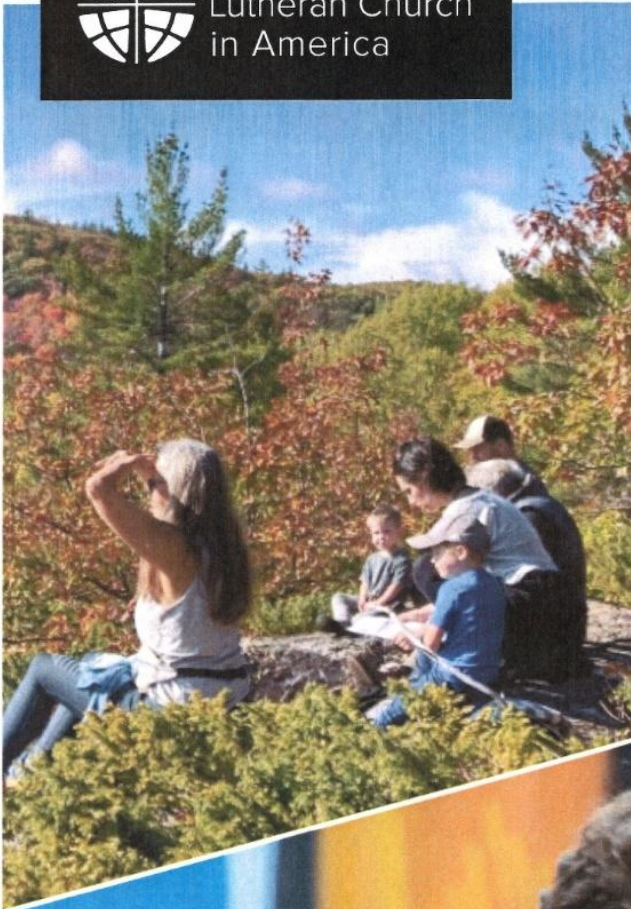




Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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

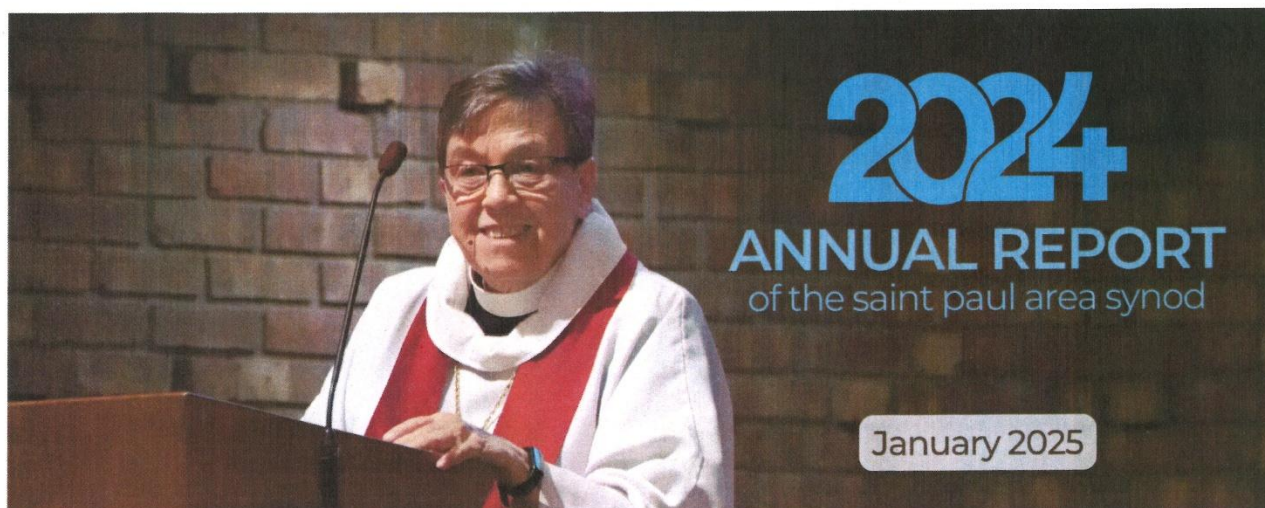
financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices, you've helped carry this message of God's majestic love. Thank you, dear church. As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to stand steadfast in God's promises, sure of God's love and goodness.

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

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



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*"Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you: I have said to the Lord,
'You are my Lord, my good above all other.'" Psalm 16:1 (ELW translation)*

As we come to the close of 2024, these are complicated days in our world. I think most congregations in this synod are faring better than many other organizations and institutions when it comes to focusing on a core mission, living out their values, and being financially stable. Yet, anxiety is widespread and lots of people are angry and disappointed, fearful and disenchanting. All these dynamics create a perfect context for witnessing to the good news from God. We have much work to do but we know that we work best when we act as **church together** in this synod.

This past year the synod staff and the Synod Council adopted this mission statement and core values:

***As followers of Jesus, we are called to accompany faith communities
and equip leaders for God's mission in the world.***

Our core values are – authenticity, connection, compassion, and curiosity.

This understanding of our mission allows us to focus staff time and budget dollars to create the most lasting impact in our common work. The core values thread through the way we interact as synod staff and the way we show up in conversations with congregations and the wider public.

In summer 2024, I hosted five Listening Sessions to hear directly from Lutherans like you where you find hope in your congregation and also the worries that weigh on you. Over 100 persons participated and 50 people joined a Zoom presentation to hear what I had learned.

Here are two strategic steps we are taking as a synod to respond to all that I heard: In 2025 we will inaugurate a year and a half emphasis on worship renewal in congregations. This will be funded in part by an ELCA Churchwide grant with an emphasis on inviting our neighbors to join us in worship experiences. Secondly, as a synod, we will encourage and support efforts to make respectful conversations a hallmark of congregational life. You'll hear more about both initiatives in early 2025.

During 2024, the synod staff over saw call processes and transitions with more than 30 congregations. Several of those included the calling of multiple rostered ministers. This means that nearly a third of the congregations in the synod were in a time of transition this past year. I am grateful for all who have served on a call committee, for our interim pastors, and for faithful members who trust that we are always being called forward into God's mission for us as the church.

I was privileged to ordain four persons in 2024, including Pastor Wesley Kimball, serving as associate pastor at All Saints in Cottage Grove; Pastor Pepe Demarest, serving as pastor for the Recovery Church in St. Paul

with the United Methodist Church (a full communion partner); Pastor Ruthie Mhanga, serving as associate pastor at Gustavus Adolphus in St. Paul; and Pastor Nathan Lyke, serving as associate pastor at St. John's in Lakeville.

Three of these candidates were from the Saint Paul Area Synod where we currently have 24 persons in the candidacy process to serve as pastors or deacons in the ELCA. I am grateful for those who serve on the Candidacy Committee, for those who mentor and encourage our candidates, for our seminaries and intern sites, and all who support persons as they discern how God is calling them to live out their vocation in the church and world. This is work we all share, knowing that for many the seeds of wondering about becoming a pastor or deacon begin during the elementary school years.

A highlight in 2024 was welcoming Eternal Flame Lutheran Church to recognized congregational status during the Synod Assembly in May. This vibrant congregation, rooted in the growing Hmong community in the East Metro, began as a mission start many years before. The financial support and prayers of many have accompanied this process, as well as our shared work with the ELCA, led by our Director of Evangelical Mission, Pastor Justin Grimm. Also in 2024, St. Mark Lutheran in St. Paul marked its holy closure as a congregation, after more than 100 years of witness on West 7th Street in St. Paul. There are now 106 congregations in the Saint Paul Area Synod with just over 100,000 baptized members.

The Planting Hope Campaign, a synod-wide initiative to support congregational vitality, youth development, and outreach efforts in the synod, continued to bear fruit. With our partners at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, we celebrated the opening of the Early Learning Center-East Side in August, thanks to a \$1 million investment from the campaign. \$100,000 was shared with congregational vitality efforts this year; over \$50,000 was used to fund paid summer internship for nine young adults. To date over \$1.7 million dollars has been raised for The Planting Hope Campaign. I want to thank all who have donated to the campaign while continuing significant mission support, which allows us to do so much together.

God continues to bless our congregations with people and financial resources. The gifts of time, talent, and treasure enable us to live into God's mission in ways no one congregation could do in isolation. This includes support of our mission starts and redevelopment congregations. In 2024 these included Shobi's Table, Foundation of Life, Eternal Flame, Cristo Rey, St. Paul – Wyoming, Lutheran Church of Peace – Maplewood, and Christ the Servant – Vadnais Heights. An exploration of a possible mission start in Rosemount began in 2024.

Finally, I know you join me in thanking those who serve on the staff of this synod. They include Rachel Holsten, Mary Smith, David Roinas, Kirsten Levorson, Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, Justin Grimm, Kirsta Lind, Leslie Ortiz and Patricia Lull. Together with Synod Council members, deans, committee members, congregational leaders, and all of you, we have been able to do much to share God's good news to a world, so eager for hope and direction.

I am grateful to serve as the bishop in this time and place, knowing that God alone is our hope and refuge, as the Psalmist proclaims. May we live out that deep truth with joy and confidence in the year to come.

Yours in God's Service,



Bishop Patricia Lull



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651-224-4313 | www.spas-elca.org

Annual Congregation Agenda – In-House Meeting
House of Prayer Lutheran Church Oakdale Minnesota
Sunday, January 26, 2025

MISSION STATEMENT: To Live, share and Proclaim the Love of Christ!

1. **Call to Order:** President Scott Hults
2. **Opening Devotion:** Pam Hults
3. **Teller’s Count:** Lead Teller
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Scott Hults
5. **Approval of the Minutes – January 28, 2024 (Annual Meeting) and Special Congregational Meeting-Pastor Call- held on January 28, 2024:** Scott Hults
6. **Approval of the Ministry Reports:** Scott Hults
Ministry Reports, including but not limited to:
Council President; Pastor’s State of the Congregation; Christian Education; Community Festival;
Finance Ministry; Global Missions; Love Fund; Membership; Memorial Committee; Music Ministry;
Outreach; Property; Service Ministry; Women of Hope; Auditors and Treasurer.
7. **Old Business:** Scott Hults
 - a. Hope Campaign Completion (Presentation and Vote): Dave Burau
8. **New Business:** Scott Hults
 - a. 2025 Budget Presentation and Vote: Dave Burau
 - b. Tool Kit Conference Assembly will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, 2025, 8:30a.m. -2:00 p.m. at Shepherd of the Valley in Apple Valley. We are looking for 6 delegates to go.
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____
 - c. 2025 Synod Assembly is on May 16th and 17th at St. Andrew’s Church in Mahtomedi: Two candidates are needed: 1 female and 1 male. Male: _____ Female: _____
9. **Council Elections – Nominations and Candidacy –** Scott Hults
President (2-year term), Treasurer (1-year term), Secretary (2-year term), (2) At Large (2-year term for each).
10. **Council Elections – Official results –** Lead Teller
11. **Closing Prayer:** Pam Hults
12. **Motion to Adjourn:** Scott Hults

Annual Congregation Minutes
House of Prayer Lutheran Church Oakdale Minnesota
Sunday, January 28, 2024

MISSION STATEMENT: To Live, Share, and Proclaim the Love of Christ

Call to Order by Scott Hults at 10:42 a.m.

Opening Devotion was an Annual Congregation Meeting Responsive Liturgy read by Pam Hults.

Teller's Count was reported by Head Teller, Deb Seyfer at 56.

Approval of Agenda: Larry Bachman made a motion to approve the agenda, and Richard Pruden seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes: Bev Buan made a motion to approve the Minutes for the January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting, along with Minutes for September 3, 2023 Special Congregational Meeting (Sidewalk Replacement), and September 11, 2023 (Ministry Site Profile for Call Process). Barb Zehoski seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Approval of Ministry Reports: A motion was made by Irene Kube to accept the ministry reports. Audrey Orf seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Old Business:

Dave Bureau gave an update on the Hope Campaign and financial standing. The forecasted funding will not be sufficient to build an outdoor worship area at this time. Due to this assessment, Dave made a motion for the following resolution:

Be it resolved-because funding was not sufficient to build the outdoor worship area, that this project be tabled for the present.

Linda Siluk seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Annual Congregation Minutes 1/28/2024-continued

New Business:

Scott Hults presented the Budget for 2024 and pointed out some of the changes from our previous year's budget. Dave Bureau made a motion to accept the proposed 2024 budget. Linda Siluk seconded the motion. There was a time for questions and discussion after which a vote was called. The proposed 2024 Budget was approved.

An announcement was made regarding Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders and Conference Assembly (Feb. 24, 2024, at Faith Lutheran Forest Lake). We asked for 6 delegates (3 men, 3 women) to attend the Conference Assembly. We had three members volunteer to be delegates, Scott Hults, Pam Hults, and Linda Siluk. Interim Pastor Steve will also be attending.

Announcement was made about the Synod Assembly taking place on May 10th and 11th, 2024 at St Andrew's Church in Mahtomedi. Scott asked for people to consider attending this meeting as we will need 2 attendees (1 male, 1 female).

Council Election-Nomination and Vote:

Scott discussed the positions that are open on the Council in 2024 (Vice President, Treasurer, 2 At Large) and pointed out biographies on nominees. He asked for any additional nominees with none presented. Scott suggested the motion for a 'White Ballot' with Pam Hults as Vice President, Janet Prudent as Treasurer, Maren Nelson as At Large and Doreen Biedermann as At Large. Audrey Orf made a motion to approve a 'White Ballot' and Michael Hansen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Interim Pastor Steve closed with prayer.

Larry Bachman made a motion to adjourn, and Larry Goplen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Adjourned by Scott Hults at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Bachman, Council Secretary

HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH OAKDALE MN

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING- Pastor Call

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Called to Order by President Scott Hults at 11:19 a.m.

Opening Devotions by Scott Hults read the passage from Mark 1, followed with reading from devotional and a prayer.

Teller's count by Head Teller, Deb Seyfer at 55.

Approval of Agenda: Gene Hults made a motion to approve the agenda, and Richard Pruden seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Mike Nelson gave bio information and presented Pastor Annie Langseth as the Candidate for Position of New Permanent Pastor. He reviewed the benefit package being offered by the congregation with discussion.

Scott Hults made a recommendation/proposal to call Pastor Annie Langseth as our Permanent Full-Time Pastor.

A motion was made by Mike Nelson to approve the Proposal and Cathy Suchomel seconded the motion.

Questions and discussion were handled by Scott Hults and Mike Nelson.

Scott Hults called for a vote with the proposal passing.

Pam Hults closed the Meeting with prayer.

Motion to adjourn was made by Michael Hansen and seconded by Kris Goplen. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Bachman, Council Secretary

Council President's Report

House of Prayer had a great 2024 with new leadership, several accomplishments and enriching events that reflected our mission to **“Live, share, and proclaim the love of Christ.”**

Interim Pastor Steve Cruys shepherded House of Prayer through February, and we appreciated his guidance over the 14 months he was with our parish. In March, Pastor Annie Langseth began her call to House of Prayer and joined us and our mission to proclaim the love of Christ. Pastor Annie has been a blessing to House of Prayer.

Much was accomplished in the third and last year of the “Reaching Out in Hope Together” capital campaign. The bell tower is a well-lit beacon in the Oakdale-North St. Paul area broadcasting the start and end of worship as well as select hymns on religious holidays and some U.S. holidays. The new digital sign on Century Avenue/Hwy 120 informs traffic what is happening at House of Prayer. Landscaping and new plants were added around the bell tower and near the front door this summer, while the removal of faded ash trees was accomplished this fall.

On December 1, House of Prayer's new website went live after having a new design and numerous updates by our A/V Consultant Mike Nelson. In 2025, we need to continue our efforts for outreach and share with people in Oakdale/North St Paul/Maplewood that we are a welcoming and nurturing place to share the love of Christ.

The funds raised at the Community Festival in August were used to support Shobi's Table as well as Lutheran Disaster Response. Our Lenten Special offering was given to the North St. Paul Food Shelf and to Rezek House Transitional Living (youth 16-21 experiencing homelessness in St Paul). The Community Christmas Breakfast raised funds to support our sister congregation in Ifunda, and numerous scholarships for students in Ifunda were also donated by members.

In addition to these benevolence fundraising efforts, Social Ministry hosted several projects. In June, HOP members walked in the parade and shared hundreds of bags of candy in addition to HOP fliers with attendees at Oakdale Summerfest. In October another great Trunk or Treat event was held with over 30 vehicle trunks in various shapes and sizes including Oakdale Police and Emergency Response which interacted with kids in their costumes as well as parents. Many other great events and efforts can be found in the many reports that are included in this year's booklet.

Thank you all for your work and commitment to House of Prayer Lutheran and Christ's church this past year. I am excited for the upcoming year in which we will live, share, and proclaim the love of Christ with our friends and neighbors.

God's blessings,



Scott Hults

Pastor's State of the Congregation Report

"When [the wise men] saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11-12

To all of God's beloved at House of Prayer:

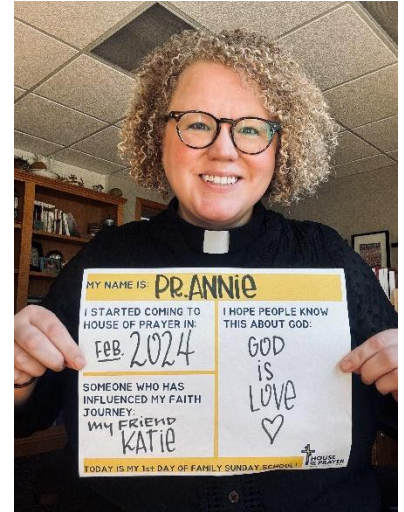
An overriding theological motif throughout the Gospel of Matthew is the promise of God's presence. This is most clearly revealed in Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel, which means "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). From the beginning of this Gospel to the end, the divine presence is promised; at its close, Jesus urges his disciples, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). But Matthew also assumes that though we are repeatedly assured of God's promised presence in our world and in our lives, it is likely to be missed and often unrecognized...

We gather together as a church in worship and fellowship, in learning and in service to help one another see and recognize God's guiding light in our world and in our lives. To, as the wise men did, center ourselves around the Messiah on bended knee to help one another remember that Jesus is as he said: with us always. And having helped one another see and recognize and remember, we go out into the world so that our neighbors would know the promise of God's presence for themselves—and feel it!

In my first year serving as your pastor, I have been delighted and blessed to witness God's light shining through House of Prayer—pointing to Christ in our midst. And I trust without a doubt that God's light will continue to shine brightly for us and through us. I'm aware that there have been and will be challenges for us, but I encourage us to not let those cause us to miss the truth that God is with us and actively at work for us. Instead, let us be so moved to follow the Epiphany star together, discerning where God is leading us as House of Prayer Lutheran Church in 2025 and the years to come. Discerning who God is calling us to be in this time and in this place.

And as we discern, let us reflect on the many ways in which God's light has shone on us and through us. Let us remember together the gifts we have received from God and the gifts we have shared in response. Below are just some of the highlights that I remember and give thanks for:

- * **Service of Installation.** On Sunday, March 17th I was thrilled to be received by you as a messenger of Jesus Christ and officially be installed as your new pastor. Rolf Lowenberg-Deboer, Saint Paul Area Synod Assistant to the Bishop for Lay Leadership and Equity Initiatives, preached God's word in worship and presided over my installation. Also that morning, the 2024-2025 Church Council was installed and charged with leading our congregation in our shared mission "to live, share, and proclaim the love of Christ."
- * **Community Festival.** On Sunday, August 18th I had the pleasure of experiencing my first ever Community Festival with House of Prayer. As the report for the event on page 14 details, we fed tasty food to a lot of people and raised over \$3,000 to benefit ministry partners. It was a lovely gathering on



Pastor's State of the Congregation Report-continued

a beautiful day, but what I was most excited about was our congregation's willingness to experiment by inviting Shobi's Table of the Saint Paul Area Synod to prepare and serve the food. Being willing to risk trying something new is an important discipline and gift!

- * ***Special Prayer and Worship Services.*** Speaking of experimenting and risking trying something new... I was grateful for the chance to lead an Election Day Prayer Service on November 5th and a Blue Christmas Worship Service on December 18th. Though attendance numbers were low for both, I truly felt these services made a positive impact on those who gathered for them—as they also did on me.
- * ***Ongoing generosity in all the ways!*** I have been so grateful for the many ways in which this congregation generously gives of itself. From your faithful financial offerings weekly and monthly to the special gifts you've contributed to support things like scholarships, desks, brail machines, and a motorcycle for our companion congregation, the Ifunda Parish. From regularly stocking the Little Free Library and Pantry to making over 500 sandwiches to help feed those experiencing homelessness. From praying for each other daily to caring for each other when members have died or are grieving the loss of their loved one. House of Prayer, you show up for your church and your community, and you do so with a love and grace informed by Jesus the Christ. Thank you!

A priority I'm holding for the year to come is moving our congregation from a posture of welcome to that of invitation; that is, moving our congregation more towards inviting others in and less from waiting to welcome them. House of Prayer is actively participating in work that matters to God and makes a difference in this world and in our lives. We need to let others know about this!

Dave Daubert, a Lutheran pastor and author of the *Invitational Christian*, notes that "As the church becomes more of a minority activity in our culture, the chances of connecting with those who are not in the church decrease as well" and "rarely do people who have not previously been part of church life consider visiting a congregation out of curiosity." So he declares: "This is why congregations that believe that faith in Christ changes lives, and that participation in Christian community matters, will do well to train their members to invite others in."

Moving from a posture of welcome to invitation will involve reflecting on who we are as Christians and as a Christian community. What are our values? What do we feel called to? Can we articulate how faith in Christ has changed (and continues to change) our lives? In what ways has being a member of House of Prayer mattered? Why should we invite someone to attend our church?

I'm excited to wonder about these and other questions with you as we live into the year to come, and I'm excited to give thanks to God for the wondrous ways in which we have experienced God in our midst in the year that was. May we move into 2025 with gratitude for what has been, wonder for what will be, and wisdom as we seek to follow God's guiding light. May we, like the wise men, continue to offer our gifts to God for the sake of a world and our neighbors in need. May we let our light so shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

Together In Christ,



Rev. Annie Langseth

Care of Creation Work Group

What is your committee's purpose?

The purpose of Care of Creation Work Group:

To inform the congregation

To give tips on saving our environment.

To give our members a chance to advocate for our environment.

What did you do last year?

We did many environmental issues. We supplied speakers of different topics to inform our congregation from February to May. Then the Work Group decided to have three or four programs during the following school year. Our first program was last November. We listened to a keynote speaker, Tammy Walhof. She explained how we affected the change of climate, and what were her adventures being an ELCA faith volunteer participating in the 2023 COP26 in Dubois, an Arab city.

Last May we sponsored NO MOWING MAY to help feed the pollinators. We decided not to do this next year because there was a lack of pollinators participating. We continued to support the new pollinator garden. We had many beautiful flowers with many visitors of pollinators!

What do you hope to accomplish in 2025?

Next year we will be having our January program. Right now, we have at least two programs: one on making meatless food and sharing in January and tentatively having a master gardener speaker this spring on ways of protecting the monarch butterfly population.

This summer I would like some of our members to be advocates, who won't mind writing letters to our politicians about needed changes of some of our environmental issues. Also, we plan to maintain our new wildflower garden from late spring to early fall. Next fall we hope to have another program.

Give a financial Report

We are asking for \$500 again. This money will be used for extra wildflowers, garden supplies, and speakers' fees, if needed.

Last year our costs were much lower because we had less programs; we found free speakers from other organizations; and we used our own members. Last year we started offering \$25 to our members to help defray their costs. No one had taken this stipend yet.

Also last year we only had to buy a sprinkler for the pollinator garden. We had an issue with the invasive purple coneflower population, but we didn't use any expensive chemicals.

During 2025 we may have to buy more wildflowers to be placed in the middle of our garden because we will be getting rid of our ornamental grass. This grass was too hard to control.

Last spring the Care of Creation Work Group was given a budget line item. We really do appreciate having it! Thank you to the Executive Board and to our congregation for their support!

Sincerely,

C. Linda Siluk

Chair of the Care of Creation Work Group

Christian Education Report

2024 Sunday School Report:

House of Prayer continued Sunday School during the first part of the year. Currently, Sunday School has been replaced with a once-a-month Family Sunday School. Please pray that this important ministry will continue.

Adult Education:

A variety of topics has brought in good attendance at the Adult Faith Forums held after worship services each Sunday.

During the first part of the year, the first Sunday of each month was set aside for The Care of Creation – a program the ELCA has recommended. The topics presented this year have been varied to help us learn ways to care for God’s creation. Starting in the fall, this has changed to 3 – 4 Sundays a year.

Confirmation: Currently, we have no confirmation students. Please pray for young people to join our community and seek confirmation.

Thank you to the 2024 Christian Education Committee Members: Pastor Annie Langseth, Dorothy Anderson, Irene Kube, Linda Mason, Janet Pruden, C. Linda Siluk, Terry and John Tatem, Doreen Biedermann.

Community Festival / Congregational Picnic Sunday, August 18, 2024

THANK YOU to all who helped with our Community Festival! We tried something new this year with Shobi's Table providing the food and Sheltered Reality drumming group providing some of the entertainment. Shobi's Table served 105 meals, and we sent out nearly 4,000 postcards to neighbors advertising our event. It was a beautiful day full of fellowship, fun and laughter that also raised funds for Shobi's Table as well as for Lutheran Disaster Response. We raised \$3,098 which was allocated to: Shobi's Table: \$1940, ELCA Disaster Relief: \$763, Sheltered Reality Drumming group: \$395.



House of Prayer Finance Ministry 2024 Annual Report

The Finance Ministry shall oversee any financial accounts intended for longer term than annual operating budget, including any accounts that hold securities (stock, bonds, mutual funds, insurance policies).

The current members on the Finance Ministry Board which were appointed by the HOP Council are Scott Hults, Mike Nelson, Dave Burau. The ex-officio members include the Church Council and Pastor Annie. The primary financial firm that handles transfers of stocks and money market funds is RBC Wealth Management located in St. Paul.

The following is the income and expense in our account at RBC through November 30, 2024.

Cash Activity

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Money Market cash balance 1/1/2024 | 76,422.73 |
| Money coming into HOP account | |
| Operating Income | 76,600.00 |
| Account Interest | 436.96 |
| Stock Dividends | 1126.70 |
| Bond Interest | 1190.96 |
| Bond Maturity | <u>70,000.00</u> |
| Total | 149,354.62 |
| Withdrawals from HOP account | |
| HOP Operating Expenses (thru 11/30/24) | 86,900.00 |
| Operating fees | 143.44 |
| Bond Purchases | 69,808.33 |
| Stock fund purchases | 9781.27 |
| Transfer to HOP checking account | <u>30,000.00</u> |
| Total | 196,633.04 |
| Money Market cash balance 11/30/2024 | |
| | 29,144.31 |

International and US Large Cap Equity activity in 2024

| <u>Stock Fund</u> | <u>Market</u> <u>Value 1/1/2024</u> | <u>Market</u> <u>Value 11/30/2024</u> | <u>Gain/loss</u> |
|-------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| Medtronic | 14,444.10 | 14,279.10 | (165.00) |
| Invesco QQQ | 40,446.09 | 49,384.54 | +8938.44 |
| S&P500 | 39,786.49 | 49,615.74 | <u>+9829.25</u> |
| | | Total | +18,602.69 |

David Burau
Chair Person

Ifunda Companion Congregation Report 2024

Global Missions Committee

We continue to receive great blessings from a partnership with our Companion Congregation in Ifunda, Tanzania. They pray for us daily and have enriched our lives in countless ways since our partnership began in 2000. Our promise to our partner congregation continues to be to pray for them, to help them with church projects by sending \$1,000 (funded through our church budget) each year and to build relationships with our partners. [There is an administration fee of 12.5% administration fee which we pay on all monies raised for our partners. This fee pays for bank fees and other costs associated with this ministry at the synod.]

We sponsored 18 students with scholarships for Secondary School in the Iringa Diocese. The gifts for education that you at House of Prayer have given over the past twenty plus years have blessed the families of Ifunda beyond measure. As our friends in Iringa like to remind visitors, given how extended families work in Tanzanian culture, each scholarship received has a ripple effect that directly impacts the lives of ten other people. Asante Sana (Thank you) to all for your generosity in walking beside these students and helping them to have a profound impact on their communities. Cost of education keeps rising in Tanzania as well. House of Prayer contributed \$12,345 this year. Your generosity has touched us deeply.

In February our congregation sent nine visitors to our partners in Ifunda, Tanzania. This was our tenth visit by House of Prayer. Traveling this year are Barb Lind, Scott & Penny Hults, Madison & Tony Gould, Mike & Maren Nelson, and Pam & Gene Hults.

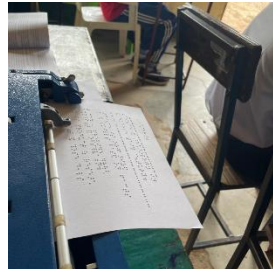


Our mission team worshipped in Ifunda two Sundays and spent three days visiting each preaching point, meeting with our partners to talk of future plans and report on activities at House of Prayer. We shared meals, prayed and worshipped together, and even planted an avocado tree at each preaching point. We also visited a school, Ilula Hospital, as well as visiting Ruaha National Park.



Ifunda Companion Congregation Report 2024-continued

On May 5th we held an evening supper fellowship/fundraiser event at House of Prayer to benefit our partners in Ifunda Parish and the Iringa Diocese. We served tacos and desserts. Through a freewill offering we raised \$4,279. The money was used to buy a new motorbike (the motorbike we purchased in 2003 had worn out) for the Ifunda Parish, a braille writer & paper for a secondary school, school desks for a new school near Ifunda and medical supplies for the Ilula Hospital.



Our annual Community Breakfast was held on December 7th.

We again served pancakes, French toast, and sausages. Santa was available to take pictures with the children. There was a silent auction, Duka (African shop) and raffle. We raised \$4,275.00 which will be used to help our companion congregation in Ifunda as they spread the gospel in the Iringa area. Thank you to the many people who helped, donated and attended the event.



We want to thank the members of House of Prayer for their support and prayers for this wonderful mission.

Gene and Pam Hults -Global Mission Chairs

House of Prayer Special Checking Account – Global Missions

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024 | \$21,231.11 |
| Total Disbursements | \$39,679.00 |
| Total/Income/Deposits | \$23,447.75 |
| Ending Balance, December 20/18/2024 | \$4,999.86 |

There is no budget line for Global Missions. All money is from donations and fund raisers. Deposits to this account include fund raisers and donations by individuals (some outside the congregation from family and friends). Monies raised are used for financial support for our partners in Ifunda. This account is also used for travel to Tanzania. No money received from donations or fundraising is used for travel. The travel money is paid by individual travelers.

Love Fund Financial Report 2024

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 2023 Year End Balance | \$7,288.87 |
| 2024 Donations throughout the year. (Credits) | \$8,010.00 |
| Totals | \$15,298.87 |
| 2024 Disbursements (debits) | \$3,287.98 |
| 2024 Total Year End Balance | \$12,010.89 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| 2024 Funds being held for NK Legal Fees (\$750.00) | \$750.00 |
| 2025 Available balance | \$11,260.89 |

"If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:3

A word of sincere thanks for your generous offerings to our Love Fund to care for those in need. You truly give to this fund not to boast, but because you have known the love of God and wish to share the love of God with others. Thank you!

When I began my call to our church, Interim Pastor Steve Cruys informed me that the Love Fund was put on pause to discern its use. The reason for this pause was that we were increasingly aware of the time and energy it was demanding of our small staff to respond to the requests for assistance—many of which were coming from the same people over and over. Along with that, we were increasingly aware of the fact that we were often giving from the fund to the same people over and over—beyond our loose policy of providing assistance on up to three occasions, save for any extenuating circumstances.

Suffice it to say, it became clear to our leadership that we weren't stewarding these resources as well as we would like to; our Parish Admin and Pastor were disproportionately being pulled away from tending to other equally important work and ministry, and your financial gifts weren't caring for God's children in a way the Love Fund was created for. Indeed, we feared we were enabling some people who sought regular assistance rather than truly helping them.

Upon reflection, we have determined that we will still use your offerings from the Love Fund to support needs that arise among our membership, friends of the congregation, and neighbors in need. However, by and large, we feel our "extended" neighbors are better served by St. Andrew Lutheran Church's Community Resource Center (CRC) in nearby Mahtomedi. The CRC has been in operation since 2011 and has the infrastructure in place—staffing and programming—to address the needs of neighbors more comprehensively and efficiently.

In the last year, we referred many to the care of the CRC, and as such the council approved giving a gift of \$1500 from the Love Fund to the CRC in thanksgiving for this meaningful ministry. We believe that this gift of money to the CRC honors the intent of the Love Fund and your offerings to it, and that the money will go further to care for our neighbors in need through the systems and structures the CRC has in place—including a Family Sheltering Program, Emergency Rental Assistance, an Employment Mentoring Program, and resources for clothing, food, and other basic needs. We are so grateful for the work they do on behalf of the church at large and are delighted to assist their ongoing efforts to "provide support, hope, and tangible aid."

Thank you for entrusting us to share God's love with those in need and our new ministry partner, the Community Resource Center!

Rev. Annie Langseth

Membership Report 2024

Membership Statistics:

| | | | |
|----|--|------------|------------|
| 1. | Membership, end of 2023 | | 203 |
| 2. | Members received during 2024 | | |
| | i. By baptism (15 yrs. and under) | 0 | |
| | ii. By Baptism (16 and older) | 0 | |
| | iii. By Affirmation of Faith | 0 | |
| | iv. By Transfer | 5 | |
| | v. From other sources/statistical adjustment | 0 | |
| | vi. <i>Total members received during 2024</i> | | 5 |
| 3. | Baptized members removed during 2024 | | |
| | i. By death | 5 | |
| | ii. By transfer | | |
| | iii. For other reasons/statistical adjustment | 35 | |
| | iv. Total Members removed during 2024 | | 40 |
| 4. | Total Baptized membership at the end of 2024 | | 168 |
| 5. | Number of Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2024 | 1 | |
| 6. | In 2024, the number of weeks this congregation worshipped: | | |
| | i. On Site (in person) | 52 | |
| | ii. Online via streaming | 52 | |
| 7. | Average In Person weekly worship attendance: | | |
| | • 2022 63 | 2023 65 | 2024 65 |
| 8. | Average On Line weekly worship attendance: | | |
| | • 2022 303 | 2023 262 | 2024 128 |

Members removed in 2024:

Deaths (5):

- Carol Dixon – May 12
- Ray Johnson– June 5
- Brian O’Reilly– June 19
- Dick Gahler – December 1
- Ione DeBauche – December 15

Memorial Committee Report 2024

The Memorial Committee exists for the purpose of making decisions about how monies donated by families who have lost loved ones should be spent. Church members may make suggestions to the committee or families may request a use for their donations. Memorial money purchases items that will enhance worship or will benefit the church and its members.

Items that were purchased in 2024 include the following:

Christ candle for the Advent wreath

New flower arrangements for the altar

New covers for the pads of friendship

Replacement of the US Flag

Epoxy backing for the prayer cross

Preservation glass for the original church charter

Memory book of the 50th anniversary of House of Prayer

Furniture for the narthex which includes 6 chairs, a coffee table, and console table



Members of the Memorial Committee are Pat Edison, Rosie Flannigan, Pam Hults, Irene Kube, Dienne Wyland, Mary Kay Meisner, and Pastor Annie Langseth. Anyone wishing to join the committee may give their name to any member or to Barb Benetti in the church office. Also, suggestions or requests for items to purchase with memorial funds may contact one of the committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kay Meisner, committee chair

The House of Prayer Music Ministry

Outreach Report 2024

We participated in the Oakdale Summerfest Parade again this year on Thursday, June 27th with 10 marchers (and one little puppy) that handed out 1,200 bags to attendees. We had shuttle drivers from the church to the parade start and from the parade end back to church, which had a positive response. Thank you to all who made this fun community event possible by donating candy, helping bag candy, or participating in the parade!!



We hosted Trunk or Treat on Sunday October 27th. Thank you to everyone for contributing to Trunk or Treat this year by donating candy, securing a Thrivent card, and to those who decorated a car! Special shoutout to the Schoonovers for coordinating the Police/Fire and for planning/running the popcorn and drinks. Thanks to Steve Lutz for the spooky music and to Rosemary Jensen for all the great pictures-there are more on Facebook!



Property 2024 Annual Report

This year we had no major maintenance issues, thankfully. However, as happens every year, our property requires a lot of maintenance. A lot of people pitched in to do the things that needed to be done.

Landscaping

Following the completion of the Bell Tower new landscaping was completed around the Bell Tower and the front of the church. It was quite a job removing the original landscaping rock before we could plant the new shrubs. We had quite a crew of guys who worked many days (seemed like weeks) to plant the new shrubs. It looks great!

No, we didn't put the rocks back. Mulch was much easier.



Emerald ash borer

You probably noticed all of the dead ash trees throughout Oakdale and many other communities. We were no exception. In total, we had 6 trees that were dead or dying. Several bids from local tree trimming companies all came in the same price range, \$4200 to \$5500.

SavaTree located in Afton, MN was the lowest. That surprised me, as I was expecting the tree removal alone to be about \$1000 per tree. SavaTree got the job. Their bid was \$4253 for removing the trees and \$524 for stump grinding. They did a great job!

What a difference it made in the church appearance.

Little Pantry

Bruce Johnson built an addition to the existing Little Pantry. That was added this Summer. It has been used quite heavily, especially the foodstuffs.



Groundskeeping

I want to thank several people who made our outside grounds look so nice this year.

Larry Goplen – Mowing, it seemed like every other day.

Kris Goplen – Planting all the flowers around the new sign, the North 40th street sign and the North side of the church.

The list of what needs to be done every year is long as well as the list of people who take care of those things on the list.

All I can say is THANK YOU! ALL!

Upcoming Projects for 2025

Continue landscaping around the church. Many of the shrubs are old and have died and need replacing. Maintenance of the East parking lot.

David Burau
Property Chair

Reaching Out in Hope Together Campaign

HOPE Campaign Financials Thru 12/31/2024



| <u>Billed Costs</u> | | <u>Remaining Costs</u> | | <u>Total Campaign Finances</u> | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bell Tower Design | \$17,000 | Synod Final payment | \$8,000 | Total raised through 12/31/24 | \$342,317 |
| Bell Tower | \$208,680 | Outreach | \$10,000 | Less Billed Costs | \$307,685 |
| Bell Tower Electric | \$7,895 | Total | \$18,000 | Current Hope Balance | \$34,632 |
| Carillon (Bells) | \$14,415 | | | Less Remaining Costs | \$18,000 |
| Outdoor Sign | \$40,125 | | | Available Hope Balance | \$16,632 |
| Synod Campaign | \$16,000 | <i>Outdoor Worship</i> | <i>\$70,000</i> | | |
| Landscaping etc | \$3,570 | <i>Estimated Cost</i> | | | |
| Total | \$307,685 | | | | |

Resolution: Reaching Out in Hope Together Campaign

Whereas-The Reaching Out in Hope Together Campaign included the construction of a Outdoor Worship Area.

Whereas-The collected funding was not sufficient to permit building the Outdoor Worship Area and the project was tabled.

Whereas-There is no plan to build the Outdoor Worship Area at this time.

Be it Resolved-To remove the Outdoor Worship Area from the Reaching out in Hope Together Campaign.

Be it Further Resolved-To use the remaining campaign funds for non-budget expenditures. This could include landscaping, emergency repairs, and special projects.

Bruce Johnson,
Campaign Chairman

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE: Annual Report for 2024

Spring Break Power Breakfasts – In March, zip-loc bags with non-perishable breakfast items and encouraging messages were packed and placed in the Little Pantry, to help families provide easy breakfasts for children during Spring Break week. Some bags were also provided to Faith Lutheran Church of St Paul, where Caroline Harthun Wooldridge is Pastor. *Thrivent Card: Doreen Biedermann*

Little Pantry – We now have a brand-new Little Pantry on the 40th St side of church! Thanks to Bruce Johnson for building it; and to Jan & Denny Stiles for gifting it to HOP, in memory of their daughter Kelly. The Little Pantry is used regularly by people. Bev Buan secured a Thrivent Action Card to purchase a good supply of grocery items. Thanks to Don & Cathy Suchomel for ensuring the Pantry is stocked regularly. Many thanks to HOP members for supporting this effort! *Thrivent Action Card: Bev Buan.*



Caring Hearts for the Homeless and "Blessing Bags" – Church members donated over-the-counter non-prescription and personal hygiene items and created "Blessing Bags" for church members to have in their cars. The bags were then available for drivers to give to people in need they met in shopping center parking lots or seeking help at intersections. In addition, bug spray, calamine lotion, and aloe-based lotion were donated to Walking with a Purpose-MN, to give to the clients they serve at homeless encampments.

God's work, Our hands – was a dedicated day of service (Sept. 8) for ELCA churches. Our projects in 2024 were 20 no-sew fleece blankets for Camp Noah (part of Lutheran Social Services); and made 500 sandwiches for the 363 Day Food Program. *Thrivent Action Cards: Mary Kay Meisner and Pam Hults.*



MEA Weekend Power Breakfasts – Zip-loc bags (200) with non-perishable breakfast items and encouraging messages were packed and placed in the Little Pantry, to help families provide easy breakfasts for children over MEA weekend (Oct. 17-18). Some bags were also provided to Faith Lutheran Church of St Paul, where Caroline Harthun Wooldridge is Pastor. *Thrivent Card: Doreen Biedermann*

Giving Tree HOP members provided gifts for 26 people: four families (11 adults & 15 children). Recipients were clients of the Kinship Family Services Program at Lutheran Social Services; and five HOP-connected people. You helped others have a blessed and Merry Christmas. (Nov.-Dec.) *Thrivent Card: Dean Libby, plus a private donation from a church member's friend.*



Foster Care Families – Partnering with Washington County Community Services, HOP provided a large supply of gift/toy/book items for some of the children/youth and families in foster care. In addition, Kris Goplen sewed pillowcases, and Lori Libby donated many fleece blankets. (December) *Thrivent Card: Lori Libby.*

Social Ministry 2024-continued

Refer to the Committee's report on Cowern School activities for details about:

- **Every Meal**
- **Food-in-a-Box Mobile Market**
- **School Tools Outreach**
- **Snacks for Kindergarten Classes & the School Nurse's office**
- **Gift Shopping & Wrapping for children**

God Bless You for embracing these opportunities to carry God's ministries into our community and around the world! This report reflects a congregation with a truly generous giving spirit. We will continue to do God's work through 2025 and beyond.

Social Ministry Committee members are Dorothy Anderson, Doreen Biedermann, Bev Buan, Rosie Flannigan, Lori Libby, Mary Kay Meisner, Deb Seyfer, and Jan Stiles.

Walking with a Purpose -

We support homeless folks in our community through donations to Walking with a purpose who disperses the donations directly to those in need. The items that are always needed are clothing, socks, blankets, batteries and protein snacks. The donation bin is located in the Narthex, near the coat rack.

The North St. Paul Emergency Food Shelf –

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR MINISTRY?

It is a way to support the hungry people who live either in North St. Paul or Oakdale.

WHAT DID WE DO LAST YEAR?

Last year I cut down the number of weeks because I was having problems filling all 10 spots. We volunteered for four weeks. Last November we had five volunteers, and I worked two times. We didn't fill one day. We are being affected by the number of snowbirds and people being very busy during the warmer months.

We also need to support our food shelf better. The donated food has gone down.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH NEXT YEAR?

I will cut down on one more week of volunteering, and I will schedule three weeks between March and October.

Also, next year I will remind people to support this food shelf more with either money or food.

A BIG THANK YOU to the congregation members for their support by bringing supplies and/ or by donating their time this past year!

Sincerely,
C. Linda Siluk
Food Shelf Liaison

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Annual Report for 2024

Cowern School Activities

Clothing & Miscellaneous Household Items – HOP members always answer the requests from Cowern staff for assorted clothing or miscellaneous household items needed by their families.

School Tools Outreach – Cowern had left-over school supplies from the previous year, so did not need us to hold an extensive “School Tools” collection. We collected and donated crayons, markers, colored pencils, writing pencils, dry erase markers, pencil boxes / pouches, scissors, and glue. (July-August) *Thrivent Card: none needed*

Every Meal – Every Meal’s goal is fighting child hunger by supporting a child (and family) with a consistent supply of nutritious food for weekends. Working with the school social worker, HOP delivered food packages to up to 42 children at Cowern Elementary School weekly in the 2023-2024 school year.

Food-in-a-Box Mobile Market – This is a program of the non-profit group Good in the Hood available to all Cowern families and to the community at-large. On the third Wednesday of each month (Sept.-May), FREE fresh produce, dairy, meat {frozen}, and bread; and non-perishable items are available at this pop-up market. Volunteers are needed for set-up (1:00-3:30 pm) and/or helping shoppers (4:00-6:00 pm) on Mobile Market days. Any left-over food is then donated to the Food Pantry at Faith Lutheran Church in St Paul, where Caroline Harthun Woodridge is Pastor.

Snacks for Kindergarteners – Kid-friendly snacks are donated regularly for the three kindergarten classes. Without snacks, these students have a long wait for their assigned lunch time at noon. Donated snacks need to be gluten- / nut- / sugar-free, easy to dispense, and require no refrigeration or utensils. The usual snacks are Goldfish crackers, Cheez-it crackers, pretzels, and plain popcorn. Note: Large containers of the snacks work best (vs. individual packets) for dispensing to students. *When delivered to the classroom, students provide loud, sincere “Thank You’s” ... and sometimes even hugs and applause!* (Sept-May)

Snacks for the School Nurse – The School Nurse periodically needs snack items for students she is caring for. The requested items must be nut-free, have a low sugar content; and includes string cheese and snack bars with a high protein level. (Sept-May)

Christmas Gift Shopping and Wrapping – We again responded to a request of the School Social Worker for help with Christmas gifts for the children in some Cowern families. Armed with wish lists and a generous per-child donation from members of the community at large, HOP shoppers purchased gifts for seven families (27 children total). Another marathon day (or two) at Target! On December 16, HOP volunteers held a “Wrapping Party” in the Fellowship Hall and successfully wrapped a huge number of gifts in only a few hours! Each family’s gifts were loaded into oversized plastic bags; and delivered to school social worker Sarah Kopp over a two-day period. {\$5,700 was donated in total, allowing \$100 to be spent on 57 children in Cowern families!} *Expect to be asked to participate in another shopping & wrapping effort in 2025. (December)*

Staff at Cowern Elementary School are grateful for the ongoing support of House of Prayer members. Your continued support for their students and families is a strong, enduring collaboration to help students make the most of their time in the classrooms at Cowern.

Social Ministry Committee members are Dorothy Anderson, Doreen Biedermann, Bev Buan, Rosie Flannigan, Lori Libby, Mary Kay Meisner, Deb Seyfer, and Jan Stiles.

WOMEN OF HOPE 2024 Annual Report

What is Women of Hope?

*As a community of women, created in the image of God,
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ,
and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:
Grow in faith, Affirm our gifts, Support one another in our callings,
Engage in ministry and action, Promote healing and wholeness in
the church, society, and the world.*

The **Women of Hope** play a key role in hospitality-related ministry at House of Prayer by maintaining the kitchen, which includes stocking it with supplies and equipment. Additional services to the church and its members are provided as needs arise, providing refreshments for church functions not covered by any other ministry. WOH funds support ministries within the church, local community, and internationally.

Knitting Ministry/Yarn Craft at HOP started meeting again in December (1st & 3rd Wed. AM) holding crochet lessons. Contact Bev Buan for more info. Some of the HOP Women continued on their own to make and donate sleeping mats for the homeless; colorful hats, mittens and scarves; and baby blankets for baptismal gifts.

Serving at Events:

“Meet and Greet” for Pastor Annie Langseth (1/21/2024); Interim Pastor Steve Cruys’ Farewell (2/25/2024); Pastor Annie Langseth’s Installation (3/17/2024); Donovan Schoonover’s Confirmation (4/28/2024); End of Christian Ed Year Potluck (5/9/2024)

Serving at Funerals/Celebration of Life Ministries:

Carol Dixon (6/12/2024); Ray Johnson (6/13/2024); Brian O’Reilly (7/20/2024); Dick Gahler (12/05/2024)

Disbursement of Funds

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Beginning Balance 1/01/2024 | \$3374.08 |
| Income | \$1591.25 |
| Expenses | \$1137.38 |
| <u>Designated Kitchen Funds</u> | (\$1368.26) |
| Ending Balance (avail. funds), Dec. 31, 2024 | \$2459.69 |

Officers in 2024: Deb Breister (President); Linda Siluk (Vice President); Julie Burau (Treasurer); Irene Kube (Secretary); Deb Seyfer (Purchasing); Rosemary Jensen (Historian); Deb Seyfer and Barb Van Hale (Hospitality Co-Chairs).

Thanks and Blessings to all the creative and generous Women at House of Prayer!

HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Deb Seyfer, Kris Goplen and Larry Bachman met on January 14, 2025, to review the following accounts on behalf of House of Prayer Lutheran Church:

- House of Prayer Operating Accounts
- Global Missions Account
- Love Fund Account
- Women of Hope Account

Each member reviewed two months of activity for the HOP Operating Accounts. Those reviews took considerable time because of the absence of key items not available in all the files: Reconciliation Summary for the month; and the bank statement for the month. Church Administrator, Barb Benetti, was able to provide those missing items for the files being reviewed.

In addition, each Committee member reviewed the activity of the entire year for one of the three other accounts listed above. All those accounts were in good order; and the Committee had no questions about them.

Our recommendations for future Audit Committee reviews are:

- Each month's folder needs to have a Reconciliation Summary, which should be one of the first items in the folder.
- Each month's folder needs to have a Bank Statement, which should be one of the first items in the folder.
- Counters' sheet would benefit from slight revisions (Ms. Benetti has already created a revised form for review by the appropriate church personnel).
- Committee members should review consecutive months simultaneously, to aid in answering questions about the status of payments. For example, one person would review May while another person is reviewing June. The May reconciliation summary might show a payment has been generated, but has not cleared the bank account for May. The May reviewer could ask the June reviewer if the payment shows as completed transaction on the June reconciliation summary.
- Reviewers would benefit from a list of helpful hints about billing practices of some regular vendors.
Example: By the Book bills quarterly; Business Essentials invoices each order, but payment of multiple orders in a month is often/usually consolidated into one payment (vs. multiple payments).

Thank you for the opportunity to serve House of Prayer as the Audit Committee for the church's 2024 financial activity.

Respectfully submitted:

Deb Seyfer, Kris Goplen, Larry Bachman

2024 Balance Sheet

Dec 31, 24

| ASSETS | |
|--|---------------------|
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| Premier Bank | 45,792.95 |
| Premier Bank Global | 5,009.86 |
| Premier Bank Love | 12,030.89 |
| Premier Bank MM Savings 7276 | 2,273.49 |
| RBC | 121,816.26 |
| | 186,923.45 |
| Total Checking/Savings | |
| Other Current Assets | |
| Mission Investment Loan deposit | 109.58 |
| | 109.58 |
| Total Other Current Assets | |
| | 187,033.03 |
| Total Current Assets | |
| Fixed Assets | |
| Building | 1,246,000.00 |
| Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment | 80,000.00 |
| Garage and Contents | 29,000.00 |
| Land | 185,169.00 |
| | 1,540,169.00 |
| Total Fixed Assets | |
| | 1,727,202.03 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 1,727,202.03 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| Non-operating Designated Income | |
| Deferred Giving Income | 161,814.52 |
| Global Mission | 5,277.86 |
| Love Fund | 12,130.89 |
| | 179,223.27 |
| Total Non-operating Designated Income | |
| Operating Designated Income | |
| Designated Income | |
| Christmas Flowers | 9.61 |
| Easter Flowers | -8.50 |
| HOP Inhouse Outreach | 1,127.06 |
| HOP musicians | 1,549.20 |
| Hope Campaign | 34,631.71 |
| Ifunda Scholarships | 450.00 |
| Landscaping and Care of Creation | 1,163.72 |
| Memorial | 3,344.23 |
| Pastor Sabbatical | 4,200.00 |
| Property equip replacement des | 5,247.00 |
| Wrshp Bell Repr,Supplies,MusGtr | 709.94 |
| Youth | 8,067.50 |
| | 60,491.47 |
| Total Designated Income | |
| Total Operating Designated Income | 60,491.47 |
| Payroll Taxes Withheld | 1,221.23 |
| | 240,935.97 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | |
| | 240,935.97 |
| Total Current Liabilities | |
| Long Term Liabilities | |
| Mortgage | 183,634.02 |
| | 183,634.02 |
| Total Long Term Liabilities | |
| | 424,569.99 |
| Total Liabilities | |
| Equity | |
| Opening Bal Equity | 884,559.16 |
| Retained Earnings | 436,194.49 |
| Net Income | -18,121.61 |
| | 1,302,632.04 |
| Total Equity | |
| | 1,727,202.03 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 1,727,202.03 |

2024 Profit and Loss

Jan - Dec 24

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
| Income | |
| Current & Benevolence Giving | |
| Christmas | 4,095.50 |
| Church School | 2.00 |
| Dain Rauscher | 104,800.00 |
| Easter | 1,567.50 |
| Envelopes-Current & Benevolence | 106,280.08 |
| Envelopes-Initial Offering | 83.50 |
| Facility Use Donations | 12,395.00 |
| Interest Income | 20.32 |
| Lent/Ash Wed/Good Fri | 2,340.00 |
| Loose Offerings | 3,057.00 |
| Thanksgiving | 195.00 |
| VANCO | 52,547.00 |
| Worship & Music | 0.00 |
| Current & Benevolence Giving - Other | 97.20 |
| Total Current & Benevolence Giving | 287,480.10 |
| Thrivent Choice Income | 409.00 |
| Total Income | 287,889.10 |
| Expense | |
| Benevolence Expense | |
| Companion Congregation | 1,120.00 |
| Synod Benevolence | 26,713.00 |
| WAPO | 700.00 |
| Total Benevolence Expense | 28,533.00 |
| Christian Ed Committee Expense | |
| Adult Education | 50.00 |
| Confirmation | 49.95 |
| Materials & Supplies | 199.00 |
| Total Christian Ed Committee Expense | 298.95 |
| Executive Committee Expense | |
| AIV Consultant | 7,723.52 |
| Bank Charge | 399.16 |
| Bookkeeping | 6,364.90 |
| Choir Director | 13,840.42 |
| Christ In Our Homes | 453.97 |
| Continuing Education | 2,000.00 |
| Copier and Maintenance | 4,717.38 |
| Council Retreat/Expenses | 25.00 |
| Custodial Fees | 7,205.00 |
| Discretionary Fund | 926.96 |
| Fill-in Pastor | 464.12 |
| Insurance & Assessments | 10,875.01 |
| Mortgage | 34,216.13 |
| Musician for Services | 8,565.05 |
| Office Supplies | 2,768.42 |
| Pastor's Auto Allowance | 192.00 |
| Pastor's FICA Payment | 6,002.18 |
| Pastor's Housing Allowance | 25,688.80 |
| Pastor's Pension & Insurance | 18,696.92 |
| Pastor's Salary | 52,255.87 |
| Postage | 392.69 |
| Secretary & Other Staff | 44,400.82 |
| Synod Assembly | 285.00 |
| Technology | 556.00 |
| Telephone | 3,738.28 |
| Utilities | 12,796.07 |
| Total Executive Committee Expense | 265,549.67 |
| Outreach Committee Expense | |
| Other | 874.99 |
| Supplies | 103.50 |
| Outreach Committee Expense - Other | 100.95 |
| Total Outreach Committee Expense | 1,079.44 |
| Payroll Expenses | 5,110.63 |
| Property Committee Expense | |
| Pest Control | 672.92 |
| Repairs | 405.55 |
| Snow Removal | 1,285.00 |
| Supplies-Tools-Equipment | 227.65 |
| Total Property Committee Expense | 2,591.12 |
| Stewardship Committee Expense | |
| Envelopes | 703.80 |
| Total Stewardship Committee Expense | 703.80 |
| Worship & Music Expense | |
| Altar Guild Supplies | 458.55 |
| Bulletins | 54.94 |
| Copyright License | 705.00 |
| Worship & Music Expense other | 323.35 |
| Worship Materials & Training | 640.26 |
| Worship & Music Expense - Other | -38.00 |
| Total Worship & Music Expense | 2,144.10 |
| Total Expense | 306,010.71 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -18,121.61 |
| Net Income | -18,121.61 |

2025 Budget Presentation

2024/2025 Budget Information

Operating Income

| | 2024 Budget | 2024 Actuals | 2025 Budget | notes |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Envelopes Current | 257,400 | 211,164 | 270,886 | pledges + regular offering |
| Loose | 4,500 | 3,059 | 3,500 | |
| Holiday Envelope Giving | 4,500 | 8,198 | 5,000 | |
| Facility Use | 11,250 | 12,395 | 13,000 | Increased Bethel Rent |
| Thrivent Choice | 500 | 409 | 500 | |
| Other (Vanco, Ifunda, Interest) | | 52,665 | - | |
| Total | 278,150 | 287,889 | 292,886 | |
| Faith Factor | (35,227) | (5,794) | (18,432) | |

Other Income

Benevolence from Other Income

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Hope Campaign for SPAS Benevolence | 8,000 |
| Community Festival | 2,703 |
| Designated Income | |
| Community Christmas Breakfast | 4,328 |
| Lent Special | 1,981 |
| Ifunda Scholarships | 12,345 |
| Ifunda Mission donations | |
| Love Fund | 8,000 |
| | 37,357 |
| Total Operating Income | 325,246 |

Operating Expense

Benevolence Expense

| | 2024 Budget | 2024 Actuals | 2025 Budget | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Saint Paul Area Synod | 26,640 | 26,713 | 27,939 | 10% of Env, Loose & HE Giving |
| WAPO Membership | 700 | 700 | 700 | Are we giving in 2025? |
| Every Meal (Cowern School) | - | | | |
| Ifunda Companion Congregation | 1,120 | 1,120 | 1,120 | |
| Ifunda Scholarships | | 12,345 | | |
| Love Fund | | | | |
| Lutheran Social Services | | 991 | | Lent (1/2 of Special) |
| Lutheran Disaster Relief | | 763 | | Community Festival (1/2) |
| Shobi's Table | | 1,940 | | Community Festival (1/2) |
| N. St. Paul Food Shelf | | 991 | | Lent (1/2 of Special) |
| Hope Campaign - SPAS Benevolence | | 8,000 | | |
| Total | 28,460 | 53,562 | 29,759 | |
| | 10.23% | 18.61% | 10.16% | Benevolence as % of Income |

Operating Expense (Continued)

ANNUAL

| | 2024 Budget | 2024 Actuals | 2025 Budget | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Executive Committee | | | | |
| Mortgage | 31,600 | 34,216 | 31,600 | |
| Utilities | 14,500 | 12,796 | 14,000 | |
| Insurance & Assessments | 11,100 | 10,875 | 11,300 | for Guide One |
| Custodial Fees | 8,000 | 7,205 | 8,000 | |
| HOP Bookkeeping | 6,500 | 6,365 | 6,500 | |
| Supplies & Postage | 3,875 | 3,161 | 3,100 | Broadcaster Postage Svgs |
| Copier Maintenance | 5,500 | 4,717 | 5,000 | |
| Telephone/Internet | 3,600 | 3,738 | 3,800 | |
| Synod Assembly | 400 | 285 | 300 | |
| Technology | 3,500 | 556 | 600 | updates |
| Pastor Continuing Ed | 1,000 | 2,000 | - | Used 2025 in 2024 |
| Christ in Our Home | 180 | 454 | 300 | |

2025 Budget Presentation continued

| | 2024 Budget | 2024 Actuals | 2025 Budget | notes |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Discretionary | 750 | 927 | 800 | |
| Council Retreat | 150 | 25 | 100 | |
| Bank Charge-Vanco | 400 | 399 | 400 | |
| Fill-in Pastor | 1,000 | 464 | 1,200 | 5 wks pulpit supply @ 200 ea +Mil |
| Total | 92,055 | 88,184 | 87,000 | |
| Staff, Musicians, & Nursery | | | | |
| Pastor Base & Housing | 75,000 | 77,945 | 77,250 | 3% |
| Pastor FICA | 5,738 | 6,002 | 5,910 | 7.65% |
| Pastor's Non Accountable Plan | | | | |
| Pension & Insurance | 18,300 | 18,697 | 19,000 | SPAS Health/Retire/Life/Disabil |
| Auto Reimbursement | 2,100 | 192 | 2,000 | |
| Music Director | 13,334 | 13,840 | 14,274 | 3%+HSA+Am Choral dues |
| Other Paid Staff - Salaries (Includes FICA) | 45,365 | 49,511 | 46,726 | 3% |
| A/V Consultant | 8,000 | 7,724 | 8,000 | Musician unit rate |
| Musicians (Includes FICA) | 8,400 | 8,565 | 8,400 | Musician unit rate \$142.75 |
| Total | 176,237 | 182,476 | 181,560 | |
| Committees | | | | |
| Property | 5,500 | 2,591 | 5,500 | |
| Worship & Music | 3,100 | 2,144 | 3,000 | |
| Christian Ed | 1,700 | 299 | 500 | |
| Christian Ed - Care of Creation | 500 | - | 400 | |
| Stewardship | 875 | 704 | 700 | |
| Outreach | 4,500 | 1,079 | 2,500 | website, new resident mailing |
| Social Ministry | 200 | - | 200 | |
| Youth | 250 | - | 200 | |
| Total | 16,625 | 6,817 | 13,000 | |
| TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE | 313,377 | 331,040 | 311,318 | |

Biographies for Council Positions

Bio for President: Scott Hults

Penny and I have been members for over 25 years. House of Prayer has been a blessing to us over that time. Our kids enjoyed being part of the Youth and we traveled with House of Prayer to see our sister congregation in Tanzania two times. I've been in leadership roles over that time as Sunday School Teacher, Youth Leader, Council Representative, Vice-President and Treasurer. I have participated in many committees and events over that time as well. I retired from Xcel Energy in December 2023 after over 35 years. Currently I am active with the A/V operation (soundboard, PowerPoint). I look forward to serving the members of House of Prayer to further our mission to live, share and proclaim the love of Christ.

Bio for Treasurer: Mike Nelson

After moving to Oakdale, Maren and I became members of House of Prayer in 2004. I participate in several ministries including our online worship streaming, music, service ministry and our companion congregation in Ifunda, Tanzania. We have been blessed to make 6 visits to our companion since 2007. I find this to be such an important and impactful ministry for us personally, our congregation, Saint Paul Area Synod and the broader church. I work at Starkey Hearing as the Sr. Director of Digital Customer Experience.

Bio for Secretary

Bio for At Large: John Tatem

I began attending services at House of Prayer in 2019 and became a member in 2021.

I have served 1 term as a Treasurer and I'm currently active with the Education committee and Care of Creation committee.

I am looking to serve as Council at Large.

Bio for At Large: Linda Mason

I have lived in the North St. Paul - Oakdale - Maplewood area all of my adult life and in 1987 my son and I joined House of Prayer.

In my younger days, I participated in the Worship and Music Committee, Council, Social Ministry Committee, Prayer Team, teaching Sunday School, Bible Study, Women of Hope and enjoyed singing in the choir, ringing bells and helping out in the office.

Presently I am a greeter, member of the Christian Education Committee and Women of Hope and involved with Centering Prayer.

I am retired from 3M, where I spent most of my career in Corporate Marketing.

2025 House of Prayer Council Elections Ballot

These are the positions that are currently open.

Vote for 1:

President (2 years): **Scott Hults** _____

Vote for 1:

Treasurer (1 year): **Mike Nelson** _____

Secretary (2 years) _____

Vote for 2 At Large Members:

At Large #1 (2 years): **John Tatem** _____

At Large #2 (2 years): **Linda Mason** _____

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

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-joice-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.

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. 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. Read stories and learn more at [LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA](https://www.livinglutheran.org/SOFIA).

