1,800.00
	Totals	**$13,728.00**	**$13,496.96**	**$15,450.00**
Education				
	Grief Counseling	$240.00	$5.25	$240.00
	Bibles (Confirmation, 3rd grade, preschool, large print)	$1,000.00	$440.88	$1,000.00
	Confirmation	$750.00	$680.70	$750.00
	Baptismal Counseling	$100.00	$221.22	$200.00
	First Communion	$100.00	$15.63	$100.00
	Adult Education- Christ in Our Home *purchased books for parish book study	$482.00	$989.16	$600.00
	Soul Food	$1,500.00	$735.27	
	VBS	$1,000.00	$837.66	$1,000.00
	Youth Events	$1,000.00	$36.09	$2,000.00
	Sparkhouse Digital	$400.00	$397.00	$400.00
	Totals	**$6,572.00**	**$4,358.86**	**$6,290.00**
Worship				
	OneLicense	$446.00	$425.00	$425.00
	Sundays and Seasons	$529.00	$549.00	$600.00
	CCLI	$385.00	$382.00	$400.00
	Supplies	$1,100.00	$666.14	$1,100.00
	Required Synod Events	$600.00	$922.48	$1,000.00
	Pulpit Supply	$2,000.00	$572.12	$2,000.00
Community Benevolence	Thanksgiving & Christmas Community Meals (gift to host of meal)	$500.00	$200.00	$500.00
	Total	$5,560.00	$3,716.74	$6,025.00
Staff				
	Calista Wolf			
	Salary (2025: $23.50/hour, 32-40hr/wk)	$47,840.00	$43,976.00	$48,880.00
	SS/Medicare 7.65%	$3,659.76	$3,364.16	$3,740.00
	Mileage	$3,000.00	$2,064.27	$3,000.00
	Books/Subscriptions	$150.00	$219.58	$150.00
	Business/Professional	$500.00	$435.79	$500.00
	Continuing Ed	$1,000.00	$729.74	$1,000.00
	Retirement Contribution			$3,178.00
	Future Staffing Needs			
	Joyce Washburn			
	Salary ($20/hour), 15-20hr/wk)	$20,800.00	$14,260.00	$20,800.00
	Kelsey Armstrong			
	Salary ($18/hour), 15-20hr/wk)	$8,000.00	$1,566.00	$18,720.00
	*based on 20 hrs/ 52 wks. She will work less than that and we have income coming in for Faith Friday			
	Staffing Totals	$84,949.76	$66,615.54	$99,968.00
	Total Budgets	**$110,809.76**	**$88,188.10**	**$127,733.00**

2024 Statistical Report

Baptisms	Evelyn Kay Langevin
Johanna Marie Wolf	
Layke Johnston-Smith	
Saylor Johnston-Smith	
Baylor Madison Waibel	
Sloane Jennifer Braun	
Confirmation/Affirmation of Faith	
Deaths/Funerals/Memorial Services/Burials	
Bill Mosher	
Oscar Maus	
Tom Griffen	
Membership	
Transferred to other churches/removed by own request/removed by council action	
Administrative Removal	
Members Received	
Jade Johnston, Evan Smith	Dave, Amy, Sam and Sylvie Dragon (both baptized)
Sarah Gubbels, Calvin Peter, Emma Peter, Maci Peter	Todd Beckel- was marked as visitor
Zeke Beckel-unarchived April 2024	
Abigail and Jon Waibel	

	Baptized	**Confirmed**
December 31, 2023	207	138
December 31, 2024	226	139

Income and Spending 1/1/24 through 12/31/24

Income Categories

Balance on Hand---------$ 51,352.65

Farm & Garden		235.00
Giving Hearts Day		215.00
Offerings		84,490.00
Regular	59,740.00	
Vanco	24,750.00	
Other Income		8,846.00
Funeral	1,225.00	
Thrivent	2,621.00	
Youth	5,000.00	
Special Offering		7,953.00
Wedding Deposit		300.00
Total Income		$102,039.00
Income + Bal on Hand		$153,391.65

Expense Categories

Bank Charges		449.24
Building & Grounds		385.03
Building Maintenance		604.37
Education		82.29
Electric		2,182.00
Benevolence		10,500.00
Farm & Mkt.		235.00
Financial Sec.		200.00
Garbage		308.56
Groundskeeper		4,115.00
Roger	1,965.00	
Brian	2,150.00	
Heating		3,400.00
Hosp & Service		946.28
Funeral Exp	277.43	
Kitchen Supp	259.60	
Misc	409.25	
Insurance		6,397.51
Building	5,798.51	
Work Comp	599.00	
Janitorial		3,016.66
Salary	2,250.00	
Supplies	516.66	
Misc		1.294.81
Organist		2,575.00
Outreach Ministries		465.00
Parish Expense		42,102.00
Piano Tuning		155.00
Special Offering		8,130.00
Synod Assembly		962.87
Telephone		1,150.00
Treasurer		200.00
Total Expenses		$ 89,856.62
Transferred to Building Fund		8,180.00
Total Expenses		$ 98,036.62

Building Fund Income

Bal. on Hand	$ 20,548.21
Trans From Gen. Fund	8,180.00
Total Offerings	28,728.21
Expenses	2,580.25
Total Bal. Offerings	$26,147.96

Balance on Hand $55,355.03

Wabanica Lutheran Church

Summary on Memorial Fund Account

Prepared by Ken Horntvedt

Balance [1-1-2024] .....= $ 9,994.74

Receipts.....= $ 3,435.00

Perpetual Cemetery Care
Steve Sather = $ 250.00

Memorials
Jack Allison, Oscar Maus, Bill Mosher, Gweth Jaeger, Jim Bodahl, Tom Griffen = $3,185.00

Disbursements ..... = $ 2,792.86
Ken Horntvedt (2 picnic tables) = $2,792.86

Balance [12-31-2024] ..... = $10,636.88

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Wabanica Lutheran Church

Pizza Night Community Outreach

Prepared by Ken Horntvedt

The pizza oven was built during the summer of 2016 and since that time we have served pizza more than 36 times. Some of those events have been for congregational events *(e.g. Sunday School, Father's Day, special benefit events, etc.)*, but most have been planned as fund raising events for local charities.

We started out by asking congregational members to donate food items to make the pizzas. Then during COVID we started using Thrivent Action Team grants, requested by various congregation members, to purchase pizza crusts and all the supplies.

Donations over the years total $30,914, which includes the $5,592 raised in 2024.

Those organizations who were recipients in 2024 included:

* Hunter Nordlof Be Kind Foundation
* Lake of the Woods Humane Society
* Lake of the Woods School Backpack Project
* Lake of the Woods Nutrition Board
* Red River Valley Hospice
*Triple A Booster Club
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Wabanica Lutheran Church
Mission Plan Worksheet 2025

Our Outreach Ministry	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Proposed 2025
Northwestern MN Synod	$ 10,500.00	$ 10,500.00	$ 10,500.00	$ 10,500.00
Special Ministries (Food Shelf, etc.)	8,399.00	8,120.00	8,120.00	8,500.00
Outreach sub-total =	**$18,899.00**	**$ 18,620.00**	**$ 18,620.00**	**$ 19,000.00**

Parish Staff	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Proposed 2025
Pastor Salary and Benefits	$29,632.05	$ 10,048.64	$ 22,259.06	$25,150.00
Office Staff (Salaried)	13,261.10	13,783.39	6,702.20	9,360.00
Staff (Consulting)	-0-	2,314.80	736.02	8,424.00
Future Staffing Needs	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Travel / Mileage	1,238.82	790.88	970.21	1,350.00
Synod Assembly (Pastor)	173.12	136.08	433.57	450.00
Business/Professional/Books/Etc.	194.23	32.59	308.02	293.00
Continuing Education	235.39	769.61	342.98	450.00
First Call Theological Education	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Pulpit Supply	-0-	81.00	268.90	900.00
Pastoral ministry sub-total =	**$ 45,047.02**	**$ 27,956.99**	**$ 32,020.96**	**$46,377.00**

Parish Worship & Education	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Proposed 2025
Confirmation & Retreats	$256.64	$52.81	$319.93	$1,250.00
Baptismal/Grief Counseling	55.36	12.58	106.44	200.00
First Communion	32.73	-0-	7.35	45.00
Adult Education *(Christ in our Home / Living Lutheran)*	307.49	207.53	464.91	270.00
Vacation Bible Schools	230.48	348.97	393.70	450.00
Soul Food Worship/Education	776.91	918.98	558.98	970.00
Worship Supplies	611.81	335.91	313.09	500.00
Licenses / Materials	744.49	475.56	637.32	650.00
Parish Worship/Education sub-total =	**$3,015.91**	**$2,352.34**	**$2,801.72**	**$4,335.00**

Parish Administration	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Proposed 2025
Copier Maintenance & Lease	1,573.50	1,559.66	$1,889.92	$2,250.00
Internet / Phone / Website	879.84	863.35	1,170.43	1,125.00
Paper/Office Supplies	777.78	899.95	933.50	1,260.00
Postage	434.57	372.30	506.80	495.00
Breeze Online Database	279.97	303.84	406.08	390.00
Parish Treasurer / Accounting	669.24	648.00	846.00	810.00
Workman's Comp & Liability Ins	858.97	803.64	590.94	630.00
Miscellaneous (gifts, etc.)	510.85	1,851.59	433.87	225.00
Parish Administration sub-total =	**$5,984.72**	**$ 7,302.33**	**$ 6,777.54**	**$7,185.00**
TOTAL PARISH Expense =	**$ 54,047.65**	**$37,611.66**	**$41,600.22**	**$57,897.00**
	[37.18%]	*[36.00%]*	*[47.00%]*	*[45.00%]*
			Monthly needed to meet Parish expenses =	**$ 4,825.00**

Wabanica Lutheran Church / Mission Plan Worksheet 2025

Our Church Home	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Proposed 2025
Technology (phone, internet, etc.)	$ 432.47	$ 431.33	$ 1,150.00	$ 900.00
Electric & Heating	5,067.06	7,655.00	5,582.00	8,000.00
Janitor (& supplies)	2,565.15	2,441.61	3,016.66	3,000.00
Groundskeepers	2,125.00	3,075.00	4,115.00	4,200.00
Buildings & Grounds Maintenance	1,382.33	103.78	604.37	1,000.00
Insurance (Building)	3,759.63	3,898.22	5,798.51	6,000.00
Insurance (Workman's Comp)	267.00	594.00	599.00	600.00
Garbage Pickup	227.28	288.56	308.56	350.00
Church Cleaning	-0-	-0-	-0-	500.00
Emergency Funds	-0-	-0-	-0-	500.00
Church Home sub-total =	**$ 15,825.92**	**$ 18,487.50**	**$ 21,174.10**	**$ 25,050.00**

Congregational Life	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Proposed 2025
NWMN Synod Assembly	$ 213.00	$ -0-	$ 962.87	$ 1,000.00
1517 Media (for Living Lutheran)	796.55	128.13	-0-	200.00
Organist	2,325.00	2,625.00	2,575.00	2700.00
Postage	159.82	-0-	142.40	150.00
Piano Tuning	130.00	-0-	155.00	150.00
Altar Guild	-0-	130.84	-0-	200.00
Treasurer	75.00	75.00	200.00	200.00
Financial Secretary	75.00	75.00	200.00	200.00
Fundraising Supplies	568.15	-0-	593.24	600.00
Misc *(bank charges, supplies, greeting cards)*	628.29	1,764.75	1,150.81	2,000.00
Congregational Life sub-total =	**$4,961.81**	**$ 4,798.72**	**$ 5,979.32**	**$ 7,400.00**

Committee Expenses	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Proposed 2025
Buildings & Grounds	$ 457.24	$ 244.99	$ 385.03	$ 400.00
Congregational Life	-0-	-0-	-0-	450.00
Christian Education (SS included)	319.73	431.41	82.29	500.00
Hospitality & Service	1,369.05	1,531.69	946.28	1,600.00
Outreach Ministry	-0-	395.00	465.00	500.00
Health & Wellness/Parish Nurse	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Stewardship *(postage/offering env 2 yrs)*	-0-	-0-	-0-	100.00
Youth *(scholarship/camperships given)*	355.89	-0-	-0-	1,000.00
Committees sub-total =	**$2,501.91**	**$2,603.09**	**$1,878.60**	**$4,550.00**

GRAND TOTAL =	**$87,837.29**	**$74,000.97**	**$81,132.24.24**	**$105,397.00**
	Proposed $98,531	Proposed $99,642	Proposed $93,480	
			Monthly needed to meet mission plan =	**$8,783.00**

Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A year end message from Bishop Bill Tesch:

Faith, however, is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. It kills the old Adam and makes us altogether different [people], in heart and spirit and mind and powers; and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. ***O it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith!***

-From the "Preface to the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans," by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther

Dear Beloved Siblings in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

The faith that is stirred up in us by the Holy Spirit and that reaches the depths of our hearts is more than merely agreeing to specific ideas about God. A Living Faith roots our lives in Jesus and transforms us into lovers of the world and of our neighbor. This is the faith we want for ourselves, our children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors. **Such a faith needs a *living, active, mighty congregation*** where the good news is proclaimed and where the faithful collaborate to teach the word of God and love their neighbors. Everything we do as your synod staff is for this purpose. Here are just *some* of the ways that your synod staff partnered with you in the last year to foster ***living, active and mighty congregations.***

- We ordained and installed 4 new ministers into their first calls.
- We welcomed 6 new individuals into candidacy for rostered ministry. Our synod now has a total of 16 people in candidacy, as we prepare gifted leaders for the future of our congregations.
- We installed 13 new pastors or deacons who joined our synod's congregations and ministries.
- We placed 10 new Synod Authorized Ministers in congregations while guiding and supporting the work of 53 authorized ministers in total.
- We empowered 13 congregations to share the Gospel in innovative ways on Synod Vitality Day.
- We fortified 18 congregations who were experiencing divisive internal conflict with coaching, mediation and accompaniment.
- We traveled 100,000+ miles to show up for the joys and struggles of our congregations and leaders.
- We provided 4000 hours of face-to-face engagement with leaders and congregations across the 21,100 square miles of our synod's territory.
- We inspired and equipped 36 congregations to grow their members' generosity through two synod-sponsored stewardship days or through synod-created video resources.
- We gathered 14 Sr. Pastors for collaboration, learning and fellowship at our annual Sr. Pastor retreat.
- We paid off just under $60,000 worth of student loan debt for 13 pastors or deacons.
- We are forming and equipping dozens of leaders with innovative programs such as Jeremiah 29 and FACES of leadership.

And the list could go on, but we must stop here because we are out of space! THANK YOU for your partnership in sharing the Gospel and for your generosity of time, treasure and spirit. God bless all of you as you gather in annual meetings to make important decisions about the ministry of your congregation.

In Christ our Savior,

Bill Tesch

Pastor Bill Tesch, Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

December 2, 2024

Dear Congregations of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. First and foremost, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous mission support throughout the past year. Your commitment to the work of the gospel in our synod, churchwide, and worldwide makes a tremendous difference in the lives of countless individuals and communities. In this mailing, you will find **a current statement of your congregational mission support through November**. You will receive a similar statement after the end of the synod's fiscal year on January 31, 2025.

Your mission support helps fund vital programs and ministries that strengthen the body of Christ in our synod, equip leaders, and extend the reach of God's love beyond our local communities. We give thanks for how your congregation's offerings are contributing to the shared work of mission and ministry, both here in Northwestern Minnesota and across the earth.

As we look ahead to the ministry and mission of 2025, we want to make sure that your generous support is effectively planned for and utilized. Enclosed, you will find the 2025 **Congregational Statement of Intent for Mission Support** form. This form is a tool that helps us anticipate how your congregation plans to engage in mission support for the upcoming year. By completing and returning this form, you assist the synod in budgeting and planning for all the important work we will do together through congregations, leaders, and the wider church.

It is important to note that 47% of the mission support dollars given by your congregation remain within the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. These funds are used to support the ministry and mission that takes place right here in our local context. The remaining 53% of your mission support is passed through to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), helping to fund churchwide ministries and mission efforts around the world.

Thank you again for your faithfulness in supporting the work of God's kingdom. Your partnership in mission is a testament to the shared love we have for God and for our neighbors. We are truly grateful for your continued generosity and for the ways you participate in God's work in the world.

May God bless you abundantly as you continue to serve in faith, hope, and love.

In Christ's service,

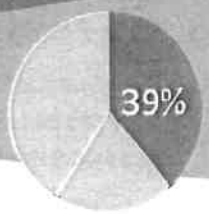
Rev. Rebel Hurd
Associate to the Bishop for Mission/Director for Evangelical Mission
Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Northwestern Minnesota Synod FY2023 Thank You

We believe that the ELCA's members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization are called to be church together. Every year around $1.6 billion is shared as regular offerings to ELCA congregations and worshiping communities. Over 5% of that generosity is shared with our 65 synods, a portion of which is then shared with the churchwide organization. We call this Mission Support. In FY2023, the Northwestern Minnesota Synod shared $622,838 directly in Mission Support for ELCA churchwide ministries. Whether utilized locally, regionally, nationally or internationally, Mission Support enables us to have a greater impact in communities — working together to share God's abundant grace with others.

Your Mission Support funds a variety of churchwide ministries.

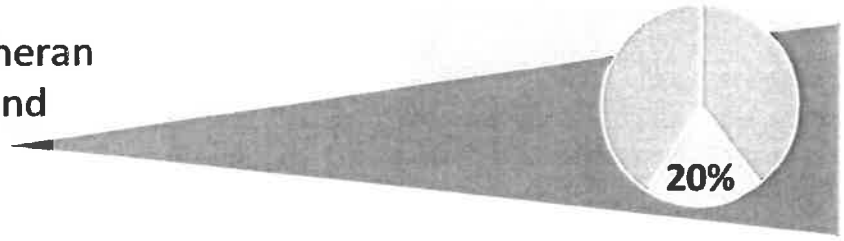
39% builds Christian communities in the United States by:



Thank you for $242,907 from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod for these ministries!

- Planting and supporting hundreds of worshiping communities.
- Revitalizing congregational ministries and reaching out to their surrounding communities.
- Promoting leadership opportunities, discernment and education through leadership initiatives.
- Supporting the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 ELCA colleges and universities.
- Hosting events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.
- Supporting regional work through directors for evangelical mission as well as candidacy and leadership managers.
- Preparing and implementing a system for recruiting and assigning rostered ministers.

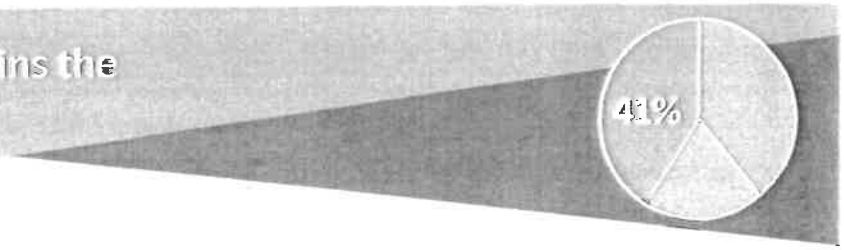
Another **20%** grows the global Lutheran church and addresses issues around the world by:



Thank you for $124,568 from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod for these ministries!

- Accompanying new Lutheran churches, expanding ministries, and training leaders and evangelists.
- Sending missionaries to accompany communities around the world.
- Addressing social issues and working for justice.
- Cultivating and maintaining relationships with 149 other churches through the Lutheran World Federation to strengthen the church and its global work.
- Fostering relationships between ELCA synods and 65 companion churches, for a total of 127 official relationships.
- Working with leaders and members of our African-descent, American Indian, Alaska Native, Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latiné communities.

Finally, **41%** strengthens and sustains the ministry and mission of the whole church by:



Thank you for $255,363 from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod for these ministries!

- Offering ministry resources and opportunities to lay leaders for networking.
- Coordinating and supporting churchwide ministries.
- Developing social messages of the ELCA as topical documents — called for by ELCA churchwide assemblies and adopted by the ELCA Church Council — to focus attention and action on timely, pressing matters of social concern to the church and society.
- Providing governance, including maintenance of rostered leadership records and support for the ELCA Church Council and triennial ELCA churchwide assemblies.
- Sustaining ecumenical and interfaith relations.
- Partnering with congregations and ministries across the church as they explore new, innovative ways of being church in a constantly changing world.
- Investing in technology and communications.
- Growing and sustaining financial resources.
- Engaging in research and strategic planning.
- Creating and sharing resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship.

Thank you for your ongoing support and faithful partnership! For stories of your impact, visit **LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA**. To find additional Mission Support resources, visit **ELCA.org/SOFIA**.

Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Front Row: Kristina Johnson Dernier, Pr. Genelle Netland, Pr. Rebel Hurd, Kathy Levenhagen (SAM), Joan Meulebroeck, Pr. Chris Leach. Back Row: Pr. Keith Pearson, Pr. Dennis Preston, Bp. Bill Tesch, Dn. Jon Leiseth, Pr. Jon Olson

Full and Part-time staff:	Ministry Focus:
***Pr Bill Tesch**, Bishop (605) 351-8098 (cell) (218) 299-4015 (office) btesch@cord.edu	• Providing pastoral care to the synod • Preaching the Word and teaching the faith • Leading the synod in vision, mission, values and goals, including as president and CEO • Cultivating and sustaining relationships with faith, interfaith and community partners
***Pr Rebel Hurd**, Associate to the Bishop for Mission, Director of Evangelical Mission (605) 759-7869 (cell) (218) 299-4447 (office) rebelhurd@cord.edu	• Caring for ministers and congregations • Missional Vision and Planning • Congregational vitality and renewal • Generosity Cultivator • Supporting mission starts • Coaching Network, Jeremiah 29, Companion Synod Relationships, Social and Racial Justice
***Pr Genelle Netland**, Associate to the Bishop (218) 979-3643 (cell) (218) 299-4017 (office) genellenetland@cord.edu	• Accompanies faith community and rostered minister transitions, including call processes and roster management • Caring for ministers and congregations • Shares Community and Leadership coverage for conferences 3 & 5 with Bp Bill and 1 & 2 (interim) • Constitution and Synod Council business
***Pr Keith Pearson**, Minister for Generosity (218) 234-2158 (cell) (218) 299-4012 (office) keithpearson@cord.edu	• Synod Generosity Pilot Project Lead • Donor Relations • Synod Fundraising strategy and implementation

Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Full and Part-time staff:	Ministry Focus:
Dn Jon Leiseth, Office Administrator (218) 299-3019 jmleiseth@cord.edu	• General inquiries and support • Office management • Executive support for Bp Bill and Pr Rebel • Contributions and income
Joan Meulebroeck, Financial and Data Systems Specialist (218) 299-4010 jmeulebroeck@cord.edu	• Executive support for Pr Genelle • Payroll/Portico • Record keeping and bills • Data management

* indicates full-time staff, ** indicates part-time staff

Contracted Staff:	Ministry Focus:
Pr Devlyn Brooks devlynbrooks@cord.edu	FACES of Leadership Coordinator and Storytelling Champion
Br Jeff Brown brotherjeff@lutheranfranciscans.org	FACES of Leadership Faith Practices Champion
Kristina Dernier krisdernier@cord.edu	Minister for First-Third [beginning February 1]
Kip Fontaine (218) 280-6507 (cell) ofont@gvtel.com	SAM Coordinator
Mary Frances francesconsultingcompany@gmail.com	Jeremiah 29 Project Coordinator
Pr Chris Leach (701) 740-6857 (cell) chrisleach@cord.edu	Minister for Community and Leader Engagement (Bemidji (4) and Detroit Lakes (6) conferences)
Pr Jon Olson (218) 205-4748 (cell) jonolson1@cord.edu	Minister for Vocations
Pr Melissa Pickering (701) 540-8660 (cell) mpickering001@luthersem.edu	Rural Revival Ministry Mission Developer
Pr Dennis Preston (320) 491-2422 (cell) dennispreston@cord.edu	Minister for Community and Leader Engagement (Alexandria (8) and Fergus Falls (7) conferences)
Pr Tiffany Sundeen tiffanysundeen5@gmail.com	FACES of Leadership Emotional Intelligence Champion
Rev. Dr. Aaron Suomala Folkerds aaron.suomalafolkerds@mnstate.edu	Minister for Health and Wellness
Pr Matt Williams prmatt1977@gmail.com	FACES of Leadership Adaptive Leadership Champion
Cheryl Zeh candidacysupport@nwmnsynod.org backgroundchecks@nwmnsynod.org	Administrative Support for Candidacy and Background Checks

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Concordia College
Moorhead, MN 56562

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Office Hours: Mondays-Thursdays from 9am-noon, 1-4pm
(Fridays by appointment only)

2024 SAM Report/Parish Education Update

Thank you for all your support as I navigate what it means to be a fulltime minister, seminary student at Luther Seminary, wife and mom. I appreciate all of you that check in with me and put up with my often-frazzled brain. I am enjoying everything that I am learning, and I know that these challenges are only pushing me to grow to learn all the ways that I can better service this community inside and outside the church walls! Last year our Star Word for the parish was RELATIONSHIP, and I do feel like we have lived into that as a parish. I've seen you out and about in the community. I've seen you show up to events that you may have not attended in the past. We've continued our relational work in the community with food ministry, grief group, chatting with new faces in our buildings, connecting at community events, and checking in on each other through the hard.

We've tried new things for connecting with our preschool kids in the community. We started Faith Friday, which is our full day faith education day on Fridays! We have 8 kids that are coming. They get a lesson from me in the morning using the Whirl All Kids curriculum, faith-based projects, playtime and fellowship! It has been a great edition, and we are so blessed that Kelsey Armstrong has been teaching and helping serve our community with more faith education. Confirmation has been going well! We have 10 very active students enrolled in Confirmation. We have been learning about the Old Testament this year using the FaithInkubators curriculum. The kids enjoyed the end of the year overnight and were already coming up with ideas for another one in 2025! We have a great group of youth in our parish!

I'm proud of you all for showing that we can be active in the community. Don't stop now! Keep it up in 2025. This year was the practice we needed to carry us into 2025. Our 2025 Star Word is LEADERSHIP. And honestly, I am not sure what that means for us as a parish. What are we leading through or towards? How are we setting examples as Christian leaders in our community? We can't forget our relational work in 2025.

If I'm being honest, I'm tired. My body and mind are craving a slowdown, but I believe it is a slow down with intentionality. This year let's focus on leading with intention. Maybe that is focusing on our baptismal promises and making sure we are using that lens for all we do. Maybe we are being called to lead the Christian community in ways that we do not even see yet. I do not have the answers, but with faith, hope and love, together we can move the church into 2025 without fear.

Your sibling in Christ,
Calista Wolf

Building and Grounds Committee Annual Report, 2024

There's not enough room in all of heaven for you, LORD God. How could you possibly live on earth in this temple I have built? But I ask you to answer my prayer. This is the temple where you have chosen to be worshiped. Please watch over it day and night and listen when I turn toward it and pray. 1 Kings 8:27-29 (Contemporary English Version)

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The role of the Building and Grounds Committee is to be responsible for the overall management, maintenance and repair of the congregation's property.

Their responsibilities include, and are not limited to the following:

- Developing plans and setting priorities for the short- and long-range maintenance of the building and grounds, and organizing efforts to complete them (i.e. identifying building-related expenses for improvement and repairs, finding volunteers to work on projects, hiring contractors, etc.),
- Inventorying contents of church building and other structures on the property
- Reviewing insurance policies (annually) and making recommendations to the Council,
- Paying attention to OSHA guidelines and other safety issues (i.e. fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, exit lighting, etc.),
- Maintaining indoor/outdoor equipment (i.e. check for safety/cleanliness of electrical appliances, playground equipment, etc.),
- Identifying (annually) individuals to serve as janitors, lawn maintenance, and others as needed
- Scheduling clean-up events (i.e. interior cleaning including carpets, window washing, spring clean-up of grounds, trimming trees and shrubs, etc.),, *and*
- Other responsibilities as identified by the Building and Grounds Committee and/or requested by the church council.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (2024):

Co-Chairs: Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269, cell / kenhorntvedt@gmail.com
Jerry Gubbels (634-2218, home, 218-434-3403)
Council Liaison: Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269, cell)
Members: Eugene Mollberg (218-368-4159, cell)
John Perala (218-395-0531, cell)
Roger Erickson (218-929-7749, cell)

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. **Purchased 2 picnic tables with memorial fund monies.**
2. **Moved the Bible Camp bell to its permanent location.**
3. **Replaced the rain gutter on the west side of the church.**
4. **Installed plastic countertop on the serving counter in the picnic shelter.**

PLANS FOR 2025:

Our Goals: In addition to the ongoing work of the committee (above), we plan on locating and raising grave lot markers that have been covered up.

Congregational Life Committee Annual Report 2024

"May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples." Genesis 28:3 (NIV)

Role of the Committee:

The role of the Congregational Life Committee is to focus on the fellowship and special ministries of the members of the congregation. Their responsibilities included activities such as:

- Congregational Breakfasts (i.e. Rally Sunday, Epiphany, Easter, other)
- Social Activities (i.e. Summer Picnic, Family Nights, Men's Fishing Derby, other)
- Special Speakers and Programs (Women's Luncheon, other)
- Honoring Elders (Christmas Remembrance, Summer Brunch, other)
- Honoring Youth (Activity Bags for Worship, Nursery, Last day of SS lunch, other)
- Advent Festival / Trim the Tree
- Adopt-a-Family (i.e. at Christmas, back-to-school, ongoing)
- Other responsibilities as identified by the Congregational Life Committee and/or requested by the church council

2024 Accomplishments:

The committee never had a formal meeting during 2024, though this didn't stop people from stepping up and taking on a variety of activities and projects throughout the year.

Book Lending Library. Our thanks to Leah Stephani and Shelley Pepera for creating a great space for the "lending library" using one of the old basement Sunday School rooms. Several members of the congregation enjoy reading and having access to books at the church!

Youth Activity Bags for Worship. We continued to make activity bags available, though they probably weren't sorted and restocked as often as they could have been…we'll try to focus on this a bit more often in 2025!

Bulletin Board. Thank you Lynne Reierson and Carol Erickson for updating the bulletin board to give the area a fresh new look!

Puzzle Lending Library. We continued to collect puzzles (originally donated to us by First Lutheran Church). It seems the variety and selection of puzzles is ever changing, so thanks to those who have donated puzzles to the collection.

The Kids Table. A table at the back of the sanctuary was added this year to be used by some of the "littles" during worship and as an extra space for Sunday School lessons

Christmas Cards to those 80+. This has been a tradition for decades and we thank Carol Brune for sending those out on behalf of the congregation.

Santa Anonymous. Thank you to members of the congregation who donated $723 this year. The council also voted to give an additional $177 to support that program.

Honoring High School Graduates.

We gifted quilts to Alexis Anthony, Emma Johnson, and Kayman Sonstegard during the May 19 worship service…and served cake in their honor during fellowship time after the service. The quilters this year were Laurie Mollberg (sewed Alexis' quilt), Carol Erickson (sewed Kayman's quilt) and Jody Horntvedt (sewed Emma's quilt).

GOALS FOR 2025:

The committee will meet in 2025 to make a plan for the year. We will discuss (in addition to the ongoing work of the committee noted above) ways to involve more people in a variety of congregational activities. Some of those things committee members have lifted up previously for consideration include:

- ➔ Sewing Class (for youth and adults)
- ➔ Mystery Dinner for Families
- ➔ Cooking Classes (herbs, artisan breads, pizza, etc.)
- ➔ Bake and Take Day
- ➔ Just Say Thanks event

We welcome other ideas that members of the congregation have to suggest. And if you'd like to get in on the fun, consider joining our committee in 2025!

Submitted by Jody Horntvedt

Hospitality and Service Committee Annual Report, 2024

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:9-10 (NIV)

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The role of the Hospitality & Service Committee is to plan for the food and special recognition events in the life of the congregation.

Specifically,

- Coffee/Refreshments (serving after Sunday worship, Lenten worship, others)
- Funerals (serving refreshments, meals, etc.)
- Special Celebrations (Mother's Day, Graduation Sunday, Father's Day, Confirmation Sunday.)
- Special Events (serving for anniversary or birthday parties, Women of the ELCA events, weddings, etc.)
- Kitchen Management (ordering supplies – paper products, juice and coffee, other items – and organizing and cleaning the space – ordering cleaning supplies, scheduling annual cleaning, etc.)
- Other responsibilities as identified by the Hospitality & Service Committee and/or requested by the church council

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: (2024)

Chairperson: Judy Griffen (218-434-0513), cell/ jegriff@mncable.net)

Council Liaison:

Members: Janeva Erickson (634-2480, home / deejay56623@hotmail.com)
Laurie Mollberg (634-1092, home / elmollberg@centurylink.net)
Carol Brune (634-1700, home / brune.carol@yahoo.com)
Sandra Sindelir (612-581-8087 cell)
Merlyce Gubbels (634-2218, home/ merlycegubbels@gmail.com)
Sheri Gibbins (218-368-5134)cell/ moosetracks@wiktel.com
Shelley Spears (218-434-0618)

Individuals identified to help with special projects:

- Coffee after Church: Judy Griffen
- Kitchen Supplies Sub-Committee: Laurie Mollberg

2024 Accomplishments: The Hospitality Committee served for 4 funerals this year. We also served coffee after church on numerous occasions.

Plans for 2025: We would like to encourage more members to contribute to the "goodies" (homemade or purchased) after Sunday worship. We also would like to encourage more members to help with serving after worship,

Submitted by Judy Griffen

Outreach Ministries Committee Annual Report –2024

"They have spread their gifts around to poor people. Their good works continue forever" Psalm 112:9

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE: The role of the Outreach Ministries Committee is to promote and direct projects and activities focused on assisting those in need in the local community and beyond.

Committee Members: Sheri Gibbins, Shelley Spears, Janeva Erickson, Judy Griffen

- In March, the Bakeless Bake Sale was organized and distributed to the Women of the Wabanica Church to decide which missions to support this year. We collected $1035.00 which was distributed to 4 organizations, each receiving $258.75. Those organizations were: LLS Nutritional Board, Friends Against Abuse, Brink Center,and the Backpack Program.
- In March $210 was raised and donated to the Food Shelf.
- Quilts that were made went to the following:

  11 quilts to people in a Care Center
  10 quilts were sold or given to individuals
  10 quilts to the Veterans Hospital in Fargo
  10 quilts to the Peoples Church in Bemidji (Homeless Shelter)
  20 adult quilts and 7 child quilts to the Village of Hope in Bemidji (Family Shelter)
  25 quilts to the Sunshine House in Grand Forks

  Total of 93 quilts

- We received some donations of sheets for backing and material for squares or squares already cut, throughout the year as well as Thrivent Funds for batting. Our former summer quilter who sent us 14 quilt tops she had made last year, sent us 34 more tops this year. She also donated money for batting. We thank all those who have contributed and worked to make our quilts.
- We would like to encourage more people to join us for quilting, whether you sew or not. We can find other things for you to do, or join us for coffee at 10:00.

Submitted by Judy Griffen

Wabanica Endowment Committee Report, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Brian Peterson (term ends Jan 2026)
- Jody Horntvedt (term ends Jan 2027)
- Bruce Streich (term ends Jan 2028)

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Committee works under the advisement of the Wabanica Council. The committee is responsible for managing the congregation's two endowment funds: 1) Mission Endowment Fund *(for programs and activities such as community service and outreach, supporting the wider mission of the ELCA, and Christian education, worship and music)*, and 2) Memorial/Cemetery Fund *(for cemetery maintenance and upkeep, and special items internal and/or external to the church building)*. They are also responsible for monitoring distributions from the Funds, making recommendations for grant distributions from the Mission Fund, and encouraging new gifts to the Funds.

SPECIAL ITEMS TO NOTE:

Establishing the Funds. The first deposit to the funds were as follows:

- Memorial/Cemetery Fund on April 14, 2023 for $25,000
- Mission Fund on April 24, 2023 for $25,000 *NOTE: The Wabanica Council added an additional $50,000 to this fund on August 10, 2023.*

Fund Balances. The current value of the funds are as follows:

- Mission Fund = $87,608.36 *[total interest earned = $12,608.36]*
- Memorial/Cemetery Fund = $30,259.47 *[total interest earned = $5,259.47]*

Fund Distributions. At the January 2023 Annual Meeting it was agreed to suspend distributions from the Funds for the first two years. *NOTE: This means that no funds will be distributed from either fund until 2025.*

Gifts to the Funds. Gifts can be made to either of the endowment funds at any time throughout the year. Checks are to be made payable to Wabanica Lutheran Church with a designation or memo to the desired fund. Gifts will be tracked by the congregation's financial secretary and reported back to each individual on the annual Statement of Giving form.

GOAL FOR 2025:

Determine Processes and Protocols for Managing the Funds. In 2025 the Endowment Committee will need to:

1. Discuss and put into writing the protocols/thresholds for transferring money to the endowment funds
2. Discuss education and promotion needed to encourage giving to the endowment funds
3. Determine the process for fund requests for the annual distribution of endowment funds.

Submitted by Jody Horntvedt, Endowment Committee Recorder (January 2025)

2024 Wabanica Council Officers, Members @ Large & Committee Members

Council Officers:	***Terms are 2 years, with a maximum of 2 consecutive terms***
President: Roger Erickson (218-929-7749) **Vice President:** Brian Peterson (612- 220-5556) **Secretary:** Shelley Pepera (218-368-6279) **Treasurer**: Doris Nelson (218-766-1616) **Financial Secretary**: Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269)	3rd term began Jan. 2024-2026 2nd term extended Jan. 2022-2025 _____ 1st term began Jan. 2024-2026 4th term began Jan. 2023-2025 _____ 3rd term began Jan. 2024-2026
Members at Large: Shelley Spears (218-434-0618) Gloriann Fischer (218-202-0071) Leah Larson (218-434-0184)	***Terms are 3 years with a maximum of 2 consecutive terms.*** 1st term began Jan. 2022-2025 _____ 2nd term began Jan. 2024-2027 Elected 2024 to fill term (Jan. 2023-Jan.2026)
Church Committees: 2023 *(Unlimited terms)* ***Chairperson**	
Buildings and Grounds *Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269) Jerry Gubbels (218-434-3403) Roger Erickson (218-929-7749) John Perala (218-395-0531) Jerry Rierson (320-212-9020)	**Endowment** *Brian Peterson (612-220-5556) Bruce Streich (612-247-4550) Jody Horntvedt (218-689-0281)
Congregational Life *Jody Horntvedt (218-689-0281) Carol Brune (218-634-1700) Carol Carlson (612-597-1163) Carol Erickson (218-929-7767) Deb Perala (218-434-0215) Wendy Peterson (612-812-1942) Lynne Reierson (320-894-0235) Vicki Streich (612-247-3984)	**Education** Sarah Pierson (218-202-1873)
Outreach *Judy Griffen (218-634-1009) *Sheri Gibbins (218-368-5134)	**Hospitality & Service** *Judy Griffen (218-634-1009)
Stewardship *Roger Erickson (218-929-7749) Doris Nelson (218-766-1616) Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269)	

Appointments and Volunteers 2024-2025:

Jobs/Positions	*2024*	*2025*
Altar Guild	Laurie Mollberg, Jerry & Merlyce Gubbels, Leah Larson, Deb Perala, Bruce & Vicki Streich	
Musician	Jody Horntvedt	
Music Playback Volunteers	Carol Erickson, Leah Larson, Sarah Pierson, Shelley Pepera, Wendy Peterson, Gus Hasbargen	
Custodians	Roger Erickson	
Groundskeepers	Roger Erickson/Brian Peterson (summer) Eugene Mollberg/Ken Horntvedt (winter)	
Cemetery Records	Eugene Mollberg, Ken Horntvedt	
Memorial Fund	Ken Horntvedt	
ELCA Women Contact	Judy Griffen	
Guest Book	Carol Brune	
Cheer: Get Well/Sympathy	Carol Brune	
Historians	Doris Nelson, Marsha Beckel	
Wedding Book/Policies	Laurie Mollberg	
Nominating Committee	Council	
Auditing Committee	Brian Peterson, Bruce Streich	
Pizza Night Coordinators		
Synod Assembly Delegates	Shelley Pepera and Leah Larson	