

# 2025 Annual Report

# from the Council President

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Dear Gloria Dei Family,

As we gather once again for our annual meeting, I am reminded of the foundational wisdom that has guided me and our community over the last several years. You'll remember my favorite bible verse that I quote in these letters, the words of Ecclesiastes, which begin, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

Last year, we embraced this wisdom by declaring that it was our time, **a time for progress**, as we launched our ambitious capital campaign. Today, I am thrilled to report that your collective faith and generosity have moved mountains, and we have realized incredible progress toward the future of Gloria Dei!

## CELEBRATING OUR PROGRESS: THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Our capital campaign was built around several key priorities:

- Retiring our current mortgage debt.
- Establishing a Maintenance Fund.
- Preparing our site for future expansion.

I am profoundly grateful to share these exciting milestones achieved through your commitment:

- **Pledges Total:** We have secured **\$2,685,000** in pledges for the three-year campaign.
- **Donations Received:** As of the end of 2025, we have received **\$1,564,506.36** in donations.
- **Mortgage Reduction:** In line with our first priority, we have applied **\$849,667** to the mortgage principal. This brings the current balance down to **\$533,742.91!**

We are optimistic that through our regular monthly payments and continued pledge receipts, we will be completely **debt-free by the end of 2026**. What an incredible testament to your faithfulness!

The second priority—setting aside funds for building improvements and longer-term maintenance projects—will begin immediately once the mortgage is paid off. This proactive step will ensure our facilities remain strong and ready for the years to come.

## A NEW SEASON: A TIME FOR CHANGE

The success of the capital campaign has not just changed our balance sheet; it has changed our future. The elimination of debt and the establishment of dedicated maintenance funds free us to dream bigger, serve bolder, and truly embody our values of **Gather, Grow, Give, and Go**.

As we look to the new year, I believe God is calling Gloria Dei into **a season of change**. In scripture, the Prophet Isaiah offers us a powerful image of God making things new:

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:18-19)*

Change can sometimes feel uncertain, but this passage reminds us that God's plan is always about moving us forward—about making us **better and stronger** for the work ahead. Being debt-free and having a strong maintenance plan means we are no longer focused on what was, but on what God is doing **right now** among us.

This season of change will not mean abandoning our core identity but enhancing it. We will be better able to focus our resources on ministry, outreach, and continuing to create spaces where all are welcome to experience the grace of Jesus Christ.

## LOOKING AHEAD WITH BOLD FAITH

I invite you to embrace this new season with **open hearts and steadfast trust in God's plan**. As we move forward, let us continue to live out our shared values and bring glory to God in all that we do.

Thank you for being an integral part of this dynamic and faithful community. Your commitment and unwavering support are the spirit of Gloria Dei. May God's grace continue to guide and bless us abundantly as we navigate this exciting season of change together.

God's Blessings,

Sara Greff Dannen  
Council President



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# Worship + Evangelism

## Pastor Tim Selbo

Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus told his disciples "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

As I look back over the past year and look forward to the future, my mind jumps to the above verse from the book of Acts. Jesus gives to us the same mission he gave to his original disciples: "You will be my witnesses, in Sioux Falls and Brandon, in Harrisburg and Canton, maybe even as far as Tea and Dell Rapids, and even on into places like Haiti and Nicaragua, and to the ends of the earth."

In the book of Acts, the early followers of Christ were met with many challenges. Yet through the power of the Holy Spirit, those challenges were overcome and Christ's church grew and thrived.

These are challenging days, too, for the Christian Church. No longer do the people of our society automatically attend worship and send their children to Sunday School and

Youth activities. The United States has become a ripe mission field.

The calling of this congregation, indeed of each of us, is to give witness to the saving work of Jesus Christ in our lives and for the world. Our mission together as the body of Christ is to give witness, by our actions and our words, to the reality that God loves the people of these neighborhoods of SE Sioux Falls and all people around the world.

This is a daunting task. Yet it is one that you and I take on with confidence, because Jesus gives us the same promise he gave his disciples: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." The Holy Spirit is working in the midst of this congregation and so, I truly believe, God will continue to open our imaginations and use us in powerful ways for the sake of the Kingdom. We are not alone in our efforts. God is with us and empowers us through the very Holy Spirit of Christ.

Through your efforts and invitations, Gloria Dei continues to do strong ministry with our

Gloria Dei is blessed to have many members willing to share their musical talents with the congregation during worship; on this particular Sunday, high school youth sang and played a couple special songs under the direction of Gretchen Borgum.



Many hands are needed to make worship on any given weekend happen smoothly. On our 40th anniversary, ushers played an important part by handing out bulletins and facilitating different aspects of worship.



current members while, at the same time, adding new members to this growing family of faith. Evangelism doesn't happen all by itself. It is the Spirit working through people like you to invite your friends and neighbors to take part in one or more of the many activities that happen in this place.

Central to all that we do is worship. God is the one, above all else, who is worthy of our undivided worship and praise. Within worship we sing praise to God, all the while being fed by Word, Sacrament, and Fellowship, to go out into the world to love and serve others.

The worship life at Gloria Dei is rich and inspiring. We are so blessed by the choirs and ensembles of all ages as well as our Praise Team. Thank you to our music staff and to all of you volunteers who gift us with your musical talents.

Each year I hear many stories of people being impacted by the worship life at Gloria Dei.

Long time members Dave and Kathi Skoglund share about the impact Gloria Dei worship has had, and continues to have, on them and their family.

"We were invited to visit Gloria Dei by Pastor Bruce Williams who happened to live nearby when we moved to this area of town. We joined Gloria Dei in 1988 and have had many wonderful opportunities to worship and to volunteer in many ways, sing, etc. The last four years our daughter has been teaching church school on Wednesdays. Several

## By the Numbers

Average In-Person Attendance	1060
Average Online Attendance	281
New Members	280

### Pastoral Acts

Baptisms	86
Marriages	18
Funerals	14
Confirmation of Youth	84

members of our families share the meal together, and we all worship together. This time together worshiping our God with our families (including three grandchildren), hearing the Word, singing, and praying brings us deep joy and gratitude. The flexibility of Wednesday works so well for us. During a recent Halloween season, one of the pastors smiled as she blessed 'Spider-Man' at communion! Worship at Gloria Dei is important and uplifting."

I love to hear how worshiping God at Gloria Dei is so meaningful and impactful. To God be the Glory.

People of God at Gloria Dei, I continue to count it a privilege to serve as your Senior Pastor. I'm blessed by my pastoral colleagues and our entire staff. I'm blessed by the leadership of our Church Council. And I'm blessed by all of you as together, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we give witness to the saving work of Jesus Christ. 



# Did You Know?

Proclaiming and Living Out the Gospel of Jesus Christ remains our Number One Value.

Gloria Dei continues with a worship style we like to call "Blended". We enjoy singing praise to God utilizing a mix of traditional hymnody and contemporary Christian music.

Special Music throughout 2025 enhanced our worship experience. A big thank you to all of our choirs, ensembles and musicians.

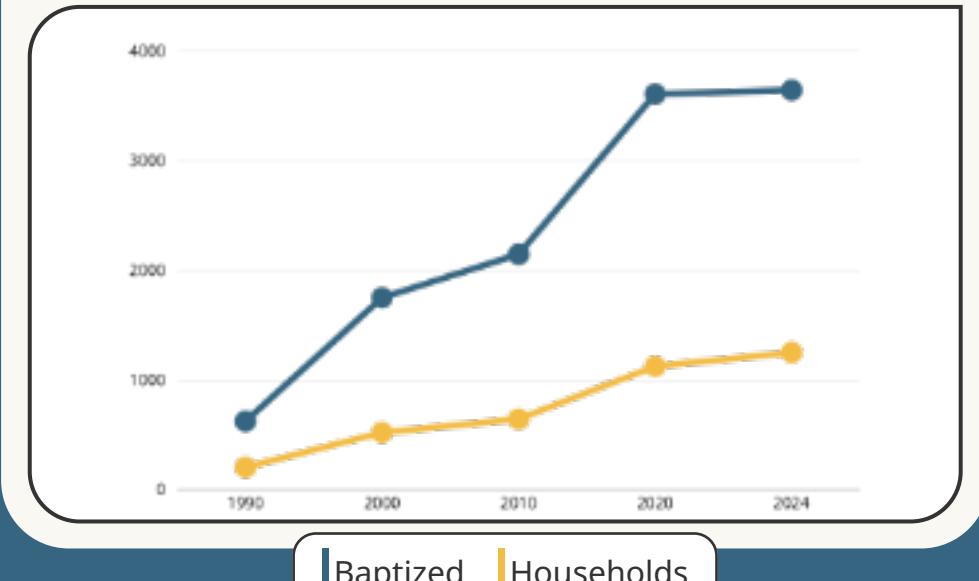
Our tech crew continues to do a fantastic job of making both in person and livestream worship vibrant and spirit filled.

Weddings and Funerals are part of the holy encounters we have with God.

We continue our partnership with Augustana University as host to the Annual Christmas Vespers and many other concerts and performances throughout the year.

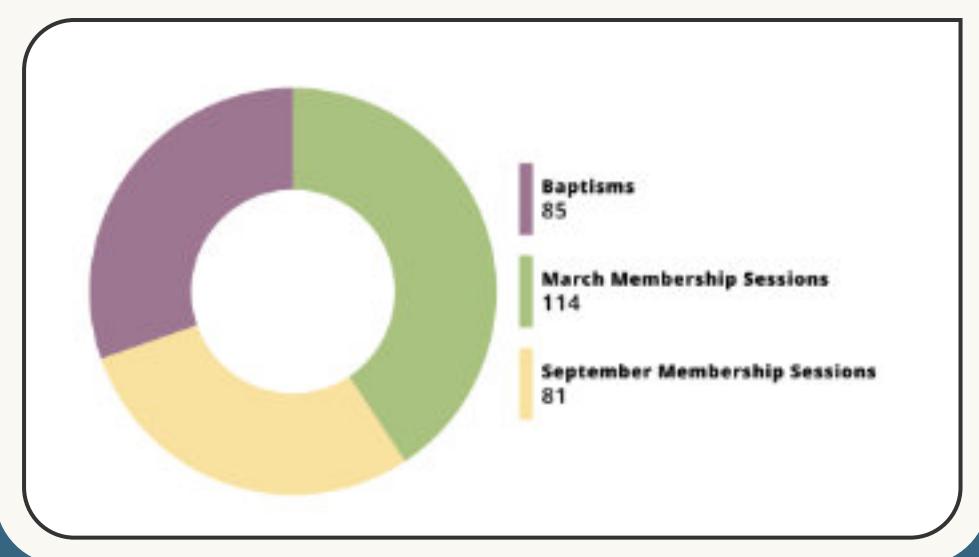
A strong word of gratitude to the many volunteers who continue to make worship happen each week, both in person and online.

## Membership Totals



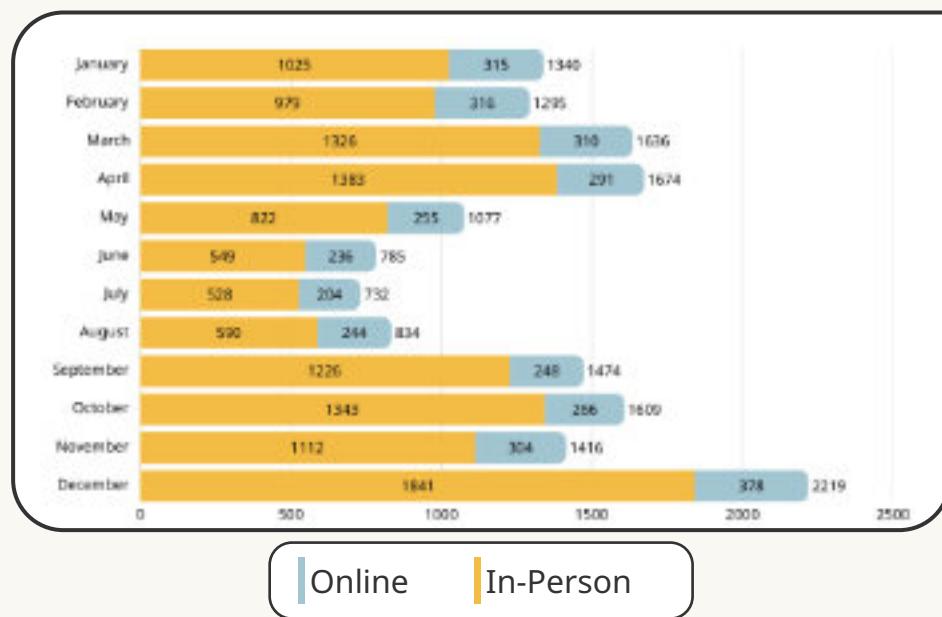
Baptized | Households

## Member Additions



Membership

# Avg. Worship Attendance

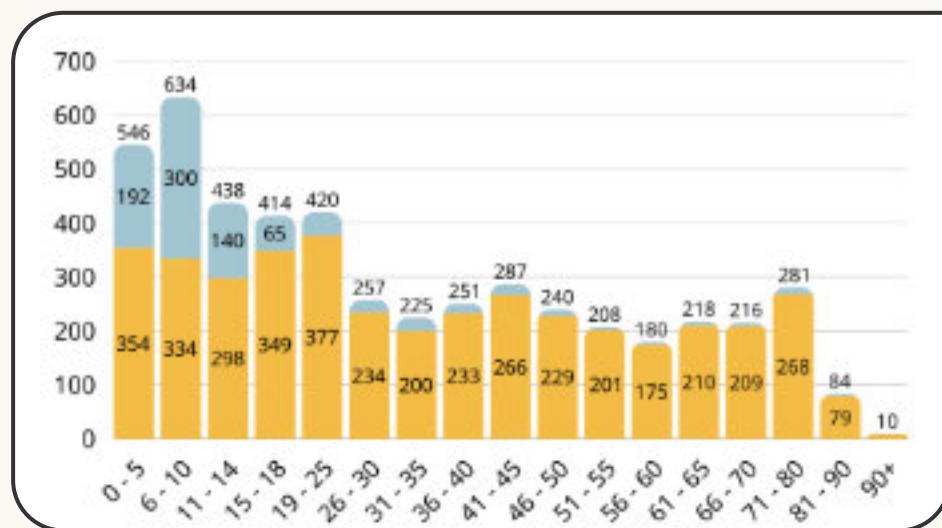


Online

In-Person

Statistics

# Age Profile Breakdown



Associate

Member



# Administration

## **Pastor Chris Zuraff**

Last year in her annual report, Pastor Heidi Binstock noted that 2024 was the year of the pigeon moveout. Using the same technology as the National Monuments, Gloria Dei said 'goodbye' to its pigeon problem, permanently.

With this 'goodbye,' Gloria Dei soon said an unhappy 'hello' to mice in the bus wiring, marauding ants marching toward every crumb in the building, and rainwater moving in new and sometimes mysterious ways.

While these might seem like major problems, the reality is that we are planted in a growing, changing part of the city of Sioux Falls. With all the construction that has taken place around our campus in the last number of years, the movement of water and ants and mammals of many kinds is normal and expected. Our maintenance team, Mr. Tim Schillerstrom, Gordy Albers, Joe Schwebach, Caleb Neilsen, and Jeff Riley have done a tremendous job of managing all of God's creatures that make their home here at Gloria Dei. A shoutout to our Admin Staff Team, Devin McChesney and Cicely Schock, who joined in the fun and

occasionally sloshed around in galoshes, sprayed ants, and supported the team in whatever way they could.

In addition to the critters, mitigating the movement of water into and around the building has also been a priority at Gloria Dei this past year. You may have noticed the marshy reeds were mowed on the south end of our main parking lot this past summer. Working together with city engineers, our maintenance team and volunteers (thank you Lyle Ruesch!) have worked to dredge the silt that was blocking drain outlets and keeping water from moving efficiently toward the drainage systems to our south and east. There are still more steps that can be taken to move water more naturally away from the building, but these are important and inexpensive steps toward that goal.

Financially, Gloria Dei is celebrating a milestone: the mortgage has dropped to about \$500,000, putting the congregation within striking distance of completing our first Capital Campaign priority after only one year



Gloria Dei's bus picks up kids from area schools on Wednesday afternoons, providing a valuable service to students and parents with busy schedules.

## Admin Updates

On October 12, 2025, Gloria Dei voted to call me as your new Executive Pastor. I'm grateful for this call and excited to continue serving you in this capacity! Isaiah 40:3 is a guiding verse for me in this new work, "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"

of gifts! Thank you! Eliminating that monthly liability will free us to dream big about future ministry. Meanwhile, priority two—building a maintenance reserve fund—is underway to prepare for the next 15+ years of using this building and property all to the Glory of God!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, willing volunteers, and the entire Gloria Dei congregation. While marshes, mice, and marauding ants each have their place in God's creation, we are grateful that our ministry continues to thrive alongside them—not under their command. Partnering with God's creation is far better than serving at its mercy. 



# Children, Youth, and Family

## Pastor Sarah Goldammer

**"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."**  
(1 Timothy 4:12)

If you pay close attention on a Sunday morning at 10:30, you'll notice a high school senior who embodies what it means to live out his faith with purpose. Ryan Baker is exceptional at inviting his friends to worship—and not just on Sundays, but to youth group on Wednesday nights as well. He doesn't simply show up faithfully; he has made it part of his mission to bring others with him so they can hear the Gospel week after week. Watching our youth lead in their faith community is one of the greatest joys of ministry.

Ryan grew up at Gloria Dei, participating in church school, confirmation, camp, youth activities, and high school trips. Now, as a leader in his school, he sees inviting and welcoming his peers as part of his Christian calling. There is something deeply holy in the act of opening a door, offering a welcome, and creating space for someone else to encounter Christ.

And Ryan is far from the only one. Our youth at Gloria Dei understand the power of inviting and welcoming. When our current 9th grade class began confirmation, there were maybe 60–65 students; this year, we confirmed 85. We have many other youths who actively invite their friends to come and be a part of our community of faith. That growth isn't accidental—our youth know how to include, welcome, and encourage their friends to be part of a community of faith.

Year after year, our young people inspire me. During children's sermons, they remind me what it means to have faith like a child—open, trusting, and full of wonder. In church school, older youth help our younger members grow in faith even as they continue to grow themselves. In middle school, I see the importance of community and connection. In high school, I see faith deepening, courage widening, and outreach becoming real as they make their faith their own.

Gloria Dei has always been a place marked by invitation and welcome. It is a gift to witness

Confirmants get prayed over by pastors, friends, and family every October during our confirmation services, where 9th graders affirm their baptismal promises made by their parents and sponsors.



# By the Numbers

Registered Church Schoolers	527
VBS Attendees	103
Dei Camp Attendees	125
Confirmation Students	227
Confirmation Leaders	39
Mission Trip Students	28
Mission Trip Leaders	0
9th Graders Confirmed	84
Summer Camp Youth	45
Valley Fair Youth	73
Valley Fair Leaders	14

**Right** Gloria Dei encourages families to practice their faith together. Parents and children talk about their faith during Milestone events, such as the Communion Milestone, the teaching of which is pictured here.

**Bottom** Wednesday nights during the school year are quite busy around the church, as confirmation and youth group both take place after worship. In this scene, youth act out the story of Queen Esther from the Old Testament.

our youth not only continuing that legacy but leading the way with energy, conviction, and active faith. ☙







# Mission + Outreach

## Pastor Chris Zuraff

When Maribeth Strand sits down at her sewing machine, it's more than fabric and thread—it's a ministry of love. This Christmas season, Maribeth has taken her passion for quilting and turned it into a hands-on lesson for her grandchildren. Using a simple Christmas stocking pattern and donated festive fabric, she's teaching them the basics of sewing while instilling the values of generosity and compassion.

The project began with a vision: to create handmade Christmas stockings that would be filled with essentials for people experiencing homelessness through our partner ministry, Church on the Street. Each of the 75 stockings represent not just a gift, but a tangible reminder of Christ's love. For Maribeth, it's about more than crafting—it's about creating hope, one stitch at a time.

To make this vision a reality, Maribeth reached out to her church family at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. The response was overwhelming. After worship one weekend, families eagerly picked up the 75 stockings, committed to

filling them with practical items and small comforts. From warm socks and toiletries to treats that brighten the season, every item was chosen with care. The congregation embraced the opportunity to put faith into action.

For Maribeth's grandchildren, the experience has been transformative. As they learn to guide fabric under the needle and watch their creations take shape, they're also learning that giving is a gift in itself. These simple stockings have become a classroom for life lessons—patience, creativity, and above all, kindness. It's a tradition Maribeth hopes will ripple through generations.

In the end, 75 stockings made their way to Church on the Street, each one stitched with love and filled with hope. Maribeth's ministry reminds us that even the simplest acts—cutting fabric, threading a needle—can weave together a powerful story of community and care. This Christmas, her family's handiwork warmed hearts far beyond their own home. ☩



We had such a strong outpouring of support in this year's Church on the Street (COTS) stocking drive that we ran out of Meribeth's stockings!

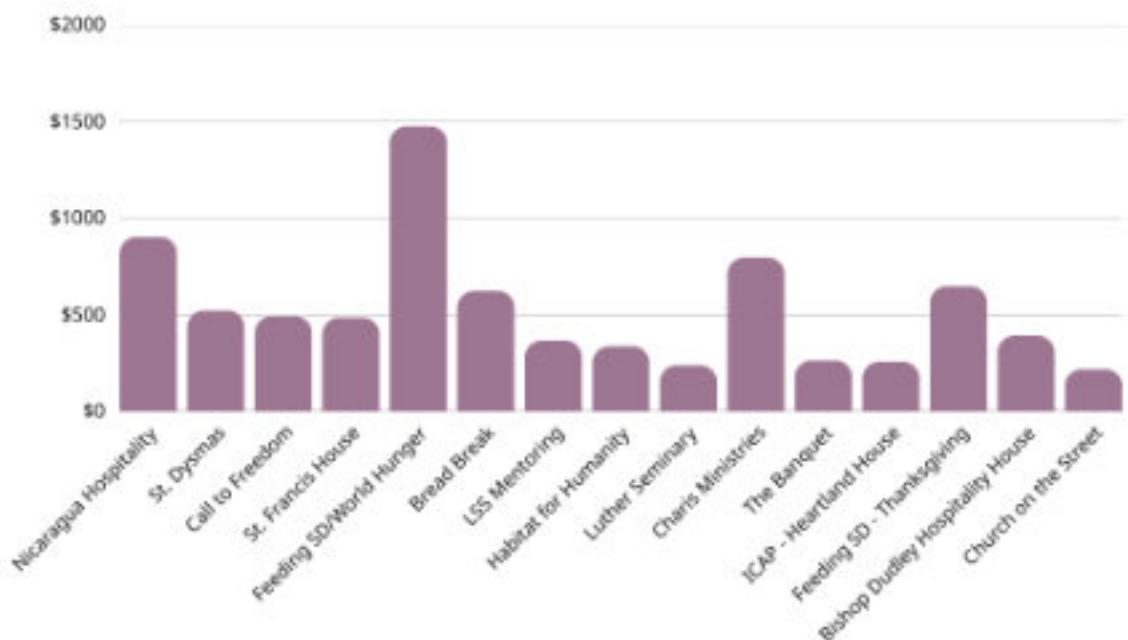
Thank you to all who helped brighten the holiday seasons of those experiencing homelessness.

# Looking Ahead

As my call has shifted here at Gloria Dei to serve as your next Executive Pastor, I'm excited to say that Dan Bergheim, our current Discipleship Coordinator, will move into a more focused role with Mission and Outreach. Dan has a tremendous passion for this ministry and a heart for the work. While pastoral leadership is important, not every role needs a pastor. God has been and will continue to prepare and equip Dan for this work, and I'm excited to see where God takes us in this ministry!

## Total Monetary Contributions

### OUTREACH MINISTRY OF THE MONTH



# Total Monetary Contributions

CHANGE FOR CHANGE

ELCA World Hunger

\$1,712.76

Lunch is Served

\$1,322.10

Feeding South Dakota

\$1,314.39

Feed My Starving Children

\$629.05

## By the Numbers

Volunteers	272
In-Kind Donations Collected	6797
Meals Served	2831
Households Served	436
Individuals Served	4283
Children Served	822
Seniors Served	424

Mission Outreach Stats



# Congregational Care

## Pastor Amy Martinell

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul." (3 John 1:2)

Congregational Care Ministry at Gloria Dei strives to provide care for body, mind, and soul. This care is so important because we are only able to do the work of disciples when we take the time to care for ourselves. When it is well within our souls, we are able to reach out and share God's love with others.

One of the ways we offer care for physical health is through SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life) classes which are offered on Monday and Thursday mornings in the chapel. Jessica Kruse, Gloria Dei's Faith Community Nurse, has been leading SAIL classes since January 2024. Stay Active & Independent for Life is a strength, balance, and fitness class specifically designed for adults 65+. Through structured physical activity, participants aim to improve balance and mobility. Participants can reduce their risk of falls and improve their quality of life, all while having fun and meeting new people. Class member Audrey Halle has seen a huge positive

impact in her health from attending SAIL: "I love it! I feel so much better after attending. Good stretching, much more awareness of balance (much improved after attending class) and if I miss class, I can really tell the difference."

Jessica Kruse has many reasons for offering SAIL at Gloria Dei.

"As a nurse, I know that falls are the leading cause of injury related hospitalizations, but I also know that falls are preventable. I was looking for ways to include fall prevention and education in my practice as a Faith Community Nurse. SAIL became the perfect option. Exercise programs like Stay Active and Independent for Life, or SAIL, are specifically designed to reduce fall risks and provide a structured program where people 65 and older can come together to exercise and get stronger. Exercise is often limited by barriers like cost, time, health conditions, convenience, and location. By providing SAIL at Gloria Dei, we are eliminating some, if not all those barriers, and helping our members to improve their health. The church is a wonderful place that naturally supports growth of mind, body, and spirit. By offering SAIL here at Gloria Dei, we are giving our members and our neighbors an opportunity to do all three. It has been enjoyable to see the

connections made in the class and the progress and confidence that the participants have gained."

SAIL class has helped participants gain strength after surgery, feel safer in their home, and live more fully into all areas of their life. Class participant Dave Nelson shares this about the impact that SAIL has had for him,

**"One hour twice a week dedicated to exercise, strength, and balance has improved my mobility. I am learning to be more aware of the risks to your balance as you age and to avoid falls in everyday life."**

While improving balance and physical fitness is the number one reason people attend SAIL. People find many added benefits to attending the class. Miki Dayton shares that, "having recently moved to Sioux Falls, Jessica and the Gloria Dei SAIL Class participants have made me feel so welcome!" Other participants have found SAIL to be an excellent opportunity to meet other people from the church and community. Participants find support and connection by gathering with those who have the common purpose of staying active. Through SAIL people find not just fitness, they find a community, As Miki puts it, "Jessica is an

awesome instructor!! She makes the class feel like it's not just a workout but socially welcoming! While running through the exercises, she tells stories of her young family's experiences. She makes us feel like we're part of her family-life."

SAIL provides care for the body, mind, and soul. The classes have also become a place to find community and belonging and to grow in your faith. Jackie Hensley puts together all the benefits of SAIL class,

**"It gives people of the same age a chance to gather as a community and improve our health. We are accepted as we are, which is so important in our world today. I am so grateful for the class. I've met new people that have the same beliefs as I do. We are lucky to be in the chapel as it reminds us that we are all a part of God's church. Jessica has done an excellent job, and I think most of us would agree how grateful we are!"** ♡

During SAIL classes, participants use arm- and leg-weights to strengthen muscles and bones.



# Congregational Care Statistics

The Ministry of Congregational Care's mission is to provide care and support for families and individuals at various stages, places, and circumstances of life. The Congregational Care team strives to engage the congregation in care and service to one another. Here is a snapshot of what that care looks like.

## By the Numbers

Prayer requests shared with our 200-member prayer team	114
Stephen Ministry visits	385
Mighty Ones Ministry visits	60
Freezer meals shared	127
Units of blood donated through the Bloodmobile	33

## Support Ministries

**GRIEFSHARE** meets weekly from September to December

**CARING FOR CAREGIVERS** meets monthly

**NEXT STEPS: DIVORCE SUPPORT** offers speakers and support

**WIT**, meeting monthly, offers support and friendship for widows

**STEPHEN MINISTRY** offers lay members that provide one-on-one Christian care

**PASTORAL VISITS** and **FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE VISITS**

**INDIVIDUALIZED GRIEF CARE AND RESOURCES** are available

# Health Ministries

**CHECK'N ON THE SECOND** Free monthly blood pressure and health screenings

**MEDICAL LENDING LIBRARY**  
Medical equipment available upon request

**EXERCISING YOUR FAITH** A weekly time of exercise and Bible Study

**WALKING SOULS** Open walking at Gloria Dei

**BLOODMOBILE** Donate blood twice a year at Gloria Dei

**PICKLEBALL** Faith, fitness, and fellowship offered through pickleball

**SAIL (STAY ACTIVE & INDEPENDENT FOR LIFE)** Fitness program for those 65+

**CHRIST CENTERED YOGA** Meets Weekly

**BALANCE AND HEARING SCREENINGS** Offered yearly

**LUNCH AND LEARNS** Provide health education

**SOCIAL EVENTS** Provide support and connection

## Looking Ahead

We have four individuals in Stephen Ministry training and are excited to welcome them as Stephen Ministers in February

Adding a second SAIL class and additional SAIL instructor beginning in January

New ways to promote and build awareness of Congregational Care Ministry

# ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**

**Sanctuary**

**Time 11:45am**

Call to Order

Opening Devotions

Approval of Minutes

Annual Meeting, January 26, 2025

President's Report

Senior Pastor's Report

2025 Treasurer's Report

Presentation of 2026 Financial Plan

Other Business

Recommendation from Church

Council for removing a current By-Law

Closing Prayer

# ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

2025 Annual Meeting

January 26, 2025 at 11:45 AM, Church Sanctuary

## **ROLL: SARA DANNEN**

- Quorum was obtained.
- Written notice of the meeting was given more than 10 days in advance of meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER: PRESIDENT SARA DANNEN OPENED THE MEETING AT 11:50 AM.**

## **OPENING DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER: PASTOR HEIDI BINSTOCK**

## **APPROVAL OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

The president received a motion from Duane Cramer to approve the minutes from the 1/28/24 Annual Meeting. Todd Miller seconded the motion and it carried with unanimous support.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT: SARA DANNEN**

- This is a different time for Gloria Dei – a time to continue the progress to go Deeper in Faith and Wider in Outreach. Sara reviewed the growth in all areas.
- Sara shared a big thank you to Gloria Dei pastors and staff, to all the volunteers throughout the year and to the Council members including Dave Krull & Kate Patrick who've completed their terms and Scott Fiedler & Kimber Severson who are joining Council.
- Progress for the future will be realized through efforts from all members. Like in Ecclesiastes 3, there's a time to plant and a time to build up – which is what we're doing for the benefit of our children and generations to come. We've embarking on a capital campaign with lofty goal of \$4M and we're already half way to the goal. Priorities for the campaign include \$1.5M to eliminate the mortgage, \$500K for a building maintenance fund and \$2M for site prep for future expansion and improvements to the existing property to meet the current needs of the congregation.

## **PASTOR'S REPORTS**

- Pastor Heidi (Executive Pastor) – Heidi works more behind the scenes to make operations go smoothly. She expressed appreciation for the Gloria Dei staff who are so critical to being able to accomplish all the things that make us great.
- Pastor Chris (Mission & Outreach and Adult Education) – Chris is very grateful that Dan Bergheim has joined the office team as Discipleship Coordinator and he's doing an excellent

job with volunteer coordination to train & equip everyone to serve in various roles. This has allowed Chris to pursue his passion. Eleven members were part of the first cohort of discipleship intensives that he worked on during his sabbatical. The group met weekly for 7 months to pray, read, study the word and volunteer together to lead themselves more deeply into discipleship. Chris is planning another group to start in the coming months.

- Pastor Sarah (Children, Youth and Families) – A lot of amazing things are going on with help from many volunteers. Sarah encourages and facilitates the middle and high school youth who help to bring up the younger kids in the church. Goal is to make them feel welcome and loved. Greatest compliment is when our youth invite their friends to join.
- Pastor Amy (Congregational Care) – Amy is thankful for all the amazing ways volunteers have served to help care for our 4000 members; i.e. Prayer team, Mighty Ones ministry, Stephen Ministers and so much more. She heads up the new member program and loves to hear that they're choosing Gloria Dei because they feel welcome and at home here.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT – MISSY RADIGAN**

- Capital Campaign question from online viewer: If we don't meet the \$4M goal, Council has pledged to become debt free so there's no intent to take on additional debt in order to do a project beyond the funds raised through the campaign. Building committee will help plan how best to use the funds raised through the campaign.
- 2024 Financial Report: Budget remains fairly consistent from year to year. Gloria Dei was once again blessed with strong financial support from the congregation resulting in end-of-year Revenue over Expenses of \$5,173. Increases in Administration, Operations and Staff resulted from being fully staffed in 2024 and anticipated increases in building insurance and maintenance.
- 2025 Budget Proposal (see Annual Report): Revenues are projected to increase by 7% including higher revenue from Preschool. Funding for Mission and Outreach is being maintained at the 2024 level and includes an increase in the Faith & Flexibility line item. Administration Ministries budget is increased primarily due to higher building insurance and maintenance expenses. We want to take care of our staff in order to limit turn over so we've included a 3% increase in wages in 2025.
- Projected deficit for 2025 is (\$124K) but we hope for strong support to continue and growth in the membership to decrease the deficit. Cash reserves are available if needed.
- A motion was made by Cathy Bernard to approve the 2025 Proposed Budget. Motion was seconded by Mary Devany and was passed with unanimous support.

## **QUESTIONS AND OTHER DISCUSSION**

- Mortgage was refinanced in December for an additional 5 years at 5.5%. The expectation is that it will be paid off within 2-3 years.
- Balance won't be eliminated in year 1 so mortgage payments will continue to be a monthly operational expense. Principal payments will be made during the year as campaign pledges

are received, including a \$133,000 principal payment made in January. We're hoping that funds will be available to pay off the balance in 2026.

- Online question was asked about the status of the 'vacant lot' and if there's a plan to sell it.
- Council had assistance from a commercial broker and we didn't get the positive response from City/Parks Dept that was hoped for in regard to a curb cut to allow access to the site.
- Further discussion on sale of southeast corner of the Gloria Dei property may be contingent on building an access/service road along 57<sup>th</sup> Street to provide access to the corner site because the road to the east is a park road, not a city street.
- An appraisal of the land hasn't been requested.
- Status of Gloria Dei's Endowment Fund – There are 6 specified funds with a combined balance of approximately \$264K. More information will be provided to the membership during 2025 on the Endowment Fund.

#### **ADJOURNMENT – SARA DANNEN**

Pr. Sarah shared the Benediction as a closing prayer. A motion was made by Tiffany Miller and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:40pm.

# 2025 STAFF

## **PASTORS**

Tim Selbo, Senior Pastor

Sarah Goldammer, Pastor of Children, Youth & Family

Chris Zuraff, Pastor of Mission and Outreach (Jan-Oct)

Chris Zuraff, Executive Pastor (Nov-Current)

Amy Martinell, Pastor of Congregational Care

Heidi Binstock, Executive Pastor (Jan-April)

## **BUSINESS & FACILITY ADMINISTRATOR**

Devin McChesney

## **FINANCIAL TELLERS**

Devin McChesney

Cicely Schock

Pat Zoerink\*

## **OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

Cicely Schock

## **OFFICE TEAM**

Pat Zoerink\*

Dorothy Williamson\*

## **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Adam Paulson

## **CUSTODIAL TEAM**

Tim Schillerstrom

Gordy Albers\*

Caleb Nielsen\*

Joe Schwebach\*

## **DISCIPLESHIP COORDINATOR**

Daniel Bergheim

## **FOOD MINISTRY COORDINATOR**

LaVerta Christensen\*

## **FOOD MINISTRY ASSISTANT**

Charity Bergheim\*

## **DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP ARTS**

Matt Walicke

## **ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/MEDIA**

John Effinger

## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MEDIA**

Adam Paulson

## **MUSIC/FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATE**

Gretchen Borgum\*

## **FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE**

Jessica Kruse

## **COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION**

Lara Kvale

## **YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR**

Ryan Woods

## **YOUTH PROGRAM ASSISTANT**

Nicole Mindt\*

## **EDUCATION ASSISTANTS**

Melanie Schmeichel\*

Lisa Dewey\*

## **LIBRARIAN**

Laura Ruesch\*

## **YOUTH ASSISTANTS**

Mary Christensen\* (Sep-Current)

Payton Colter\* (Sep-Current)

Noel Kist\* (Sep-Current)

Kyra Johnson\* (Jan-May)

Kate Matthes\*

Will Sugrue\*

**CHILD CARE COORDINATOR**

Katelyn Zuraff\*

**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR**

Sharon Claude

**PRESCHOOL TEACHERS**

Diane Dobbs\*

Dayleen Swanson

Stacey Reitz

Bobbi Schramm\*

**PRESCHOOL TEACHERS' AIDE & LUNCH  
BUNCH**

Amy Anawski\*

Liz Ward\* (Jan-May)

\* indicates part time

# ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

## Gloria Dei Endowment Fund

YE December 31, 2026

Ministry Fund	Value 12/31/2024	Value 12/31/2025	Annual	
			Past 12 Qtrs. Rolling Avg	Distribution Calc @ 5%
General Fund	\$ 154,294.33	\$ 176,835.95	\$ 176,173.39	\$ 8,808.67
Camp Counselor Scholarship Fund	\$ 26,617.51	\$ 30,506.19	\$ 21,551.65	\$ 1,077.58
Pre-School Fund	\$ 11,262.27	\$ 12,807.63	\$ 21,551.65	\$ 1,077.58
Seminary Scholarship Fund	\$ 26,466.24	\$ 30,332.82	\$ 24,355.75	\$ 1,217.79
Augustana Pact Scholarship Fund	\$ 34,666.61	\$ 39,731.22	\$ 31,902.20	\$ 1,595.11
Global Mission Partner Fund	\$ 11,262.27	\$ 12,807.63	\$ 10,364.19	\$ 518.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 264,569.23</b>	<b>\$ 303,221.44</b>		<b>\$ 14,294.94</b>

Available not distributed

## Endowment Fund Investments at Market Value by Quarter

	12/31/2025	9/30/2025	6/30/2025	3/31/2025	12/31/2024
ELCA Endowment Fund					
Pooled Trust	\$ 308,186.21	\$ 300,949.26	\$ 284,493.58	\$ 263,368.57	\$ 264,569.23
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 1,753.22	1,751.48	\$ 1,749.74	\$ 1,748.00	\$ 1,746.26
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$ 309,939.43</b>	<b>\$ 302,700.74</b>	<b>\$ 286,243.32</b>	<b>\$ 265,116.57</b>	<b>\$ 266,315.49</b>
<b>Total Investments Prior Year</b>	<b>266,315.49</b>				
<b>Increase in Market Value</b>	<b>\$ 43,623.94</b>				

Note: No distributions were paid out of the endowment fund in 2022-2025

## BUILDING LOAN UPDATE

<b>Mortgage Balance 12/31/2023</b>	<b>\$1,492,355</b>
Less principal paid in 2024	958,612
<b>Mortgage Balance 12/31/2024</b>	<b>\$533,742</b>

We have reamortized the mortgage in 2026, to allow more cash flow in the General Fund budget. The church is committed to sending principal only payments quarterly to reduce the balance to zero.

2025  
ESTIMATES  
OF GIVING  
to the  
GENERAL  
FUND

Estimates Received	Annual Estimate of Giving Range			% of Total Estimates
54	\$0.01	to	\$520.00	9%
87	\$520.01	to	\$1040.00	14%
115	\$1040.01	to	\$1560.00	18%
52	\$1560.01	to	\$2080.00	8%
61	\$2080.01	to	\$2600.00	10%
79	\$2600.01	to	\$3900.00	13%
59	\$3900.01	to	\$5200.00	9%
65	\$5200.01	to	\$7800.00	10%
53	7800.01	to	over	9%
<b>625</b>	<b>Total Estimates of Giving Received</b>			

# RESTRICTED FUND

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
Restricted Fund Report**

**December 31, 2025**

Clearing Account	\$ 84,170
Music Fund	3,522
Handbells	2,402
Altar Committee Fund	5,186
Continuing Education - Pastors	4,327
Continuing Education - Staff	14,246
Dei Café:	
Youth Trip Fundraising /Receipt	\$ 108,081
Youth Mission Trip 2025	(13,345)
Natl Youth Trip 2025	-
Youth Camp Scholarships	20
Camp Counselor Scholarships	708
Confirmation fundraisers	2,885
Middle School Outings	(1,915)
Youth contributions	<u>-</u> 96,433
Preschool Fund and Deposits	63,889
Preschool Long Term Sub Fund	1,643
Good Samaritan Fund	1,121
Endowment	22,425
Facility Reserve Fund	39,115
Operations Reserve Fund	116,655
Capital Campaign Fund	506,559
Funeral Committee Fund	8,270
Confirmation Camp Deposits	250
Building Use Deposits	7,466
Health Ministry	2,598
Stephen Ministers LAN	873
Liturgical Dance	1,720
Library	328
Special Projects:	
Financial Peace University	1,290
Computers	185
Thrivent Choice Dollars	4,754
Cleaning Equipment & Bus	506
Future Sewer/Water	28,933
Seminary Tuition	537
Memorial Garden	50
Kitchen Ministry	143
Other - Memorials **	15,876
Discipleship Ministry	2,788
Refuge Ukraine Family Fund	573
Open Arms Addiction	2,005
Livestream/Media/Lighting	<u>17,669</u> 75,310
Mission Trips - Travel	11,220
Nicaragua - Medicine & Supplies	2,962
Haircuts on the Go	3,736
Quilting	2,377
Visitation Fund	212
MOPS	498
Gym Fees	<u>7,037</u>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,086,547</b>

# 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
2026 General Fund Budget

	2026 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2023 ACTUAL
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
3000 General Fund	\$ 2,550,000	\$ 2,395,974	\$ 2,603,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,406,781	\$ 2,377,554
3050 Loose Offering	\$ 60,000	\$ 59,365	\$ 60,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 54,913	\$ 50,530
3100 Vacation Bible School/Day Camp	\$ 9,550	\$ 10,945	\$ 9,550	\$ 6,550	\$ 8,877	\$ 6,560
3250 Preschool	\$ 180,000	\$ 182,024	\$ 180,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 188,524	\$ 138,943
3300 Other/Interest Income	\$ 40,000	\$ 90,315	\$ 40,000	\$ 43,558	\$ 21,827	\$ 48,929
3350 Misc. Benevolence/Income	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,987	\$ 12,000	\$ 11,882	\$ 13,244	\$ 48,929
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 2,851,550</b>	<b>\$ 2,751,611</b>	<b>\$ 2,884,550</b>	<b>\$ 2,751,990</b>	<b>\$ 2,694,166</b>	<b>\$ 2,671,445</b>
<b>MISSION &amp; OUTREACH MINISTRIES</b>						
4000 SD Synod ELCA Benevolence	\$ 112,000.00	\$ 110,000.04	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00
4010 USD Campus Ministries	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,999.96	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
4020 SDSU Campus Ministries	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,999.96	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
4025 Lutheran Outdoors	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,489.96	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
4060 World Hunger	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 999.96	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
4110 Nicaragua Missionary Support	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
4120 Mission Hall	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
4175 Quilters	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,534.17	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,360.59
4350 Community Outreach	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
4375 Heartland House	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
4385 Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
4400 St Francis House	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
4500 Misc. Benevolence (Non-budget)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,987.12	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 13,244.47	\$ 12,998.59
4550 Misc. Benevolence (Budget)	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -
4650 The Banquet	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,763.77	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00
4700 St. Dymas	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
4725 Bishop Dudley Hospitality House	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
4800 Faith & Flexibility	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 11,144.60	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,280.55	\$ 8,309.24
4810 Seminary Tuition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
4812 Feeding South Dakota	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
4813 Bread Break	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
4820 CHARIS Ministries	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
4825 Iglesia Pueblo Dios	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.04	\$ 14,000.04
4830 Mission Trip Travel Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4832 Luther House of Study	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
4833 Children, Youth & Family ServProj	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4835 Kids Against Hunger	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
4840 Feed My Starving Children	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
4845 Project Hope	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 350.00
4851 Nightwatch VanMinistry	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 821.24	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,299.04	\$ 1,039.06
4860 COTS Health & Healing Fair	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
4865 Church on the Street	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,999.96	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,061.30	\$ 9,999.96
4866 Halcut Trailer	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 301.30	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,508.24	\$ 889.19
4867 Mission/Outreach Communications	\$ -	\$ 552.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4870 Adult Education	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,308.21	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,168.45	\$ 3,372.55
4875 Cell to Freedom	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
4880 Lutheran Social Services	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
4885 TreMinistries	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
4886 Mobile Market - SFACF/Thrive	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL MISSION &amp; OUTREACH MINISTRIES</b>	<b>\$ 252,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 241,412.47</b>	<b>\$ 246,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 245,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 229,752.09</b>	<b>\$ 239,419.22</b>
<b>CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY</b>						
5000 Church School Curriculum	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,816.32	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 7,561.03	\$ 4,707.16
5050 Church School Supplies	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,254.01	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,498.71	\$ 2,549.17
5100 Confirmation	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 10,966.07	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,071.48	\$ 8,208.16
5110 Youth/Children/Family Activities	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 12,144.29	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 13,414.30	\$ 7,207.65
5120 Nursery	\$ 800.00	\$ 330.05	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 205.20	\$ 800.00
5140 Young Adult Ministry	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,628.39	\$ 1,392.13
5200 Presentation & Special Events	\$ -	\$ 549.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,214.82	\$ 2,005.58
5250 VBS/Day Camp	\$ 7,900.00	\$ 5,015.27	\$ 7,900.00	\$ 7,900.00	\$ 6,398.70	\$ 5,018.32
5300 Library	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 1,630.77	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 2,262.17	\$ 2,795.82
5340 Equipment	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 146.56	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,893.05	\$ 1,777.57
5345 Mission Trip & Camp Scholarships	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
5348 Preschool Scholarship	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,040.00
5350 Preschool Programs	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,008.65	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 16,144.02	\$ 14,031.93
<b>TOTAL CHILDREN, YOUTH &amp; FAMILY MINISTRIES</b>	<b>\$ 84,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 76,141.93</b>	<b>\$ 86,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 85,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 89,291.87</b>	<b>\$ 56,533.49</b>

# 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

		2026 PROPOSED BUDGET						
<b>WORSHIP &amp; EVANGELISM</b>								
6000 Special Events	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 12,835.74	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 9,834.27	\$ 10,209.69		
6010 Evangelism	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,011.48	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 7,483.38	\$ 9,338.67		
6015 Publicity & Advertising	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,469.63	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 2,135.89	\$ 7,212.76		
6020 Lay Ministry	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 63.71	\$ 419.40		
6050 Baptism & Communion Supplies	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,863.54	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,305.32	\$ 2,323.02		
6075 Liturgical Dance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 22.63	\$ 184.60		
6100 Music	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,782.69	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,046.91	\$ 1,397.69		
6125 Worship Supplies	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,555.58	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 1,837.32	\$ 1,704.13		
6150 Piano Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
6175 Tech Budget	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 5,248.60	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 12,623.57	\$ 5,279.11		
6210 Instruments	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,059.71	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,248.82	\$ 892.14		
6220 Software/Subscriptions	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 17,781.92	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,598.45	\$ 10,121.61		
6225 Handbells	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
6230 Music Scholar Program	\$ 500.00	\$ 820.05	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 169.50	\$ 37.26		
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP &amp; EVANGELISM MINISTRIES</b>	<b>\$ 75,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 55,429.03</b>	<b>\$ 66,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 70,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 48,369.77</b>	<b>\$ 49,120.10</b>		
<b>CONGREGATIONAL CARE</b>								
7325 Health Ministry	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 7,555.27	\$ 9,050.00	\$ 11,150.00	\$ 8,861.38	\$ 7,778.10		
<b>TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRIES</b>	<b>\$ 9,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,555.27</b>	<b>\$ 9,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,861.38</b>	<b>\$ 7,776.10</b>		
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>								
8000 Stewardship Planning	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,808.03	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 2,958.00	\$ 6,017.11		
8050 Building Insurance	\$ 45,556.00	\$ 43,325.00	\$ 43,324.00	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 35,184.98	\$ 25,942.00		
8100 Equipment Maintenance	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 8,807.41	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 7,507.24	\$ 11,211.50		
8150 Grounds Maintenance	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 9,551.04	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 25,598.25	\$ 14,700.67		
8200 Building Maintenance	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 33,222.51	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 28,909.62	\$ 27,670.03		
8250 Cleaning Supplies	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,724.75	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 7,117.44	\$ 7,240.83		
8300 General Equipment	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 6,319.02	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 6,505.29	\$ 5,901.21		
8350 Utilities	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 107,621.68	\$ 99,676.00	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 89,551.15	\$ 87,133.03		
8360 Computers/Network	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 27,519.99	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 27,646.59	\$ 24,513.26		
8400 City Assessments	\$ 22,451.71	\$ 21,635.42	\$ 19,049.00	\$ 19,049.00	\$ 15,038.04	\$ 18,657.80		
8425 Transportation	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,627.47	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,403.86	\$ 5,722.33		
8500 Telephone & Internet	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,567.96	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,340.58	\$ 5,107.30		
8510 Hospitality/Food Ministry	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 17,882.46	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 20,585.89	\$ 9,501.30		
8520 Office Supplies	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 16,078.73	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 16,850.56	\$ 13,030.51		
8530 Postage	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,193.36	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,301.21	\$ 1,948.11		
8550 Mortgage	\$ 12,610.00	\$ 160,545.00	\$ 175,910.00	\$ 174,468.00	\$ 174,968.00	\$ 174,468.00		
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION MINISTRIES</b>	<b>\$ 365,117.71</b>	<b>\$ 483,229.83</b>	<b>\$ 500,459.00</b>	<b>\$ 479,517.00</b>	<b>\$ 473,468.70</b>	<b>\$ 438,854.98</b>		
<b>OPERATIONS &amp; STAFF</b>								
9100 Conventions/Meetings	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,825.60	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,312.70	\$ 2,491.80		
9150 Staff Compensation	\$ 1,610,000.00	\$ 1,461,872.15	\$ 1,600,000.00	\$ 1,495,000.00	\$ 1,409,850.59	\$ 1,356,040.79		
9200 Social Security Taxes	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 66,281.29	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 61,708.37	\$ 59,986.49		
9250 Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 5,815.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 5,189.00	\$ 5,710.83		
9300 Pension/Medical	\$ 340,000.00	\$ 322,399.92	\$ 380,000.00	\$ 350,672.00	\$ 329,930.54	\$ 318,469.05		
9350 Auto Allowance	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 15,126.99	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,585.91	\$ 17,181.35		
9450 Continuing Education	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 3,832.96	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,479.20	\$ 75.88		
9500 Professional Expenses	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,389.06	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,029.27	\$ 2,497.40		
9550 Staff Development/Training	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,486.76	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,461.99	\$ 1,787.18		
9685 Contingency Fund	\$ 232.29	\$ 605.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 625.00	\$ 390.74		
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS &amp; STAFF</b>	<b>\$ 2,066,632.29</b>	<b>\$ 1,881,633.73</b>	<b>\$ 2,096,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,957,672.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,832,172.67</b>	<b>\$ 1,764,631.57</b>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 2,851,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,745,402.26</b>	<b>\$ 3,004,909.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,851,139.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,681,914.38</b>	<b>\$ 2,556,335.41</b>		
<b>EXCESS/(DEFICIT) OVER RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,209.16</b>	<b>\$ (120,359.00)</b>	<b>\$ (99,149.00)</b>	<b>\$ 12,251.74</b>	<b>\$ 79,178.77</b>		
Beginning General Fund Cash	\$ 600,774.67	\$ 584,565.51	\$ 584,565.51	\$ 584,565.51	\$ 582,313.77	\$ 503,135.00		
Ending General Fund Cash	\$ 600,774.67	\$ 600,774.67	\$ 474,206.51	\$ 495,418.51	\$ 584,565.51	\$ 582,313.77		

# 2025 Ministry Celebrations



Our Synod's vision of Journeying Together in Christ has continued to be the focus of our work. We invite you to take a few moments to review the list below, which celebrates some of the ministry we shared together in 2025. **Journeying together in Christ as the South Dakota Synod, in 2025 we have:**

- Received **3 new first call** candidates, completed **18 Ministry Site Studies**, and extended **24 calls**.
- Ensured that nearly every congregation has a called pastor, interim pastor, Synod Authorized Minister, or lay leader to care for God's people (**thank you** to all of you who are helping out with area congregations and filling in!).
- Walked with **28 people** in various stages of **candidacy** in the SD Synod in 2025, with **18** others inquiring and in discernment.
- Completed Year 2 of the **\$1.13 million** "Journeying Together in Christ" grant and Year 1 of the **\$1.25 million** "Holy Playground Initiative" grant; both grants were awarded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.
- Welcomed Pr. Renae Boehmer as Director for the Holy Playground Initiative. Gave out subawards to **3 Neighbors in Solidarity communities** and have recruited a cohort of over **20 congregations** who will journey together in 2026 to create intergenerational opportunities for young children to fully engage in worship and prayer.
- Continued to support rural congregations through the work of Pr. Joel Pakan, **Director for Rural Ministry**, and 4 part-time **Rural Ambassadors**. In 2025, our Rural Ministry Ambassadors led or participated in over **100** worship services in over **50** South Dakota ELCA congregations. They also led, helped facilitate, or attended over **100** meetings in congregations, conferences, and the synod.
- Continued to promote Spirit-led growth and faith formation through our Pasque Learning Community (sdsynodlearns.org). In 2025, Pasque received over **6,500** unique site visits, with over **400** site accounts created and nearly **500** active enrollments in resources.
- Received a **\$50,000** CaSTLE Grant from Wartburg Seminary for 2025 and was awarded another **\$50,000** CaSTLE Grant for 2026 to support Rural Ambassadors, the Synod Authorized Minister retreat, and resource creation.
- Granted **\$129,231** in South Dakota Synod Educational Scholarship Awards, including the Fund for Leaders program.
- Distributed **\$96,263** through the Seminary Debt Reduction Program, including paying off the loan balances of 5 rostered leaders.
- Awarding **\$21,447** in Storm Micro Grants to help members and congregations recover from severe weather events and **\$10,500** in Micro Grants to the feeding ministries of our congregations and worshipping communities.
- Held a **Synod Assembly**, where we gathered as a community to conduct the business of the Synod.
- Hosted **Spring** and **Fall Theological Conferences**, where we continued to support the continuing education of our Rostered Ministers.
- Supported the congregations and ministries of the Synod through **visits by Synod staff**, both **digital** and **in-person**.
- Hosted "**Coffee with the Bishop**" for Retired Rostered Ministers, Spouses, Widows/Widowers.
- Hosted "**I've Been Elected to Council, Now What?**" to support congregational lay leaders and supported rostered lay leaders with regular **in-person and virtual meetings**, such as monthly rostered minister virtual check-ins, Synod Authorized Minister, Senior Pastor, and Interim Pastor check-ins, and a First Call and Senior Pastor Retreat.
- Supported the work of congregational office administrators with a **Synod Office Administrators Monthly Check-In**. 32 administrators have signed up to participate in these check-ins and to share resources in a dedicated Pasque course.
- Continued the work of the Rural Ministry Table, including awarding **\$80,127** in **Small Town and Rural (STAR)** grants.
- Received **\$108,033** in Churchwide grants for our Neighbors in Solidarity ministries.
- Awarded **\$53,038** from Endowment and Listen! Endowment funds to congregations, rostered, and lay leaders

**Thank you for all the ways you have supported the ministry of the South Dakota Synod. Together, we continue to serve as the hands and feet of Christ, sharing Jesus' love and grace. As we step into 2026, we trust in God's guidance and look forward to walking this journey of faith together.**





5500 E 57th Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
(605) 371-3737  
[gloriadeisf.org](http://gloriadeisf.org)

