

# OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharing Christ's Love With All - Fulfilling God's Mission With Our Hands!

Annual Report 2025





**ANNUAL REPORT - YEAR 2025**  
**OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Congregational Meeting – January 25, 2026**



***Sharing Christ's Love With All - Fulfilling God's Mission With Our Hands!***  
**✠ Coming Together ✠ Growing in Faith ✠ Serving the Lord ✠**

**Vision:**

A welcoming Christ-centered community, growing in faith and encouraging active participation in God's calling

**Values:** We believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior, therefore we value the following:

- Worship that celebrates our hope through Jesus' resurrection
- Relationships that reflect God's grace
- Compassion for all
- Christian education that encourages questioning and exploration
- Inclusive decision-making

**Focus Areas: Coming Together, Growing in Faith, Serving the Lord**

**Coming Together**

- Foster an inclusive community where everyone is valued and encouraged to share their talents
- Support the development of children, youth, young adults and young families through ministry, engagement, and active participation within the congregation
- Enhance connections between young families and older members
- Build and strengthen deep relationships within the congregation by engaging in meaningful interaction to grow and nurture faith

**Growing in Faith**

- Create environments and opportunities for faith formation, fostering spaces for wonder, questioning and reflection
- Engage in diverse worship practices that inspire spiritual growth, celebrating togetherness as a full congregation through worship and expressive music events
- Establish a variety of "connect groups" to spark interest in various areas
- Emphasize practices in worship that equip participants for faithful living in daily life

**Serving the Lord**

- Connect the Gospel to our service activities, recognizing Jesus' teachings on loving one another
- Spread the good news through acceptance, action, and benevolence
- Serve one another, our communities, the wider world, and God's creation with compassion, enhancing our mission and expanding our presence in the community
- Continue collaborating with existing community service organizations to broaden service opportunities in Collinsville, Maryville, Edwardsville, Glen Carbon, Troy, and SIUE areas

## CONDENSED AGENDA

(The detailed agenda is the body of this report)

<b>Call to Order:</b> Karen Cummings-Larson .....	
<b>Opening Litany:</b> Pastor Stephanie Doeschot.....	pg. 1
<b>Adoption of Agenda:</b> Karen Cummings-Larson.....	
<b>Minutes of the 2024 Congregation Meeting:</b> Karen Cummings-Larson .....	pg. 2
<b>Motion for Council to Approve 2025 Congregation Meeting Minutes:</b> .....	
<b>Election of Church Council Members:</b> Karen Cummings-Larson .....	pg. 7
<b>Election of Synod Assembly Delegates:</b> Karen Cummings-Larson .....	pg. 7
<b>Official Acts:</b> .....	pg. 8
<b>Pastor's Report:</b> Pastor Mauricio Vieira.....	pg. 10
<b>President's Report:</b> Karen Cummings-Larson .....	pg. 11
<b>Discover &amp; Invite Team Report</b> .....	pg. 12
<b>Contract Review Team Report</b> .....	pg. 13
<b>Solar Energy Report</b> .....	pg. 14
<b>Ministry Teams Report for Education:</b> Kathy Nehrt .....	pg. 16
<b>Ministry Teams Report for Fellowship:</b> Cindy Pugh.....	pg. 21
<b>New OLLC Ministry – College Connection</b> .....	pg. 21
<b>Ministry Teams Report for Service:</b> Carol Orr .....	pg. 28
<b>Ministry Teams Report for Technology:</b> Ed Foppe .....	pg. 36
<b>Ministry Teams Report for Worship:</b> Jan Vinson .....	pg. 37
<b>Traditional Music Report:</b> Director of Music for Sundays & Special Services .....	pg. 38
<b>Non-Traditional Music Report:</b> Director of Non-Traditional Worship Music .....	pg. 39
<b>Special Guests During Worship</b> .....	pg. 40
<b>Property &amp; Grounds Improvements</b> .....	pg. 41
<b>Giving Emphasis Team Report:</b> Gail Jorgenson .....	pg. 42
<b>Summary of Giving</b> .....	pg. 44
<b>Treasurer's 2025 Report:</b> Laura Schoenecker .....	pg. 45
<b>Discussion of 2026 Budget:</b> Karen Cummings-Larson.....	pg. 52
<b>Old Business:</b> Karen Cummings-Larson.....	pg. 53
<b>New Business:</b> Karen Cummings-Larson .....	pg. 54
<b>Motion to Adjourn:</b> Karen Cummings-Larson .....	pg. 54
<b>Closing Prayer &amp; Benediction:</b> Pastor Stephanie Doeschot .....	pg. 54
<b>Message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry</b> .....	pg. 55

## OPENING LITANY

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

**And also with you.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Amen.**

**Our Lord's Lutheran Church  
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2025**

Our Lord's Lutheran Church ("OLLC") held its Annual Congregational Meeting on January 25, 2025 in the Church's Fellowship Hall.

Attendance included the Church Council's President (Karen Cummings-Larson), Vice-President (Emily Truckenbrod), Secretary (Jeanette Goetter), Treasurer (Laura Schoenecker), Member at Large (Linda Hester), Pastor (Darla Ann Kratzer) and 43 members of the congregation.

Karen Cummings-Larson called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm, which was followed by Pastor Kratzer providing the opening Litany.

The Agenda was presented by Karen Cummings-Larson. Terry Ackerman made a motion to approve the Agenda, Carol Gocken seconded the motion and the motion was carried by all present.

Karen Cummings-Larson presented for review and approval the Minutes from the 2024 Congregational Meeting. Dave Gocken motioned to approve the Minutes. Emily Truckenbrod seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by all present.

Karen Cummings-Larson requested that the Council be allowed to approve the 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes at the February 2025 Council Meeting. Tim Schoenecker motioned that approval be granted. Erick Larson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present.

Karen Cummings-Larson advised the Congregation that Council's Vice-President (Emily Truckenbrod), Secretary (Jeanette Goetter), and Member at Large (Linda Hester) have completed their term on the Church Council. Nominations were made to appoint Emily Truckenbrod to another term as Vice-President, Terry Ackerman as the Secretary and Steve Perry as the Member at Large. Dom Echevarria motioned to approve the nominations. Deb Ackerman seconded the motion and the motion was carried by all present. Karen Cummings-Larson further advised that she would remain on Council as President and Laura Schoenecker would remain as Treasurer as their terms have not yet expired.

It was announced that OLLC is in need of 1 youth, 1 adult male, 1 adult female, and a third adult -either male or female- to serve as delegates at the 2025 Synod Assembly. Ed Foppe volunteered to serve as the adult male delegate. Laura Foppe volunteered to serve as the adult female delegate. Ginger Trucano motioned to accept Ed and Laura as adult delegates. The motion was seconded by Carol Gocken and was carried by all present.

Pastor Kratzer gave a written summary of the official acts performed in 2024, as well as her 2024 Annual Report.

Karen Cummings-Larson presented the President's Report for 2024.

The Identity & Action Team consisting of Deb Ackerman, Terry Ackerman, Dom Echevarria, Nona Echevarria, Anna Foppe, and Steve Perry presented their Mission, Vision and Values Review Report. They also made the following proposals:

- Rewording the Mission Statement from "Called to Share Chris's love with all" to "Sharing Christ's Love With All - Fulfilling God's Mission With Our Hands!"
- Editing the Vision Statement from "To be a Christ-centered place of belonging." to "A welcoming

Christ-centered community, growing in faith and encouraging active participation in God's calling." Erick Larson motioned to adopt the reworded Mission Statement and the newly edited Vision Statement. Ginger Trucano seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present.

The Contract Review Team (Bruce Fritz, Steve Perry and Dennis Lutz) provided their written report for the Congregation's information and review.

The Ministry Support Team Leaders presented their annual written reports. Teams and leaders include:

- The Education Ministry Teams leader was Kathy Nehrt. Areas that fall under this team are below and written reports were provided by the indicated lead where noted with an \*
  - Children's Christmas Program led by Lisa White\*
  - Children's Saturday Events
  - Confirmation Class was led by Pastor Kratzer\*
  - Cradle Roll led by Susan Peterson\*
  - Devotional Ministries led by Pastor Kratzer\*
  - Education Summit
  - Feeding the Soul Bible Study led by Pastor Kratzer\*
  - First Communion Class led by Pastor Kratzer\*
  - High School Sunday School Class led by Debby Gunderson\*
  - Monday's Questions Bible Study led by Dona Racich\*
  - Morning Glories Bible Study led by Debby Gunderson\*
  - New Member Class
  - Pre-K to 5th Grade Sunday School Class led by Lisa White\*
  - Sunday's Adult Education led by Dona Racich\*
  - Vacation Bible School led by Lisa White\*
- The Fellowship Ministry Teams leader was Cindy Pugh. Areas that fall under this team are below and written reports were provided by the indicated lead where noted with an \*
  - Crafts & Laughs led by Cindy Pugh\*
  - Herding Alphas (new ministry) led by Maureen "Mo" Johnson and Jodie Nehrt\*
  - Hospitality led by Cindy Pugh\*
  - Late Boomers led by Lori Fremder, JoAnn Hartke & Lori Messina w/ Loretta Williams handling publicity\*
  - OLLC Concert Series (new ministry) led by Olivia Cross\*
  - Our Lord's Youth Group led by Pastor Kratzer\*
  - Pet Expo led by Pastor Kratzer\*
  - Rally Day
  - Reformation Celebration

- Saturday Fellowship led by Cindy Pugh and Kay Chaffee\*
- Serendipity Book Club led by Elaine Baden\*
- Sunday Hospitality led by Cindy Pugh and Kay Chaffee\*
- Valentine's Dinner and Concert led by Pastor Kratzer\*
- Young Adult Groups
- The Service Ministry Teams leader was Carol Orr. Areas that fall under this team are below and written reports were provided by the indicated lead where noted with an \*
- Card Ministry
- Casserole Care Ministry
- Christmas With Our Neighbors led by Carol Gocken and Karen Tilashalski\*
- Devotional Ministry
- Elmwood Project & General Store
- Fair Trade led by Mike Williams. In addition to his written report Mike provided additional information about the Fair Trade store verbally at the meeting.
- First Responders Breakfast (2024 God's Work, Our Hands Activity) led by Cindy Pugh\*
- Funeral Luncheons led by Cindy Pugh and Debbie Gunderson\*
- Holiday Card Ministry led by Loretta Williams\*
- Kitchen Ministry led by Cindy Pugh\*
- Lay Worship Leaders led by Cynthia Haggitt from January through October\*
- Maryville Outreach Center led by Carol Orr\*
- Mind The Gap
- Office Angels led by Cynthia Haggitt from January through October and volunteer office staff in the months of November and December\*
- Our Lord's Crafters led by Karen Cummings-Larson, Vicki Lottes, Kathie Brady and Kathy Nehrt\*
- People In A Pickle led by Dave Gocken. Dave provided a verbal report at the meeting.
- Prayer Chain led by Cynthia Haggitt from January through October and volunteer office staff in the months of November and December\*
- SOS Soup Kitchen led by Gail Jorgenson\*
- The Technology Ministry Teams leader was Ed Foppe. Areas that fall under this team are below and written reports were provided by the indicated lead where noted with an \*
- Audio led by Ed Foppe\*
- Cybersecurity led by Ed Foppe\*
- Facebook
- Streaming
- Visual Support
- Website led by Ed Foppe\*
- The Worship Ministry Teams leader was Rhonda Comrie in 2024. Jan Vinson will fill this role in 2025. Areas that fall under this team are below and written reports were provided by the indicated lead where noted with an \*
- Altar Guild led by Laura Schoenecker\*
- Bell Choir
- Blended/Special Service
- Chancel Choir

- Greening of the Church
- Non-Traditional Music/Praise Band led by Olivia Cross\*
- Praise Band Music ProPresenter led by Benji Maynard\*
- Saturday Worship
- Seasonal Services led by Cady Thomas from January through mid-September. Rhonda Comrie is the interim coordinator. \*
- Sunday Worship Hymn Planning led by Cady Thomas from January through mid-September. Rhonda Comrie is the interim coordinator.\*
- Traditional Music led by Cady Thomas from January through mid-September. Rhonda Comrie is the interim coordinator. \*

An annual written report was presented by the Giving Emphasis Team leader Gail Jorgenson. Additional members of the team included Meagan Weiser (January through August), Ann Schwarzkopf, Jeanette Goetter, and Pastor Kratzer.

Karen Cummings-Larson provided an update on the property and grounds improvement projects which included the installation of dusk-to-dawn lighting on the Church's sign, landscaping of the Life Center and the solar energy panels installed on the Life Center and Worship Center.

Laura Schoenecker provided a written and oral 2024 Treasurer's Report. Linda Eakin made a motion to approve the 2024 Treasurer's Report and Erick Larson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present.

Laura Schoenecker provided a written and oral 2025 Income and Spending Plan/Budget. Ginger Trucano motioned to approve the 2025 Income and Spending Plan/Budget. Dom Echevarria seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present.

Karen Cummings-Larson provided status updates regarding the 2024 priorities in the areas of the new ministries of Herding Alphas and the OLLC Concert Series, Pastor Lottes' Ordination Anniversary Celebration, Rally Day, First Responders' Breakfast, Spaghetti Dinner/Concert, Annual Church Picnic, the development of a Finance Advisory Committee and a Contract Review Team, as well as the solar project funding and progress.

New business was brought forth by Karen Cummings-Larson included:

- In January 2025 OLLC received its first installment of its federal Employee Retention Credit (ERC) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is no word on when the next installment will be received. The Church's accountant prepared and filed all the paperwork regarding the ERC on a contingency agreement. The agreement was ERC funds would be used to pay the accountant's invoice for professional services in full before OLLC retained any of the ERC funds. This first ERC installment will satisfy the contingency agreement with the accountant in full and provide OLLC with a net deposit.
- The condition of the Worship Center and Life Center parking lots and their need for repair/maintenance was discussed. The congregation was presented with the estimated costs for the repair/maintenance, the suggestion of using the net funds from the Employee Retention Credit and the surplus money raised from the solar project to apply to the repair/maintenance costs. It is expected there will be a shortfall of no more than \$2,500 after the application of those monies. It was proposed that to



cover the shortfall funds from the 2025 Income and Spending Plan/Budget's line item of Building and Grounds be used. Loretta Williams motion to approve this plan. Deb Perry seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present.

- The Church Council's priorities for 2025 include:
  - Providing resources and support to members in the development of ministries
  - Providing resources and support as members come together to build and strengthen relationships
  - Working to support and sustain ministries and practices that foster faith formation
  - Serve as a model to others through voice and action in sharing the word and teachings of Jesus

Karen Cummings-Larson advised that she had no other business to present to the congregation. Ginger Trucano motioned to adjourn the meeting. Deb Ackerman seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present.

Pastor Kratzer closed with a prayer and benediction.

The meeting concluded at 7:23 p.m.

## **ELECTION OF 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS** **CURRENT COUNCIL**

On behalf of the Our Lord's congregation, we would like to thank the following Church Council members for their dedicated service this past year:

**President:** Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson  
**Vice-President:** Dr. Emily Truckenbod  
**Member At Large:** Vacant

**Treasurer:** Dr. Laura Schoenecker  
**Secretary:** Dr. Terry Ackerman

### **COMPLETING TERM ON CHURCH COUNCIL**

**President:** Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson (completed 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> Two-Year Term)  
**Treasurer:** Dr. Laura Schoenecker (completed 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> Two-Year Term)

### **REMAINING ON CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Vice President:** Dr. Emily Truckenbod (completed 1<sup>st</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> Two-Year Term)  
**Secretary:** Dr. Terry Ackerman (completed 1<sup>st</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> Two-Year Term)  
**Member At Large:** Vacant (completed 1st year of an open Two-Year Term)

### **NOMINATIONS**

**President:** Gail Jorgenson  
**Treasurer:** Laura Schoenecker  
**Member At Large** (1 year of term remaining): KaLonny Short

*Additional nominations can be made from the floor to fill the above positions.*

### **MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM VACANCIES FOR 2026**

**Fellowship:**  
**Service:**  
**Technology:** Maureen Johnson

*Ministry Support Team members are appointed by Council and do not require a congregation vote.*

## **ELECTION OF 2026 SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES**

Our Lord's Lutheran Church is eligible for four voting members (1 Male, 1 Female, 1 Male or Female, and 1 Youth) to attend the 2026 Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly based on the number of baptized members.

The 2026 Synod Assembly will be held Saturday, June 6, via Zoom. In-person "Synod Days" with worship, workshops, and a meal will be held in each conference in the fall.

**Male:** no nomination yet  
**Female:** no nomination yet

**Male or Female:** no nomination yet  
**Youth:** no nomination yet

## **2025 OFFICIAL ACTS**

### **BAPTISMS – 2**

**Beckham Dean Clark** – May 17, 2025

**Paul Robert Hancock** - Nov. 2, 2025

### **CONFIRMATIONS – 1**

**Kaitlyn Blotevogel** – May 4

### **FIRST COMMUNIONS – 0**

### **FUNERALS/INTERMENTS** (3 members)

**Leonard Stensland** – died January 15, 2025

Memorial service held at Meridian Village, Glen Carbon, January 25 w/ Pr. Darla Ann Kratzer officiating

**Andrew Kassing** – died February 26, 2025

Memorial service at Our Lord's Lutheran Church, March 8 w/ Pr. Darla Ann Kratzer officiating

**Daniel Homes** – died December 14, 2025

Memorial service at Our Lord's Lutheran Church, December 23 w/ Pr. Mauricio Vieira officiating

### **FUNERALS/INTERMENTS** (3 members, services officiated elsewhere)

**Barbara Watz** – died April 5, 2025

Memorial service held on April 12

**Rachel Evelyn Lee** – died July 23, 2025

Graveside service held August 9 at Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Glen Carbon

**John Louis Puricelli** – died November 9, 2025

Celebration of Life held on November 15

### **DEDICATION**

**Pastor Charles Miller** - died March 4, 2025

Memorial service held April 4 at Lutheran Church of the Atonement

Tree planting and dedication at Our Lord's Lutheran Church, October 14 w/ Pr. Mauricio Vieira officiating

### **TRANSFERS IN – 2**

**Karen Missey** – May 18

**Karen Schneider** – May 18

**TRANSFERS OUT – 2**

**Pastor Darla Ann Kratzer** – June 5 – transferred to Peace Lutheran, Springfield

**Pastor Tom Kratzer** – July 21– transferred to Peace Lutheran, Springfield

**Steve & Deb Perry** – October 25 – transferred to Faith, O'Fallon, IL

**WEDDINGS – 0**

**2025 MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY**

Baptized 418              Confirmed 325

**PASTOR'S REPORT FOR 2025**

Interim Pastor Mauricio Vieira

*August 1, 2025 – January 4, 2026*

Grace to you, beloved of God, and peace from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I will not tire of saying this. I was a joy to serve as Interim at Our Lord's for the past 5 months or so. Despite the pastoral situation I came in, the Spirit was with us from the get-go.

First, the Spirit carried you. You kept your faith and passion for ministry going. Your willingness to serve Christ did not dwindle. Everyone stepped in. The level of dedication from Karen and Laura in the office day to day before the hiring of the new administrative assistant was amazing. The ministry to the community was fantastic. Hospitality and fellowship were great! The faith formation crew remained on point. The working bees kept doing their thing. Tech and IT were flawless, and the music ministry was absolutely delightful. A big shout-out goes to Addison, Rhonda, and Olivia, and all our paid and volunteer musicians. The Discover and Invite group is doing outstanding work. Our Lord's is a healthy and strong community of disciples, ready to do what the Spirit has next.

It also definitely carried me. Again, I learned a lot, but I also discovered gifts I did not know I had. Perhaps, I did not have them before, but the hospitality and vitality you showed in our ministry together, despite the adversities, certainly rubbed off on me in a good way. I feel so blessed and honored to have served you. I have so many lessons and memories to carry with me in such a short period of time.

Remain patient and generous with each other, disciples of Our Lord's in Maryville. Ministry for Jesus Christ is always challenging. Nonetheless, I am confident the future is bright for this faith community. You will call a pastor who is ready to go with you where the Spirit will lead you.

Keep walking by faith and not by sight!  
God's blessings Everyone!



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2025**

Karen Cummings-Larson, President

When I look back on 2025 I am inspired by the unwavering faith and dedication of the members of Our Lord's. The congregation truly embodies the teachings of Jesus in their actions and 'walks the walk' as disciples of Jesus.

- I am grateful your support and understanding during challenging times, especially during the months following Pastor Kratzer's resignation.
- I am thankful to everyone that offered assistance each time I called, emailed, or texted asking for advice &/or assistance.
- I appreciate your kindness and acceptance as you welcomed Pastor Vieira and his family to OLLC.
- I am thankful for the hard work provided the Worker Bees; the service of the OLLC education staff; the dedication of weekly worship servants; and the efforts and talents of everyone involved in organizing and supporting various events.
- I admire your community outreach and volunteerism with the Maryville Alliance, Grandma's Attic, Collinsville Faith in Action, African Vision of Hope, HHH, Partners for Pets, and other community organizations.
- I am proud of your ongoing support of OLLC and community events including the Maryville Festival, OLLC Concert Series, the Pet Expo, First Responders Breakfast, and Scouting for Food.
- I am grateful for the community outreach and assistance that you offer to people with food and housing insecurities through SOS, People in a Pickle, Mind the Gap, and other OLLC ministries.
- I am delighted when I think of the guests speakers and special appearances at OLLC during the year.
- I feel sad knowing we had no choice but to end our ministry with Elmwood/Wellcare; however, I look forward to new opportunities that will come to OLLC in the future.
- I am thankful for the work being done by the Discover & Invite Team and look forward to the year ahead as we continue in the call process for a new pastor.
- And, I am overwhelmed by your generosity and outpouring of financial support of ministries that reach beyond the walls of OLLC. Through your generosity more than **\$55,000\*** was given directly or indirectly in support of individuals and organizations in local, national, and international communities.

2025 was a year of change. Although change and transitions are a normal part of church life, change is never easy. Look at change as an opportunity to consider new possibilities and to reflect on what God has planned for our congregation. Let go of fear and uncertainty and focus on the positive aspects of change; focus on the good that is going on at OLLC. Trust in God's purpose and remain steadfast. During this period of transition, I pray that you continue to "walk the walk." Rejoice and give thanks knowing that God has a plan.

Yours in Christ, Karen Cummings-Larson

- Amount includes:  
9% Synod Benevolence Giving, 1% Local Benevolence Giving, special collections, and designated giving allocated for community outreach programming (SOS, People in a Pickle, Mind the Gap, & Disaster Relief)

### **Discover & Invite Team Report**

Team Members: Deb Ackerman, Nate & Mo Johnson, Erick Larson,  
Jodie Nehrt, Karen Schneider, and Pastor Mauricio Vieira

The Discovery and Invite (D & I) Committee first met in September to begin the call process using a guide for completing the Ministry Site Profile. Our task is to research and reflect on the congregation of Our Lords to truthfully represent the strengths and challenges we've seen over the last few years and share that information to provide a baseline of information for potential pastors to review and consider. The D & I committee members from the congregation include Deb Ackerman, Nate & Mo Johnson, Erick Larson, Jodie Nehrt, and Karen Schneider with guidance from Pastor Mauricio through December. At each session, members take on roles of facilitator, charter, and gofer in rotation to keep all of us engaged and focused session to session.

After reviewing the process and intent of the Ministry Site Profile, we began studying our church. The group reviewed the last five years of annual reports and pulled insights from the data and reports to find themes across the purpose, characteristics, goals, and programs of Our Lords. As part of this process, we collected responses directly from the members and attendees at two consecutive weekends of services and via an online form to ask everyone to share what they feel is the purpose of OLLC.

Once this information was collected and we studied the communities we serve, we began posting the charts generated in our meetings in the hospitality area of the church to share our work with the rest of the congregation and invite feedback. Session after session, we are developing a clearer picture of the congregation and how to represent it to the rest of the world. We have some strong thoughts about how to improve or changes that could be considered, but we always pull the focus back to the goal of the D & I committee: determining what is true about us now and how can we both *show* our pride for the accomplishments of financial stewardship, stability, building and grounds improvements, program offerings, and worship music variety, and *share* our concerns with hope for a pastor who is ready to walk alongside and encourage us in new ways as a congregation.

We are now ready for more input from the congregation about what they look for in the next pastor, and then we will begin to draft the formal responses to the Ministry Site Profile and submit our final report to the council. We have three more sessions in the guide to finalize this and complete the profile, which will likely take us through the early weeks of Lent to achieve.

## **CONTRACT REVIEW TEAM REPORT 2025**

Team Members: Bruce Fritz & Dennis Lutz

January 3, 2026

The team met with Brian Greenway (Corvus representative) several times in the past to review the Corvus contract and to discuss cleaning issues that the church had (including but not limited to the staining in the toilets and sinks as well as the apparent lack of routine cleaning in multiple areas of the buildings). We were assured that Brian would talk to Marco and the situation would be resolved. We have seen some improvement in the hard water stains in the toilets and sinks but we are still experiencing cleaning issues. Bruce reached out to Brian several times over the last two months in an attempt to set up a meeting to further discuss the issues we are having with inconsistent cleaning. Brian has not been responsive.

We feel we have given Corvus every opportunity to respond to our concerns and the time has come to take further action. Rather than breaking the yearly contract currently enforced, we feel the best way to proceed is to begin talking with other cleaning companies and be in a position to move to a new company when the Corvus contract expires in July.

We have received several proposals in the past from Buildingstars; however, their proposals have always contained a higher monthly cost than Corvus. Also, Buildingstars is a St. Louis-based franchise similar to Corvus and the company and its processes are structured similarly to Corvus. We will interview Buildingstars, but plan to also interview several locally owned cleaning companies. We found 3 local companies that clean commercial facilities that are highly rated. They are:

1. Ellis Janitorial in Edwardsville
2. JR Solutions in Glen Carbon
3. Farris Industrial Janitorial in Caseyville

The following is being recommended by the contract team:

1. Send Corvus a notice of non-renewal at the beginning of May, 2026
2. Interview Buildingstars and one or more of the above-mentioned local companies with the goal of having a new company selected, contract negotiated and ready to start providing service in July, 2026 when the current Corvus contract ends.

Bruce Fritz  
Dennis Lutz

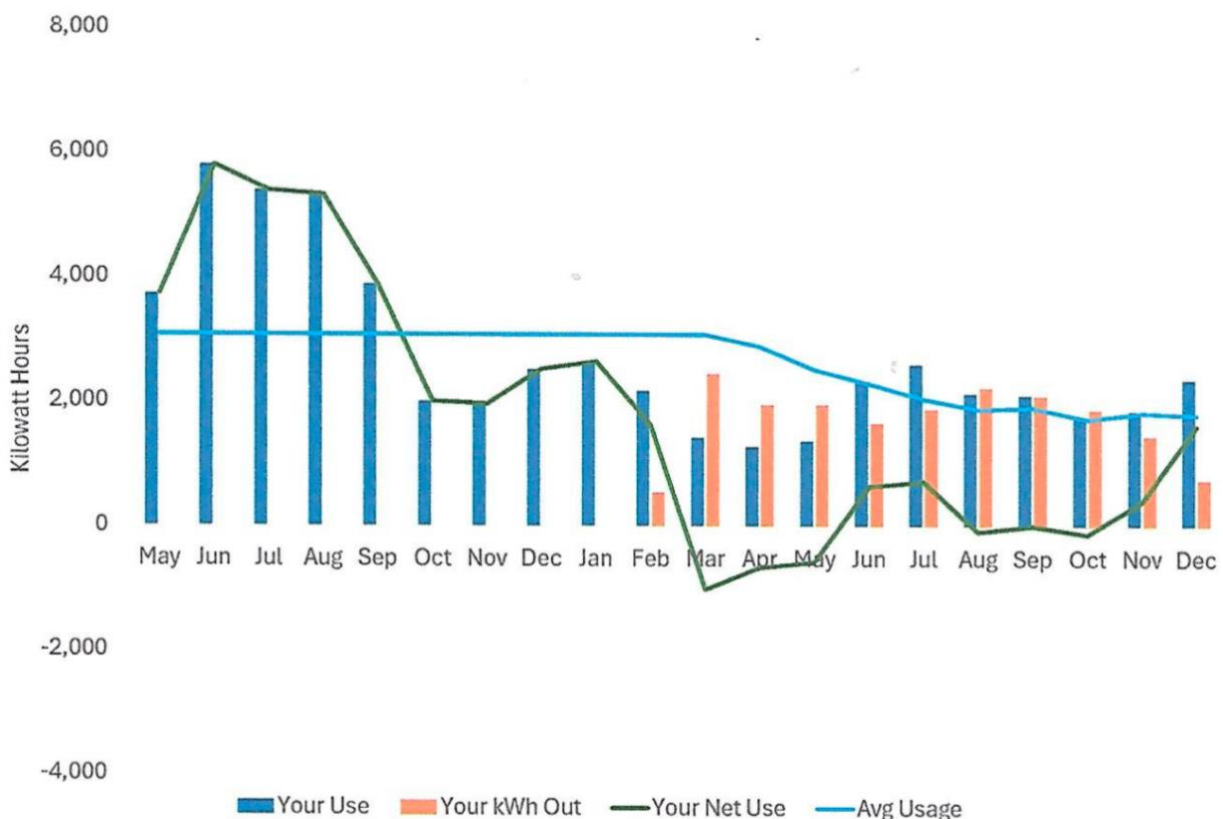
## **SOLAR ENERGY REPORT 2025**

Laura Schoenecker & Karen Cummings-Larson

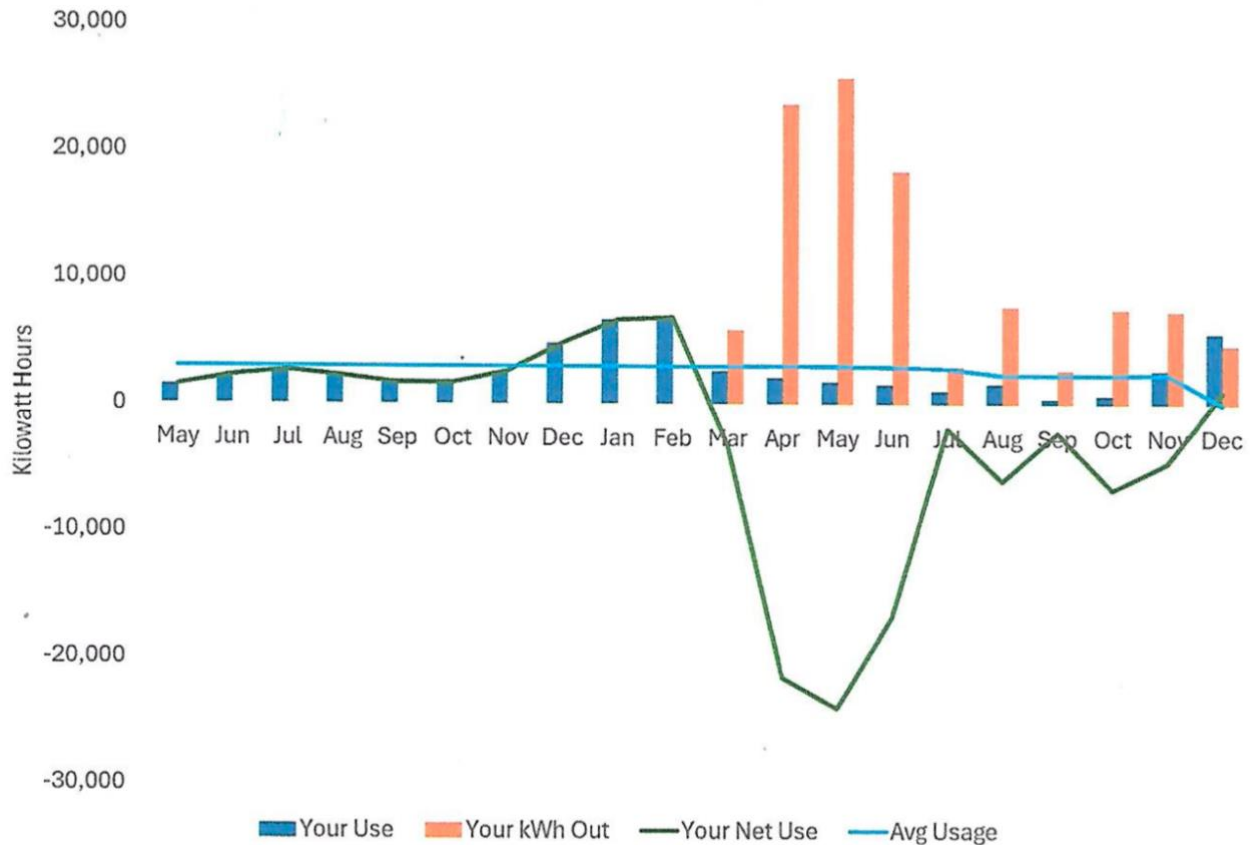
The solar panels were installed in the final days of 2024 and were 'live and on the grid' in February 2025. It took several weeks for Ameren to complete the final inspection before the system could be turned on. Since then, we have been producing solar energy. There were some issues with the monitoring equipment but that seems to have been resolved.

There is now sufficient data to provide a report on solar panel performance. Graph 1 compares the electricity usage for May 2024 through December 2025 for the Worship Center and Graph 2 compares the electricity usage for May 2024 through December 2025 for the the Life Center. The Worship Center graph (see Graph 1) illustrates that the panels produced more energy than was used for 6 months of the year, only during July and December did we use more energy than was produced. During July several of the thermostats in the building had been lowered below the normal set temperatures and the AC units were working extra hard during the heat of the summer; the thermostats have been changed and password protected to discourage this from occurring again. The Life Center graph (see Graph 2) illustrates that the panels produced more energy than was used for 9 months of the year; only during December did we use more energy than was produced.

Graph 1: Worship Center Electricity Usage



Graph 2: Life Center Electricity Usage

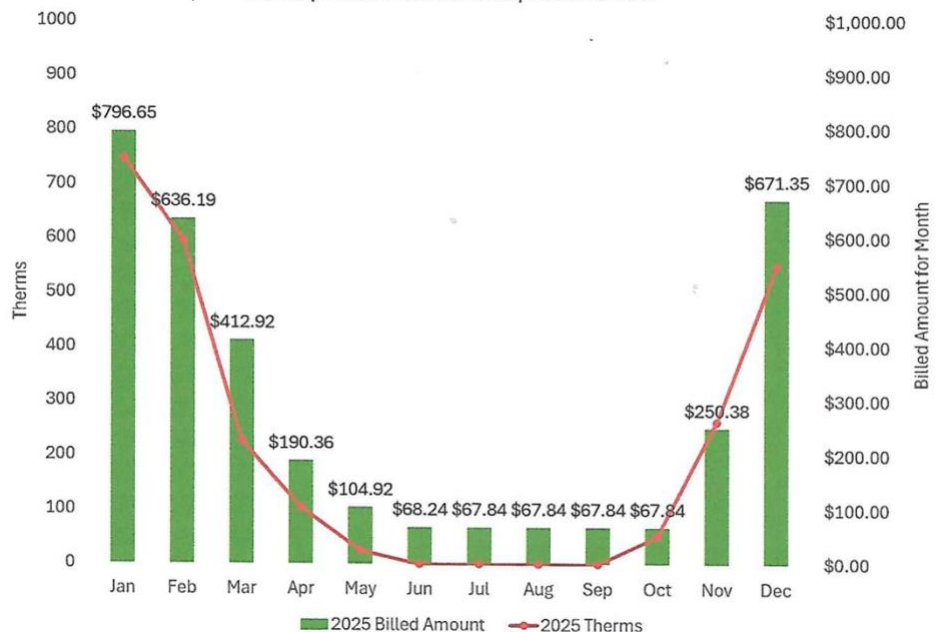


In order to track cost savings and energy usage, the gas consumption and cost for the Worship Center is illustrated separately from the electricity usage (see Graph 3). The Life Center is all electric energy; the Worship Center uses both natural gas and electric.

*As a reminder....*

In the summer of 2024, over \$40,000 was generated through "Here Comes the Sun" to cover approximately 1/3 of the cost of the solar energy project. The monies collected paid the first installment on the solar project and a personal loan was secured for the remaining funds (\$90,000). The SRECs (anticipated \$56,034), the Federal Tax Refund (anticipated \$36,046), and remaining funds from "Here Comes the Sun" (\$7,038) will pay off the personal loan.

Graph 3: Worship Center Gas Consumption and Cost





## **MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS 2025**

The 2025 Ministry Support Team consists of **Kathy Nehrt** (Education), **Cindy Pugh** (Fellowship), **Carol Orr** (Service), **Jan Vinson** (Worship), and **Ed Foppe** (IT). The position of **Director of Member Ministries** (who is to serve as the coordinator of this team) is currently vacant.

## **EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAMS**

### **Kathy Nehrt**

*Education Ministry Teams include the following ministries: Adult Education (Sunday), Questions Bible Study (Monday), Children's Christmas Program, Children's Saturday Events, Confirmation Class, Cradle Roll, Devotional Ministries, Education Summit, Feeding the Soul Bible Study, First Communion Class, High School Sunday School Class, Morning Glories Bible Study, New Member Class, Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School Class & Vacation Bible School*

### **Adult Education, Bible Study: Jim Lempke**, Team leader

Attendance for Sunday Adult Bible Study was very low in 2025. Due to transportation issues, Jim will no longer be leading adult education on Sunday mornings. Until another instructor steps forward or demand increases and Jim makes other arrangements, adult education on Sunday mornings is discontinued.

### **Questions Bible Study: Dona Racich**, Team Leader

This year the Monday class studied "The Dead Sea Scrolls" a 24 lecture series taught by Professor Gary Rendsburg of Rutgers University. In 1947, the discovery of ancient documents in caves near The Dead Sea shook the world of biblical studies. All told, 930 documents were found. This was the most important discovery of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The class is begins at 10 am and ends promptly at 11 am. one hour long. Come join us on Mondays for an intensive study of what these documents teach us about Jewish life and Jesus.

### **Confirmation Ministry, Pastor Kratzer/Pastor Vieira**, Team Leader

In the Fall, after conversations with the Education Ministry Team and the Families, it was decided that the confirmation classes would take place every other week on Sundays after worship. There would be 2 class sessions per day with a meal to be shared in between. *The Heat to Heart Curriculum for Faith Inkubators* was kept. Due to the transitional nature of my staying with Our Lord's, I introduced a new "Baptismal Promises" unit from the same curriculum. Such a unit was completed in the Fall. The new confirmation instructor may continue with the remaining of the curriculum for the Spring adjusting the dates and schedule. All materials and files were left with the Education Ministry Team.

### **Cradle Roll: Susan Peterson**, Team Leader

Cradle Roll is a program for new parents and their child/children that begins at birth and continues until the child turns three years old and is eligible for Sunday School. The materials used are from Augsburg Fortress Publisher called "Splash" The parents receive a parental support newsletter called "Parent Pages." Each issue of Parent Pages helps families incorporate faith formation into the events of daily life that contain lively, engaging ways to enjoy Bible stories, prayer, worship, and devotion times with their young children. Because

none of the activities require elaborate preparations or materials, families can try out ideas from the Parent Pages during everyday activities. Each year, families also receive a CD with age-appropriate music, such as lullabies for children from birth to 12 months. Our Lord's currently has three children receiving Cradle Roll materials.

**Devotional Ministry: Pastor Kratzer** (thru June, 2025), **Volunteer Office Staff** (June-December), Team Leaders

Christ in Our Home booklets provided by this congregation give participants brief daily devotions. Special seasonal devotional resources are provided during the Advent & Christmas seasons and during Lent. Booklets and calendars are selected for each age group. Lisa White reviews the options from Creative Communications for the Parish for Sunday School children. Pastor Kratzer looks at what is designed for our tweens and teens. In 2025, we used a big bold Lenten Calendar designed by ELCA World Hunger for adults. The Lenten devotional booklets complimented the focus on hunger and feeding ministries. The Advent devotional was a colorful calendar from Creative Communications for the Parish was enjoyed by many. If you have suggestions for future authors or themes for devotional materials in future seasons, please let us know.

**Feeding the Soul: Dave Gocken**, Study Coordinator

Study, sharing, and mutual support are at the heart of Feeding the Soul. Fourteen participants meet in the Worship Center Fellowship Hall on Wednesday afternoons. We spend approximately half of our time together sharing highs and lows, praying together, and encouraging one another. The other half is spent reading and discussing books – sometimes books of the Bible and other times books about the Bible. We began the year studying the book "Making Sense of the Cross" by David Lose and finished the year discussing, "Hiding God's Word in Our Hearts: A Collection of Bible Studies" by Marvin McMickle.

We welcome additional participants at any time. No preparation is necessary. We read aloud sections of the books we use to guide our time of study and discussion.

**First Communion Classes: Pastor Kratzer**

"Fed and Forgiven" is both the curriculum and the focus for our annual preparation of third-grade students to receive communion. Four Biblical stories guided the children as they discovered how communion connects us with God's saving love. There were no students enrolled in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade during 2025.



**High School Sunday School Class: Debby Gunderson**, Team Leader

We met each Sunday of the school year at 10:15am in the High School Youth Room, Harry's Hangout. The two students in class were both seniors. We discussed how and why to continue their faith journey after graduation. There were no students for the fall session.

**Morning Glories Bible Study: Debby Gunderson, Team Leader**

This study is for women. God has blessed us and we have added more members. We now number 17, both members and members' friends. In 2025, we used the Women of the ELCA study that is included in *GATHER* magazine. In our study we read passages from the Bible and learn how the Bible can help guide us in our faith journey. In June, we switched to studying from a Max Lucado study, "Life Lessons from Acts: Christ's Church in the World". Our studies give members the chance to share how God has worked in their lives.

Again this past year, we had the opportunity to have a guest speaker, Dr. Ander Beristain, an Assistant Professor at St. Louis University. He shared his experience of a program that St. Louis University has in place at Bonne Terre Prison, Missouri. He is working with prisoners who would like to learn to speak Spanish. Our class explored the possibility of donating materials to facilitate the class in the prison and in February ended up collecting the items below:

In May, we collected for the Mother's Day Diaper Drive that was done through State Senator Erica Harriss' office. Our members donated cash to purchase items from the list of baby items that were requested.

Ander again came to provide us with an update on how the materials that we donated were being used and to thank us for our donations. He joined us at our Christmas brunch to provide this update. After our brunch, we packed Christmas cookies and candies to be delivered to our shut-ins and members recovering from illness.

We meet in the Fellowship Hall on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month all year except Holy Week, Thanksgiving and Christmas week. We would love to have more members. Contact Debby Gunderson for details.



*ALL women of Our Lord's and friends are welcome!*



**Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School, including the Children's Christmas Program and Vacation Bible School: Lisa White, Team Leader**

We have been blessed with another wonderful year in our Children's Sunday School Program. From our preschoolers learning "Jesus Loves Me" to our older children exploring God's Word, we have seen God at work in many young hearts through Bible stories, fun activities, songs, crafts, and prayer, helping the children grow in faith and love.



In June, our Return to the Jerusalem Marketplace Vacation Bible School brought Bible times to life as children dressed in period clothing, enjoyed crafts and snacks, and learned about Jewish



customs. We also continued our Thinking of You card ministry, sending handmade cards to members on our prayer list and to homebound individuals, helping our children share love and compassion.







One of our year's highlights was the Children's Advent Program and St. Lucia Festival of Lights on December 13, followed by fellowship with traditional Swedish foods and treats, and congregational members sharing childhood memories of St. Lucia celebrations.



As we look ahead to 2026, we warmly invite you to share our ministry with others. If you have grandchildren, friends, neighbors, or co-workers with children who would like to join us, please extend a personal invitation. Sunday School meets weekly from 10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. in the Life Center classrooms. Details about Vacation Bible School, including dates and times, will be shared in the monthly newsletter and weekly bulletins.

Thank you for the many ways you uplift and support our children's ministry. With joyful hearts, we look forward to all that God has planned for the year ahead.

Love and Blessings, Lisa White



## **FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAMS**

### **Cindy Pugh**

Ministry Support Team Member with Fellowship Emphasis

*Fellowship Ministry Teams include the following ministries: College Connection, Crafts & Laughs, Herding Alphas, Late Boomers, Hospitality, OLLC Concert Series, Our Lord's Youth Group, Pet Expo, Rally Day, Reformation Celebration, Saturday Fellowship and Sunday Hospitality, Serendipity Book Club, Valentine's Dinner & Concert, and Young Adult Groups.*

### **NEW MINISTRY -----College Connection: Karen Cummings-Larson**, Team Leader

College Connection Teams were designed to support and encourage OLLC college students as they navigate their education. A group of dedicated church members (ministry groups such as Morning Glories, Boomers, OLLC Crafters, Bible Study, or individuals/family groups, etc.) stay in touch with college students through emails, texts, or notes, offering encouragement and support during their college years. The team reaches out to the college student at holidays, provides encouraging comments, and prayers. Small gifts and care packages may be sent as well but are not required. The intent is for the congregation to simply stay in touch and express well wishes. In 2025, three college students were supported by a College Connection Team.

By implementing these strategies, Our Lord's will connect with the congregation's college students and provide them with support and encouragement to make a difference in their academic and personal lives.

### **Crafts & Laughs: Cindy Pugh**, Team Leader

Due to work schedules, travel commitments, and other responsibilities Crafts & Laughs was on hiatus during 2025. There are plans being made for Crafts & Laughs to begin once again in 2026, but not on a monthly basis. Watch for information in the monthly newsletter and weekly announcements.

### **Herding Alphas: Maureen 'Mo' Johnson, Jodie Nehrt**, Team Leaders

The Herding Alphas group was formed to provide some additional fellowship and learning opportunities for the families with Sunday School aged children at Our Lords with the hope that the group would grow in numbers and continue to provide connection as the children grew older. We scheduled monthly events, including a fishing outing at Drost Park, bowling, an arcade day, and participation in the Feed our Starving Children community event, but we had low turnout and last minute conflicts that resulted in a pause for reflection in what the young families in our congregation are ready for. While the group is reconsidering, we are still participating in monthly board game afternoons that are open to all members of the congregation and encourage multi-generational interaction on a regularly scheduled 2nd Sunday of each month.

**Late Boomers: Lori Fremder, JoAnn Hartke & Lori Messina, Team Leaders, Loretta Williams, Publicity**

The Late Boomers is a group of members and friends who are mostly from the Baby Boomer generation or are just interested in hanging out with the Boomers! The purpose of the group is to provide a social outlet for fellowship, friendship and sometimes Social Ministry endeavors. We have had as many as 10-24 people at Boomer events. The Boomers have built close lasting relationships, have celebrated weddings, births, and birthdays, and gone on trips together. We also lean on each other during adversity, pray for each other and their families when needed and grieve with each other.

In 2025, the Late Boomers' activities included eating at Ravanelli's in January, met at Wine for the Win in Troy for gaming and eating pizza & salad from Imo's Pizza in February, and in May, we ate out at Fire-N-Smoke Wood Fire Kitchen in Troy. During May, a few of us supported Lori Fremder on the occasion of her Ordination as a deacon in the Ecumenical Catholic Communion at St. Stanislaus Polish Catholic Church in St. Louis. In June we went to the Ackerman's home for boat rides on the lake, grilled meats and potluck dishes. July's meeting was at Boogies in Maryville for delicious food and conversation. In August, the Jorgensen's hosted a Hawaiian-themed pool party with fruity drinks and yummy food. In September, we returned to the Jorgensen's for a football-themed party complete with live music by the Mind Benders Band, featuring Jeff Waterman. Also, in September we met at the Messina's home for heartwarming soups and other potluck dishes, and played board games. October's event was the Fremder's annual Halloween Party complete with costumes. The last event of the year was Friendsgiving hosted by the Ackermans. All these events are open to all and are great ways to catch up with each other.

As for Social Ministry activities, Boomers participated in the Maryville Fall Festival, which unfortunately was rained out, as well as the Collinsville Faith in Action Yard clean up, both events in October.

If you would like to be involved in the Late Boomers events, we will be putting notifications in the weekly announcements, monthly newsletters and our Late Boomers Facebook Page. You don't have to be a Baby Boomer or an Our Lord's member to participate in the group activities. You don't have to participate in every event. (We have travelers among us!) If you would like to be added to the Facebook group, contact one of the leaders. Come join this extraordinary group of people for fun and fellowship,



**Hospitality: Cindy Pugh, Team Leader**

In 2025, the Hospitality Ministry supported Annual Church Picnic at Willoughby Farm, Easter Breakfast, Parting Celebration for Pastor Darla Ann, Rally Day, and meals for VBS. A Thanksgiving bake sale was held in November, 2025 to raise funds to supply paper products and coffee/teas/creamers for after-worship fellowship - \$400 was collected. Anyone interested in assisting with the Kitchen Team or Hospitality Hosting, can contact Cindy Pugh.





### **OLLC Concert Series: Olivia Cross, Team Leader**

What a year it has been! We successfully put on four concerts over the course of 2025:

#### *Concert 1 – Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner & Concert*



This concert took place in the Fellowship Hall on February 15, 2025, after the Saturday evening worship service. As is tradition, attendees enjoyed a delicious spaghetti dinner prepared by talented volunteers, before sitting back and enjoying a variety of love-themed selections, including classics such as "Time After Time," "Can't Help Falling In Love," and "Misty." All proceeds beyond the costs of the event went to the 2025 Souper Bowl of Caring recipients (Tote Me Home). A total of \$2705 was raised during January/February & the concert.

Participating musicians included myself (**Olivia Cross**), **Addie Mays** (current director of Worship Music for Sundays and Special Services), **Benji Maynard** (current worship technician), **Brian Gunderson** (former music director), **Sharifa Black** (guest musician), and **Peter Billing** (guest musician).



#### *Concert 2 – Concert in the Pines: Memorial Concert for Andrew Kassing*

This concert took place in the Chapel in the Pines on a beautiful spring evening on Friday, May 30, 2025. After Andrew's sudden and tragic passing earlier in the year, I thought it fitting that we celebrate and remember him through music (which was possibly his very favorite thing in the world!). As well as family members and OLLC congregants, audience members included friends, teachers, therapists, and others who had known and loved Andrew throughout his life. It was beautiful and moving to see the impact Andrew had had on the community around him at this event.





The program was a blend of brief remarks and musical selections. Speakers included **Brian Kassing** (Andrew's father), **Kathy Hoelscher**, **Alice Azure**, **Erick Larson**, **Ginger Trucano**, **Max Eakin**, and **Pastor Darla Ann Kratzer**. Songs included some of Andrew's favorite Praise Band hits (Heaven Is In My Heart, Promises) as well as selections exploring grief



and loss (Scars In Heaven, You Raise Me Up, Until We Meet Again). A total of \$463 was raised for Mosaic, an affiliated Social Ministry Organization with the ELCA that assists individuals with disabilities.

Participating musicians included myself (**Olivia Cross**), **Addie Mays** (current director of Worship Music for Sundays and Special Services), **Benji Maynard** (current worship technician), **Brian Gunderson** (former music director),

**Peter Billing** (guest musician), and **Our Lord's Praise Band**. All in all, this was one of the most memorable events I have had the honor of programming at Our Lord's, and I am so grateful that we were able to make it happen. Andrew was present that night and will continue to be so with us in every song we sing.



### *Concert 3 – "Bob and the Beatles"*

This concert took place in the Chapel in the Pines on another beautiful evening on Friday, September 26, 2025. As the title suggests, this concert featured



selections by Bob Dylan and the Beatles – two surprisingly well-connected artists! Moderated by **Erick Larson**, this concert alternated between songs and Dylan or Beatles-

related trivia, relayed to us by Bubba himself. As the sun set, we performed classics such as "Boots of Spanish Leather," "Hey Jude," and "Here Comes The Sun," concluding with the ever-





relevant "The Times They Are A-Changin'." During the evening a collection was taken for Sandy Hook Promise; \$246.25 was raised. Sandy Hook Promise provides education and training for students and teachers to stop school shootings and prevent gun violence.



Participating musicians included myself (**Olivia Cross**), **Addie Mays** (current director of Worship Music for Sundays and Special Services), **Benji Maynard** (current worship technician), **Peter Billing** (guest musician), and **Patrick Dent** (guest musician and choir member at OLLC). This was a fun and light- hearted evening of beloved music and gorgeous weather.

#### *Concert 4 – "That Time of Year"*

This concert took place in the Fellowship Hall on December 20, 2025, after the Saturday evening worship service. **Benji Maynard** (current worship technician) programmed this concert, and while the song list is full of familiar titles, many were slightly unusual in their arrangements. This kept the evening both entertaining (for the audience) and challenging (for the musicians). Some favorites of the night were "Christmas Time Is Here" (featuring Benji on saxophone and Patrick on euphonium), "Blue Christmas" (sung Elvis-style by Brian), and "A Child Is Born" (featuring the Michael Bublé-style vocals of Benji!).

Participating musicians included myself (**Olivia Cross**), **Benji Maynard** (current worship technician), **Brian Gunderson** (former music director), and **Patrick Dent** (guest musician and choir member at OLLC). **Addie Mays** was scheduled to perform but unfortunately was ill on the day of the performance. (*sorry, no pics from the Christmas Concert*)

Special "Thank You's!" this year go out to **Benji Maynard**, for wearing countless hats every year in his service to the congregation (and his help to me!), and to **Karen Cummings-Larson**, for ever-present administrative assistance and guidance through many seasons of change at Our Lord's.

Through all the ups and downs of the past year, it has remained clear to me that music serves not only as a valuable part of worship, but as a meaningful and effective way of building and preserving community. Concerts are a place for all – those grieving, those rejoicing, and those simply wanting to spend an evening with loved ones. Our Lord's concert series is a great way to offer beautiful music and hospitality at Our Lord's, and I am filled with encouragement and inspiration for next year's events. In 2026, we will kick things off with the annual Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner & Concert on February 14. Please join us!

*Olivia Cross (Director of Non-Traditional Worship Music)*



**Our Lord's Youth Group:**  
**Pastor Darla Ann Kratzer**  
**(January – June),** Team

Leader

For the first half of the year, we met monthly in the youth room. In April, we participated in the Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Event in



Edwardsville. Confirmation students and other members of the congregation attended the Mobile Pack Event as well. In May, we bid farewell to two graduating seniors.



Thank you so much to all the members of this congregation who support the youth with prayers, treats, and funding. We are so grateful that the fundraising efforts of the pre-pandemic years continues to support youth activities.

**Saturday Fellowship & Sunday Hospitality:** Cindy Pugh & Kay Chaffee, Team Leaders

Food brings people together. Fellowship following Saturday evening service and hospitality on Sunday morning is going strong. Saturday nights are usually light suppers serving between 15-20 people. Sunday mornings consist of breakfast pastries, fruit, & cookies serving between 10-20 people. We are always looking for individuals to assist with fellowship and hospitality. We encourage anyone interested in hosting on Saturday or Sunday to join the fun. If taking on the responsibility of hosting seems too much for one person, perhaps co-hosting would be an option.



**Serendipity Book Club,** Elaine Baden, Team Leader

The Book Club meets monthly, usually the third Monday of the month. The group gathers in the Life Center Conference Room. A book is selected each month – watch the monthly newsletter for the name and author. This is a very informal group that enjoys reading and discussion and having fun together. Would love to have you join us.

### **Pet Expo: Pastor Kratzer, Team Leader**

After much conversation with demonstrators, vendors, and team members, it was decided to move the Pet Expo to Spring. Saturday, April 12 was the day for this family-friendly event. The change from a fall event to a spring expo was well-received. Planned events included: canine demonstrations, face painting, teddy bear clinic, rescue organizations, resurrection donkeys, reading to your pet, pet blessings, prairie walk, vendors, and door prizes. Rescue organizations participating in the expo included Renee's Rescue Sanctuary, Catty Shack, and Happy Trails Horse Rescue. Attendees and their pets saw demonstrations from Got Your Six Support Dogs and River King Newfoundland Club and received pet education information from Village Veterinary Hospital and Horseshoe Lake Animal Hospital.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pet Expo would not have happened without assistance from sponsors including: Thrivent, Traveling Tails Inn Stay & Play, All Natural Pet Center, PAWS Pet Market, and Whisker Bones Supply Company. Thank you to volunteers from Collinsville High School National Honor Society, OLLC members and community volunteers, contributors, and attendees. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!



### **SERVICE MINISTRY TEAMS**

**Carol Orr**

Ministry Support Team Member with Service Emphasis

*Service Ministry Teams include the following ministries: Card Ministry, Casserole Care Ministry, Christmas With Our Neighbors, Devotional Ministry, Elmwood Project & General Store, Fair Trade, First Responders Breakfast, Funeral Luncheons, Holiday Card Ministry, Kitchen Ministry, Lay Worship Leaders, Maryville Outreach Center, Mind The Gap, Office Angels, Our Lord's Crafters, People In A Pickle, Prayer Chain, SOS Soup Kitchen.*



**Christmas with our Neighbors: Carol Gocken & Karen Tilashalski, Team Leaders**



Our annual tradition of sharing gifts, songs, and fellowship with our neighbors at Well Care Home of Maryville (formerly Elmwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center) was discontinued in 2025 due to the closing of care facility. On June 7 & 8 during worship we "Remembered Elmwood" and recognized this extraordinary ministry. No one can remember the exact year that the OLLC/Elmwood ministry began but we do know it started soon after Our Lord's started worshipping at 150 Wilma Drive in 1969. The interactions between the congregation and Elmwood began when OLLC members offered Elmwood residents rides and assistance to and from worship services and special events. Within a few years, "Christmas With Our Neighbors" was organized and the tradition of Santa visiting Elmwood on Christmas morning began. What started as a ministry to benefit the residents of Elmwood became a ministry that warmed the hearts of the entire congregation. A simple gesture of goodwill developed into a relationship lasting more than 50 years. Thank you to everyone that has offered assistance, bought gifts, visited residents, provided rides, or said prayers for the residents.



**Fair Trade: Mike Williams**, Team Leader

Once again the Fair Trade Ministry had a great year for 2025. We almost always do well when we have extra activities both on and off site. For example Easter (\$400), The Winter Wonderland @ St. John UCC (\$1000), & the two weekends Of the OLLC "Share The Joy" Christmas Store" (\$1500). Though 2025 may have brought new events and ideas, I really liked the name "Share The Joy" for our Christmas event and stuck with it.



For the year we finished up with approximately \$5500 with a weekly average of \$120.

Considering that Ornaments and Nativities are not just seasonal ideas, I continued to expand on it through the year by growing these collections of gifts available.

look forward to seeing SERRV & Equal Exchange discover more Artisans and Small Farmers for them and us to help live better lives.



Yours in Christ, Mike Williams

**First Responders Breakfast ( 2025 God's Work, Our Hands Activity):** Cindy Pugh, Team Leader

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual First Responders Breakfast was held on September 13, 2025. We served approximately 95 meals to First Responders from Troy, Maryville, Collinsville, Glen Carbon, Hamel, Highland-Pierron and Anderson Hospital Emergency Room personnel. Many First Responders from Troy, Maryville, Glen Carbon, and Collinsville Fire Departments were greeted at the church and enjoyed breakfast and fellowship.





Looking forward to sponsoring the Fourth Annual First Responders Breakfast in September 2026.



### **Funeral Luncheons: Cindy Pugh & Debbie Gunderson, Team Leaders**

As part of our service to the bereaved, Our Lords provides meals following funeral services. These meals are made possible by our Funeral Meal Ministry, which is made up of many congregational members serving as team leaders, workers, food donors, and clean-up crew.



Many of our members are the helping hands behind serving meals to the bereaved and their families at a time when even the simplest meal is so very welcomed. Our Lord's is very grateful to those serving in this ministry.

We have two teams that take turns providing funeral lunches; however, when a large number is expected for the funeral meal the two teams work together. When a funeral lunch is scheduled, Team Leaders contact workers, food donors, and clean-up crew. Notice is usually short, but the work is manageable. Meal options are offered to the bereaved families and the team members are called upon to provide salads, side dishes, and desserts. Those who have benefited from this ministry have spoken of how nice it is to be able to gather with loved ones at the time of a loss. This is truly a ministry of compassion and healing. Anyone wanting to assist with this ministry may contact Team Leaders, Cindy Pugh or Debby Gunderson.

**Holiday Card Ministry: Loretta Williams**, Team Leader

Our Lord's has a Holiday Card Ministry directed toward the chronically ill or handicapped, seniors or new members. The Pastor works with me to select those on the list each year. Cards are prepared and mailed to these selected individuals or couples for five holidays each year: Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This ministry is not intended to send cards to those experiencing sudden illnesses like COVID or surgeries, deaths in the family or births, graduations, or any other time other than the original five holidays.

The only cost to the church is for the postage. The first half of 2025, there were 38 cards sent out for the first two holidays, and 32 cards for Easter, a drop in number due to a death and the closure of Well Care Rehabilitation Center (Elmwood) next door. The cost of a first-class stamp at the beginning of the year was 73 cents each, making the cost for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day to be \$27.74 for each of those holidays ( $0.73 \times 38 = \$27.74$ ) and the cost for Easter was \$23.36 ( $0.73 \times 32 = \$23.36$ ). So the postage for the first half of 2025 was \$78.84 ( $\$27.74 + \$27.74 + \$23.36 = \$78.84$ ). Effective July 13, 2025, a first-class stamp was increased to \$.78 each. There were 34 cards sent out for Thanksgiving and Christmas, for \$26.52 each. ( $\$26.52 \times 2 = \$53.04$ ) The total cost for postage in 2025 was \$131.88 ( $\$78.84 + \$53.04 = \$131.88$ ). I purchased the Holiday cards for four holidays in 2025s. I shop at the Dollar Tree at either \$.50 or \$1.00 each card, as a donation to the ministry. The Christmas cards were donated by anonymous donors. Thank you so much!

I have warm feelings of great joy to be able to share these holiday greetings of the love of God with our church family. I pray these cards bring a bit of holiday cheer to all who receive them.

**Kitchen Team: Cindy Pugh**, Team Leader

The Kitchen Team Ministry oversees the operation of the kitchen, including its use, cleanliness, and maintenance of the church kitchen and its equipment. It is responsible for supporting all Church meetings, gatherings, and special events.

**Lay Worship Leaders: Linda Spencer** (January – May), **Volunteer Office Staff** (May - October), **Chelsie Stevens** (November – December), Team Leader

We continue to be blessed with many faithful volunteers who serve Our Lord's on a regular basis. In 2025, we had a dedicated number of ushers, counters, lectors, assisting ministers, camera operators, and projectionists. Thank you to everyone who has served this congregation during this past year!

**Maryville Outreach Center, Carol Orr**, OLLC Maryville Outreach Center Liaison

Grandma's Attic, Food Pantry, and Residents Assistance Program (RAP) are all a part of the Maryville Outreach Center (MOC) and, while overseen by the Maryville Ministerial Association (MMA), is run by volunteers. Our Lord's Lutheran Church volunteers are involved in all three programs.

The Maryville Outreach Center helps people in Maryville, members of Maryville churches, and those who have Maryville water service with rent or mortgage, utilities, and other miscellaneous needs.

The MOC is funded by donations (\$24,509.83) and Grandma's Attic Sales (\$53,805.68). The Food Pantry helps about 25 clients per month with donated items and fresh items purchased by the Food Pantry at a cost of \$4,237.67. They also give out gift baskets at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter along with gift cards (\$1,350.00) to purchase items of their choice such as a turkey or ham. The Pantry also stocks the Blessing Box located near the street by the police station for anyone to use. Grandma's Attic sells clothing and household items to anyone who wishes to shop there. Other items are donated to help the homeless.

The Resident Assistance Program helped with clients' bills in the amount of \$12,507.77. The MOC also donated to Tote Me Home, Amare, Kids Community Bible Study, among other community services. \$15,065.71 was spent on utilities for the MOC building, as well as cleaning, storage and postage. The balance at the end of 2025 was \$113,514.94. The pastors are discussing additional ways to use that money for the community.

**Mind the Gap: Carol Gocken**, team leader

*Our congregation members continue to be generous in their varied ways of supporting Mind The Gap.* Donation of gently used clothing, toiletries, and other personal items are distributed to the homeless in the metropolitan area. In addition, a small, but devoted team of volunteers have been taking turns providing hot meals to serve 60 persons on the second Tuesday of each month as well as the few times the regular MTG cook is unavailable. If you would like to make a meal for Mind the Gap, please contact Carol Gocken.

**Office Angels: Linda Spencer** (January – May), **Volunteer Office Staff** (May - October), **Chelsie Stevens** (November – December), Team Leaders

Office Angels assisted with monthly newsletter assembly, as well as occasional congregational mailing assemblies. Many thanks to all who have assisted the church office with various office tasks throughout this past year! And additional thanks to those who volunteered during May - November to assist with all administrative duties while OLLC was without an administrative assistant.

**Our Lord's Crafters: Kathy Nehrt**, Team Leader

Our Lord's Crafters meet monthly on the fourth Wednesday afternoon from noon to three in the Worship Center Fellowship Hall. We enjoy meeting in fellowship, exploring and sharing crafting skills and ideas. Some of our members cut the fabric to be pieced together into quilt tops or feminine hygiene kits. Others bring their sewing machines and sew together quilt tops which are later finished at home. Feminine hygiene kit bags may be cut out, sewn and then filled. Sometimes other craft projects are completed.

During 2025 sewed and assembled 64 hygiene kits for African Vision of Hope. To date 15 quilts, 41 lap quilts, and 210 hygiene kits have been made by the OLLC Crafters. Donated fabric is used for quilts and hygiene kit bags. Other fabrics and purchased items are used to complete feminine hygiene kits. It seems like we are doing so little but each time quilts or hygiene kits are delivered to AVoH, we are reminded that even the smallest of donations make a big impact on the lives of others. Please join us!

**People in a Pickle: Carol & Dave Gocken, Rod & Carol Orr**, team leaders

People in a Pickle is a ministry of Our Lord's which helps individuals, couples or families who find themselves in a proverbial pickle. Through the church Carol and Rod Orr and Carol and Dave Gocken provide assistance by meeting short term help with food, clothing, gas, stays at motels or anything else the person(s) need. This is funded through donations from church members who support the ministry through financial gifts. Those we assist are usually temporarily homeless. Though homeless, our brothers and sisters tend to be invisible to the public eye as they are not panhandling or in large groups you might see. So far in 2025 we have used approximately \$13,000 in this ministry--over 60 people were assisted averaging a little more than \$200 each. Some of the help provided included: lodging, food, rent, gasoline, utilities and baby supplies.

In November a person who we helped was a 25 year old woman who was pregnant and was squatting in an abandoned house. She had a young dog who had been abandoned and turned down our offer of a couple of nights at a motel. She said her primary need was warm clothing and food as she felt comfortable and safe in the abandoned house where she was squatting. In this instance, Carol Gocken took the young woman to Goodwill in Granite City to pick out clothes she wanted and then to a grocery store to purchase food for she and her dog. It was determined she was receiving prenatal care. The Orrs and Gockens have provided numerous services like this throughout 2025. This ministry would not be possible without your generosity.

**Prayer Chain: Linda Spencer** (January – May), **Volunteer Office Staff** (May - October), **Chelsie Stevens** (November – December), Team Leaders

The Prayer Chain is a dedicated group of prayer warriors that pray for all people identified in our weekly announcements and the monthly newsletter and when special prayer petitions are sent. At last count, we had 33 people volunteering their prayer time. If you would like to be included on this ministry team, contact the office to have your name added to the prayer chain prayer warriors list.

**SOS Soup Kitchen, Julie Preston & Gail Jorgenson**, Team Leaders

Collinsville's Spirit of Sharing (S.O.S.) Soup Kitchen began serving warm meals and offering fellowship to the Collinsville community in 2012. Our Lord's began supporting the mission shortly thereafter. The mission has grown significantly over the years and has become a lifeline for many, serving over 388 patrons weekly. This feeding ministry supported by over 20 churches and civic organizations provided over 19,400 warm meals to our community this year.





S.O.S. serves meals every Tuesday and Thursday. OLLC served meals 6 times in 2025. An average of 8 volunteers from OLLC, and occasionally volunteers from other coalition organizations, gathered to successfully prepare and distribute our meals. OLLC provided 1065 meals in 2025.



The Food Pantry has been able to augment our efforts with ingredients needed for the meal. However as the number of meals served continues to increase, the monthly average cost to OLLC to support our 2025 average of 177 patrons monthly rose to near \$600. We continue to modify our menu and ingredient resourcing to more efficient in providing the meal.



We are scheduled to serve 10 times in 2026. We thank you for all your past support and continue to ask for your volunteerism, financial support and, most importantly, your prayers for this much-needed Community Mission.



## **TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY TEAMS**

### **Ed Foppe**

Ministry Support Team Member with Technology Emphasis

*Technology Ministry Teams include the following ministries: Audio, Streaming, Visual Support, Facebook, Website, and Safety.*

### **AUDIO, STREAMING & VISUAL SUPPORT:**

The majority of all worship services continue to be streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@OurLordsLutheranChurch>. ProPresenter continues to be the go-to software to create visuals for both Saturday and Sunday worship. Each week each service requires the development of a new presentation.

Benji Maynard is doing an amazing job in handling the assembling ProPresenter slides, audio mixing and live streaming! It is easy to take for granted everything that goes into providing quality audio for all live worship performances—Benji makes this happen consistently every week. Having reliable links on the OLLC YouTube channel to watch and participate in weekly worship services continues to be a nice option for members and visitors to tune in.

There has been very little in the way of equipment expenditures necessary to accommodate the audio and video needs in the sanctuary in 2025. We will be purchasing a new laptop computer that Benji will use to rotate out the laptop that is currently being used for the ProPresenter slides. Benji has mentioned that the new updates to ProPresenter are stretching the limits of the RAM that is available on the current laptop. So a new laptop computer will be purchased in Jan/Feb of 2026 with the older laptop being moved to the administrative office. Some additional XLR (audio) cables will also be purchased for the sanctuary.

In addition to worship assistants and the musicians involved during each service, there are several members of OLLC who continue to volunteer their time as camera operators and to fill in to help present visuals during services. Additional helpers are always needed. Anyone interested in assisting with ProPresenter, camera, or livestreaming is urged to contact the office. No experience is needed, all training is provided.

### **WEBSITE:**

We are currently working with Beth & Jim Sheldon with Moonlight Computing for web hosting. Our current maintenance agreement with Moonlight Computing continues through June 2026. Base charge for hosting is \$360 per year. Annual domain registration: ourlords.org is currently privately registered with GoDaddy. This domain needs to be renewed in Jan. 2026.

### **SAFETY REPORT: CINTAS AED/ Fire Contract / Safety / Security**

Jim Spencer has been our point of contact concerning security and fire suppression. CINTAS performs inspections on fire extinguishers, the AED defibrillator, etc. on a regular basis. Items requiring replacement, batteries, etc. are billed as needed. The large oversized bushes along the front of the Worship Center were removed in 2025 providing a safer approach for persons coming in and out of the Worship Center.



Projects still on the list and to be completed at some point in the future include lighting for the parking lot in front of the Life Center and installing a “knox-box” to place keys for emergency service access to the church buildings.

## **WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

**Jan Vinson**

Ministry Support Team Member with Worship Emphasis

*Worship Emphasis Teams include the following ministries: Traditional Music, Non-Traditional (Praise Band Music), Altar Guild, Bell Choir, Blended/Special Service, Chancel Choir, Greening of the Church, Saturday/Sunday/Special Services Music ProPresenter, Seasonal Services, Sunday Worship Hymn Planning.*



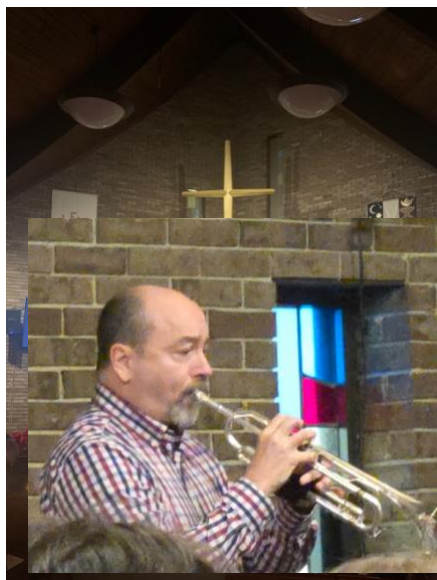
### **Traditional Music Coordinator:**

**Rhonda Comrie**, Team Leader

Traditional ELCA liturgies are used for the Sunday Services (9 a.m.), festival services, and other occasions.

The hymn-planning committee throughout the year included **Irene Vanhooser**, **Rhonda Comrie**, **Pastor Kratzer** (Jan-June), **Pastor Vieira** (Aug. – Dec.) and **Addison Mays**. The team meets bi-monthly to curate hymns for Sunday services, selecting hymns that effectively support the scriptural focus of each week. Hymns are selected from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, *All Creation Sings*, and *With One Voice*.





Along with regular Sunday services, Holy Week services, Christmas Eve services, midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer services, we included one additional Holden Evening Prayer service during the last Wednesday of Advent. Thank you to many volunteers who served as cantors this year!

The instrumentalists at Our Lord's provide piano and organ accompaniment for all Sunday services, Wednesday evening services, and special services. **Rhonda Comrie** and **Eric Sutton** provided organ accompaniment. Robert Valentine provided piano accompaniment. **Chris Short** (trumpet), **Oscar Gonzalez** (violin), **Sana Moazzez** (violin) often added musicality to hymns and anthems with instrumental

embellishments and accompaniments. **Kevin Zerrate** provided violin music for the Traditional Christmas Eve services. Thank you to **Vicki Lottes** for bringing about the violinists' connection with Our Lords'.



### **Traditional Music Report – 2025**

**Addison Mays**, Director of Music for Sundays and Special Services

Since January 2025, **Addison Mays**, the Traditional Music Director, has led the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir. Under her guidance, the choirs have performed at least twice monthly. Mays carefully selected anthems and arrangements that complemented the spoken messages for the week or season. The choirs convened on Wednesday evenings from January to May and on Thursday evenings from August to December. Additional special performances featuring invited musicians were incorporated into Sunday morning music. The Chancel Choir has experienced significant



change in membership. Currently, our esteemed singers include **Benjamin Maynard**, **Patrick Dent**, **Margaret Beekman**, and **Addison Mays**. For Christmas Eve services, we were honored to have **Jahlil Johnson** and **Nick Greenland** join us.





The choirs are accompanied by **Rhonda Comrie** during services and in weekly rehearsals. The handbell Choir remains a steadfast pillar of the music ministry at Our Lord's. In 2025, our dedicated ringers included **Kay Chaffee, Rhonda Comrie, Maureen Johnson, Vicki Lottes, KaLonny Short, Lori Messina, Karen Schneider, Lilly Vieira, and Laura Shoenecker.**



As the traditional music ministry continues its trajectory, we embrace continuous growth and remain steadfast in our commitment to showcasing God's love through the profound beauty of music.

### **Non-Traditional Music Report - 2025**

**Olivia Cross**, Director of Non-Traditional Music

I (Olivia Cross) held the role of Director of Non-Traditional Worship Music all throughout the year of 2025. Our Praise Band rehearsed and performed weekly on Saturday evenings as well as special occasions and holidays, and has maintained a robust group of extremely talented and faithful volunteers who are as follows (listed alphabetically):

Max Eakin (drums)  
Linda Hester (vocals)  
Kathy Hoelscher (vocals)  
Carol Orr (keys)  
Loretta Williams (vocals)

Linda Eakin (vocals)  
Mike Hester (guitar)  
Steve Hoelscher (bass, vocals)  
Jeff Waterman (guitar, vocals)

As always, we were blessed with a fantastic roster of substitute and guest musicians this year, who are as follows (listed alphabetically):



Peter Billing (guitar, vocals)  
Jacob Davis (drums, guitar, vocals)  
Brian Gunderson (guitar, vocals)  
Randy Steele (keys, vocals)

Sharifa Black (vocals)  
Casey Eakin (bass)  
Benji Maynard (drums, vocals, guitar, saxophone)

In addition to our usual weekly and seasonal performances, the Praise Band had the honor of providing musical offerings at the funerals of Andrew Kassing (March 2025) and Dan Homes (December 2025). To further commemorate Andrew, the band also participated in a special Memorial Concert for Andrew in May of 2025 (please see the Concert Series report for more information on this concert).

On a more personal note, I also want to thank the Praise Band for being such a fun and kind group of folks to work with. Many Saturdays, I come to church with heaviness in my heart, or the feeling of weight on my shoulders. This could be from ongoing stress, anxiety, or just plain old fatigue! And every Saturday, I leave church with lightness, alignment, and a feeling of reassurance that whatever my problems may be, they have become just a little lighter. This is in large part due to the shared experience of “making a joyful noise” with the band. As you know, it takes a team of truly passionate and devoted individuals to make the non-traditional music at Our Lord’s what it is, and I am very honored to occupy the position of Director of Non-Traditional Worship Music. Here’s to another great year of musical ministry!

*Olivia Cross (Director of Non-Traditional Worship Music)*

**Altar Guild, Laura Schoenecker, Team Leader**

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the Sanctuary and particularly the altar table for the Holy Communion meal. The altar guild includes these duties: the care of Communion vessels, care of the candles and candelabra, care of the vases and oversight of flowers on the altar. In addition, they participate in the care of vestments. New Altar Guild members are always welcome! Please contact me if you are interested in serving!

**ProPresenter, Benji Maynard, Team Leader**

Benji began the job of creating the worship slides for all services in September, 2024. Slide preparation includes weekly worship, Holden Evening Prayer, and special services (Christmas, Easter, Ash Wednesday, etc.). Benji works on the slides on site. Igniter Media remains an essential subscription for worship slides.

**Worship Special Guests:**

In 2025 special guests attended worship services proving the congregation with unique insight and spiritual growth.

The first weekend of March, Bold Women’s Day was celebrated. We were greeted by stories about the lives of bold women in during the Reformation (portrayed by women from the OLLC congregation): Olimpia Fulvia Morata (Italian scholar, poet, and writer who sought to advance the Protestant Reformation in Italy), Argula von Grumbach (Bavarian writer and noblewoman who became the first Protestant woman writer, publishing letters and poems promoting and defending Martin Luther), Katharina Schütz Zell (a religious reformer who campaigned for the right of clergy to marry and the responsibility of lay people—women as well as men—to proclaim the Gospel) and Katharina von Bora Luther (a former nun who married Martin Luther, recognized as the stabilizing force in Luther's life).



On March 9 we lifted up our scouts and all their parents and leaders in Scouting, giving thanks for their dedication to service, adventure, and growth.

In September we welcomed Bishop Greg Busboom from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod. Bishop Busboom shared a special message on being disciples of Jesus.



On Reformation Sunday the congregation was greeted by Martin Luther (portrayed by Pastor Paul Schwartzkopf). Later in the day Katarina Von Bora made a special appearance (portrayed by Barbara Kay) and shared stories of life during the Reformation.



The Advent season would not be complete without the visit by our own Kris Kringle (thank you, Don Simonson) as he shared a special message with the children during Saturday evening worship.



### **PROPERTY & GROUNDS REPORT**

During 2025 the following work was completed:

- Completed installation of solar energy to Worship Center and to the Life Center. Day & Night Solar installer on project.
- Resealed & striped the Worship Center and the Life Center (front only) parking lots.
- Painted exterior entry and foundation walls of Life Center; updated entry lighting with dusk-to-dawn sensors on what felt like the hottest day of the summer
- Replace broken oven and microwave in Worship Center.
- Began landscaping of east and north side of Worship center including removal of overgrown bushes and shrubs and installation of river rock.







Just as the case with owning a home, there will always be jobs to complete in addition to routine maintenance. Many times the work needed on the church buildings is more than can be expected of the Worker Bees; additional assistance from the congregation is often necessary. The Worker Bees assist with decorating the church before & after advent, they clear sidewalks of snow in winter, clear downed limbs and trees, prepare the Chapel in the Pines for services, spray the interior of the buildings for pests, spray for weeds on the church grounds, **complete all mowing & trimming each week during**

**spring, summer, & fall;** and complete all other minor repairs whenever needs arise.

Please consider how you can best assist with future property needs—either financially or by providing your expert skills. Contact the church office to indicate your willingness to help.



### **GIVING EMPHASIS TEAM REPORT** **Gail Jorgenson, Team Leader**

The Giving Emphasis Team finalized the fourth year of effort and the congregation's support for the 11 identified Monthly Emphasis was amazing. The Team's members for CY 2025 were Deanne Holshouser, Gail Jorgenson, Lori Messina, Ann Schwarzkopf, KaLonny Short, and Pastor Mauricio Vieira. We relied on our 4 pillars to identify and research opportunities for the year (the pillars were established in 2021 when the Giving Emphasis Team was established). Those 4 pillars are as follows:

- Support to our Lutheran Family (e.g. Church Camps, Lutheran Campus Ministries)
- Support for the Food Insecure (e.g. S.O.S, ELCA Hunger)
- Support to our community (e.g. school supplies, Christmas with Our Neighbors)
- Opportunities to help those in or transitioning out of incarceration (e.g. personal hygiene kits for Madison County Juvenile Detention)

Unfortunately, we did not have a focus that addressed the last pillar but will continue to look for ways in which we can support it in the future. The below chart provides a detailed breakdown of the 2025 Monthly Emphasis and the total funding for each provided by the congregation. Additionally, many months were supported by physical goods/gifts in addition to funds.

	<b>2025 Monthly Emphasis Organization</b>	<b>Funds Collected &amp; disbursed to organization</b>
January/February	Souper Bowl of Caring/Tote Me Home (\$1,343.45 donation \$1,361.55 spaghetti dinner)	\$2705
March/April 20	Lutheran Social Services of Illinois	\$1,869.75
April 26/27	Collinsville Faith in Action	\$310
May	Vacation Bible School (does not include contributions of food and supply donations)	\$610
June	Medical Debt Relief	\$1,421.52
July	"Back to School" - School Supplies (does not include value of school supplies donated)	\$730
August	ELCA Congregations support AMARE	\$280
September	African Vision of Hope & First Responders' Breakfast	\$2,639
October	Collinsville Food Pantry Spirit Of Sharing (SOS Soup Kitchen)	\$1,561.12
November	Marion Medical Mission Water Well Project	\$255
December	OLLC People in a Pickle	\$2,234.68
	<b>Total collected through Monthly Giving Emphasis</b>	<b>\$13,254.52</b>

We continue to solicit the congregation's thoughts for possible areas of emphasis and feedback on the previous focus areas. Only through this exchange can we make sure we are reaching the areas that best reflect OLLC's compassion for missions beyond our walls.

### **2026 Monthly Giving Emphasis List for Special Offerings**

**January / February** – Souper Bowl of Caring – Cougar Cupboard

**March** – Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

**April** – Collinsville Faith in Action

**May** – OLLC Vacation Bible School

**June** – OLLC People in a Pickle

**July** – Back to School (School Supplies)

**August** – ELCA Fund for Leaders

**September** – African Vision of Hope/ First Responder's Breakfast

**October** – OLLC S.O.S.

**November** – Lutheran Campus Ministries

**December** -- OLLC Christmas Baskets - Food Collection w/ toy drive (tentative)

## **SUMMARY OF GIVING**

Local, national, and international organization were supported through your financial giving within the Monthly Giving Emphasis; through financial contributions, collection drives, within OLLC ministries, through the allocation of 1% of general benevolence giving (allocated by the council) and through the allocation of 9% of general benevolence giving (sent to Central/Southern Illinois Synod).

Through the Monthly Giving Emphasis \$13,254 was collected and supported the following organizations & OLLC ministries: Collinsville Tote Me Home, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Collinsville Faith in Action, OLLC Vacation Bible School, Medical Debt Relief, School Supplies for Caseyville Elementary, AMARE, African Vision of Hope, Collinsville SOS Soup Kitchen, Marion Medical Mission Water Well Project, and OLLC People in a Pickle.

Other organizations were supported through goods, service, and financial giving:

- Collinsville Faith in Action Yard Cleanup – *Late Boomers Group*
- Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Event - *Member volunteers including confirmation, Sunday School, and other congregation members*
- Maryville Fall Festival – *Late Boomers Group*
- Mosaic (\$453) - funds raised during the Andrew Kassing Memorial Concert
- Mother's Day Diaper Drive through State Senator Erica Harriss' - *Morning Glories*
- OLLC Cookie Project - *Morning Glories*
- Sandy Hook Promise (\$246.25) – funds raised during the "Bob & the Beatles" Concert
- SLU Prison Education Program - *Morning Glories*

Through your local benevolence giving (\$3,187), the following organizations & OLLC ministries were supported:

- SIUE Cougar Cupboard - \$300
- HHH/St. John's UCC – Collinsville Summer Lunch Program - \$300
- Granite City Summer Lunch Program, "Twigs for Kids" - \$682
- OLLC People in a Pickle - \$1039
- SIUE Cougar Cupboard - \$300
- AMARE\* - \$220
- International Institute of St. Louis\*\* - \$381

\*Amare helps adults and families impacted by drug or alcohol addiction that need support and assistance with finding treatment and beyond.

\*\*International Institute of St. Louis provides opportunities for immigrants and refugees to thrive in order to create a welcoming, prosperous, and healthy region for all. The organization offers essential economic and cultural integration services, including English classes, employment, orientation, and citizenship preparation. In addition, they host events and make presentations to build inclusive and mutually respectful relationships between foreign-born newcomers and all community members.



**Giving to Designated Funds:**

Members and non-members gave generously to the OLLC Designated Funds. During 2025, contributions to designated funds totaled \$51,315:

<b><i>Selected Designated Funds</i></b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
Memorial Fund	\$7,564	\$6,601
Building & Grounds	\$5,109	\$6,454
Funeral Lunch Fund	\$1,814	\$3,231
Praise Band Performance	\$1,435	\$4,023
Traditional Music Performance	\$520	\$3,080
Our Lord's Youth	\$1,182	\$10,698
Mind the Gap	\$2,166	\$245
People in a Pickle	\$13,525	\$1,324
SOS Soup Kitchen	\$2,184	\$6,210

<b>Overall Giving</b>	<b>2025 Receipts</b>
General Fund (Benevolent Giving)	\$325,570
Misc. Pass-Through	\$34,755
Designated Giving	\$51,315
<b>2025 total giving</b>	<b>\$411,640</b>

**Our Lord's Lutheran Church**  
**2025 Ending Financial Statement**  
**Laura Schoenecker, Treasurer**

*See the following four pages for a full scan of the December 2025 Treasurer's report.*

**Our Lords Lutheran Church - Maryville IL**  
**Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 (Multiple Account Groups)**

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Page 1 of 3

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>			
4.100.000	<i>General Benevolence</i>		
4.100.100	Current Benevolence	323,527.45*	314,500.00
4.100.101	Facilities Use Donations	823.91	1,000.00
4.100.102	Thrivent Grants	1,219.00*	500.00
4.100.103	Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00
	<i>Total General Benevolence</i>	<i>\$325,570.36*</i>	<i>316,000.00</i>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$325,570.36*</b>	<b>\$316,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
5.100.000	<i>Pastor Compensation</i>		
5.100.100	Pastor (Base+SS+Medicare)	55,174.82	63,892.00
5.100.103	Pastor Housing Allowance	16,352.38	20,000.00
5.100.104	Pastor Mileage Allowance	1,396.57	3,600.00
5.100.105	Pastor Continuing Education & Books	995.12	1,200.00
5.100.106	Portico Pastor Health Benefits	25,009.44*	16,230.00
5.100.108	Portico Pastor Retirement	7,659.30	9,228.00
	<i>Total Pastor Compensation</i>	<i>\$106,587.63</i>	<i>114,150.00</i>
5.101.000	<i>Administrative Assistant Compensation</i>		
5.101.100	Administrative Assistant Salary	20,616.27	34,140.00
5.101.101	Administrative Assistant Pension	787.70	2,052.00
5.101.102	Administrative Assistant Health Benefits	0.00	0.00
5.101.103	Administrative Assistant Disability and Life	65.64	480.00
5.101.107	Administrative Assistant FICA/Medicare	1,389.73	2,613.00
	<i>Total Administrative Assistant Compensation</i>	<i>\$22,859.34</i>	<i>39,285.00</i>
5.102.000	<i>Part-time Staff Compensation</i>		
5.102.100	Traditional Music Director	12,040.00	12,040.00
5.102.101	Praise Band Director	14,220.00*	14,214.00
5.102.102	Main Organist	3,592.01*	3,010.00
5.102.103	Worship Tech Sunday	1,180.00	1,200.00
5.102.104	Worship Tech Saturday	2,360.00	2,400.00
5.102.105	Worship Facilitator Streaming	2,811.00*	2,250.00
5.102.106	ProPresenter Slide Designer	3,265.00	3,300.00
5.102.107	Part Time Staff FICA/Medicare	3,126.91*	2,936.00
5.102.108	Part-time Organists	2,100.00	2,250.00
5.102.109	Nursery Attendant	150.00	200.00
5.102.110	Supply Pastor	2,988.80*	2,400.00
	<i>Total Part-time Staff Compensation</i>	<i>\$47,833.72*</i>	<i>46,200.00</i>
5.103.105	Workman's Compensation Insurance	970.00	1,500.00
5.110.000	<i>Utilities Expenses</i>		
5.110.100	Telephone - Spectrum	1,919.51	2,000.00
5.110.101	Internet - Spectrum	1,559.88	1,600.00
5.110.102	Electricity - Ameren	8,524.98	10,000.00
5.110.103	Water - Maryville	648.69*	600.00
	<i>Total Utilities Expenses</i>	<i>\$12,653.06</i>	<i>14,200.00</i>
5.111.000	<i>Property Expenses</i>		
5.111.100	Maintenance	4,170.80*	3,000.00
5.111.101	Custodial Service - Corvus	7,424.88*	6,900.00
5.111.102	Custodial Supplies	722.99*	600.00
5.111.103	Repairs	216.50	1,000.00
5.111.104	Property Insurance	12,170.00	15,000.00
	<i>Total Property Expenses</i>	<i>\$24,705.17</i>	<i>26,500.00</i>

**Our Lords Lutheran Church - Maryville IL**  
**Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 (Multiple Account Groups)**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

**Page 2 of 3**

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
<b>5.112.000</b>	<b>Core Ministry - IT &amp; Safety</b>		
5.112.100	Cintas AED/Fire Contract	1,992.27*	1,500.00
5.112.101	Computer Replacement	0.00	1,300.00
5.112.102	IT Purchases	397.75	500.00
5.112.103	Website/Moonlite Domain	360.00	560.00
5.112.104	Safety/Security	0.00	200.00
5.112.120	Other IT/Safety Expenses	83.40	100.00
	<b>Total Core Ministry - IT &amp; Safety</b>	<b>\$2,833.42</b>	<b>4,160.00</b>
<b>5.120.000</b>	<b>Administrative Expenses</b>		
5.120.100	Publicity/Digital Outreach	0.00	200.00
5.120.101	Copy Machine - US Fin	5,496.43*	5,000.00
5.120.102	Accountant CPA	3,700.00	6,000.00
5.120.103	Church Windows	1,140.60	1,200.00
5.120.104	Postage USPS	1,317.25	1,500.00
5.120.105	Office Supplies	1,574.68	2,000.00
5.120.106	Fees FCB/Vanco	1,074.88	1,200.00
5.120.107	Offering Envelopes	368.13*	300.00
5.120.108	Internet Repair/Centric Servicing	480.00	500.00
5.120.109	Hardware/Software (Office 365)	405.10*	200.00
5.120.120	Other Administrative Expenses	773.08*	500.00
	<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,330.15</b>	<b>18,600.00</b>
<b>5.130.000</b>	<b>Synodical Support</b>		
5.130.100	Synodical Mission Support (9% of GB)	32,864.50*	28,305.00
5.130.101	Other Synod Benevolence	70.00*	0.00
5.130.102	Synod Assembly Expenses	868.84	1,000.00
	<b>Total Synodical Support</b>	<b>\$33,803.34*</b>	<b>29,305.00</b>
<b>5.140.000</b>	<b>Core Ministry - Education</b>		
5.140.100	Confirmation	256.16	500.00
5.140.101	Devotions	668.67	800.00
5.140.102	Adult Education	0.00	100.00
5.140.103	Sunday School	952.35	1,000.00
5.140.104	Vacation Bible School	17.04	800.00
5.140.120	Other Education Expense	122.73	600.00
	<b>Total Core Ministry - Education</b>	<b>\$2,016.95</b>	<b>3,800.00</b>
<b>5.141.000</b>	<b>Core Ministry - Worship</b>		
5.141.100	Altar Guild	425.00	500.00
5.141.101	Media and Content License	1,889.80	3,000.00
5.141.102	Sundays and Seasons	549.00*	200.00
5.141.103	Saturday Worship (Music)	0.00	100.00
5.141.104	Praise Band (Performance)	400.00	1,000.00
5.141.105	Sunday Worship (Music and Tuning)	394.00	1,100.00
5.141.106	Traditional Music (Performance)	900.00	1,000.00
5.141.120	Other Worship Expense	44.80	250.00
	<b>Total Core Ministry - Worship</b>	<b>\$4,602.60</b>	<b>7,150.00</b>
<b>5.142.000 *</b>	<b>Core Ministry - Fellowship</b>		
5.142.100	Greening of the Church	307.95*	150.00
5.142.101	Church Picnic	102.75	300.00
5.142.102	Easter Breakfast	49.13	400.00
5.142.103	Rally Day	0.00	300.00
5.142.104	Kitchen Supplies	229.88	300.00
5.142.120	Other Fellowship Expenses	461.38*	300.00
	<b>Total Core Ministry - Fellowship</b>	<b>\$1,151.09</b>	<b>1,750.00</b>

**Our Lords Lutheran Church - Maryville IL**  
**Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 (Multiple Account Groups)**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

**Page 3 of 3**

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
<i>5.143.000</i>	<i>Core Ministry - Social Ministry</i>		
5.143.100	Elmwood Project	0.00	100.00
5.143.101	First Responders Breakfast	63.80	400.00
5.143.102	SOS Soup Kitchen	500.00	500.00
5.143.120	Social Ministry Other	159.50	200.00
	<i>Total Core Ministry - Social Ministry</i>	<i>\$723.30</i>	<i>1,200.00</i>
5.150.100	Seminary Scholarship	0.00	0.00
5.150.101	Local Benevolence (1% of GB)	3,187.00*	3,145.00
5.150.102	Start-up Ministry Expense	134.68	500.00
5.150.103	Solar Project Interest Expense	3,375.00	4,500.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$283,766.45</b>	<b>\$315,945.00</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$41,803.91</b>	<b>\$55.00</b>

**Account Groups: General Benevolence Expenses, General Benevolence Income.**

\* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date



**Our Lords Lutheran Church - Maryville IL**  
**Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2025**

<b>Wednesday, January 14, 2026</b>							<b>Page 1 of 1</b>	
<b>Account #</b>	<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Beg Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Transfers/JE's</b>	<b>End Balance</b>		
3.100.000	General Fund Balance	8,193.98	325,570.36	283,766.45	(395.50)	49,602.39		
3.200.100	Miscellaneous Pass-Through Fund Balance	0.00	34,754.76	3,049.73	(13,443.16)	18,261.87		
3.300.000	<i>Memorial and Estate Funds Balance</i>							
3.300.100	Thiel Memorial Fund Balance	21,493.00	45.00	536.87	(25.00)	20,976.13		
3.300.101	Memorial Fund Balance	6,153.11	7,563.74	2,302.26	(4,814.00)	6,600.59		
3.400.100	Fair Trade Fund Balance	1,649.15	5,127.59	5,540.21	(156.00)	1,080.53		
3.500.000	<i>Designated Operating Funds Balance</i>							
3.500.100	After Church Fellowship Fund Balance	513.74	435.50	1,318.19	1,034.00	665.05		
3.500.101	Building and Grounds Fund Balance	5,609.87	5,109.27	11,367.43	7,083.84	6,435.55		
3.500.102	Funeral Lunch Fund Balance	2,725.55	1,814.00	1,308.87	0.00	3,230.68		
3.500.103	IT Fund Balance	498.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	498.00		
3.500.104	Kitchen Team Fund Balance	1,042.61	0.00	0.00	(878.00)	164.61		
3.500.105	Praise Band Performance Fund Balance	0.00	1,435.00	0.00	2,588.00	4,023.00		
3.500.106	Traditional Music Performance Fund Balance	153.00	520.00	0.00	2,407.00	3,080.00		
3.500.107	Pet Expo Fund Balance	0.00	105.00	0.00	0.00	105.00		
3.600.100	Our Lord's Youth Fund Balance	9,888.51	1,182.04	373.00	0.00	10,697.55		
3.800.000	<i>Social Ministry Pass Through Funds Balance</i>							
3.800.100	Disaster Relief Fund Balance	(395.00)	970.00	970.00	395.00	0.00		
3.800.101	WellCare Project Fund Balance	969.91	90.00	0.00	0.00	1,059.91		
3.800.102	Mind the Gap Fund Balance	1,345.88	2,166.20	3,327.18	60.00	244.90		
3.800.103	People in a Pickle Fund Balance	1,216.78	13,525.09	13,418.13	0.00	1,323.74		
3.800.104	SOS Soup Kitchen Fund Balance	5,151.24	2,183.98	1,125.62	0.00	6,209.60		
3.800.105	Monthly Giving Emphasis Fund Balance	190.53	9,042.01	10,409.89	1,226.52	49.17		
3.900.100	Solar Project Fund Balance	40,620.55	0.00	33,582.70	0.00	7,037.85		
3.900.101	Solar Loan Fund Balance	(90,000.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(90,000.00)		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$17,020.41</b>	<b>\$411,639.54</b>	<b>\$372,396.53</b>	<b>(\$4,917.30)</b>	<b>\$51,346.12</b>		



## In preparation for 2026 Considering Synod compensation Guidelines

### Compensation Worksheet for Rostered Ministers

Salary			
Base Salary	Find years of service on next page	(A)	
Merit Increase	(A x %)	(B)	3-5% — advanced degree, second career
New Base Salary	(A + B)	(C)	
Housing Computation (For ordained pastors only. <del>For deacons, enter \$0 for lines D, E, F, G</del> )			
If <b>Housing Allowance</b> is provided:	See Compensation section I.B.	(D)	12-15% of median cost for homes in area
<del>If <b>Parsonage</b> is provided:</del>	<del>Est. rental value of parsonage (C x 30%)</del>	<del>(D)</del>	
<del>If <b>Parsonage</b> is provided:</del>	<del>Optional utility allowance</del>	<del>(E)</del>	
<del>If <b>Parsonage</b> is provided:</del>	<del>Optional furnishings allowance</del>	<del>(F)</del>	
<del>If <b>Parsonage</b> is provided:</del>	<del>Optional equity allowance (C x (3 to 10%))</del>	<del>(G)</del>	
Social Security Allowance	(C + D) x 7.65%	(H)	
Defined Compensation	(C + D + E + F + G + H)	(I)	
Benefits – Use (I) with Portico Calculator: <a href="https://employerlink.porticobenefits.org/resources/calculators/">https://employerlink.porticobenefits.org/resources/calculators/</a>			
Health		(J)	
Portico Retirement	(I x 12%) recommended, 10% required	(K)	11%
Disability		(L)	
Group Life		(M)	
Other	e.g., FSA or additional retirement	(N)	
Total to Portico Benefit Services	(J + K + L + M + N)	(O)	
Expenses			
Automobile	Yearly amount reimbursed at the standard mileage reimbursement	(P)	\$3,600
Continuing Education / First Call Theological Education (if applicable)		(Q)	\$1,000
Books and other resources allowance	See III.B.5	(R)	\$200
<del>Sabbatical allowance</del>	<del>See III.B.6</del>	<del>(S)</del>	
<del>Other Expenses</del>	<del>Traditional/additional in congregation</del>	<del>(T)</del>	
Total Expenses	(P + Q + R + S + T)	(U)	
Totals			
If <b>Housing Allowance</b> is provided:	(I + O + U)		
Total Compensation paid by congregation			
If <b>Parsonage</b> is provided:	(I + O + U - D)		
Total Compensation paid by congregation			

## 2026 Minister Base Salary Chart

Base salary is determined by years of service in the ministry. Additional consideration can be given for prior work experience.

<b>Years</b>	<b>Word and Sacrament</b>		
0	\$42,177	-	\$43,405
1	\$42,927	-	\$44,155
2	\$43,677	-	\$44,905
3	\$44,427	-	\$45,655
4	\$45,177	-	\$46,405
5	\$45,927	-	\$47,155
6	\$46,677	-	\$47,905
7	\$47,427	-	\$48,655
8	\$48,177	-	\$49,405
9	\$48,927	-	\$50,155
10	\$49,677	-	\$50,905
11	\$50,427	-	\$51,655
12	\$51,177	-	\$52,405
13	\$51,927	-	\$53,155
14	\$52,677	-	\$53,905
15	\$53,427	-	\$54,655
16	\$54,177	-	\$55,405
17	\$54,927	-	\$56,155
18	\$55,677	-	\$56,905
19	\$56,427	-	\$57,655
20	\$57,177	-	\$58,405
21	\$57,927	-	\$59,155
22	\$58,677	-	\$59,905
23	\$59,427	-	\$60,655
24	\$60,177	-	\$61,405
25	\$60,927	-	\$62,155
26	\$61,677	-	\$62,905
27	\$62,427	-	\$63,655
28	\$63,177	-	\$64,405
29	\$63,927	-	\$65,155
30	\$64,677	-	\$65,905
31	\$65,427	-	\$66,655
32	\$66,177	-	\$67,405
33	\$66,927	-	\$68,155
34	\$67,677	-	\$68,905
35	\$68,427	-	\$69,655

<b>Years</b>	<b>Word and Service</b>		
0	\$40,686	-	\$41,870
1	\$41,436	-	\$42,620
2	\$42,186	-	\$43,370
3	\$42,936	-	\$44,120
4	\$43,686	-	\$44,870
5	\$44,436	-	\$45,620
6	\$45,186	-	\$46,370
7	\$45,936	-	\$47,120
8	\$46,686	-	\$47,870
9	\$47,436	-	\$48,620
10	\$48,186	-	\$49,370
11	\$48,936	-	\$50,120
12	\$49,686	-	\$50,870
13	\$50,436	-	\$51,620
14	\$51,186	-	\$52,370
15	\$51,936	-	\$53,120
16	\$52,686	-	\$53,870
17	\$53,436	-	\$54,620
18	\$54,186	-	\$55,370
19	\$54,936	-	\$56,120
20	\$55,686	-	\$56,870
21	\$56,436	-	\$57,620
22	\$57,186	-	\$58,370
23	\$57,936	-	\$59,120
24	\$58,686	-	\$59,870
25	\$59,436	-	\$60,620
26	\$60,186	-	\$61,370
27	\$60,936	-	\$62,120
28	\$61,686	-	\$62,870
29	\$62,436	-	\$63,620
30	\$63,186	-	\$64,370
31	\$63,936	-	\$65,120
32	\$64,686	-	\$65,870
33	\$65,436	-	\$66,620
34	\$66,186	-	\$67,370
35	\$66,936	-	\$68,120

## **2026 INCOME AND SPENDING PLAN**

*Designated Giving and Expenditures not included*

### **INCOME**

	<b>2025 BUDGET</b>	<b>2025 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2026 PROJECTION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>General Benevolence</b>	\$314,500	\$323,527	\$314,500	Same projection as 2025 because of problem with pledge cards.
<b>Facility Use Contributions</b>	\$1,000	\$824	\$1,000	
<b>Thrivent Grants</b>	\$500	\$1,219	\$1,000	
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$316,000</b>	<b>\$325,570</b>	<b>\$316,500</b>	

### **SPENDING PLAN (General Benevolence)**

	<b>2025 BUDGET</b>	<b>2025 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2026 SPENDING PLAN</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>	\$154,944	\$129,447	\$135,212	Projection based on six-month term for Pr. Doeschot and six-months at Pr. Kratzer's compensation with increase to Heath Insurance cost
<b>Part-Time Staff Compensation</b>	\$46,160	\$47,834	\$68,872	Includes compensation and FICA for part-time Lay Ministry Coordinator
<b>Workman's Compensation Insurance</b>	\$1,500	\$970	\$1,200	
<b>Utilities</b>	\$14,200	\$12,653	\$13,900	Includes cost of trash pick-up
<b>Property</b>	\$26,500	\$24,705	\$29,200	Includes increased cost of snow removal
<b>Administration</b>	\$18,600	\$16,330	\$17,400	
<b>Synodical Mission Support &amp; Synod Assembly</b>	\$29,305	\$33,803	\$29,375	Synodical Mission Support is 9% of projected General Benevolence
<b>Ministry Teams - Worship</b>	\$7,150	\$4,603	\$7,300	
<b>Ministry Teams - Service</b>	\$1,200	\$723	\$1,300	
<b>Ministry Teams - Education</b>	\$3,800	\$2,017	\$2,850	
<b>Ministry Teams - Fellowship</b>	\$1,750	\$1,151	\$1,820	
<b>Ministry Teams - IT &amp; Safety</b>	\$4,160	\$2,833	\$5,950	Includes cost of purchasing Knox boxes
<b>Seminary Scholarship</b>	\$0	\$0	\$500	
<b>Local Benevolence</b>	\$3,145	\$3,187	\$3,145	1% of projected General Benevolence
<b>Start-up Ministry Expense</b>	\$500	\$135	\$300	
<b>Solar Project Interest Expense</b>	\$4,500	\$3,375	\$4,500	
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOW</b>	<b>\$317,414</b>	<b>\$283,766</b>	<b>\$322,825</b>	



**Old Business:** Karen Cummings-Larson

- Solar Project Update – discussed earlier in meeting
- Church Council Priorities for 2025 – activities, accomplishments, & successes
  - Provide resources and support to members in the development of ministries within each of the focus areas.
    - High School Send off in the spring & New Ministry – College Connection
    - Ongoing support of the OLLC Concert Series – Valentines Dinner & Concert, Concert in the Pines: Andrew Kassing Memorial Concert, Bob Dylan & the Beatles, and “That Time of Year” Christmas Concert.
  - Provide resources and support as members come together to build and strengthen relationships.
    - Ongoing Congregation Game Day, Rally Day, First Responders Breakfast, Spaghetti Dinner & Concert, Annual Church Picnic at Willoughby Farm
    - ‘Meet Katie Luther’ Presentation by Barbara Kay on Reformation Sunday
    - Children’s Advent Program w/ St. Lucia Festival of Light and fellowship featuring Swedish Foods and Desserts
    - Recognizing and thanking the many members that work together to provide fellowship/hospitality following services, special meal events, and prepare meals following funerals.
  - Work to support and sustain ministries and practices that foster faith formation
    - Recognize and encourage the sharing of musical talents during worship.
    - Highlight the contributions of many volunteers that work together to prepare and serve over 200 meals each time OLLC serves at SOS.
    - Thankful for the participation of everyone involved in Questions Bible Study on Mondays, Feeding the Soul on Wednesdays, and overjoyed by the increased attendance in Morning Glories on Thursday mornings.
    - Children’s programing is small but mighty with a core group of children attending. Families with children have incredibly busy lives but the parents of students grade 6-8 are working hard to make certain their children are attending confirmation. VBS was an engaging, learning time for young and those not-so-young with approximately 20 participants.
  - Serve as a model to others through voice and action in sharing the word and teachings of Jesus.
    - Articles featuring OLLC events were included in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Newsletter (First Responders’ Breakfast, Meet Katie Luther, Crafters Quilts for Elmwood) and the Quilts for Elmwood was included in the C/SIS Mission & Vision Video for Synod Assembly in June.
    - Thanks to the many volunteers working together to maintain church activities and ‘keep the doors open’ without a Pastor and Administrative Assistant. Whenever a member was asked to assist with a task they always stepped up.
    - Working together we have created a remarkable sense of community at OLLC.
    - OLLC ‘Walks the Walk” but we need to do a better job of sharing our good work.

**New Business:** Karen Cummings-Larson

- Discussion of Constitution changes (recommended by Central/Southern Illinois Synod & Church Wide) – email sent out 12/26/2025
- Discuss & vote on reallocation of Elmwood Project Funds (\$1,060)
- Discuss Allocation of Employee Retention Credit Funds (\$18,262)
  - Refurbish bells for Bell Choir – 3 octave set - \$6,400
  - Set aside remainder of funds for energy efficient upgrades including:
    - resealing exterior doors to WC (replace seals and thresholds as needed) and front entrance to LC (add weatherstripping),
    - retain extra funds for replacement of furnaces in LC (over 25 years old), cost for heat pumps were estimated to be \$16,600 in 2023. Balance of ERC funds – approx.. \$11,800, shortfall of \$5000
  - Identify plan & cost for repaving entrance to LC (width of south entrance x distance from road to 10' beyond drain) – a project for the near-future
- Church Council Priorities for 2026 (tentative)
  - Support members and provide resources in the development of ministries within each of the focus areas- Coming Together, Growing in Faith, and Serving the Lord.
  - Be intentional and take action to share the good work that is being done by the members of Our Lord's.
- Other

**Motion To Adjourn:** Karen Cummings-Larson

**Closing Prayer & Benediction:** Pastor Stephanie Doeschot

Let us pray.

O God, through the ages, you have called your people into relationship with one another. You have brought congregations into being as mission outposts in the world.

Thank you for giving birth to Our Lord's Lutheran. Thank you for guiding us through this meeting. Continue to guide us as we grow in spirit. Help us to love one another and bring your grace to the world around us. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

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“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7

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## **THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.**

### **MISSION SUPPORT**

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

### **ELCA WORLD HUNGER**

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

### **LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

### **WHERE NEEDED MOST**

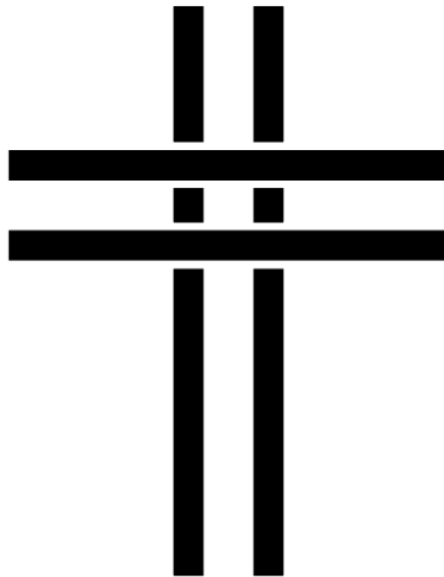
Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at [ELCA.org/subscribe](https://elca.org/subscribe).

Read about Mission Support and learn more at [LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA](https://LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA).



## **Our Lord's Lutheran Church**

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@OurLordsLutheranChurch](https://www.youtube.com/@OurLordsLutheranChurch)