

2024 ANNUAL REPORT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Church Staff, 2025

Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Robert Stelter
Ministry Associate, Greg Bohlken
Office Manager, Mary Boring
Communication Specialist, Dan Primka
Finance Secretary, Barbara Birkholz
Contemporary Worship Leader, Sandra Bohlken
Organist, Lynn Rognsvoog
Choirmaster, Collin Kasefang
Prayer Chain Coordinator, Mildred Fenske
Quiet Music Ministry, Kim Frasch
Sound Technician, Trace Taylor
Nursery Care Givers: Ashley Baker, Tiffany Bryson

Congregation Council

2024

Ted Primka, President
Doug Goins, Vice President
Laura Beardsley, Secretary
Alan Berdal, Treasurer
Ritchie Case
Stephen Dean
David Mabry
Connie Rist
Rick Smenner

2025

Stephen Dean, President
David Mabry, Vice President
Laura Beardsley, Secretary
Carrie Parrott, Treasurer
Mary Bales
Ritchie Case
Connie Rist
Dawn Titsworth

Ministry Team & Small Group Leaders

Deacons: Pamela Brown, Jane Dakolios, Nancy Dean, Lois Simmons,
Michael Lee, Donna Deichert, Mildred Fenske, Debbie Pinchok,
Carol Ann Schneider, Ann Stewart

Altar Guild & Worship Team: Nancy Dean

Women of the ELCA: Pat Lyman, Debbie Pinchok

KARM Lunch Coordinator: George Herbold

Fellowship Ministry: Darla Berdal

Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry: Renée Stone

Salvation Army Men's Shelter: Debbie Ragucci, Michael Lee

Property Team: Frank Weldon

Adult Sunday School & Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study: John Woods

Children's Sunday School: Deb Miller, Melissa Horning, Matt Gray, Marj West

Spirituality Book Group: Pastor Bob Stelter

Via de Cristo Community: Pastor Bob Stelter, Mary Beth Blake, Greg Bohlken,
Sandra Bohlken, Pamela Brown, Dee Bumpers, Rose Echols, Larry Koran, Jr.,
Lisa Mann, Leo Hebert, Melanie Moore, Elaine Mount, Gary Mount, Lynda Primka,
Deborah Palatinus, Pamela Spaar, Laura Sproat, Kathy Thompson, Patricia
Weaver.

Annual Report of The Rev. Dr. Robert Stelter

This Annual Report is a key to our church. Unlock the door, come on in. Within these pages, you'll learn about our activities, ministries, parish life and mission.

Here are some 2024 highlights:

+On December 7, the Cookie Walk was the largest ever with over 10,000 cookies donated by the members of Faith Lutheran Church. Besides raising funds for mission work, the event welcomes the community into our facilities in what has become a cherished Christmas tradition for many families. Cookie Walk leaders are Darla Berdal, Carol Nanney and Joanne Sills.

+Our Lenten emphasis was finding hope in suffering. The congregation read Man's Search for Meaning by Victor Frankl. We met for midweek classes around a meal.

+We paused to meet on the first Wednesday of each month for classes, prayer, fellowship, worship and supper. Attend the next 3C Night for an experience of care, community and compassion.

+A Mission and Vision Team was formed to help chart the future for our congregation. Where is the Spirit leading us? Team members are Connie Rist, George Herbold, Christina Landau, Breanna and William Halsey, Lynda Primka, Antonia Roberts, Will Dickinson, Frank Weldon, Greg Bohlken and me.

+A Generosity Team was formed to create and celebrate a climate of generosity within our congregation. Team members are Renée and Tim Stone, Nancy and Steve Dean, Father Bruce Corrigan, Carrie Parrott, Greg Bohlken and me.

+Legacy Giving was introduced to the congregation by Rev. Ana Lugo of the ELCA Foundation with hopes of securing God's work in the world through our congregation for years to come.

+English Language Classes (ELL) were offered at Faith Lutheran Church. This outreach ministry was generated and organized by Mildred Fenske. Instructors are Melissa Horning, Bob Moore and David Wyatt.

+Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Tellico Village observed their 10th Anniversary as a chartered congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on September 22. Faith Lutheran Church was honored as the founder of the congregation.

+We held a unified worship service for Thanksgiving on Sunday morning, November 24, with one of our famous potluck dinners following. What a blessing to have all our musicians in one worship service!

+Our yearly outdoor worship service and congregational picnic was held on one of the prettiest days of the year, October 20, at McFee Park. This annual event is a highlight of the church calendar.

+In December, we gathered midweek during Advent, warming the cold with the warm and beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service.

+Ordained at Faith Lutheran Church on March 1, 2024, Father Bruce Corrigan hosted monthly healing services and Celtic worship services.

+We celebrated the Rite of Confirmation of Katie Lehner and Jack Parrott on Reformation Sunday, October 27.

+Faithful Forks, a new dinner and fellowship group, began in 2024. Sign up for the next round! Thank you to Mary Beth Hallahan and Greg Bohlken for establishing this ministry.

+We welcomed ministry partners to our pulpit for Sunday morning worship presentations: ELCA Missionary David Brondos, April Timko of Street Hope Human Trafficking Prevention and Rev. Ana Lugo of the ELCA Foundation.

+I presented two sermon series in 2024: “One-Word Sermon Titles” during the fall which allowed me to present topical sermons and “Finding Hope in the Midst of Suffering” during Lent.

+An amazing digital congregational directory with color photos, email and phone contacts and more was introduced in 2024. Thank you to Mary Beth Hallahan and Greg Bohlken for overseeing this project.

+The growth of the Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry reveals the reality of growing food insecurity in our community. This year, our pantry established several corporate sponsorships. Over 5,282 people were served in 2024. Thank you to leaders Renée Stone, Melissa Russ and Dan Primka.

+Congregational leaders keep us moving forward. Thank you to our education ministry team leaders: John Woods (Adult Sunday School and mid-week Bible study); Deb Miller, Melissa Horning, Abby and Taylor Patterson, Matt Gray, Marj West (Children’s Sunday School); Greg Bohlken and Brianna Halsey (Teen Sunday School); Carrie Parrott and Will Dickinson (confirmation); Nancy Reed (author of monthly column in our online news release).

+Thank you to our Deacon Ministers, visiting the homebound and hospitalized: Pam Brown, Nancy Dean, Donna Deichert, Jane Dakolios, Debbie Pinchok, Carol Ann Schneider, Ann Stewart and Mildred Fenske.

+Thank you and much admiration to our contemporary worship service musicians for providing amazing worship music: Sandra Bohlken, Dmitry Liakh, Rob Howard, Jim Lang, Jamie Seiple, Adam Edwards, Dan Primka, Renée Stone.

+Thank you to congregational leaders: Barbara Birkholz (financial secretary); Kim Frasch (Quiet Music Ministry); Darla Berdal (fellowship team leader); Pat Lyman (WELCA); Frank Weldon (property ministry team leader); Mildred Fenske (prayer chain coordinator); George Herbold (KARM lunches and nominating team chair); Debbie Ragucci and Michael Lee (Salvation Army shelter coordinators); Nancy Dean (Altar Guild); Laura Beardsley (columbarium team chair); Gary Mount (Handy Faithfuls coordinator); Via de Cristo Fourth Day Community; Carrie Parrott and Amy Monteagudo (audit team).

+Gratitude to our faithful chefs, servers and visitors for the KARM lunches and trips to the Salvation Army shelters.

+A special thank you to our congregation council for 2024: Ted Primka (president), Doug Goins (vice president), Laura Beardsley (secretary), Rick Smenner, Connie Rist, Steve Dean, David Mabry and Ritchie Case. I am grateful to council members who have completed their three-year terms: Doug Goins, Ted Primka and Rick Smenner. Thank you to Alan Berdal for serving as congregational treasurer.

+One of my greatest joys is partnering with our talented and tireless staff: Mary Boring, Sandra Bohlken, Lynn Rognsvoog, Trace Taylor, Collin Kasefang and Greg Bohlken. They are a blessing to the congregation and to me.

I encourage you to find your place in the worship life, ministry teams and outreach opportunities this year at Faith Lutheran Church. Thank you for the honor of being your pastor.

There are no small deeds done in the name of Jesus,

The Rev. Dr. Bob Stelter
January 26, 2025



First Communion March 28, 2024

Left-to-Right:

Clifford Walker, Brighton Walker, Pastor Stelter, Asher Patterson, Victoria Hwangbo, Daniel Hwangbo, Sophia Hwangbo, Pastor Stelter

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

Baptized Membership as of January 1, 2024	535
Baptized Members Received in 2024	24
*Baptized Members Removed in 2024	-10
Baptized Members Removed by Death in 2024	-4
Baptized Membership as of December 31, 2024	<u>545</u>
Youth Confirmed in 2024	2
Number of Confirmed Members	440

**members transferred to another church, moved, inactive.*

MEMBER EVENTS

BAPTISMS

Felicity Halsey
Alvin Roberts

CONFIRMED

Kathryne Lehner
Jack Parrott

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Asher Patterson
Brighton Walker
Clifford Walker

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Terri Ahlgren
Betty & Roger Brown
Jane Christman
Christine & Doug Erickson, Emily, Ben
Gary Ficken
Anne Galazin
Felicity Halsey
Tom Jaynes
Peggy & Paul Jurkoic
Shae & James Lavoie, Charlotte, John,
Victoria
Jennifer & David Ribble
Carol Ann Schneider
Sam Sosebee

WEDDINGS

Laura (Howard) & Nathan Shattuck
Peggy & Paul Jurkoic

DEATHS

Leo Hebert
Olga Kelso
Donnie Smith
James Van Deusen



Annual Report of the Ministry Associate

In 2024 Faith Lutheran Church **welcomed 21 new members**: Roger & Betty Brown, Jaigne Christman, Doug & Chris Erickson, Emily and Ben, Gary Ficken, Anne Galazin, Tom Jaynes, Paul & Peggy Jurkoic, James & Shae Lavoie, Charlotte, John, and Victoria, Jen & Dave Ribble, Carol Ann Schneider, and Sam Sosebee. Visitors and new members continue to comment that they are welcomed so warmly by everyone at Faith Lutheran Church that they grow to feel like this place is home.

In 2024 Faith Lutheran Church sent 6 youth participants and 2 staff to **AFFIRM**, our Southeastern Synod's excellent summer youth camp: Ava Daut, Ethan Daut, Jack Parrott, Scarlett Parrott, Cadence Titsworth, Cortlyn Titsworth, Carrie Parrott, and Greg Bohlken.

In 2024 the area Lutheran churches enjoyed the growth of the **Knox Area Youth Gathering** monthly youth events. Our opening pool party cookout had over 20 youth and 10 parents, many of whom were deepening the friendships they started at AFFIRM.

In 2024 Faith Lutheran Church hosted 17 youth and 6 adult participants for **Vacation Bible School** June 3-6, facilitated by these leaders shining God's love to staff the event: Terri Ahlgren, Darla Berdal, Rhonda Blackburn, Rob Blackburn, Greg Bohlken, Sandra Bohlken, Rev. Wyn Bryant, Rev. Bruce Corrigan, Breanna Halsey, William Halsey, Jeff Horning, Melissa Horning, Larry Koran, Pat Lyman, Virginia McKinney, Daniel Moore, Jack Parrott, Scarlett Parrott, Taylor Patterson, Lynda Primka, Lois Simmons, Tara Taylor, Marj West, Brandon Wright

In 2024 Faith Lutheran Church entered a **float in the Farragut Fourth of July Parade**, with the Praise Band singing worship songs for the spectators. Many thanks to Steve Holley for the trailer, Foster & Anne Loyacano for driving the pickup truck, Renee Stone, Adam Edwards, and Sandra Bohlken for singing, and the following crew who walked beside and greeted the crowd, distributing Faith-logo paper fans and sunblock sticks: Deb Miller and Ethan Gray, Andrew & Carrie, Scarlett and Jack Parrott, Ava Daut, Marj West, Virginia McKinney, Suzy, Eddie, and Iris Tague, Greg, Micah and Isaiah Bohlken, Debbie Pinchok, and Jennifer Berry.

In 2024 we welcomed Dan Primka to our **Communication Specialist role** and quickly came to enjoy the visually appealing weekly email announcements that share recognizable graphics with the announcement slides that appear on the screens in our building.

We also launched our sermon podcast, which allows people to easily listen and share Sunday sermons throughout the week during commutes & workouts. Visit <https://www.faithloves.org/sermonpodcast/> to find us on your favorite streaming platform.

Wishing you peace and joy,
Greg Bohlken

Mission & Vision Team

The first step of our newly formed Mission and Vision Team is to know the hearts and minds of our congregation. This team seeks to discern the congregation's understanding of our mission and our future needs. The Mission and Vision Team asked the congregation for responses to several questions (listed below) as we understand where the Holy Spirit is leading Faith Lutheran Church. Team members are Will Dickinson, Breanna and William Halsey, George Herbold, Christina Landau, Lynda Primka, Connie Rist, Antonia Roberts, Frank Weldon, Greg Bohlken, Pastor Bob Stelter.

To Me, God Is...

- Compassion
- All loving and ever present
- Our protector, creator, and redeemer. God loves us no matter what mistakes we make in life and is the definition of unconditional love.
- Eternal Peace
- the way to see the world
- love, comfort, strength, and my savior
- on-the-loose
- love and care
- life
- unconditionally loving (something the world could use a lot more of right now), steadfast, and forgiving
- everything
- everywhere
- Calm and constant in the chaos of today's world. A guiding presence that never steers me wrong.
- protect and restore
- LOVE
- supporting Faith Lutheran Church efforts to make a difference in peoples' lives.
- with me always
- blessing me with good health & relationships.
- my strength and my calm
- salvation
- providing dedicated staff for Faith Lutheran Church to tell others the "good news"
- the hope of everlasting life
- who I trust
- comfort, peace, needed with me always everywhere, constant
- my Savior
- ever present hope
- first and foremost in my thoughts and actions
- my ever-present companion
- my saving grace
- the reason I am here today
- safe because He made all of the people and places.
- the creator and savior of this world
- He is the one who was, who is, and will come again. He is the one true King of all Heaven and Earth.
- all powerful!
- the one that helps us
- Always with me - I just have to keep him in my life first
- my anchor
- peace and calm in a chaotic world
- Someone I can place faith on to help me in rough, stressful times.
- care
- forgiving and guiding
- a constant that I can always rely on in good times and bad.
- The focal point of my life that I can always turn/return to when I feel I need centering, balance, comfort, guidance, really anything.
- GREAT
- Love Best Friend
- Guiding our family through joy & tribulation. God is our cornerstone & our counselor.
- Someone I can no longer understand. I am really struggling with the hatred coming from organized religion. I thought God was a god of love, not hate.
- God comes first in everything I do. "He's First" as long as he knows it. I have felt his presence my whole life.
- An ear to hear me - a heart to love me - a voice to speak to me - a hug to remind me I am loved and forgiven. A parent, friend, companion, and protector.
- Everywhere! We see this in the changes of the seasons and the beauty of the leaves changing colors. He is in our life through great times and the worst of times. Everything through prayer!!!
- guarding + guiding in the stress of my job.
- my salvation my strength
- a guide for me, an a light of home when I feel lost.
- My Father, Creator, Sovereign Lord, My Hope & Savior
- Heavenly Father, Creator, Forgiver, Comforter, Provider, Wonder
- a divine, caring, loving, and forgiving parent.
- LOVE!
- a mystery but all I know is I'm blessed to have him.
- Creator, King, Father
- El Shaddai - God Almighty
- El Elyon - Most High God
- my friends and their love and support

- All Powerful
- our foundation, source of our blessings and strength in hard times
- Love
- family and friends
- life-long protector, healer, provider and guide
- everything, my hero, my picker upper, my teacher, my savior
- My savior, My teacher, My peace, My friend
- my savior and constant help in my constant troubles. I depend on Him and his grace.
- Unconditional love At work everywhere, all the time Our hope and comfort
- The light, life, love, goodness, strength and beauty at the center of everything Who inexplicably but extravagantly and individually loves each of us.
- My heavenly Father, the Triune Creator and Savior, who is my inner peace and always with me.
- The foundation of all relationships. A personal relationship, our relationships with others and with our community.
- present in everything that I am and I do. When I get busy and forget, He reminds me! He is my best friend, my Saviour, and the Lord of my life. I worship Him.
- omnipresent; we don't have to look for him. omniscient; he knows answering prayers; answers are: yes, denied, different, or delayed
- Present with me every day through the Holy Spirit. It is in my thoughts and prayers every day and throughout the day. It gives me guidance, comfort, and peace.
- The Almighty, the Creator, the source of my salvation, the Comforter, the Peacemaker, Love personified.
- Father
- Almighty God, Creator, Father
- in the sunrise, in the sunset, in the moon, stars, and sky
- The Rock & Foundation of my Faith
- Hope for all
- a blessing to me. God shows me everyday how much I am blessed.
- Faithful, Judgmental, Everlasting
- Love
- Merciful, Loving, Forgiving
- Moving & inspiring people to help the flood recovery in Northeast Tennessee over the next few months.

To Me, Church Is...

- Family in Christ
- Community
- Loving because I learn about new things. But sometimes I do not want to, but it is good for me.
- Christian fellowship
- Peace
- the place that nourishes my spiritual being.
- where everyone is welcome. Church is a place that is the center of worship, serving the community, and the heart of our congregation.
- fellowship
- comfort
- love
- the building to begin new friendships, build friendships, and restore "old" friendships
- Where I can find comfort, guidance, family. Where I can find God through worship. Where I find other people who seeking to know and please God.
- family
- gathering
- the building where the family of God meets
- The Living Embodiment of Jesus Christ. The Church exists to serve its members and community by encouraging selfless faith and giving in a loving way and being a safe place in a cold world.
- to learn and honor God with family and friends
- the building that serves as a symbol of Christianity to the community
- Fellowship, worship, praise, encouragement, teaching, forgiveness, a place to serve, many voice in offering a sacrifice of praise.
- My sanctuary & safe place to be God's child & servant.
- My larger family of believers.
- A fellowship of believers who share in faith and friendship in worshipping God.
- a community where I can get closer to Jesus.
- Faith, community and reflection.
- Friends, love, fellowship, comfort & healing. Surrounding myself with people that remind me how great God's purpose is
- Family
- Family of God where we honor God, receive forgiveness, share in communion. To serve Him and others.
- where I go to escape the world and recharge
- "Home" away from my home
- A place to worship, to ask forgiveness; a place of contemplation.
- A community in which we love one another and surround each other with the love of God.
- strength of faith a reminder of His grace comfort of Communion

- chasing to catch up to and join with God-on-the-loose
- the place where I am given opportunities to serve others. No other place connects serving with my relationship to God.
- a place of no pretense - a place of honesty & worship.
- A place of welcome - a place to spend time with other brothers & sisters in Christ.
- a place to fellowship with God's people.
- a place to worship in community of God's people
- Where I can pause, feel a part of a tribe that is focused on loving God, others and serving. It is a home that reminds and underscores WE are I. This journey together - not alone.
- A community, a family, a home
- A support group. A place where like minded people can meet and grow in faith and learn more about God.
- Being with our fellow believers in Christ
- worshipping together with my church family as I grow and strengthen my faith.
- We know God's children are His Church. The building where like-minded children practice, similar worship methodologies become a church. Without congregation, you have an empty edifice. Add back the people, their pastor and the services the church offers and now you are back to being a church again.
- the house of God and all who believe in him - in God's house all are welcome
- the building where Christians meet to glorify God
- Joy
- HOPE, Comfort
- chosen family knowledge wisdom
- Compassion
- sacred ground, a place of solace, comfort, peace, support, and community
- a place to fellowship, to be fed by God's word, and to serve Christ thru serving others
- sacred, a sanctuary, safe haven, comprised of people, a place of worship, declining in membership, our hope, should welcome all
- chosen family, refill station, safe place, opportunity for growth & wisdom
- warm, welcoming, caring, friendships, activities together, service together, teaching, preaching, learning, growing, being challenged to grow in God's ways/Word, family time, powerful, necessary, all-in praise and worship, prayer, outside all boxes for God, all ages worship and grow together, outreach.
- comfort and calming when I am anxious. Loving, caring, faithful friends at all times
- A time (and place) where I feel close to my Dad, even though he's no longer with me on earth.
- a vehicle to help others.

- Family
- A place for everyone
- My family, my community, my network, my strength!
- Where I / WE - come together to be connected, strengthen our tribe in Christ and rejoice knowing we are not alone. A sanctuary to find grace, love and hope.
- a place where you should feel safe and loved.
- the time, the place, and the people that God brings us to so that we can be in communion and work as part of Christ's body.
- love & friendship
- Community
- just a building, because the people are the living representatives of Christ
- worship and a means to serve & encourage, support each other
- the leadership path forward
- my happy place! It fills me with joy!
- a place where you can talk and learn about God with friends and family
- a place to meet fellow Christians to worship God.
- a fellowship, commanded by God to make and mature believers, and guide each other according to the will of God.



To Me, Serving Is...

- Helping people in need
- helping others in need
- Giving back what was so freely given to me.
Giving me the opportunity to get out of Self Will and into Gods Will.
- Doing God's Work
- following in Jesus' footsteps
- using my talents to the Glory of God!
- Helping others in God's love
- the manifestation of one's faith
- an opportunity to share the love from Jesus with others
- Lending an ear
- doing the Lord's work to honor our Savior Jesus Christ
- being available to help those in need, in whatever capacity that need represents, large or small.
- worshipping & glorifying the Lord; being kind to others; providing a "hand up" to those in need; contributing one's time, talents, and treasures to share the "good news"
- a blessing
- FUN!!
- doing the "right thing" even when it isn't easy
- where we encounter Jesus
- Our hands, God's work
- a privilege
- Christ working through us
- a command from God; to follow His will and share His greatness with others.
- Sharing God's love, encouraging others, forgiving others, and helping those in need
- helping others not expecting anything in return. Similarly it's giving what you can to those who need it more.
- an ever present opportunity. Done better if you can supply the need before someone needs to ask. Daily work, not just for special occasions.
- Sharing (and making an effort to share) our God-given gifts freely with others with joy in our hearts... even when we may feel exhausted or drained, through God we continue to be filled to share with others.
- how God wants his plan for us and His glory to unfold: lifting each other up, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and comforting those who suffer.
- essential to growing my faith
- peace
- helping others
- Taking care of God's creation.
- giving in everyway
- my way to help others
- humility
- giving my time for others
- Remembering that the joy of the Lord is our strength!
- A joyful way to express God's love and to live as Jesus would have us to live.
- Using the time, talents, treasure, resources, wisdom, insight, growth, peace, love, joy and beauty God has given to us to love, encourage, and help others as God does by blessing them as, when, how, and where we can, including when it is sacrificial and uncomfortably stretching us
- Using your time & gifts for the purpose of bringing glory to God. This can be through community service (a major way this is expressed), but we also serve through our everyday actions. Through our jobs & regular life, we should be serving & glorifying God.
- "You wonder sometimes if it matters at all, let me remind you it all matters just as long as you do everything you do for the Glory of the one who made you, cause be made you to do every little thing that you do to bring a smile to His face, to tell the story of grace, with every move you make." - song "Do Everything"
- following (obeying) Christ's command
- gratifying (blesses the provider as well as the recipient(s)).
- Anticipating the needs of those around me.
- Happily doing for others that in some way makes their life better and without wanting anything in return.
- using time, talent, treasure, energy, mind, body, spirit to honor and glorify God in all that I think, say, do, sharing God's love and presence, peace and joy, grace and mercy in regular daily life.
- Helping others!
- Faith - Patience - Wisdom - Knowledge
- My way of giving my time to help others know they are thought of and cared for by receiving handmade items



Where have you seen God at work in the world recently?

- neighbors coming together to get to know each other better
- In every aspect of my life. I choose to see and believe that God is everything - and in all events. It is up to me to see God in the moments.
- Through the time others give to listen and serve others in our neighborhoods, our church, and families.
- In our church, Middle East, Feeding the Hungry, California
- I have seen God in the people at church
- at the Food Pantry and at the University of Tennessee and wherever people are gathered.
- My doctors
- I've seen God working through unexpected blessings. Helping us to learn and have the chance to grow if we choose to.
- Volunteers graciously helping victims of weather issues
- everyday there is something God is doing; you just have to open your eyes to see all he does to help people in need - just at our church he does a lot.
- He is holding our nation together despite chaos and intolerance.
- all over the world through people who are helping any way possible to help others in need.
- The Veterans Volunteer Relief Corps that formed to bring aid to Helene victims. They continue even today bringing propane tanks, among other items, to the families.
- In all the helpers. Firemen, policemen, and all the people who are helping in California and in flood mitigation closer to home.
- I see God work every day in the cancer clinic where I work. In the relationships that are formed between the patients and staff, the joy we feel and experience with a patient when they have a good outcome and the compassion that is shown to patients when the outcome is not as hoped.
- In the quiet moments watching the sun rise - and being reminded that all is perfect, and what is happening is what is supposed to be happening. Reminding me to follow Gods will and not my own.
- 400 coats were donated by attendees of a concert at Barley's. CareCuts collected and distributed them.
- In my immediate world: provision: needs met; my two Goldendoodles finally getting the hang of new commands; how my family loves each other, talks, and shares life; encouragement and camaraderie from online friends.
- In my town: two local online giving groups who share what they no longer want/need/use with those in the groups who can use the items (including books I get for the church free Little Library). Our church's various outreaches.
- In our country: people helping people and sharing God's love. In the world: God moving all over the world touching hearts, meeting needs. Revival breaking out in various places, ie: on college campuses and in sports teams.
- In the celebration and fun at a wedding! Easy to see God working in the love and happiness in the couple and in the family and friends.
- In the generous gifts and donations to support victims of natural disasters
- At the Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry giving back to people who need food!
- I see God every Sunday when I attend Faith Lutheran Church and touch the stained-glass doors I had made in memory of my husband Ron Fife. -from Gloria Fife
- Aside from the programs and ministries that are actively helping and sharing God's love all over the world, we can see God's plan unfolding all across the globe, all we need to do is pay attention



The Report of the Secretary Congregational Meeting November 17, 2024

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Ted Primka at 12:07pm

A quorum was declared by Ted Primka

Ted Primka provided opening prayer and comments. He recognized Greg Bohlken with a gift, given in appreciation of his leadership while Pastor Bob Stelter was on sabbatical; and also recognized outgoing council members Rick Smenner, Doug Goins, Alan Berdal and himself.

Election of 2025 Leadership

Ted Primka introduced the slate of 2025 Council nominees:

- Mary Bales, Carrie Parrott, Dawn Titsworth

There were no nominations from the floor.

Mildred Fenske moved that a vote of confirmation be taken by show of hands to accept the slate of Council nominees. Christina Landau seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes – Ted Primka presented the February 11, 2024, Congregational Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Lynda Primka and seconded by Darla Berdal to approve the minutes. There was no discussion, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Alan Berdal

Alan Berdal presented a financial summary and directed the attention of the congregation to the budget information distributed at the beginning of the meeting, noting that all financial information is current.

Presentation and approval of 2025 Budget

Discussion: The proposed budget is \$772,000.00, which is roughly \$50,000.00 less than last year. This is due to our giving being leaner.

Mildred Fenske: Does there need to be an increase in the budget for utilities?

Ted Primka: It is always a guess, but we are typically below budget, and the property team has implemented changes which have reduced our utilities.

Carrie Parrott: Can we participate in the Farragut Fourth of July parade, and does it need to be in the budget?

Ted Primka: If funding is needed that can certainly be approved. Per our constitution we have 5% flexibility in our budget.

A motion was made by Christina Landau and seconded by Dan Primka to accept the 2025 budget as presented. Ted Primka asked for a show of hands in favor and the motion passed. There was none opposed.

Ted Primka opened the floor for questions.

Mildred Fenske thanked the Property Team and Council for their dedication.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Bob Stelter

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27pm

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Beardsley
Council Secretary

Annual Report of the Treasurer

January 1 through December 31, 2024

INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT

January 1 through December 31, 2024

Offerings	717,645.18	717,645.18
Operating Expenses	-706,324.82	
Income less Expense		<u><u>11,320.36</u></u>

GENERAL FUND BANK ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance January 1, 2024		40,317.45
receipts	892,477.91	
disbursements	-882,461.19	
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		<u><u>50,334.17</u></u>

DEDICATED FUND ACCOUNTS

Beginning Balance January 1, 2024		161,824.22
receipts	96,476.13	
disbursements	-120,697.67	
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		<u><u>137,602.68</u></u>

OPERATING RESERVE

Beginning Balance January 1, 2024		105,241.00
receipts	12,254.00	
disbursements	-52,000.00	
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		<u><u>65,495.00</u></u>

WALK BY FAITH / Roof ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance January 1, 2024		42,485.01
receipts WBF	18,678.24	
receipts roof	62,142.00	
disbursements WBF	-31,719.90	
disbursements roof	-39,448.57	
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		<u><u>39,900.26</u></u>

SHEPHERD OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY

Beginning Balance January 1, 2024		25,781.17
donations	77,164.88	
disbursements	-58,425.99	
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		<u><u>44,520.06</u></u>

WOMEN OF THE ELCA BANK ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance January 1, 2024		425.21
contributions	1,861.00	
expenses	-1,212.50	
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		<u><u>1,073.71</u></u>

MORTGAGE BALANCE

Beginning Balance January 1, 2024		337,540.29
principal payments 1/1 -- 12/31/2024	-36,846.13	
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		<u><u>300,694.16</u></u>

Respectfully submitted
 Alan C. Berdal
 Treasurer

2025 APPROVED BUDGET

BENEVOLENCE & COMMUNITY MINISTRY	32,560
BUILDING CAPITAL EXPENSES	49,056
WORSHIP & MUSIC	38,445
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	23,300
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	3,800
YOUTH MINISTRY	4,000
EVANGELISM	2,300
FELLOWSHIP	5,000
STEWARDSHIP	850
STAFF EXPENSES	482,421
BUILDING EXPENSES	114,850
ADMINISTRATIVE	16,850
CONFERENCES	<u>1,000</u>
EXPENSE BUDGET TOTAL	<u><u>774,432</u></u>





2024 Annual Report

The Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry

Faith Lutheran Church is the host church for the Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry. Our team churches are: Concord United Methodist, Grassy Valley Baptist, First Baptist of Concord, and Farragut Presbyterian.

Community Partners: This year we have expanded our community support to include the following community partners: Second Harvest Food Bank, Helping Mamas, Fleet Feet, Water into Wine, Costco, Publix; Kroger, Aldi, Federal Express, Randy Davis Milk Fund, and Farragut Pharmacy.

Parking lot evangelism happens! We talk, we pray, we take prayer requests, we listen, we invite people to join our services. We provide nutritious recipes for the food we distribute. We distribute fresh vegetables during the summer and fall courtesy of the Concord United Methodist Church's Garden.

The pantry was supported by three grants this year: two from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and one from Siddiqui Foundation. The pantry was also supported by many individual donations and donations from our churches.

Special holiday baskets were given to all pantry guests and our guests from Knox County Schools, coordinated through school counselors. As part of the holiday distribution, people were given gift cards for fresh turkey, ham, and/or produce.

Over 2,400 hours of onsite volunteer hours were recorded. Many more hours were put in behind the scene.

2024 PEOPLE SERVED			
	Monday Pantry Days	School Certificate Program	Total
Children aged 17 and under	1,483	435	1,918
Adults ages 18-59	1,946	364	2,310
Seniors aged 60 and above	1,048	6	1,054
Total of all people served	4,477	805	5,282
Total families served	1,320	185	1,505

Respectfully submitted,
Renée Stone
Director



Register Your Kroger Card to benefit Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry!
Go to [krogercommunityrewards.com](https://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to register your card with our code **XI124**.
Each time your card is scanned, the Pantry receives a donation.

2024 Annual Report of The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We organized the Rachel's Day diaper drive held in May that was very well supported by the congregation. These donations help stock our Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry. Palms were purchased and ladies helped pass them out on Palm Sunday.

Several receptions were organized to provide food and fellowship after memorial services for the families of Leo Hebert, Donnie Smith and Jim Van Deusen.

WELCA Sunday was held September 22. Ladies volunteered as ministry assistants and provided refreshments between services. The food, decorations, and fellowship were great and provided the congregation with a good picture of WELCA activities and ministries. Our archivist, Anne Loyacano, continues to gather and organize our history in a scrapbook that was on display.

In November we again enjoyed filling Christmas stockings with items for our Deacon Ministry to deliver on their visits. A good time of food and fellowship followed with a "THANKS" luncheon.

We had to say goodbye to 2 of our wonderful ladies who have been such a blessing to us and Faith. Barbara LeFevre and Lois Simmons have moved to be closer to family.

We welcome all women to join us for Bible Study, ministry, service and fellowship.

Officers: Pat Lyman, leader; Lois Simmons, secretary; Jane Dakolios, treasurer; Anne Loyacano, archivist

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Lyman

2024 WELCA Financial Report

OPENING BALANCE 1/1/2024	\$ 425.21
TOTAL INCOME	1,861.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	-1,212.50
ENDING BALANCE 12/31/2024	<u>\$ 1,073.71</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Dakolios
WELCA Treasurer



KNOX AREA RESCUE MISSION

At Faith Lutheran Church we are defined by our ministries. It is our Mission Statement, Love God, Love Others, Serve that guides us on our journey. One of our long-standing ministries is serving a Saturday hot lunch at the Knox Area Rescue Mission six to eight times throughout the year. KARM serves our friends from all walks of life by providing food, shelter, job training and most importantly sharing God's word.

Our church family prepares and serves our casseroles, homemade brownies, seasoned green beans and applesauce. The volunteers usually fill up the menu within hours of the emails that go out to recruit servers, bakers and cooks. This outreach is a blessing to those who receive as much as it is for those serving.

What is so exciting about our visit is that we serve two kinds of food. A hot meal and drink and Spiritual food. We ask our volunteers as they serve to take time to go out and visit with our friends and ASK how they are doing or if we can pray for them. ASK is a very impactful word. It is more than the food we serve; it is sharing God's word with them.

Our average crowd is 150. It feels like Jesus feeding the 5,000. We always have plenty of food and the leftovers are used in meals in the following days.

I invite you to join us either as a cook, baker and/or server to experience this heart-filled mission. The joy and blessing we receive by serving others are so rewarding. Faith Lutheran Church is a serving church and the smiles and stories from our friends say it best. God is always with us and provides for all our needs.

Respectfully submitted,
George Herbold



How Do I Give?

CADENCE TITSWORTH

Good morning, my name is Cadence Titsworth. I go to Maryville High School. I've been a member of this church since January 18, 2009. So yesterday was my baptism birthday.

This week's prompt was, how do I give? Most of you probably started thinking about your money, and that's important too. However, how else can we give? We can give our money, our talents or our time. And although I don't have a job or a steady income of money, I can still give back to the church and God. Giving doesn't have to be a huge deal, it can just be small things to make people's day. For example, every Sunday, I hang out with the kids in the cry room so that the parents can listen to the sermon without worrying about their children. This gives me a chance to connect with the kids and the parents. I love playing with them and the kids are always so nice. I've made many good memories spending time with them, from building Legos to walking with them to communion and even dancing at the end of church. Saturday nights, I go to bed excited to see them the next day. Thank you to Micah, Isaiah, Charlotte, John, Victoria, and Felix.

I believe that church is about being with God's people and I try to always connect and help all the people I can. For example, every Monday that we don't have something planned, my family and I go to the food pantry to help. This helps me connect with the people at my church who I don't usually see and gives me the chance to talk to people who usually go to early service. All the volunteers at the pantry are always so sweet and I'm always excited to see all the people working that day. I'm thankful to God for giving me the opportunity to spend my Monday afternoons at the church with these people who are so loving and generous. However, it's not about the people at the pantry, it's the people that we help through the pantry.

In October, my whole family came together to build flood buckets to help people in North Carolina and East Tennessee, who had just gotten hit by the floods. We went to Lowe's together and spent a day picking out and organizing five-gallon buckets with 10 items in each to help people clean up. As devastating as these storms were, it gave families like mine the chance to connect with these

people but also realize how blessed we were. My family made memories making the buckets and then driving to North Carolina to give them to people.

The Bible says, each one of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver. This verse is saying that you shouldn't just give because you're told to, but because this makes God happy.

It's easy to get in a rhythm such as mindlessly writing a check to the church and not thinking about how much you're truly giving. In Malachi 3, it says, will a mere mortal rob God and yet you rob me. You ask how are we robbing you and in tithes and offerings. This verse is saying that we aren't giving everything that God deserves to him. We are taking some bit by bit for ourselves instead of trusting God to take care of it. God doesn't need our money. He uses our money to reach others who do need it. Our money that we give to God goes to the church and the church uses these offerings to go to help other people in need. For example, our church works with the Salvation Army homeless shelters, deacons, etc. God is using us and our money to bring more people into heaven.

Giving can be hard. We're raised in a society where we own everything. I have a cousin who always says everything is hers. Granted, she's one, but if we weren't submerged in the idea that everything is ours when everything is God's, then she might not say that. Kids look up to their parents, and when parents set a good example, good or bad, kids see that and copy that. So, this is important that we set a good example so the next generation that looks to us sees how we do and then copies that.

Overall, our money is just as important as our time. Money comes and goes, but our time is impossible to get back. Here one day and gone the next. So how do we give? We give our money to the church to help reach out to people who need us, and we give our time to those who we want to connect with and those who need us most. There's no wrong answer to the question; how do I give? If you are giving, God can and will use it. Thank you.

EASTER FLOWER HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS 2024

To the Glory of God

In memory of our son, Joe—Alice & Joe Pigott

In honor of Faith Lutheran Church Staff—Margaret & Bruce Corrigan

In honor of Mary Blackburn and Donna Smith—Rhonda & Rob Blackburn

In honor of Ian, Nicole, Myles and Nathan—Rhonda & Rob Blackburn

In memory of Bob Blackburn, Cathy Blackburn and Wayne Smith—Rhonda & Rob Blackburn

In memory of our son, Austin Montgomery Herbold--Mary & George Herbold

In memory of C.B & Louise Wright and Arlene & George Herbold—Mary & George Herbold

In memory of Robert Galazin, my husband—Anne Galazin

In memory of Buddy Stelter, my husband—Ann Stelter

In memory of Ron Fife—Gloria Fife, Jason Fife & Michelle Fife Davis

In memory of Skip Beardsley, my father—Laura Beardsley

In honor of the Deacons—Terry & Craig Runger

In memory of Jodi Stehmeyer--Christina Landau

In memory of Lisa, my daughter—Vicki Adams

In memory of Carol—Vicki Adams

In memory of David Yackle—Vicki Adams

In memory of our son, Adam—Nancy & Stephen Dean

In memory of Adelaide & Sterling Wigren and Myrtle & Wilbur Dean—Nancy & Stephen Dean

In memory of Gayle Stewart, Randy's mother—Ann & Randy Stewart

In memory of Lorene French, Ann's mother—Ann & Randy Stewart

In memory of Jeanette & Ray Miller, Deb's parents—from Deb & Matt Gray

In memory of Sharon Malloy, Matt's mom—Deb & Matt Gray

In memory of Leonard, Jeff and Jill Johnson--Debbie & Anthony Ragucci

In honor of our families--Debbie & Anthony Ragucci

POINSETTIA HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS 2024

To the Glory of God

In memory of our son Joe—Alice & Joe Pigott

To the Glory of God—Pam Brown

In honor of our grandchildren and great grandchildren—Alice & Joe Pigott

In honor of our children and grandchildren—Shirley & Ben Campbell

In honor of our grandchildren—Jane & Gary Dakolios

In honor of our grandchildren, Heath, Mabry, Juda, Max, and Suzanne—Patricia & David Mabry

In gratitude for the Faith Lutheran Church Staff Members—Meg & Bruce Corrigan

In memory of my husband, Toivo Rist—Connie Rist

In memory of my husband Ron Fife—Gloria Fife

In memory of Jim, my husband—Marj West

In memory of my husband Steven Joyce—Virginia McKinney

In memory of Austin Montgomery Herbold—Mary & George Herbold

In memory of C.B & Louise Wright and Arlene & George Herbold—Mary & George Herbold

In memory of Cheryl Stone—Reneé & Tim Stone

In memory of our mothers—Ann & Randy Stewart

In memory of our parents Faye & Harold Clift & Sibie & Carl Cole—Nancy & Leon Cole

In memory of Lisa—Vicki Adams

In memory of Brads' s grandmother Marian Kuehnert—Jennifer & Brad Berry

In memory of Carol—Vicki Adams

In memory of Edna & Dick Pigott—Alice & Joe Pigott

In memory of the departed Corrigan and Robinson families—Meg & Bruce Corrigan

In memory of Leonard, Jeff & Jill Johnson—Debbie & Anthony Ragucci

In honor of our families—Debbie & Anthony Ragucci

In memory of Rita Hommel and Larry Cumberland—Leslie & Rick Smenner

In memory of Caryl & Dick Smenner—Leslie & Rick Smenner.

In memory of Tory Rios—Leslie & Rick Smenner

In memory of Charles Kluna, my brother—Virginia McKinney

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

“More majestic than the thunders
of mighty waters, more majestic
than the waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the Lord!
Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house, O
Lord, forevermore.”

—Psalm 93:4-5

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

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

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

God, we praise you and give you thanks.

You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.

We praise you for food that nourishes us.

You rescued your people from slavery.

We praise you for freedom.

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

We bless you for your justice and mercy.

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

We praise you for his death and resurrection.

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

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

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift

and commission us again to be your servant people.

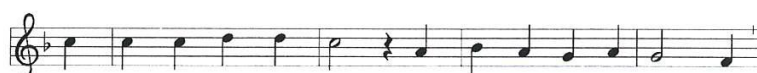
Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Send us in your love and mercy,

that the world may know you and praise you.

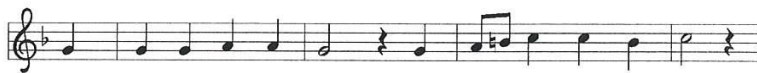
Now Thank We All Our God



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



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



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



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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 840

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

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



Let us pray.

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

Amen.