



Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 25th, 2026

Hosanna Lutheran Church, LCMC

15th Annual Meeting

January 25th, 2026

AGENDA

Opening Devotions

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Annual Meeting, January 26th, 2025

Reports – President, Treasurer, Pastor

Written Ministry Reports – (accepted as written)

Election of 2026 Church Council (3-year term)

Nominees: Jan DeBerg; Patti Lien; Andrew Magedenz;

Election of Nominating Committee for 2026 Council (1-year term)

Nominees: Sharon Brekke; Josh Maag; Kathy Monnens

Election of 2026 Endowment Fund Committee (3-year term)

Nominees: Dana Jones

Presentation and Approval of 2026 Proposed Budget

Old Business

New Business

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Hosanna Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes

Annual Meeting January 26th, 2025

Confirmation of Quorum: Quorum count was met.

Opening Devotions: Given by Pastor Janine Werling. We give thanks to God for one another and His abundance.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda by Terry Hayunga, second by Don Farthing. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting: Motion by Todd Brist, second by Roger Carter. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Reports:

- President's Report - presented by Mike Aadland; accepted as written.
- Treasurer's Report – presented by Earl Benson. Reviewed year end numbers. Motion to approve by Kevin Halverson, second by Cliff Speaker. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Pastor's Report – presented by Pastor Janine Werling. Noted abundance in resources both financially and educationally. Encouraged members to join a Bible study this year. Thanked all staff and volunteers for their contribution to Hosanna.
- Written Ministry Reports – Accepted as written.

Election of 2025 Church Council (3-year term):

Exiting members: Sarah Becker, Ron Jutting, and Travis Tisher.

Nominees: Katherine Althoff, Sherri Brindle, Dede Gilbertson. Floor opened to add any additional nominees; no additional nominees added. Motion to approve nominees by Jeffrey Brindle, second by Scott Jensen. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Election of Nominating Committee for 2025 Council (1-year term):

Nominees: Mike Aadland, Kevin Halverson, Ashley Schaefer. Motion to approve by Dana Jones, second by Terry Hayunga. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Presentation and Approval of 2025 Proposed Budget:

Earl reviewed main points of budget and overall small increase. Motion to approve by Jim Stout, second by Cindy Dargatz. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business: None

New Business:

New Council members are asked to meet in front of church following close of Annual Meeting to elect officers.

Sunday, February 2nd, new council will be installed during church.

Because of surplus in 2024, \$7,000 given to Benevolence fund for a total of \$9,950. \$15,000 added to Capital Outlay fund for a total of \$40,175.89. Building debt was able to be paid down an additional \$75,000, in addition to monthly mortgage payments. Debt is currently \$553,963.71.

Next year, Thrivent will do a review of our loan and may get a new interest rate and amortization schedule. Currently a 3.5% interest.

Closing Prayer: Lead by Pastor Craig Werling. Congregation recited Lord's Prayer.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Todd Brist, second by Dede Gilbertson. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Council President's Report for 2025

Dear Hosanna Family,

2025 certainly was an interesting year. But through it all, God has been good, and we have many blessings to be thankful for!

May 19th will go down as a date in Hosanna history that will never be forgotten. Lightning struck the church that day, causing a stubborn roof fire that took several hours to extinguish.

The building was damaged, but our faith was certainly not.

I remember vividly that day, standing in the parking lot in a cold rain with Pastor Craig, looking at firefighters cutting holes in the peak of the roof to get at the flames.

I told Craig that everything would be ok, and that, "a church is not bricks and mortar. A church is its people, and their belief in Jesus Christ and the promises God has made to us."

Within a couple of days of the fire, the church council held a special emergency meeting at Lake Area Technical College to set in motion a rebuilding plan that continues today.

There are so many people to thank, and if I began naming names, the list would be VERY long. But a special THANK YOU to all members of Hosanna's Property Committee who worked diligently to coordinate repair plans with Gil Haugan Construction. They did a wonderful job of informing the Church Council on all decisions that would need to be made moving forward.

It has been an honor to serve as your Church Council president the past two years. A special thank you to my fellow council members, along with Treasurer Earl Benson, Administrative Assistant Anna Kettwig, and Pastors Craig and Janine.

As we've faced the many fire-related challenges, we can all reflect on the words in Isaiah 41:10. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand".

May God bless you abundantly in 2026!

Respectfully,

Michael Aadland

Hosanna Church Council President

Hosanna Lutheran Church, LCMC

Organizational Chart

Church Council and Ministry Teams

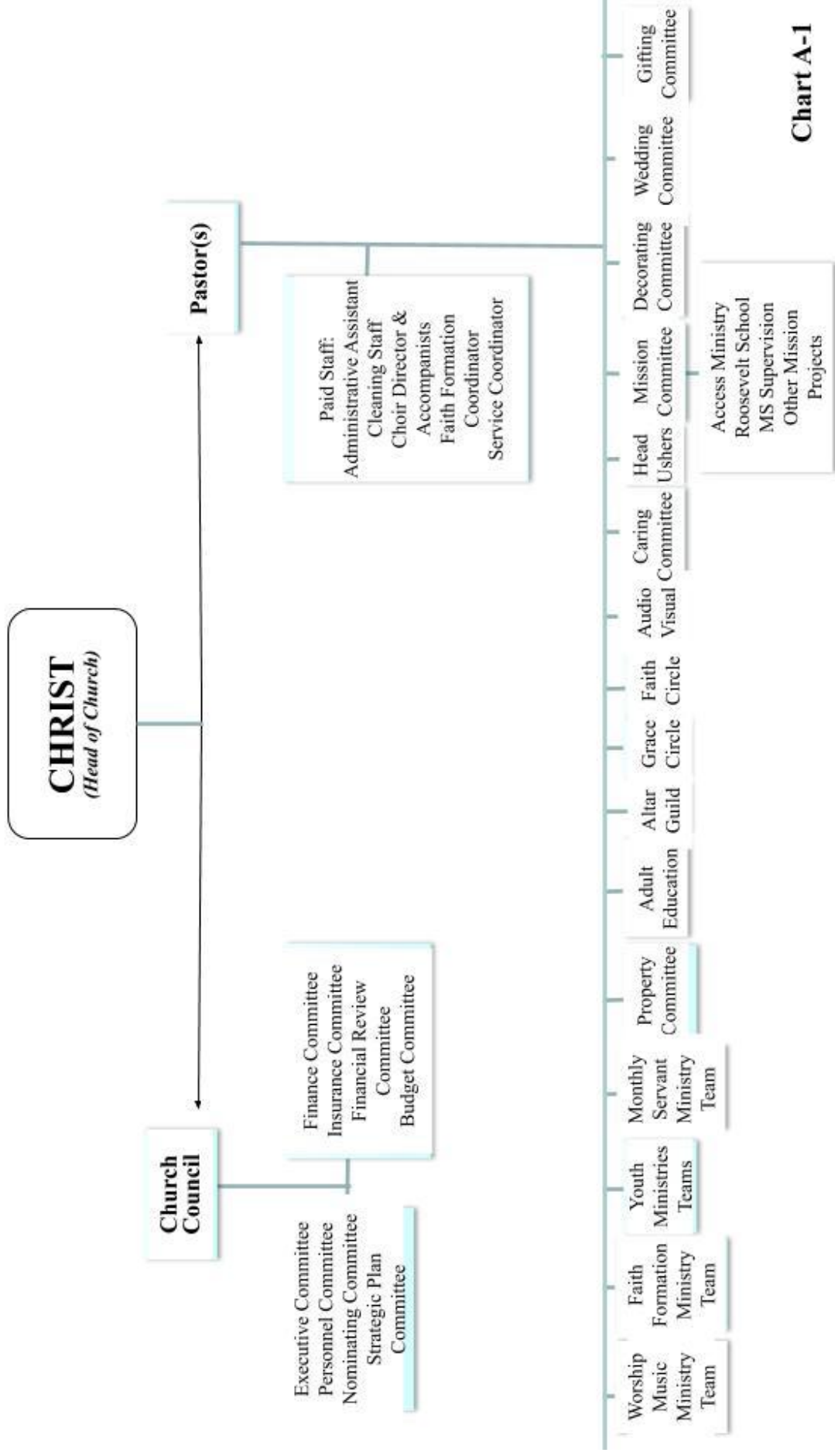


Chart A-1

Treasurer's Report

No one could have predicted what was to happen on May 19, 2025, but as a congregation of God's people, we have stayed strong, worked hard, and I am pleased to report that our financial position still remains strong.

The ministry leaders and volunteers have become budget-conscious through all of this inconvenience that surrounds us, but we will be stronger when we can occupy our home in the Sanctuary of our church.

In 2025, our giving was 12.97% above the approved 2025 budget and our expenses were 3.19% under budget. The expense reduction is a result of the ministry leaders doing a great job on their budget preparation and some is a result of the May 19 event.

During the 5 months we could not occupy the building, Anna and I were able to put procedures together so the work of the church continued. I thank Anna for her work and for keeping me informed of the many tasks we had to accomplish. Great job!!

Many steps need to be followed in working with the Insurance Company to get physical assets replaced that were lost, making sure those who are doing the labor to restore the structure are properly paid for their work. Countless e-mails and meetings are required to keep the communications open and projects moving to conclusion. We need to keep the claim in mind as we work to bring this project to a conclusion.

As I stated last year, 2026 is the year Thrivent will review our debt. I have reached out to Thrivent and have been informed that the Church will receive a letter 90 days prior to the review date. Thrivent will automatically adjust the rate to their current rate and will inform us of the new rate and new payment amount. The date of the change will be November 15, 2026

Thank you for the support you have given me as your Treasurer.

Respectfully,

Earl S. Benson

Treasurer

HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH								
PROPOSED BUDGET		2026						
		2025 Budget	2025 Act./Dec	2025 Actual /Budget	%	Proposed 2026 BUDGET	Budget 2026-2025	%
INCOME								
OFFERINGS		369,622	417,507.24			377720		
BENEVOLENCE 10% OF OFF		41,069	46,449.71			37000		
INTEREST EARNED			3,979.14					
TOTAL		410,691	467,936.09	57,245.09	13.94%	414,720.00	4,029	0.98%
DEBT REDUCTION		59,620	62,474.56	2,854.56	4.79%	60,940.00		
		59,620	62,474.56	2,854.56	4.79%	60,940.00	1,320.00	2.21%
EXPENSES								
ADMINISTRATIVE								
ACCOUNTANT SERVICES		2,400	3,099.63			3000		
ADMIN. ASSISTANT		13,515	14,030.96			14124		
ADVERTISING		550	414.54			550		
ATTORNEY FEES		0	0.00			0		
BANK SERVICE CHARGE		900	747.55			1000		
CHURCH SOFTWARE		700	746.53			800		
CONTINGENCY		0	0.00			0		
COPIER LEASE/MAINTENAN		2,500	3,351.29			3500		
FICA EMPLOYER		3,000	2,480.37			3000		
HELPING HANDS REIMB.		0	0.00			0		
HOSPITALITY		350	-688.03			350		
OFFICE SUPPLIES		1,300	1,632.65			1300		
ROTARY DUES		1,000	901.00			1000		
TELEPHONE/INTERNET		3,500	2,351.69			3500		
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR		565	387.34			612		
TOTAL		30,280	29,455.52	-824.48	-2.72%	32,736.00	2,456.00	8.11%
PASTOR'S								
PASTOR'S CONFERENCE		1,200	1,289.69			1300		
PASTOR'S HEALTH INSURAN		7,200	6,480.96			7200		
PASTOR'S MILEAGE		2,800	1,932.70			2500		
PASTOR'S SALARY		86,995	86,954.88			87194		
PASTOR'S SALARY		80,925	80,924.88			82732		
TOTAL		179,120	177,583.11	-1,536.89	-0.86%	180926	1,806	1.01%
BENEVOLENCE								
BENEVOLENCES		40,979	40,545.00	-434.00	-1.06%	37000		
TOTAL		40,979	40,545.00	-434.00	-1.06%	37,000.00	-3,979	-9.71%

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT								
CHURCH SUPPLIES	1,200	522.25				1200		
FIRE MONITORING	2,000	4,136.23				3000		
INSURANCE	13,000	15,889.75				20000		
INTEREST ON DEBT	22,835	19,973.44				16068		
JANITORIAL SALARY	6,025	3,496.32				5657		
JANITOR EXP.,PROP, FIXTUR	4,000	1,667.37				4000		
SECURITY MONITORING	350	271.76				850		
SNOW REMOVAL/LAWN CA	7,750	3,398.40				7750		
UTILITIES	15,000	13,286.06				15000		
TOTAL	72,160	62,641.58	-9,518.42	-13.19%	73,525.00	1,365.00	1.89%	
WORSHIP								
ALTAR SUPPLIES	500	232.01				500		
CCLI/ONE LICENSE	950	1,134.16				900		
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST	1,282	569.80				1320		
CHOIR DIRECTOR	2,925	1,255.24				2925		
CHURCH DECORATIONS	200	0.00				500		
GUEST PASTOR	600	0.00				600		
MUSIC SUPPLIES	50	0.00				50		
ORGANISTS	5,235	4,757.40				5308		
WORSHIP EXPENSE	500	403.08				500		
AUDIO/VISUAL SUPPLIES	1,500	1,620.36				1500		
TOTAL	13,742	9,972.05	-3,769.95	-27.43%	14103	361	2.63%	
YOUTH & EDUCATION								
ADULT FAITH FORMATION	200	152.02				200		
CONFIRMATION	200	508.51				300		
EDUCATION COORDINATOR	8,300	8,108.22				8800		
Kids Hope USA	750	637.27				750		
RIGHT NOW MEDIA	1,440	1,274.28				1440		
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	1,000	986.69				1000		
YOUTH ACTIVITIES	1,300	1,805.24				1500		
YOUTH FAITH FORMATION	1,600	1,432.35				1500		
TOTAL	14,790	14,904.58	114.58	0.77%	15490	700	4.73%	
TOTALS	410,691	397,576.40	-13,114.60	-3.19%	414,720.00	4,029.00	0.98%	
INCOME	410,691	467,936.09	57,245.09	13.94%	414,720.00	4,029	0.98%	
EXPENSE	410,691	397,576.40	-13,114.60	-3.19%	414,720.00	4,029	0.98%	
Breakeven	0	70,359.69	70,359.69		0.00			

Pastors' Report

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Heb 11:1)

The Year of our Lord 2025 was a year that tested our hope in the promise that God is for us, that God is with us, that God is merciful, and that his promises are true. Our faith is always under attack, reminding us that we need God's Word and His Presence with us every day, in good times but especially in the valley of the shadow of death and destruction. Martin Luther, in the Heidelberg Disputation, says that "he deserves to be called a theologian...who comprehends the visible and manifest things of God seen through suffering and the cross." Elsewhere he says, "under the cross which we experience, eternal life lies hidden...Therefore... you must battle against your feelings. Hope means to expect life amid death, and righteousness amid sins."

Hosanna experienced God's presence amid death and destruction in 2025. Lightning struck the church on 19 May that caused extensive fire, water, and smoke damage to the sanctuary and throughout the building. The Watertown Fire, Police, and Utilities responded immediately to save the building, and the staff, Council, Property Committee, Brotherhood Insurance, and members and friends of the congregation began the cleanup and recovery process that same evening. Church leadership met during that first week to plan and implement office operations out of home offices, and worship back where Hosanna began, at the Watertown Convention Center Theater. On 19 October we returned to Hosanna for regular worship in the fellowship hall and resumed regular office hours at the church. Hosanna was born living in the truth that the church is the people of God gathered around Word and Sacraments, wherever that is, and that the Lord always provides for his faithful people.

Attendance and giving remains strong throughout this faith adventure that God has called us into, and we are thankful for the cheerful patience of every member of the Hosanna family, and for the faithful generosity that trusts God and gives abundantly to the mission of Word and Sacrament at Hosanna. Our members are our best evangelists, and we welcomed twenty-nine new members in November, many of whom you invited or who came to see what God is doing here. Hosanna members endured personal suffering in 2025, especially illness and the pain of death and grief. God has called us to proclaim the promise of mercy, forgiveness, and salvation out of the depths where He abides with us and strengthens us.

We thank and praise God for His presence and blessings on Hosanna in 2025, and that He will keep us steadfast in his Word as He leads us in 2026. We are thankful for the staff that God has called to Hosanna: Anna, Jenn, Earl, Amber, Melissa, Angie, Dorothy, Eloise, Lynn, and Sarah, and all the volunteers and committee members who keep the church running day by day. Mike Aadland and the council, Randy Rakness and the Building Committee, Dave Eickmeyer and Dar Carlson with A/V, and so many others have worked tirelessly and faithfully especially during this challenging time of rebuilding.

Thanks be to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is ever faithful.

In Christ, Pastor Craig and Pastor Janine

Pastoral Acts 2025

Baptisms (10) *Non-Member

Emmalee Grace Eide	23 FEB
*Jet Leerae Shelton	13 APR
Asher Reese Benike	8 JUN
Addison Mae Benike	8 JUN
Benjamin Matthew Becker	22 JUN
Beau Todd Gjerset	29 JUN
*Sloan Fay Shroyer	6 JUL
*Wesyn Thomas Wold	18 AUG
Wells Thomas Nichols	12 OCT
Wylie Louise Kimble	28 DEC

Funerals (17) *non-member

Emmalee Grace Eide	28 FEB
Dave Sultz	5 MAR
Dave Orthaus	18 MAR
Carol Tesch	22 MAR
Jim Berven	11 APR
Betty Glosimodt	15 MAY
Don Frysli	31 JULY
Larry Parliament	22 AUG
Henry Berkeland	23 AUG
Travis Kasuske (committal)	13 SEP
Todd A Williams	26 SEP
Howard Hopper	23 OCT
*Mavis Olson (Langford)	25 OCT
Miles Isaac Hageman (committal)	31 OCT
Baby Hageman	31 OCT
Gerald Dede	5 DEC
*Scott Strohfus (Am. Legion)	20 DEC

Confirmation

5 Confirmation students will be confirmed in the new sanctuary in the Spring of 2026

Weddings (3)

Kirk Gilbertson & Kelli Wenande	31 MAY
Allison Brist & Jacob Lindeman	28 JUN
Dani York & Josh Fleming	30 AUG

Membership as of 31 December 2025

Baptized 630
Confirmed 375
Households 259

Average Attendance

5 JAN – 25 MAY	197	36 Livestream
1 JUN – 31 AUG	172	17 Livestream
7 SEP – 28 DEC	190	24 Livestream

We give thanks to God for raising up Leaders and Volunteers!

Altar Guild

Denise Froke; Cathy Jutting; Tammi Krause; Heather Fedt; Cindy Dargatz; Karen Farthing; Judy Svalstad; Connie Parliament; Kim Crandall; Beth Halverson; Sharon Brekke; Patti Lien; Gloria Orthaus; Roxy Brenden; Donna Zinter; Shirley Carter; Carol Schneider

Audio/Visual

David Eickmeyer; Darwin Carlson; Grant Carlson; Alexis Carlson; Jacob Hagman; Grant Werling

Church Council

Mike Aadland, President; Josh Maag, Vice President; Sharon Brekke, Secretary; Earl Benson, Treasurer; Katherine Althoff; Sherri Brindle; DeDe Gilbertson; Kevin Halverson; Kathy Monnens; Ashley Schafer

Decorating Committee and Volunteers

Sharon Brekke; Cindy Dargatz; Karen Farthing; Mary Johnson; Cathy Jutting; Terry Brekke; Roxy Brenden; Greg Dargatz; Betty Davidson; Nancy Davidson; Jan DeBerg; Julianne Endres; Don Farthing; Everett Johnson; Ron Jutting

Faith Formation

Coordinator: Jenn Brist; Music: Angie Eickmeyer; A/V support: Dave Eickmeyer; Grant & Alexis Carlson; Dar Carlson; Adult Faith Formation: Dick Nicolai; Faith Formation: Melissa Gross; Danita Carlson; Stephanie Hayguna; Jersey Peery; Ella Olson; Rylle Olson; Katherine Althoff; Parent Book study: Jacque Eide; Youth Group: Jenn Brist; Jamie Tracy; Mesa Kirchmeier; 7th grade Confirmation: Pr. Craig; 8th grade Confirmation: Pr. Janine

Finance Review Committee

Dorothy Fuller; Connie Ward

Head Ushers

Ron Jutting, Chair; Earl Benson; Todd Brist; Roger Carter; Bob Drake; Scott Gilbertson; Scott Jensen; Everett Johnson; Doug Keffeler; Josh Kettwig; Les Kolden; Randy Rakness; Travis Tisher

Lectors

Mike Aadland; Sherri Brindle; Jan DeBerg; Bob Drake; Logan Eide; Kevin Halverson; Riley Hennen; Mason Maag; Dick Nicolai; Karen Olson; Connie Parliament; Grant Werling

Mission Committee

John Larson, Chair; Helen Hoftiezer; Doug Keffler; Shirley Carter; Pastor Craig; Pastor Janine

Property Management

Randy Rakness, Chair; Jarod Suttan; Don Farthing; Duane Svalstad; Mark Wientjes; Dick Nicolai; John Hopper; Roger Carter; Dar Carlson; Pastor Craig; Pastor Janine

We give thanks to God for raising up Leaders and Volunteers Continued!

Sanitation Needs

Wayne and Rhonda Stangl, Stangl Sanitation

Sunday Morning Coffee

Coordinator: Melissa Gross; Amber Ottenbacher

Volunteer Coordinator

Melissa Gross

Weekly Coffee Treats

Brad and Diane Griep

Worship and Music

Angie Eickmeyer; Sarah Becker; Eloise Falk; Dorothy Fuller; Lynn Osthus

Y.A.R.N. and Quilting

Roxy Brenden; Sherri Brindle; Cindy Dargatz; Cindi Filipek; Dorothy Fuller; Beth Halverson; Sadie Halverson; Vinceen Hanson; Sharon Hayunga; Gloria Orthaus; Carolyn Rud; Marianne Wiles

Ministry Reports

Financial Accounting Study 2025

Hosanna Lutheran Church and members of the Congregation.

Subject: Study of the 2025 financial reports of Hosanna Lutheran Church

Review Committee: Dorothy Fuller and Connie Ward (appointed by the Church Council)

Date of Review: December 22nd, 2025

The following process was followed by the review committee:

1. Met with Earl Benson at the church to review accounting procedures and financial records.
2. Selected various months to review invoices, financials, general ledgers, and checks.

Findings:

1. Accounting functions with the exception of payroll are now being done by Earl Benson, Treasurer of the Church council.
2. We feel that Hosanna's records are in order and to continue the process. Checks and balances are in place to keep everything in order. Hosanna's financials are in excellent condition, and the Church Council and Treasurer do an excellent job in keeping our financial structure strong.
3. Insurance claim/policies are all in progress and will continue until the work is complete. Appreciate the procedures in place to track monies distributed from insurance and to contractors.

Sincerely submitted,

Connie Ward

Dorothy Fuller

Mission Committee Report

Hosanna Lutheran Church sends at least 10% of offering income beyond the walls of our church building to tell the story of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard. Funds are also used to help people in physical need. The Mission Committee recommends to the church council how our funds are used. Church council makes the final decision each month as to how funds are actually spent. The spreadsheet below details how these funds were used in 2025.

Members of the Mission Committee are Shirley Carter, Helen Hoftezier, Doug Keffeler, John Larson, Pastor Janine Rew-Werling, and Pastor Craig Werling.

John Larson, Mission Committee member

<u>HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH BENEVOLENCE - 2025</u>						
2025 HLC Budget proposal					\$	410,691.00
2025 HLC Benevolence proposal					\$	41,070.00
<u>2025 Benevolence</u>					<u>Planned</u>	<u>Actual</u>
ACCESS MINISTRY					\$	1,250.00
BEACON CENTER					\$	1,250.00
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB					\$	1,250.00
SALVATION ARMY - Watertown					\$	1,500.00
WATERTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL					\$	2,000.00
WATERTOWN H.S./NEEDY STUDENT FUND					\$	700.00
WATERTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL/CARE FUND					\$	350.00
ABDUL MESSIEH - missionary support					\$	2,500.00
AUGUSTANA DISTRICT - general operating expenses					\$	6,720.00
AUGUSTANA DISTRICT - theological conference scholarships for seminarians					\$	400.00
CHANNEL TO BRAZIL FOR CHRIST					\$	3,925.00
FRIENDS OF MADAGASCAR MISSION - total support 2 evangelists and fami					\$	1,600.00
FRIENDS OF MADAGASCAR MISSION - unrestricted use					\$	1,925.00
LCMC - general operating expenses					\$	1,000.00
LUTHER HOUSE OF STUDY - Leadership Endowment Fund					\$	1,000.00
NEW HOPE MISSION SOCIETY - For Shaliach Bible School					\$	4,000.00
NEW HOPE MISSION SOCIETY - unrestricted use					\$	1,525.00
NEW HOPE MISSION SOCIETY - for ministry of Brother Titus Pona in Nigeria					\$	1,000.00
TABOR CONGREGATION, Ethiopia - 5 Evangelists at \$600 each/yr.					\$	3,300.00
TABOR CONGREGATION, Ethiopia - for building churches in rural areas					\$	3,725.00
TOTAL 2025 BENEVOLENCE					\$	40,920.00
					\$	40,805.00
<u>LENTEN SERVICE OFFERINGS/ASH WEDNESDAY/MAUNDY THURSDAY/GOOD FRIDAY</u>						
The Table Ministry, Sioux Falls, SD			\$2,843.00			
<u>THANKSGIVING OFFERING</u>						
Sleep in Heavenly Peace			\$695.00			

Faith Formation, Youth Group & Vacation Bible School

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 has been one of my favorite verses for a very long time. It is a reminder that the troubles of this world are temporary. Little did I know how often we would lean on this verse in 2025!

Since our Hosanna world was turned upside down on May 19, we've surely overcome a lot of worldly trouble! We hosted VBS at Midwest Bible Camp with about 60 kids registered. We spent the first night praying and singing while sheltering from tornadoes. The ways that God cared for us that night are too numerous to count, but I am especially grateful that Deputy Brent Solum was dropping his child off at just the right time to help guide our decision-making that night. Night two of VBS was canceled due to the predicted derecho winds, which Watertown was ultimately spared from. We crammed four days of fun into our remaining two nights thanks to our fabulous team of volunteers! A special thank you to all the Hosanna Youth who really stepped up to make VBS happen along with our key adult volunteers.

Youth Group typically spends quite a bit of time at the fire pit in the summer, but we had all had enough of fires for a while. We enjoyed a lot of local fun and fellowship together - Legends mini-golf and go-carts, trampolines and laser tag at Infinity Fun, bowling at Tommy's Lanes, and a couple of patio pizza Bible studies at the Sandbar. Thanks to the property committee for getting the fire pit up and running this fall as we returned to the church.

While in the Event Center this fall, we hosted Micro Faith Formation which kept our kids growing in faith together while keeping the chaos to a minimum. We are thrilled to be back in our classrooms and finding our new normal. The new nursery and office arrangement is fantastic, and we keep counting the blessings we find post-fire. Thank you to everyone who helped get the children's programming back up and running.

Youth Group is meeting on Wednesday nights again with a simple meal served between Confirmation classes and Youth Group. Our topics are based on the interests of the students, but we focus on digging into our Bibles. We are blessed to have Jamie Tracy and Mesa Kirchmeier joining us as leaders - additional adults give us the flexibility to break into smaller groups. We strive to balance our time with fun, Bible Study, and service projects.

We will once again take a group of youth to the February Quake retreat weekend in Wisconsin Dells. Last February we took four kids, and this year we are taking nine! Quake is like Bible camp in a weekend. It is full of faith and fun, and is a great way for our youth to grow together.

On a personal note, I am so grateful to everyone who helped make our daughter's wedding happen in June. We did not have a church fire in our planning, but it was so special to be able to have the ceremony on the church lawn. We sure felt the love of our Hosanna family as we celebrated Allie and Jacob!

To our exhausted moms and dads who are doing their best to raise kids and teens in this world, my encouragement to you is simple - don't give up! Dragging them to church might feel like it's not worth it, but it absolutely is! You won't hear every sermon, but you are building their faith foundation. We are glad you are here with your family, even when they are not cooperative! And when you need a break, send your kids to sit with me:)

As always, I am grateful to our volunteers who make everything possible: Angie and Dave Eickmeyer, Darwin, Grant and Alexis Carlson for providing support with music and tech. Melissa Gross, Danita Carlson, Stephanie Hayunga, Jersey Peery, Ella, and Rylle Olson for teaching this year. Katherine Althoff for always being willing to jump in and help. Stacy and Jacque Eide for helping with the parent book study last winter. ALL of our amazing VBS volunteers. Jamie Tracy and Mesa Kirchmeier for helping with the youth group. The council, property committee, and Lori Storley for getting us back up and running this fall in the building. Anna Kettwig for keeping us all on track, Earl Benson for managing our budget, and Pastors Craig and Janine for all their guidance and support. And thank you to those who are willing to jump in to help as needed!

Kids Hope

Kids Hope is a faith-based program that provides a framework for matching school children with consistent adult mentors. One church member is partnered as a mentor with one student for at least one school year. The mentor goes to the school for an hour each week to meet with the student. Kids Hope and local volunteers provide activities for the mentor to use. Prayer partners specifically commit to praying for the mentor and their child.

Hosanna Lutheran provides mentors at Lincoln Elementary, which serves grades 1-4. We currently have nine mentors meeting with students at Lincoln. In addition, we have one mentor at Mellette and one at Jefferson (following students who moved to a different school).

Cornerstone provides mentors at Mellette Elementary, and New Life partners with Jefferson.

A new addition to Kids Hope in Watertown will be the opportunity for mentors to continue meeting on a regular basis with their student in 5th and 6th grade at the Intermediate School. Kim Crandall has agreed to be the director of this program, which will involve scheduling mentors with students moving on from all three elementary schools. We are grateful that Kim is willing to take this on, because God has placed her in the perfect position with her job at the Intermediate School to coordinate this!

We are always in need of additional mentors. An hour a week playing games and doing crafts may not seem like much, but it makes a world of difference to our students. If you would like to commit to one hour a week during the school year, I would love to visit with you!

Please pray that God continues to work through our mentors to positively impact the lives of students and their families and pray for the success of the new program at the Intermediate School.

In Christ,

Jenn Brist, Kids Hope Coordinator

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation was offered from March 6th – April 10th and October 30th – December 18th at 12pm & 6pm on Thursdays with Pastor Craig.

- Not My Will, But Yours
- Joshua

Faith Circle is offered the 1st Thursday of each month at 2 pm. Grace Circle was offered the 1st & 3rd Monday at 6:30 pm (prior to the fire) with Pastor Janine.

- God Never Gives Up on You
- Every Thought Captive
- Twelve Extraordinary Women

Three new small group Bible studies have also been meeting this year. Our goal in 2026 is to grow our small group Bible studies, so more members can be a part of growing in the WORD. If you would like to start a small group Bible study, please reach out to Pr. Craig or Pr. Janine.

Men's Noon Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship continues to meet each Wednesday at noon for one hour. Over the past year, our format has shifted due to the fire. We no longer share a meal together, and we are grateful to **Mount Olive Church** for generously providing us a place to gather during this season.

Each week concludes with a meaningful, straightforward practice: one of the men proposes a Biblical question or spiritual topic that becomes the focus of the following week's discussion. This rhythm has led to thoughtful conversations and steady engagement, with **8-10 men attending each session** throughout the year.

As we look ahead, we warmly invite more men of the congregation to join us. Bring any Biblical or spiritual question that has been on your mind—your curiosity helps shape our time together. We would be glad to have you with us in the coming year.

Dick Nicolai

Altar Guild

Altar Guild is a group of volunteers responsible for setting up communion, changing paraments, candles, the baptismal font, dusting the altar, and all things relating to the altar area and worship. A big thank you to all the ladies who do so much and are always ready to assist when needed.

Co - chairs

Karen Farthing and Judy Svalstad

Quilting

Hosanna Quilters continue to make and donate quilts to the community. They are very well received.

Headstart received many child-sized quilts. The children use them during quiet time. Beacon Center, the Cancer Center, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace are also recipients of our labor of love.

Last winter was also spent designing and completing a quilt for the pastors. We finished it on the Wednesday before the fire, and it was safely in a quilter's home.

The Pastors were gifted it on Pastor Appreciation Sunday in October.

We quilted in the library until we were able to get back into the church in early October. We like our new dedicated quilt and yarn room for storage.

Fabric donations are slowly being reacquired. We value any extra fabric anyone would like to donate. Cotton is preferred.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 9:30, as a rule. Please feel welcome to join us even if you don't sew or quilt. We love to fellowship.

Respectfully,
Sherri Brindle

Y.A.R.N.

The Y.A.R.N. (You Are Really Needed) group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month and sometimes a fifth Tuesday at 10 a.m. In 2025, the group crocheted and knitted stocking hats and mittens that have been distributed to the Beacon Center and Head Start. Because of the fire in May we have been replenishing the inventory of baptismal blankets and prayer shawls to be gifted to our church members. We also have a good supply of lap robes that will be taken to area nursing homes in the upcoming year. Our group is happy and grateful to be back in the church after meeting at Second Street Station a few times and then at the Watertown Regional Library. Members include: Roxy Brenden, Cindy Dargatz, Cindi Filipek, Dorothy Fuller, Beth Halverson, Sadie Halverson, Vinceen Hanson, Gloria Orthaus, and Mariane Wiles. New members are always welcome! Please come and join us!

Gloria Orthaus

Audio/ Video/Technology Report

2025 has been a challenging year for all of us at Hosanna Lutheran.

We have faith that God is in charge and will guide us through this recovery process.

The AV team has needed to adapt to setting up worship at the Watertown Event Center and now back at Hosanna in our Fellowship Hall. It has been interesting and challenging to come up with solutions to provide a way to continue video streaming of our Sunday services and to add sound reinforcement. Pastors Craig and Janine have been so patient and flexible to work with us and the temporary setups we are using until we can return to our sanctuary. We would also like to thank the congregation for their patience and support as we work through this interim arrangement.

We are working with our insurance company on the process of replacing the damaged equipment in the sanctuary. Our goal is to have an audio/video installation as good as we had before, with improvements added where possible. Technology has been changing since the original installation in 2016. We want to update and future-proof our installation to enhance our worship experience for years to come.

The AV volunteers over the last year have been Dave Eickmeyer, Grant Carlson, Alexis Carlson, Darwin Carlson, Jacob Hageman and Grant Werling.

We continue to need 3-4 more volunteers to learn the AV system and help with services. There will be a great opportunity to learn a brand-new system as we move back into the sanctuary later this year!

Other work that has happened includes running new network cabling to the updated office area of the church and setting up network connections for the TVs in the Fellowship Hall and classrooms. We are hoping to update our WiFi hotspots to give better coverage and higher bandwidth inside the church building.

Darwin Carlson

Choir Report

2025 End of year report: Hosanna Choir

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6

Typically

The Hosanna Choir adds to the worship service through special music. The choir sings during church on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from September through May. Some years the start and end date vary slightly due to singer availability. We practice on Wednesdays at 7pm in the sanctuary.

This year

However, this year has been quite unusual due to the location of worship after the fire. Worshiping in the event center created specific sound and space issues for having the choir perform on Sundays. We were also without a practice space and piano, as well as without music. The fire damage did destroy our complete supply list, which included a large repertoire of music, folders and storage, a few instruments, music stand, and both our nice Clavinova pianos.

Going forward

That being said, the fire did not destroy our Hosanna Choir, its members, or our love for music. Since being back in the church (fellowship hall), we practiced in December and sang once during advent. It was our first run at practicing out in the open fellowship hall while youth activities convened down the hallway, as well as our first time squeezing in the front of our current worship space and balancing sound on the piano and speakers. To us, it was a little less precise than in the sanctuary, but I believe it went well and we could do this again.

As we all know, seating in the fellowship hall is fairly full so singing on some Sundays may be difficult due to space. Many regular members also leave town during January and February months. Our current plan for choir is to start practicing about a month before Easter to be ready to sing on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter. Keep in mind these dates may change due to singer availability. We will practice in the fellowship hall on Wednesday evenings. I am working on selecting and ordering new music. We do have a choir fund that should support purchasing a handful of new pieces.

Keep an eye out for a "pop up choir" this year. I plan to offer a few practices, and one performance, where congregation members could get a taste for what it would be like to sing with us. We hope it will entice you to continue singing with us, but also understand if you'd just like a one-time singing opportunity. All ages from high school onward are welcome!

Lastly, we have an amazing group of people in our choir and I am truly grateful for the community, conversations, and encouragement they lend to me and to one another. I also want to thank Angie for accompanying us. She is very talented and helps the choir run smoothly. Thank you also to Dave and the sound people who help with our sound and who are so flexible.

Questions about choir or interested in singing? Come chat with me!

Sincerely,

Sarah Becker, *Choir director*

Decorating Committee Report

Hosanna Lutheran Church building and family have seen many changes in 2025. The May fire claimed many of the items used and collected through the years to decorate our church home. We serve a Mighty God and praise His Name eternally for His mercy. Thankfully we were able to rescue all the paraments that were one-of-a-kind designs. Through the years many beautiful seasonal displays have been created by countless volunteers. Lost in the fire were supplies for Advent, Lent, Easter, Weddings and other special event supplies. These items meant a lot to Hosanna but are replaceable. As we begin to create new memories it is also a good opportunity to bring new faces and ideas to the decoration committee.

Sharon Brekke

Property Committee Report

The Hosanna Property Committee consists of: Don Farthing, Mark Wientjes, Dick Nicolai, Duane Svalstad, Roger Carter, Jarod Suttan, John Hopper, Roy Gjerde, Darwin Carlson, Randy Rakness, Pastor Craig Werling and Pastor Janine Rew-Werling

What a year this has been! Up until May we were going along very well, then, we were struck by lightning for the third time, although this time was much worse than before. Since then the property committee along with Earl Benson, Lori Storley, Dave Eickmeyer, Dar Carlson and others as needed have met mostly every two weeks and have done what we could to work through this event. We have met with the insurance company, the contractors, fellow members, city officials and many others to come up with the best resolution we can for our church. During this time it was recommended to add another pastors office and make some changes to accommodate this. This was not insurance-related but funding was available to make this happen. Thankfully we have been able to use a portion of the building and this seems to have worked out very well.

We continue to meet and report to the congregation the minutes of these meetings. We are far from being done and only hope that the work will be done safely and in a professional manner. We are thankful for all of the hours that volunteers have done in the clean up process and really want to thank Pastors Craig and Janine, Anna, Amber, Lori, Dave, Dar and others that have stepped up to help. We are always looking to add younger members to our committee. I want to thank the committee for their time and talents that they have given to ensure the best possible outcome that we can have. We thank God for His guidance in all that we do.

Randy Rakness

Servant Teams

Our servant teams are responsible for helping serve communion on the 1st & 3rd of each month. They are also the ones we contact when we have a funeral during the month. We have created a Lector and Coffee Server Teams instead of having the monthly groups do it. If you would like to be on one of these groups, please email Anna at watertownhosannalutheran@gmail.com.

How Your Endowment Gift Helps



Hosanna Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

Hosanna Endowment Fund Committee Report

The Hosanna Endowment Fund Committee consists of: Tyler Gross (President), Karen Olsen (Treasurer), Harvey Bue (Secretary), Dick Nicoli, and John Hopper. The purpose of the Hosanna Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is to receive and administer bequests, estates, insurance, real property, memorials, IRA distributions (RMD), and other assets to enhance the work of the church by establishing new ministries and stewardship opportunities additional to and apart from the general operation of the congregation. While the potential distribution projects are unlimited, the focus of the fund committee will be projects that move forward the mission of Hosanna Lutheran Church "To spread God's Word, share our gifts and strengthen Christ's Church." We have had a solid year of growth for the fund with over 10% returns. With this growth, the fund does have the some resources available to cover any future requests. We encourage members of the church to contact the committee with any concerns or questions, as well as give input on any ideas they have on how the fund could help in other areas of the church or community. We sincerely thank everyone that has helped donate to the fund. Those donations will leave a lasting impression for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Tyler Gross

Committee President

CLIENT STATEMENT | December 1, 2025 Through December 31, 2025

For the Account of: Hosanna Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Agency

Account Number: 003735

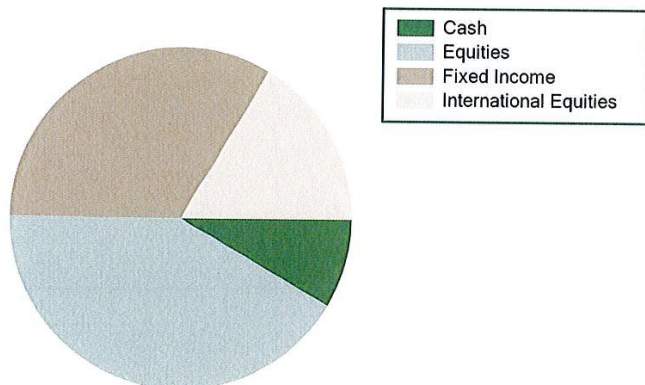


Account Manager: Tyler DeBoer

Email: tyler.deboer@bankeasy.com

Phone: 605-978-9321

Asset Allocation



Investment Summary

Asset Type	Market Value	%
Cash	\$12,133.31	8.36
Fixed Income	\$48,434.86	33.40
Equities	\$60,483.06	41.71
International Equities	\$23,973.06	16.53
Total Assets	\$145,024.29	100.00
Total Accrued Income	\$153.28	
Total Account	\$145,177.57	

Statement Disclosures & Other Information

*** Required Disclosures Concerning Your First Bank & Trust Account ***

In accordance with FDIC Reg 344.5, we are required to provide you with notification of security transactions affecting your account within one business day from the receipt of the broker/dealer confirmation. We have agreed to provide you an alternative procedure to comply with FDIC Reg 344.5 by providing this periodic statement to you. However, you have a right to receive, if you so request, a written notification at no additional cost.

Shares held in mutual funds are not deposits or obligations of, nor are they endorsed or guaranteed by First Bank & Trust, or its affiliates, and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or by any other state or federal government sponsored agency. Mutual funds are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of principal amount invested. In exchange for providing services to sponsoring mutual fund investment companies affiliated by contract, First Bank & Trust may be paid a shareholder service fee up to 0.50%. Additionally, we may receive interest proceeds from checks not yet cashed but issued.

The market value stated on broker CD's is the purchase price. CD's will mature at face value. Early redemption, based on prevailing market conditions, may cause CD's to have a different market value than stated.

Investments held may include certificates and/or other cash equivalent deposits at First Bank & Trust or its affiliates.

Dear Augustana District Congregations: We've been reading our three-year-old daughter, Ruth, the story of her namesake in Scripture. It's not a long story to begin with, but we've been taking it in small pieces each night before bed. A few nights ago, we came to one of my favorite lines; words many of you may have heard at your weddings: "Where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16) My Ruth wrinkled her nose in confusion and asked what that meant. So, we talked about it; about God's faithfulness to us, and how we, in turn, are called to be faithful to those He has placed in our lives. As I look back over this past year, God's faithful abundance has been on full display through all that he has accomplished in the Augustana District. Our staff and leaders planned and carried out events for pastors, lay members, and youth that not only proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ but also equipped participants with new tools and insights for living out their faith in a world that is passing away. Marney and the Board of Theology and Ministry welcomed new pastors into our midst. Nate and the Board of World Missions worked alongside congregations to vet mission partners and dream up new ventures, both domestic and international. I, together with the District Council, helped onboard congregations into LCMC and the Augustana District, so that they might be encouraged and supported through the joys and challenges of ministry. I could offer a long list of statistics and data to show what we've accomplished this past year, but at the heart of it all is something far more important: God was faithful among us, freely giving his Word of forgiveness and mercy through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Not only was God faithful to us, but I also had the privilege of watching how faithfully our staff responded. Rev. Aaron Deutsch, District Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Marney Fritts, Theology Coordinator, Rev. Nathan Hanson, Mission & Stewardship Coordinator, Rev. Becky Hand, Ambassador Liaison, Wendy Magruder, Office Administrator, Niki Pokornowski, Financial Coordinator, to you, and how you, in turn, poured into our district through your prayers, financial gifts, and countless other forms of support. I've said this many times (so often you may be tired of hearing it) but it's worth saying again: what sets the Augustana District apart within the LCMC landscape is the investment we've made in people. We walk alongside your pastors, leaders, and congregations because we believe ministry is never meant to be done alone. When our staff gather each month for meetings and check-ins, one theme always rises to the surface: it is a joy to be part of your stories. And in turn, it's a joy to have you as part of ours; to see you at events, to be welcomed into your boardrooms, to take your phone calls, field your questions, and navigate unknown waters together. To borrow Ruth's words: where you go, we want to go, because your God is our God.

Looking ahead, 2026 will no doubt bring its share of both trials and triumphs. Yet our staff is already dreaming about new ways to serve you in the year to come. New events are being planned, new resources are in development, and we remain committed to listening carefully to what you and your congregations need to flourish. So please reach out. Call, email, or connect with a member of our team. Attend a gathering. Invite Marney, Nate, or me to visit your congregation in person or over Zoom so that we can equip and encourage you for the work before you. Through it all, our mission remains the same: grounded in confessional Lutheran theology, we seek to nurture healthy congregations and to cultivate abundant mission ventures. Thank you, dear friends in Christ, for your faithfulness to the Augustana District in 2025. Over 500 of you joined us at district events this past year, and we hope to see even more of you in the year to come. God's promise of faithfulness carries us forward into 2026, that where we go, he goes; and where we lodge, he lodges; for we are his people, and he is our Father.

In Christ,
Rev. Aaron Deutsch, District Coordinator

Dear friends in Christ, I started reading through the book of Joshua with my men's Bible study last month, and I was taken aback yet again by God's amazing faithfulness. It's a breathtaking scene to imagine; the waters of the Jordan River held back while some two million of Abraham's descendants crossed on dry ground. And yet, perhaps my favorite part of the story isn't the water being dammed up, as astounding as that was. No, what moves me most are the memorial stones erected on the far side of the river, where the people of Israel first stepped into the Promised Land. You see, the God of heaven and earth, who formed the ground and set the limits of the waters, did not want such an event to go unremembered. He wanted not only this generation, but every generation coming, to Augustana District Financial Note recall that he is a promise keeper. As we enter these final weeks of 2025, I find myself reflecting on the memorial stones we have placed across the Augustana District landscape this past year. New congregations and clergy have joined us as we continue expanding our network of churches and proclaimers of the Gospel. We saw record attendance at many of our events, with participants from across LCMC (not only Augustana District churches) gathering to have their souls renewed and refreshed by the good news of Jesus Christ. Our staff fielded countless phone calls and answered an innumerable number of emails, all with the goal of helping our worshiping communities through struggles, trials, and uncertain circumstances. I personally traveled nearly 3,000 miles to walk alongside congregations navigating conflict or the call process.

Yes, as I look back on these memorial stones and contemplate the gracious and merciful faithfulness of God, I smile and give thanks to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for what he continues to do in our midst. I also want to thank you, our churches, pastors, staff, volunteers, and lay leaders, for your generosity in this latest season of the district. Not only have you supported us financially, but you have also upheld us in prayer and through your presence at the many events we offer. Everything we endeavor to do as a district is designed to support you, the local body of Christ. The Augustana District has intentionally positioned itself to invest in staffing that meets your needs, events that fill your cup, and services that provide tools for health and vitality as congregations. Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for the forgiveness of sins, remains at the center of all we do.

So as your leadership team or finance committee plans its giving for 2026, I make this bold request: will you consider continuing to support the Augustana District or, perhaps for the first time, make the district a recipient of your benevolent giving? As our district grows, our costs grow with it. As the largest district in LCMC, with a steady stream of congregations and pastors joining us, our staff is dedicated to developing tools and resources that serve you, your leaders, your pastors, and your youth. Will you partner with us?

2026 promises to be another benchmark year for the Augustana District. Marney, Nate, and I, along with our staff, stand ready to take your calls, respond to your emails, and pray with you. Whereas the people of Israel once saw the ark of the covenant standing in the midst of the Jordan River, we have the crucified and risen Christ standing in the midst of his people. I cannot wait to see what memorial stones will be laid next, but I know that through them, God will be glorified.

In Christ,
Rev. Aaron Deutsch District Coordinator