



CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**
Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

A NEW NATIONAL BISHOP

This past summer, delegates at the 2025 ELCIC National Convention elected Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer to serve as National Bishop.

“Dear friends, hope, faith and love, these are the tools of our calling,” Kochendorfer said following the election. “We don’t know the future, but we have what we need. Jesus is feeding us; we have bread, we have wine, we have the scriptures, we have each other. We know that we will not get to where we’re going without going together and with others.”

Kochendorfer is the ELCIC’s fifth National Bishop, joining Donald Sjoberg (1986–1993), Telmor Sartison (1993–2001), Raymond Schultz (2001–2007) and Susan Johnson (2007–2025).

Kochendorfer most recently served as interim pastor at Our Redeemer, Penticton, B.C., as well as assistant to the bishop in the British Columbia (BC) Synod. He most notably served as Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories from 2012–24, and previously worked in congregations in Dickson, Lethbridge and Edmonton, Alberta.

Having served the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as a council member from 2017–23, Kochendorfer is currently chair of the LWF’s Mutual Responsibility Task Force and was recently co-chair of the Lutheran portion of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission.

The ELCIC gathered on September 27 in worship and celebration for Bishop Kochendorfer’s installation in an ecumenical gathering filled with the beauty of prayer, worship and song. Scripture readings from Isaiah 43, Psalm 46 and Ephesians 4 were shared, with former ELCA Archbishop Linda Nicholls preaching the sermon. Lutheran and interfaith pastors and bishops in attendance robed in red vestments and processed in and out of the sanctuary.

Kochendorfer has been married to his wife Cathy for 42 years, and the two have raised four children together. •



Bishop Larry Kochendorfer (centre) at his installation service.



FACING TODAY – DREAMING FOR THE FUTURE

Facing Today – Dreaming for the Future is a three-year church engagement project that officially began in July of 2025 and is aimed at guiding positive transformation within the ELCIC’s national and synodical structures.

The initiative will consider current financial realities and the evolving landscapes of congregations across the country, while creating space for meaningful conversations about what it means to be church in the years ahead.

A steering committee of 12 members, including two representatives from each of the five synods (one lay, one rostered), National Church Council representatives, and a five-member consulting group have been formally engaged in the process.

At convention, delegates engaged in table discussions, prompting key themes of resilience after crisis, youth involvement, experimentation in worship, lay-led initiatives and leadership shortages.

“We want to hear from everyone,” said steering committee member Rev. Katrina Vigen of Redeemer, Vancouver on the committee’s call to action. “What are we facing today and what can we dream of together for our future? We have started a journey, and we don’t know where God is guiding us, but we know and we trust that God is leading us, that the Holy Spirit is ahead of us.” •

OUR FRIENDS IN THE ELCJHL

ELCIC members are asked to continue praying for peace for the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), as heightened conflict continues.

The past two-and-a-half years have been extremely challenging for the people of the ELCJHL. The growing conflict and tension continues to take a toll on many church members – our global mission partners in the East.

In early-April, National Bishop Susan Johnson travelled to Jerusalem alongside Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a solidarity visit to ELCJHL Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar. The visit served as a reminder to the people of the ELCJHL that they are not alone.

“For me, the hardest thing to witness was the increased lack of hope,” Johnson shared. “That the war will end. Hope that there will be a place for Palestinians within the Holy Land. A huge concern is that the presence of the indigenous Christian church will be lost. More and more Christians are giving up and leaving. Will there be a Christian presence other than that of tourists in the future?”

In July 2025, the ELCIC National Office and the Eastern Synod announced the launch of the ELCJHL Appeal to support the ministries overseas with a goal of raising \$50,000.00.

“Your support is meaningful for us, it will help us continue to minister, to be with the people, to continue opening our schools and giving severance to our teachers,” said ELCJHL Bishop-elect Imad Haddad. “But at the same time, it will help us help families who are in very bad situations because of the current political circumstances that we are going through in the Holy Land.” •



ELCJHL Bishop-elect Imad Haddad.

CARTERBROOKS

CLAY 2025: ROOTED AND RISING



LAUREN PINKNEY

Youth gathered to deepen their faith at CLAY 2025.

The theme of the 2025 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering was *Rooted and Rising*. The national gathering of the ELCIC and Anglican Church of Canada takes place every two years. This past summer in Saskatoon, SK., over 360 youth, young adults, leaders, volunteers and bishops from across Canada gathered for four days in the prairies with a focus on deepening faith, digging deeper roots and enjoying time participating in group activities with fellow like-minded youth. Rev. Jordan Cantwell, former moderator of The United Church (2015–18), served as the keynote speaker for the five large group gatherings.

Additionally, in conjunction with the 2023–25 National Youth Project, *More Precious*, which stems from Isaiah 43:4, participants at CLAY learned more about the trauma and tragedy surrounding human trafficking. The National Youth Project is introduced biennially, seeking to encourage youth participation on a current social justice issue.

At the conclusion of the event, it was revealed that the next CLAY will take place in 2027 in Nanaimo, BC. Learn more about the next event at ClayGathering.ca. •

OPENING WORSHIP

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

You are encouraged to acknowledge Indigenous lands in a way appropriate to your context at the beginning of your annual meeting. The following words are provided as an example.

We acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the *[Name of Indigenous Peoples for where your community is located]*. We recognize and respect their enduring presence on this land and express our gratitude for the opportunity to live, work and learn on their territory.

Let us take a moment to reflect on the history of this land and to consider our roles in working towards reconciliation and understanding.

PRAYER

Leader: Gracious God, thank you for this opportunity to gather as your people. As we meet, may we be mindful of the mission and ministry to which you have called each of us. To share your love and grace with everyone we encounter.

All: Amen.

READING

Hebrews 10:23–25

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

HYMN – All Are Welcome, EvLW 641

LITANY

Leader: God's grace and unconditional love calls us to be a diverse, inclusive community.

All: We celebrate all and uphold life-giving relationships.

Leader: As we join together for this time of meeting, for the business of this congregation,

All: May we not only be mindful of this congregation, but remember the needs of the community beyond these walls.

Leader: Provoke in us your spirit of compassion, kindness and goodness.

All: So we might be your hands and feet in the world, to bring your love to everyone.

Leader: Be with us always. Remind us of your generosity,

All: So we may be signs of that generosity out in the world.

Leader: God of hope and love,

All: Amen.

CLOSING WORSHIP

Leader: Faithful God, as you have journeyed with your people throughout the ages, continue to journey with your people here and now. Thank you for our time together, to reflect on the mission and ministry of this place. May our hearts be renewed to be your signs of grace and love in our community.

All: Amen.

HYMN – God is Here Today, ACS 993

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

- Opening and closing worship prepared by Deacon Gretchen Peterson. -



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada

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Our Savior’s Lutheran Regina 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting Reports

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Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes March 16, 2025

Ann Marie Melvie, Church Council Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:40pm. Bev Tastad, Church Council Secretary, took minutes.

Ann Marie welcomed everyone in person and on Zoom. She thanked Dave Solheim and Ken Stalwick, the tech team.

Voting done in person as well as on Zoom. There were 66 members in attendance, including 9 via Zoom.

1. **Opening Devotions** (Pastor Diane)
2. **Approval of agenda**
MSC (Larry Johnson, Carol Michel) to approve the agenda.
3. **Approval of minutes: ACM Minutes: February 25, 2024**
MSC (Barbara Anderson, Barbara Jones) to approve minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting, February 25, 2024, as circulated.
4. **Reports as circulated**

4.1 Church Council Chair (Ann Marie)

Ann Marie thanked her fellow council members; Pastor Diane for being our interim pastor for almost 2 years; and Tim for all he does in the office.

Council is aware that people are having sound issues in the sanctuary. Council, the Technology Team and a J&P sub-committee are working on this.

Ann Marie served as delegate to SK Synod in June. It was a very interesting convention to attend.

Part of our ongoing role as church council is to look for ways to do more with the other Lutheran churches in Regina – for example we are having combined Lenten services with Bread of Life. Pastor Stewart Miller from Bread of Life retired recently, so they are also without a pastor. We are just in the early stages of seeing if we could possibly work together in relation to pastoral services. We're not sure at this point if or how that will develop.

4.2 Pastor

Two names spelled incorrectly (p 19 – Tom Nilson; p 21 Marja Hordern). *NOTE: The spelling has been corrected and another version of the report saved.*

4.3 Membership & Attendance Reports

4.4 Library

Ann Marie thanked Merle.

4.5 Property/Grounds Maintenance and Management Ministry

Ann Marie thanked Larry & his team.

4.6 Solar Panel Report

Ann Marie restated savings realized from solar panels – both environmentally and financially – after 18 months in use.

4.7 Justice & Peace Ministry Team

4.8 Welcoming the Newcomer Ministry Team (Nancy Hognestad)

Nancy, council liaison, thanked Meredith – we have the money we have to sponsor families – the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee is looking to raise >\$60,000 for other families.

Meredith, via Zoom, identified options for donating to the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee are included at the bottom of the report by the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee (page 55).

4.9 Worship Ministry Team

Ann Marie added that she thinks our music is wonderful – and they all said “Amen”!

4.10 Technology Ministry Team

Ann Marie thanked Dave and the technology team.

4.11 Children’s Ministry

Ann Marie thanked Nancy Hognestad.

4.12 VBS 2024 Financial Report

4.13 Youth Ministry

4.14 65th Anniversary Planning Committee

Ann Marie thanked Donna Ottenson & asked the committee – Barbara Anderson, Nancy Hognestad, Vivian Norbraten, Sharon Solheim – to stand.

4.15 Governance Committee

4.16 Call Committee (Ann Marie)

The committee met 2 weeks ago & will be meeting again after the ACM.

4.17 Finance Committee (Larry Johnson)

Larry thanked the counters. He identified that a large # of the counters have retired. As a result, there are spots to fill in the fall (Aug, Oct, Nov). If anyone is interested in counting, please see Steve Button or Larry Johnson.

4.18 Financial Secretary

Ann Marie thanked Myra Cole.

MSC (Linda Nilson, Jeff Barber) to accept the reports as submitted.

4.19 2024 Financial Statements (Daryl Nelson)

Daryl explained what we have for review is the draft of these statements available at the printing deadline for the annual report. This situation is the same as last year. There may be a few very small adjustments when the auditors complete their review.

In conclusion, the good Lord has enabled this congregation with significant financial resources to pursue whatever it decides is its mission going forward from here.

Nancy Hognestad thanked Daryl.

MSC (Daryl Nelson, Laurie Berg) that after review of the preliminary financial statements as at Dec. 31, 2024, the congregation authorizes the church council to review and approve the finalized financial statements as at Dec. 31, 2024, following completion of the external auditor's formal review.

MSC (Daryl Nelson, Gord Grant) that OSL appoint Virtus Group to be their external financial statement reviewer for the 2026 fiscal year.

Ann Marie thanked those who submitted the reports and for all who work on the committees.

5. New Business

5.1 2025 Budget – Explanation & Adoption (Bev Tastad)

Bev identified that Daryl's financial overview was of the total/consolidated fund. The budget presented relates to the General Fund.

The budget process was the same as last year, starting in October with input from the various committees/teams/groups operating at OSL; initial meetings in November with the Finance Committee and council; and concluding in January with morning meetings between the Finance Committee and council.

There were no questions.

MSC (Bev Tastad, Laurie Berg) to approve the 2025 budget as presented.

Ann Marie thanked Bev for serving as Treasurer.

5.2 New Constitution (Daryl Nelson)

Daryl thanked Murray Knuttila for his work on the constitution and bylaws.

On February 24th an email was sent to members of the congregation that included a draft of the revised Constitution and Bylaws; the existing Constitution and Bylaws; and a summary of the changes. The expectation was that final approval of the changes may be possible at this meeting.

Very recently an oversight was discovered. The existing Constitution requires that notice of any proposed amendments must be provided to the members at least 30 days in advance of the review meeting. The 30 days' notice was not met. As well, some great feedback from some members has been received following their review of the draft sent out on February 24th. As a result, council will need to once again review a few items and concerns that have been raised, make some decisions, and recirculate a new draft for your review.

Council will then call a special congregational meeting, with a proper notice period, to seek approval of the proposed revisions. And if approval is then received, the constitution provides that a second membership meeting must be held at least 30 days

later to confirm this approval. Following that step, the new Constitution and Bylaws need to be sent to the Sask Synod Constitution Review Committee for their review and approval by Synod Council.

Council asked for feedback on the following two issues:

1) Section 9 in Part III of the bylaws

- a. It was proposed to say, 'Should individuals or groups of people wish to represent Our Savior's Lutheran Church publicly in the community, they must first seek approval of Church Council'. Council settled on this wording as it wanted to ensure any individual or group could not issue any public communications that might be considered damaging to OSL without an independent review.
- b. The Justice & Peace Ministry Team has a concern that requiring this approval might prohibit them from issuing letters to external parties on a timely basis.
- c. From the floor – Jeff Barber suggested that wording such as this, in a document that requires so much time and effort to change, may hold us up in the future. Rather, he suggests these items belong in policy Vs constitution/bylaw. Jeff will forward his comments.

2) Section 5b in Part V, including Appendix B, of the bylaws

- a. A co-terminus term was proposed between lead and assistant pastor.
- b. The Synod Constitution Committee is against this wording. Council expects to strike out this wording.
- c. From the floor – Jeff Barber shared from past history that even when co-terminus wording did exist, it was in the Letter of Call, not the constitution. Marja Hordern also agreed with Jeff's thoughts re: removal of co-terminus wording.

Marilyn Scheske raised the following item from the floor:

- 1) Is it possible that our name could be changed to be spelled the Canadian way.
 - d. Ann Marie asked if anyone else had concerns.
 - e. John Nilson provided background from 65 years ago when the church was formed.

5.3 LCBI Membership (Ann Marie)

Ann Marie asked for graduates of LCBI to identify themselves.

Ann Marie provided the following background information:

- In May, we received a letter from the Board of Regents of the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (LCBI) in Outlook, inviting our congregation to become a member of the LCBI Corporation. The letter is in the ACM package.

- The letter explains that, under the previous LCBI Constitution and Bylaws, all ELCIC congregations were automatically members of the LCBI corporation. However, following a 2024 amendment to An Act to Incorporate the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, the membership structure has changed. Now, ELCIC congregations are invited to take specific steps to become members. A congregation must submit an official resolution from its governing body confirming both its intent to join and its commitment to support the corporation's ministry.
- At the September 17, 2024, council meeting, council decided to recommend to the congregation that Our Savior's become a member of the LCBI corporation. NOTE: financial support is not a requirement of membership.

As a congregation, we need to make a decision about this today.

MSC (Marja Hordern, John Nilson) that Our Savior's become a member of the LCBI corporation.

John Nilson explained the documents from LCBI are result of 7 years of work and are based on governance model defined/established for Luther College.

5.4 Election of Council Members (John Nilson)

John & Sharon are pleased to nominate multiple names who have served before: Murray Knuttila, Ann Marie Melvie, Linda Nilson, Ken Stalwick.

Ann Marie thanked the nominating committee.

Ann Marie made a call for nominations from the floor.

MSC (Larry Johnson, Barbara Anderson) nominations cease.

MSC (Jeff Barber, Don Cochrane) to acclaim Murray Knuttila, Ann Marie Melvie, Linda Nilson, and Ken Stalwick to Church Council for a 3-year term.

Next Council meeting Tuesday, March 16, 2024, at **7pm** Fireside Room @ OSL

The incoming and continuing council members stood for recognition.

5.4.1 Election of Nomination Committee

MSC (Larry Johnson, Andrea Wagner) to elect Sharon Solheim & John Nilson to the 2026 Nominating Committee

5.5 ICF Annual Report (Bert Ottenson)

Bert thanked OSL for the support – he also mentioned the bike program.

5.6 Adjourn Meeting

Ann Marie thanked Bert and Donna for ordering food.

Donna thanked those that set up the room - Donna Achtzehner, Verna Anderson, and Bernice Casper. As well she thanked those who will be assisting with the cleanup.

MC (Laurie Berg) to adjourn at 1:59pm

6. Closing Devotions Pastor Diane closed with a prayer.

Reports

Church Council Chair

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is an opportunity to reflect on our shared accomplishments as a faith community over the past year and to look ahead to the plans that will shape our future. In all we do, we remain centred on our calling to be followers of Jesus, carrying out God's work within our congregation and beyond.

Thanks to our Church Council for their service in 2025. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such a dedicated group of people. Dave Solheim serves as Vice Chair, Bev Tastad serves in the dual role of Treasurer and Secretary, and we are supported by Nancy Hognestad, Barbara Jones, Daryl Nelson, Linda Nilson, Bert Ottenson, and Ken Stalwick. In September, Murray Knuttila re-joined council when his temporary senior leadership role at Luther College came to an end.

2025 was our second full year without a permanent pastor. However, we were blessed to receive wonderful part-time interim pastoral ministry and support throughout the year. Pastor Diane Looker served as our interim pastor through the end of April. Bishop Sid Haugen served in May and June. Pastor Brenda Nestegaard Paul served from July through to the end of September, and Bishop Sid returned in October and was with us until the end of January, 2026. Pastor Brenda is with us again until the end of April, 2026.

In May, Tim Mrazek resigned from his position as our Administrative Assistant. Tim began his work with us just before the pandemic hit, and he helped us navigate the shift to Zoom so that we could continue to worship and stay connected during uncertain times. His understanding of technology was a great help to us. When we think of Tim in the office, we'll remember his friendly voice on the phone, his welcoming presence, and his calm, helpful manner. We wish him God's blessings.

We are very grateful to Jon Achtzehner for covering administrative assistant responsibilities during the summer months, and to Nancy Hognestad for ensuring an office presence and answering the phones during regular office hours.

Kathleen Peterson was the successful candidate for the administrative assistant position and started her new role at the end of September. As a long-time member of the congregation, she is familiar with our community and our processes and has fit into the position very nicely. I particularly enjoy the messages she includes when emailing the weekly Order of Worship and Newsletter!

The move to Zoom in 2020 has become a lasting and meaningful part of our ministry. Each Sunday morning, an average of 30 screens join us for worship, extending our community beyond the walls of our sanctuary.

In October and November, we held special congregational meetings to approve revisions to our Constitution. As I write this in February 2026, we have just received notice that the document has been approved by the Saskatchewan Synod. Thank you to the members of the Governance Committee for their work on this important document!

We extend our sincere thanks to the members of our congregation for your generosity, which has enabled us to achieve our financial goals this year. As of January 2026, we have successfully paid off our solar panels. In addition, we were able to support six youth in attending the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering (CLAY) in Saskatoon.

A warm thank you to all the people in our congregation who share so generously of their time and talents. Many of your contributions happen quietly and behind the scenes, but they make a real difference in the life of our church. Through your service, you are truly “being the church of Christ” and living out your faith in meaningful ways. Together, we are able to accomplish so much.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Marie Melvie, Chair
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Council

Interim Pastors

2025 saw OSL served by three interim pastors - Pastor Diane Looker serving January - April; Bishop Sid Haugen serving May - June and October – December; and Pastor Brenda Nestegaard Paul serving July – September. Following are reports from both Bishop Sid and Pastor Brenda.

May – June (2 days/week contract): Bishop Sid

After retiring in September of 2024, Our Savior’s council offered a two-day week interim in May June. Sunday worship had already been filled with supply preachers, so the role was to simply provide 2 days/week general support of the ministry of Our Savior’s.

As it turned out, I did preside at each Sunday service, with supply preachers still carrying the message (apart from two Sundays that came open in the term that I did cover). It seemed to me that having consistent leadership for that period (doing what we do together!) was what the congregation needed. It also allowed me as presider to try to address the challenge of deliberately including online participants. And it gave me the opportunity to pick up conversations over coffee time.

Beyond Sunday worship:

- Worked with Transition Team on working out how to cover the now vacant Administrative Assistant position.
- Worked with volunteers to redesign a ‘bulletin’ that both guided the congregation in worship and provided take-home announcements.

- Using a Basic Christian Community template, led Morning Prayer each Wednesday morning with about 10-12 attending.
- Worked with Governance and council toward approving the new constitution.
- Covered pastoral care / hospital visits requests
- Performed the funeral of Doreen Ochitwa.

October to December (January) (3/4-time contract): Bishop Sid

The second interim term had me coming into a much more active time in Church life than the May-June term. October to January meant heading up the All-Saints' Day service, the Advent service cycle, and Christmas Eve. All Saints was a deep service (as always) remembering those who have gone before. During Advent this year, we celebrated Holy Communion-- something we haven't done here for some time. It was a lovely way of waiting in Hope during Advent. Kudos to the musicians for their key contributions during the Advent Season.

With a very new Administrative Assistant in Kathleen Peterson, we were able to work together over all kinds of interesting challenges: a new phone system with SaskTel (as our old system was no longer supported), a new format for the Sunday Bulletin, preparing a proposal for council to reinvent a new Memorial Board (the old one is full!), working over the strengths and the challenges of our old data base program (a program from 2009 – last updated in 2014), working over a new format for the Pew Envelope to incorporate a 'take home' aspect— to contribute through e-transfer, and so many things that just came up in conversation.

I presided and preached at all but two of the services in this period. It has been excellent to preside at worship in this community. I'm so appreciative of the many hands that make worship what it is here: worship team, choir director, choir, musicians, altar guild, liturgists, tech support, readers. One of the Administrative Assistant's challenging roles is to keep all these participants in coordination as she prepares orders of worship and Sunday bulletins each week.

During this term, I continued to offer Morning Prayer with a group of 10-12 participants. I was called upon for hospital visits, home communion, office visits and have initiated visits with parishioners on 'prayerful hunches' as well. Two families also met with me to talk over membership and have been accepted by council into membership.

I've been struck this month, with the impact of our Online offering. At times, our online attendees number about half the number of those gathered in person. With online communion, I continue to run into community members who say they "commune at Our Savior's every Sunday." What an amazing opportunity for us here. Many thanks to the tech people who make it happen.

I met with committees and ministry teams on a number of occasions: with Worship and Justice and Peace in particular.

Supervising Kathleen as the new Administrative Assistant has been a gift. She comes into the role with such ability and positive energy. Excellent work, day after day.

Overall: I have very much enjoyed the work as interim minister at Our Savior's in these two terms. Returning to presiding and preaching in a congregation after

about 8 months of retirement has been so good. And on weekdays, the office is often buzzing with things we've expected or not expected. Such an interesting place to work.

July, August (1/2-time contract) September (3/4-time contract): Pastor Brenda

Having retired from full-time ministry at the end of 2023, I rediscovered my sense of call by the end of 2024 and willingness to service in part time capacities. OSL had already become my place of worship when in Regina and so I was delighted to respond in the affirmative when asked if I could help out during the summer months of 2025 and subsequently, into the fall. Following is a sketch of our ministry unfolded together.

Worship

- Preached and presided at every weekly Sunday morning worship service except the last Sunday of the month;
- Was privileged to serve as Assistant Pastor for the funeral of Carl Cherland;
- Tweaked the worship services prepared for over the summer; selected hymnody ensuring services ended on a high note (after all we are an Easter people!);
- Crafted the worship services for September (Season of Creation) and October;
- Created liturgical space for youth who attended CLAY to share their experience;
- Reached out to worship assistants prior to services;
- Practiced with organists so that together we would feel comfortable with music selected;
- Prepared space within worship to bless folk for various reasons – *e.g. national church convention delegates, CLAY participants and leaders, new members.*
- Welcomed a new member who transferred their membership.

Pastoral Care

- Present for folk when beloved in hospice care;
- Responded to requests to meet for various reasons;
- Visited sick in hospital;
- Took communion to those who could no longer be present with the assembly;
- Met with prospective new members;
- Communicated with folk using various media when I knew are going through a challenging time;
- Was on call 24/7.

Teaching

- Seven sermons crafted and preached;
- Created Worship Assistant workshops for the Altar Guild, Ushers/Greeters, Liturgists and Readers. This led to updating the Worship Assistant Guidelines;
- Offered a children's message as part of the Sunday liturgy;
- Led Wednesday Morning Prayer using the Ignatian prayer practice.

Meetings

- Worship Ministry Team meetings; worship sub-committee meetings re: accessibility questionnaire results and suggested aids for worship;
- Met with Justice and Peace personnel particularly as it related to our celebration of the Season of Creation throughout September;
- Met with youth leadership;
- Regular Council meetings;
- Numerous meetings with church leadership and front office staff.

Administration

As Kathleen did not begin in her position as Administrative Administrator until the last week of September, I assisted others who were looking after the tasks of this role by;

- being in the office usually three mornings each week;
- answering the phone and responding to church emails as need be;
- functioning as a conduit of information as called upon to do so.

Other:

- Organized the narthex (e.g. frames around directions, all white hangers on rack, finding a place for extraneous boxes);
- Crafted an opportunity for people to once more gift fresh flowers for Sunday morning worship as they may be moved to do so.

From the beginning I was encouraged to bring to my service here what I had to offer, what was uniquely in my 'wheelhouse' so to speak. I am very grateful for the welcome received and the various folk I have been blessed to work with. So very glad for the opportunity to help the witness of this community stay strong, vibrant and relevant in Jesus' name. Thank you for the opportunity to serve once more February to April, 2026. Blessings!

Membership Report

Individual Members Report

	Baptized	Confirmed
2024 Year End	427	342
2025 Changes		
Received by Child Baptism	1	0
Received by Adult Baptism	0	0
Received by Transfer	8	8
Received by Affirmation	2	2
Received by Confirmation	0	0
Removed by Death	6	6
Removed by Released	0	0
Removed by Transfer	0	0
Removed by Resignation	0	0
Statistical Adjustment	+2	-1
2025 Year End	433	346

Family Members Report

Member Families	303
Member Families Out of Area	11
Total	314
Non-member Participating Families	94

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms	1
Affirmations and Confirmations	0
Weddings	0
Funerals	4

Worship Attendance Report

	Regular Sundays	Holy Week Evenings	Christmas Eve	Wednesday a.m.
2017	131	60	327	15
2018	127	60	372	15
2019	131	65	392	15
2020	100 screens (160)	0	118 screens (189)	0
2021	100 screens until Sept 12. Reopen, then hybrid with 70 screens (112); 35 on site	131 screens (210) onsite n/a	80 screens (128) 72 onsite	8
2022	37 screens (59) 55 onsite	69 screens (110) 138 onsite	36 screens (58) 145 onsite	6
2023	33 screens (53) 80 onsite	55 screens (88) 294 onsite	38 screens (61) 205 onsite	8
2024	31 screens (47) 72 onsite	42 screens (67) No onsite data	26 screens (38) 194 onsite	10
2025	24 screens (39) 81 onsite	7 screens (12) 38 onsite	21 screens (34) 171 onsite	14

Screen numbers in parentheses represent an estimated number of online participants. The value is given by the number of screens, adjusted by a factor of 1.6 per screen to give a truer value of actual worship attendance.

Notes: These are plotted averages for the year only. Holy week attendance is cumulative and influenced by the number of actual worship events.

Library

Our library has been an integral part of our connections here at Our Savior's. We have some wonderful material which covers all ages and interests. Our budget is about \$200 per year. Suggestions are welcomed. We will gladly add them to the growing list for the upcoming year. If you think of something that will add to our collection, let me know or leave a note with the office. We'll do our very best to see that it makes it to our shelves. Keep an eye out for any books that might be overdue. Just pop them into the box on the Library Table in the Fireside Room. Keep on Reading!

Blessings,
Merle Porcina

Property Management Ministry Team

Thanks to Pastor Diane, Pastor Brenda, Bishop Sid, Tim and Kathleen for their vigilance and help. Their contributions are considerable. Special thanks to team members: Dennis Casper, Don Cochrane, Soti Igoniko, Wendy McCutcheon, and Bert Ottenson.

Thanks to members of the congregation who make us aware of areas that require our attention and help out when called upon. Please continue to do so.

"Projects":

- RSC cleaning services are employed to clean the church once per week. Additional cleaning is done when required. Supplies are ordered as needed. Repairs are done to vacuums, scrubber etc. Cleaning cloths and dry mopheads are washed for reuse.
- The fire exit lights are inspected regularly, and LED bulbs are replaced.
- Light bulbs are replaced with LED bulbs when possible. New LED bulbs were installed in the Fireside room and a new LED light was installed in the parking lot.
- The commercial dish washer was repaired. The portable dishwasher is being monitored for leaks.
- Seals were replaced in toilets and faucets were replaced.
- The side door by the mailbox was sanded, primed, and repainted.
- Attempts are being made to use the food/yard waste bin by collecting food and coffee waste as well as used paper towels from the washrooms.
- The elevator receives regular inspection and servicing. We have a service contract. Repairs were made on several occasions.
- The pit under the furnaces in the "new" furnace room and the sump hole in the elevator room continue to accumulate water and are pumped out regularly. The sump pumps are monitored.

- A major water leak was discovered and repaired in the waterline from Massey Road.
- Furnace filters are replaced regularly, and the thermostats monitored. The “old” furnaces that heat the original building were serviced. This included the replacement of a circuit board. The rental water heater is serviced annually.
- Snow is removed from the sidewalks and the parking lot. Ice melting salt/sand is applied as needed. The city and church sidewalks are cleaned by a contractor. Sand may be applied to the parking lot as required. If so, the parking lot will require power sweeping in the spring. The potholes were repaired as part of an agreement with the mall, which has egress to the back of the stores.
- The bushes and evergreens were trimmed, and the branches and leaf mold were hauled to the yard waste depot. Fast food packaging, drink containers, cigarette packages, cigarette butts and drug paraphernalia were picked up.
- Landscaping
 - The lawns were mowed, fertilized, and watered as needed. The recent dry summers have been hard on the lawns, so reseeded was attempted with limited success. Estimates were received for reseeded the lawns and redoing the area around the parking lot entrance but were found to be too expensive.
 - Flowerpots were planted, watered and weeded.
 - Milkweed was planted in a flowerbed, and carrots were grown in patio pots
 - The weeds in the crusher dust on the north side were controlled.
 - Steps were taken to control the ants.
 - Indoor plants are maintained.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Mossing

Solar Panel Report

Year	Memorial Fund Undesignated Gifts	Fundraising and Gifts	Savings from Solar Power	Cost Recovery Total	Starting: \$79,192 Balance to be Raised
2023	\$2,237	\$11,925	\$2,796	\$16,958	\$62,234
2024	\$460	\$9,105	\$4,357	\$13,922	\$48,312
2025	\$4,587	\$24,371	\$3,938	\$32,896	\$15,416
2026	\$15,416			\$15,416	0
Total	\$22,700	\$45,401	\$11,091	\$79,192	

Great news! We've reached our goal to recover the original cost of our solar panels. That we have been able to accomplish this in 2 ½ years speaks both to the generosity of this faith community and of our genuine concern for creation.

This past year, our fundraising efforts were given a great boost when an anonymous donor offered to match all donations up to \$10,000. With the combination of direct solar panel donations, undesignated memorial gifts and solar power savings, we were able to recover over 80% of the original cost by year-end. Then in January 2026, an undesignated Memorial Fund gift was received from the estate of Monica Kurtz. A portion of these funds were directed toward our solar panel cost recovery, and with her gift, we have reached our goal.

We also continue to count the cumulative benefits of our solar panels. As of the end of 2025, the solar monitoring app reports that 35,033 kg of CO2 emissions have been saved from entering the atmosphere. We also realized substantial savings to our budget. Without solar panels we would have spent \$7,360 for electricity in 2025. With solar panels our cost for power was actually \$3,422, providing us with a net savings of \$3,938. Comparatively, this is somewhat lower than the savings we saw last year. Results will vary from year to year, but smoke from the forest fires and a malfunctioning inverter box both contributed to the lower 2025 results. Fortunately, the inverter box was replaced under warranty.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and donated towards this project. Thanks to the Justice and Peace Ministry Team for their promotional and fundraising efforts, to Dave Solheim for his tech expertise and to Carol Flotre, Tim Mrazek, Kathleen Peterson and Bev Tastad for their help in tracking and reporting all the numbers. Lastly, we give thanks and praise to God, our infinite source of light and power who has enabled us to make this solar project a reality.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy McCutcheon, Property Management

Justice and Peace Ministry Team

The Justice and Peace Ministry Team (J&P) works to develop initiatives involving the congregation in activities and issues of justice, peace, reconciliation, accessibility, inclusion and the care of creation.

- Greening Sunday was a wonderful springtime Earth Day celebration! Quilts made by our "original recyclers", Our Savior's Quilters, brightened the sanctuary as Interim Pastor Bishop Sid Haugen presided at a festive worship service. Many attending wore green, as seen in the Canada Lutheran photo and article. There was also a fundraising appeal for the Our Savior's solar panels. Huge thanks to the anonymous donor whose matching contribution brought funds raised to more than \$22,000!
- Carrot seeds were distributed at Children's Church and following worship, to encourage folks to Grow A Row for the Food Bank. Carrot seeds were also grown in pots in front of the church, leading to a touching community connection when a neighbour offered to help with soil preparation and planting.
- Green Notes are shared regularly throughout the year on the church website, Facebook page, and in the newsletter. Green Notes provide thoughtful environmental information and education.
- In December we responded to proposed City of Regina budget cuts which would eliminate the Regina Floral Conservatory by organizing a letter-writing campaign to Regina City Council members and the Mayor. As part of the ELCIC Stewardship of Creation program, Greening Congregations like ours are encouraged to advocate to local governments in support of greening initiatives. Thank you to the congregation for participating; over 45 signed letters were delivered to City Hall, in addition to the many phone calls and emails made by the Our Savior's community (Update: the Floral Conservatory is staying open!)
- The Justice and Peace Ministry Team continues to respond to food insecurity in our city. Meals and snacks were provided for the Carmichael Outreach Warming Shelter after Christmas, an especially challenging time for the Shelter and its services. Donations put in the Regina Food Bank Blue Barrel, located under the balcony stairs, are received and delivered throughout the year. J&P organized two specific Regina Food Bank drives this year: a September ingathering of Grow A Row carrots and other harvest produce, and a December Reverse Advent Calendar initiative.
- Books purchased by J&P to be placed into the church library include: Our Home and Treaty Land: Revised and Expanded Edition, by Ray Aldred and Matthew Anderson; Raising Kids Beyond the Binary, by Jamie Brusehoff; Spirituals and the Blues by James Cone; The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone.
- During 2025, J&P members took part in several continuing education opportunities including: Elder Dr. Lorna Standingready's storytelling circles at Luther College, University of Regina; a KAIROS Climate Change workshop; an Accessibility and Inclusion workshop presented by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Once again, we thank all those who support the work of the Justice and Peace Ministry Team through their prayers, donations, event attendance, tech help, communication support, and in so many other ways! We also continue to uplift and give thanks for the many other justice activities of our congregation that are overseen by other groups and committees at Our Savior's. These include: the Quilters and their donations of Quilts to places like the TLC Pantry and ICF; Waterston House Lunches; Indigenous Christian Fellowship Breakfasts; the Mitten Tree; and Refugee Resettlement. Thanks, too, to the Property Management Team for all their environmentally conscious care for our building and grounds. Special thanks to the pastors and the church office for all your help and support!

Respectfully Submitted for the Justice and Peace Ministry Team,

Nancy Hordern (chair), Meredith Cherland, Marja Hordern, Barbara Jones, Michelle Lipka

Accessibility and Inclusion Subcommittee

In 2025, Justice and Peace created a subcommittee to look at ways our congregation can improve inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities. This subcommittee was created in response to known needs in our congregation, as well as a way to join in locally with the work of the ELCIC task force on accessibility and ableism.

In March of 2025, the subcommittee circulated a questionnaire to the congregation. We had an excellent response both in the number of questionnaires returned, and in the content of the feedback. It was impactful to learn of the many varied disabilities in our congregation, many of which are "invisible." It was wonderful to see that improving accessibility for people with disabilities is valued in our congregation. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to make suggestions and/or share their stories.

In June we submitted a report to Church Council and Worship Ministry Team with nineteen suggestions for improving accessibility in worship that were either no-cost or low-cost. Thanks to the work of the Worship Ministry Team, the Church Office, and the Tech Team, the vast majority of these recommendations were implemented by September.

Examples of the recommendations include: regularly providing Large Print Bulletins which include the hymns and Bible readings; creating a new system to make sure the batteries in the sound-amplifying headsets work; and having two ushers each Sunday so that one is available to offer help and hospitality with headsets and other needs.

Special thanks to the Church Office, Tech Team, Worship Ministry Team, and the Ushers for helping to implement the recommendations. Thank you also to Pastor Brenda who led workshops for the readers. Our subcommittee has had much positive feedback from the congregation about the worship tweaks that have occurred.

In fall of 2025, the subcommittee began the work of doing a Building Audit, which assesses ways that we can improve accessibility in the physical building. As part of this audit, we have had guests with varying disabilities come in to do walk-throughs of our building and give us their expert feedback. The work of the Building Audit will continue through 2026.

A few building-related issues arose in 2025 that needed immediate attention, and we deeply appreciate the quick response from the Property Management Team in addressing these needs. Thank you for making sure the elevator and its buttons continue to work, for finding a solution to the step that was created at the front door, and for the new hand-sanitizer holders in the sanctuary. Your work is much appreciated!

Throughout 2025, expenses related to improving accessibility at Our Savior's were absorbed by several different account lines, associated with the Justice and Peace, Property Management, Tech, and Worship ministry teams, as well as the Church Office.

For 2026, the Justice and Peace Budget request has been increased to allow space for a few known upcoming expenses for Accessibility and Inclusion. We anticipate that as the work of the building audit unfolds, we will have recommendations that cost money. Since we do not yet know specific details, we do not have a budget line for these items, but we have alerted Council to this likely need, and they know these requests are forthcoming.

Finally, a massive thank you to everyone for supporting the work of the Accessibility and Inclusion Subcommittee. It is wonderful to be in a community that understands the need to be intentional about accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marja Hordern, Subcommittee Chair

Subcommittee Members: Carol Flotre, Marja Hordern, Cindy Leggott, and Wendy McCutcheon

Welcoming the Newcomer Ministry Team

Jesus said to us, "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25: 35 and 40)

In 2025, the Welcoming the Newcomer Ministry Team of Our Savior's Lutheran Church has again provided oversight for our congregation's refugee work. We did this in several ways.

- **We supported our congregation's participation in the work of the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee.** Some of us have served for eight years now in support of our group of six churches. We thank everyone at Our Savior's who contributed to the October "Matching Grant" fundraiser for the support of our group's next sponsorship. It was a success!
- **Our congregation has been generous in reuniting refugee families by signing MOUs (Memoranda of Understanding) with CLWR and local newcomer families.** We keep track of these MOU sponsorships over time. When a new agreement is proposed, we approve it first, then send it on to our Church Council for their approval. CLWR then approves it and submits it to IRCC. In time, the refugees named in these agreements do arrive in Canada. This program has allowed Our Savior's Lutheran Church to help many people come to Canada, at no cost to our congregation.

Through these agreements, one man arrived in 2025. He is an Eritrean man named Bahabolom Berhane who arrived from Israel on November 14. He is co-sponsored by Zed Tafesse, an Ethiopian woman referred to us by Pastor Jeff Tank.

Two other Eritrean men completed their 12-month sponsorships in 2025:

- Yonatan Debesay finished his sponsorship in June.
- Kibrom Woldesilase finished his sponsorship in October.

And there are others we are still waiting for. All four of these sponsorships have been submitted by CLWR to IRCC. All are “in process”. **All are Syrians whose country is now at peace.** Each family will be expected to prove to IRCC that they are still refugees, people whose lives would be in danger if they were to return home.

- Omar Al Kourdi, his wife and adult son.
 - Firas Alqtifan, his wife and 3 small children.
 - Marwan Abad, his wife and 3 small children.
 - Amal Al Taha, a divorced woman with 2 young daughters.
- **We have also helped CLWR arrange a special sponsorship for Raquel Esther Urbina Martinez and her three children.** In November 2023 Canadian Lutheran World Relief asked for our congregation’s help in sponsoring this Nicaraguan woman and her three children (she has two boys ages 17 and 15, and a girl who is 11). They are refugees now living in Mexico City. With help from CLWR, we filed a sponsorship application in March 2024, nearly two years ago. CLWR is giving us \$35,000 for the support of Raquel and her family, and we have also received a legacy gift of \$10,000 for refugee work undertaken by Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. We hope this will be enough.

Sixteen members of Our Savior’s have agreed to serve as Raquel’s settlement team. With help from the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee, we have collected the furniture and most of the household goods they will need. We are ready to welcome them.

But we are concerned because Raquel and her children have been encountering street violence in Mexico, which proves they are still in danger. CLWR has twice requested that the processing of the sponsorship be expedited by the Canadian visa office in Mexico.

Special thanks to Debbie Palmquist, who speaks fluent Spanish and speaks regularly with Raquel on WhatsApp. Debbie tries to comfort and encourage Raquel. We ask you to join us, please, in praying this family will be allowed to come to Regina safely, and soon.

From the members of the Welcoming the Newcomer Ministry Team:

Barbara Anderson, Verna Anderson, Meredith Cherland, Pam Fingas, Larry Johnson, Larry Mossing, Sharon Solheim.

Worship Ministry Team

Our team met five times this year on Zoom: Interim Pastor Diane; Interim Pastor Brenda; Interim Pastor Bishop Sid; Donna Achtzehner, Jon Achtzehner, Lynn Cavanagh, Marja Hordern, Ann Marie Melvie, Diane Mossing, Linda Nilson, Barbara Reul, and Dave Solheim as well as OSL office staff, Tim Mrazek and Kathleen Peterson.

Hybrid Zoom Worship services were held in the Sanctuary throughout the year; in fact, one third of our congregation typically worships online. We offer sincere thanks to Dave Solheim and his dedicated team of volunteers who help ensure that everyone who gathers in person and/or online feels welcome.

We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to our many **Worship Assistants**, coordinated by Ann Marie Melvie, Donna Achtzehner, and Nancy Hognestad. Our **Altar Guild** volunteers, led by Diane Mossing, help us create truly meaningful worship experiences. We are grateful to Pastor Brenda, who not only offered workshops to our altar guild, ushers, liturgists, and readers but also updated the worship assistant guidelines during her tenure.

We are truly blessed to have so many gifted **musicians** who are able and willing to share their considerable talents at Our Savior's. Barbara Reul, Lynn Cavanagh, Barbara Anderson, and Helen Mrazek-Chang ensured that all services and choir rehearsals were covered. Did you know that OSL is now the only local ELCIC congregation that features an (electronic) pipe organ during worship on a regular basis?

The **OSL Choir** members have had another terrific year of making music together, thanks to our beloved choir director, Jonathan Achtzehner and his regular replacement, Kayla Stadnick. On 9 August 2025, members and former members of the OSL Choir, the Trinity Lutheran Church Choir, the Luther College Choir, the Luther Bach Choir, and Ablaze joined together to sing at the funeral of our former choir master and long-time choir member, Carl Cherland.

THANK YOU to the many individuals who contribute to our worship experience to help us grow as community that praises God in everything we do.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Reul

Technology Ministry Team

The impact of technology is increasing in our lives and workplaces. Before the pandemic the configuration of hardware and software that the congregation used to carry out its mission had been relatively stable. Changes over the last few years have made our situation more complex.

The purpose of our technology is to support and enhance worship and the work of the pastor, office, church council, ministry teams and committees of the congregation. The Technology Committee works with these groups to ensure they have the technical capability to meet their responsibilities and objectives.

Office, Council, Ministry Team and Committee Support

Software environment: we have a Microsoft 365 Business Premium license which for a non-profit such as OSL is free. This provides 10 licenses for the full suite of Microsoft applications including Teams (a competitor for Zoom) and SharePoint, which is an integration and security resource that allows document handling by group.

As a result, we have SharePoint sites for Council, Office Admin, Worship Prep, the Worship Team, the Call Committee, Human Resources, and Technology. Other sites can be created if committees ask for this service.

Office equipment; The Administrative Assistant uses a desktop computer that was purchased about two years ago. The pastor's laptop is new last year and is reconfigured with each change in interim pastor. The Toshiba copier / printer was upgraded last summer.

We have a **Roaming laptop** that groups or individuals can use in the church for Zoom during a meeting or as a display device for the screen in the Fireside Room or the TV in the Fellowship Hall.

Communications: Our phones and internet were switched from Access Communications to Sasktel last fall with work completed by November. We have new phone sets and enhanced phone services, giving us better control of how the phones are used. Voicemail messages are now automatically converted to text and for the pastor, sent to their cell phone. Internet and Wi-Fi are now provided throughout the church. Internet transfer speeds are now up to 20 times faster than they were.

Website: We have a good website that was well designed and useful in its day. When we have a new pastor, it is our intention to review the website and do the refresh that websites need regularly. In the meantime, work continues to keep it up to date.

One issue that impacted anyone wanting to see a service they missed was that our worship service recordings were not being updated regularly until about mid-December. The good news is that we have someone taking care of that now, so you can again count on finding Sunday worship service recordings on the website usually by Sunday afternoon, with the goal of always having them available by Monday. We post a link on Facebook when the recording has been uploaded.

Worship support:

Sunday Worship Tech Team: We like to think we provide one of the best worship experiences on Zoom. We stream services every Sunday as well as special services and funerals as requested. We continue to have nine volunteers who are part of the rotation to provide a Camera Operator and a Slides-Audio-Zoom Operator for each service. They are a great group. Thanks to *Astar Achtzehner, Levi Berg, Marlin Berg, Steve Button, Gord Grant, Robert Lee, Ken Stalwick, Dave Solheim, and Mark Anderson*. Mark also creates scripts that help us stay on track.

Hearing Assistance: We purchased four additional *hearing assistant receivers* and several headphone options for all eight receivers. Ushers are putting them out on Sunday mornings, and batteries are regularly checked. As a result, the receivers are being used every week.

Equipment support: We have two cameras, a camera controller, a camera switcher, and two computers that allow us to live stream our services on Zoom all requiring regular updates and maintenance. We also have an aging sound system that will need to be upgraded soon.

For the future:

In our list of potential projects for the future, these three would have direct impact on the worship life of the congregation. Formal proposals of each project will be forwarded to council.

Worship online-onsite integration: Since our live-streaming environment was set up, additional capabilities have become available. We could have Zoom participants do readings on screen in the sanctuary. This is a capability that has not been explored to date.

Hearing assistance upgrade: There has been some discussion of the new Auracast Bluetooth broadcast capability. The Auracast version of Bluetooth allows one-to-many broadcasts. Older Bluetooth versions only allow one-to-one connections. The advantage of one-to-many broadcasts would be that people with Auracast Bluetooth enabled hearing aids or Auracast Bluetooth enabled mobile phones that connect to hearing aids could pick up our audio feed directly.

Sound board, speakers audio system upgrade: Our current sound board was installed in about 2005. It is very old technology. Our speaker system was installed many years before that. We need an audio assessment of our sanctuary and how our sound system, microphone and the speaker environment currently perform, so we have hard evidence of where problems are, and so we can compare that to what a new system might be able to do.

Respectfully submitted by David Solheim on behalf of the Technology Committee – Bishop Sid Haugen, Pastor Brenda Nestagard Paul, Kathleen Peterson, Steve Button, Marlin Berg and David Solheim

Children's Ministry

"But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." (Luke 18:16)

We have offered Children's Church this past year. This is an activity-based program extended from the weekly readings. We have been using a great resource called Spark House Digital, which follows our lectionary.

I would like to thank all the volunteers for their support. I feel that the program has been a success and look forward to continuing in the future.

Respectfully Submitted
Nancy Hognestad

Youth Ministry & Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

VBS 2025 was a joint effort with Immanuel Anglican, hosted at Immanuel. Thank you to everyone who volunteered from Our Savior's to help coordinate snacks, activities, registration, set up and take down, and all of the other tasks that need to be done to help make VBS happen: Karen and Laura Bacon, Tamra Button, Cassandra and Kaja Grant, and Eli Leggott.

We hope to once again partner with Immanuel for VBS 2026. Details are still being worked out.

Youth Ministry

The Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering was held in Saskatoon, SK from August 21-24, 2025. Five youth and one home team leader -- Cindy Leggott -- from Our Savior's, along with home team leader Becca Anderson from Bread of Life Lutheran and one youth from Winnipeg (Ann Marie Melvie's nephew) travelled together to Saskatoon for the event.

Levi Berg, Karlee Dorey, and Cindy Leggott are continuing to help organize youth activities at Our Savior's. A new, portable projector and a JBL speaker have been purchased for the youth room. Events in 2025 included a spring get-together, as well as a Prince of Egypt movie night in November that was well received. Plans for 2026 include games nights and other events to continue to create community.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Stalwick.

Governance Committee

I want to thank Daryl Nelson his able leadership of the Governance Committee this past Year. Aided and abetted by Bev Tastad, Ann Marie Melvie, Dave Solheim, and Bishop Sid, the Committee completed the work on a Revised Constitution for OSL. After Council approved the document, it was submitted to the full congregation for approval.

The following motion was approved at a Special Congregational Meeting on October 19, 2025 and November 23, 2025:

"that the membership approves the proposed revisions to the Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Regina Constitution and Bylaws as recommended by the church council".

The Revised Constitution and bylaws have been submitted to the Saskatchewan Synod for final approval.

Following Synod approval of the Revised Constitution, the Governance Committee will engage in a number of further tasks including: recommending changes to quorum level; addressing required revisions to the Bylaws resulting from constitutional revisions (e.g. any items missed in the move of various items from the Constitution to the Bylaws); ensuring clarity regarding the role and purpose of existing and Board Committees and Ministry Teams as per the New Constitution; and assembling and proposing any required revisions to current OSL Policies. Plus any additional tasks delegated by Council.

The Governance Committee will bring all recommendations to Council for review and approval.

Submitted by Murray Knuttila

Call Committee

Members: Jeff Barber, Levi Berg, Diana Florence, Ann Marie Melvie (Chair), Marilyn Scheske, Dave Solheim, Bev Tastad

The Call Committee has been engaged in serious and productive conversations with a potential pastor. However, the candidate has existing commitments that extend through the summer of 2026. We will keep the congregation informed.

We thank Bishop Ali Tote for his guidance during this process.

Please keep the potential candidate and the Call Committee in your prayers.

Ann Marie Melvie, Call Committee Chair

Finance Committee

Committee Members

The Finance Committee members are Steve Button, Myra Cole, Larry Johnson, Daryl Nelson, Bev Tastad, and Gary Williams.

Offering Counters

We wish to thank all offering counters for managing all of the donations submitted to the office during this last year. We welcome six new counters – Katie Achtzehner; Archie Gee; Robert Lee; Glenn Manz; Heather and Warren Mollison.

If you are interested in serving our congregation as a Counter, please contact Steve Button.

PAR – monthly pre-arranged fund transfer

Our PAR program is managed by the United Church of Canada. At the end of the year, their processing unit went through a number of significant changes, including: implementation of new system, retirement of long-term administrator, and relocation to new physical building. We received an email mid-January indicating that our 5 outstanding requests for additions/changes would not be processed in January. We are happy to report only one remained outstanding and will be processed in February. Thank you for your patience.

In December, there were 60 family units using PAR.

If you are interested in joining or making a change to your contributions on PAR, please contact the office or Myra Cole.

Insurance

One of the Finance Committee's responsibilities is to manage and maintain the policy of insurance for the church and its properties. This spring two decisions were made: 1) to increase the deductible resulting in a lower premium; and 2) to have an appraisal of the building completed to identify if we were properly insured, given the last appraisal was in 2004. The appraisal was completed in September identifying a replacement statement of value of \$5.3 million.

Budget

An initial budget was submitted to council for review in November. An updated budget, including 2025 actuals, was reviewed by council in January. At that meeting, council made the motion to present the revised budget at the ACM.

Council is budgeting for expenditures of almost \$285,000. We would ask you to prayerfully consider your 2026 contributions so our church financial requirements may be met.

I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee for their work this last year.

Respectfully submitted, Bev Tastad

Additional Reports

Report on National Church Convention – July 10-13, 2025 – Winnipeg

First of all, thank you to OSL for sending delegates to the National Convention. Four delegates were from OSL: John Nilson, Dave Solheim, Jeff Barber, and Emily Barber. One of the things I love about OSL is the value we place on connectedness to the broader church and the work we are called to do in the world in our response to Grace.

I have only been to a few National Church Conventions over the years. Each one has had its own character and in 2025, it was transition – celebration of the work of the church, joy and tears as we bid farewell to Bishop Susan, passion for justice and understanding reflected in the words of our world partners in ministry and in the resolutions brought forward to convention, wonderful worship, and hope for the future as we elected the next Bishop and National Church Council.

In this report, I will highlight just a few items from convention, but there is a full report from a Sask Synod perspective available on the Synod website where delegates from the Synod have written brief reports on the many components of Convention. Notable for me, were:

- Opening. It was the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the ELCIC and this was a focus of convention opening worship.
- Facing Today: Dreaming of the Future. Work was done through convention to engage national delegates in a conversation about the ELCIC's future. It is a timely discussion of how we see the work of the church in the coming decades and what might be needed to get that work done.
- Financial Report. In a nutshell, the current structure and work of the national church, and most Synods (including Saskatchewan), are financially unsustainable. This dynamic is a part of the motivation of the "Facing Today" task force.
- Task Force Updates. From past conventions, updates were provided from:
 - Task Force on Addressing Racism, White Supremacy, and Racial Justice Issues
 - Task Force Addressing Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia
 - Task Force on Abilities and Inclusion
 - Task Force on Carbon Neutrality
- Resolutions. Many resolutions were brought forward to convention. To be frank, it was a challenging process and most resolutions were delegated to National Church Council.
- Worship. Convention Chaplain, Rev. Peter Wall, and his crew were amazing.
- Youth Delegates. A large group of youth delegates met ahead of the convention and then attended convention, engaged in table discussions, and spoke to resolutions on the floor of convention. The church will be in good hands.

- Road Trip. I got to drive to, and attend convention with my daughter, Emily – awesome.

In election results, Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, was elected to a six-year term as National Bishop. Semi-retired for a short time before convention, Bishop Larry was Bishop of the Alberta and the Territories Synod for many years. Election results for Saskatchewan Synod spots led to two new members of National Church Council. For the rostered spot, Pastor Victoria Mwamasika from Zion Lutheran Church in Weyburn joins NCC. For the lay position, it is me (Jeff Barber) from OSL. As a point of interest, both Pastor Victoria and I are also on Sask Synod Council.

Thank you, again, for sending us as delegates of OSL, and thank you for being the congregation you/we are. If you would like to read the full reports of Sask Synod delegates, you'll find them at:

<https://sasksynod.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025-National-Convention-Reports-for-Sask-Synod-August-29.pdf>

Jeff Barber

Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee 2025 Annual Report

Bread of Life Lutheran Church, Christ Lutheran Church, New Hope Lutheran Church, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (Lumsden)

*Jesus said to us, "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; **I was a stranger and you welcomed me...** Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25: 35 and 40)*

During 2025 the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee (our group of six churches agreeing to share their financial resources and volunteers to sponsor refugees) has continued to submit sponsorship applications and continued to welcome refugees arriving in Regina. We have worked in two areas.

Area #1: MOU sponsorships

15 people arrived in Regina in 2025 through our MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) arrangements with CLWR, where family members provide the money for the sponsorship and churches provide oversight for the resettlement.

- Lina, a Syrian woman with five children who had been sheltering in Cairo, arrived on September 10. The Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee will provide oversight for their first year in Canada.
- Mhreteab, an Eritrean man, with his wife and four children, arrived from Israel on September 12. St. Mark's Lutheran Church will provide oversight.
- Kobrom and Hintsu, two Eritrean friends who have been sheltering in Israel, arrived on July 12. New Hope Lutheran Church will provide oversight.
- Bahabolom, another Eritrean man, arrived on November 13. Our Savior's Lutheran Church will provide oversight.

Refugee sponsorships last 12 months. During 2025 Eritreans Yohannes Anday and Kibrom Woldesilase completed their MOU sponsorships with help from our churches.

Even though the IRCC did decrease the number of refugee arrivals in Canada by 31% in 2025, we have continued to submit MOU sponsorship applications to the Government of Canada (IRCC) through CLWR, with help from Bread of Life, Our Savior's, Shepherd of the Valley, and St. Mark's. We have joined the Canadian Council for Refugees in objecting to the decrease in Canada's humanitarian commitments. We can expect more refugee arrivals in the future, though not as many.

Area #2: Shared sponsorships

The Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee continues to keep a list of newcomer families *without* money, people who wish to sponsor relatives with our financial and settlement help. We make an effort to choose another family to sponsor each year, although these families must wait several years for the IRCC to process their applications.

We have been waiting more than 3 years for Fardous Ginawi, a Sudanese woman with her husband, her five children, and five nieces and nephews. All their requirements for admission to Canada have been met, except for the last one (security clearance for each of these 12 people).

When they all have their security clearances, the IOM (International Office of Migration) will book their plane tickets to Regina, and we will then know the date of their arrival. Our Fardous Committee is ready to go. We are ready to set up a comfortable home for them with donations of furniture and household goods from all our churches. We have the money we need for their first year in Canada. We expect them any time now.

We have also been raising money for our next sponsorship. With a matching grant from an anonymous (and generous) donor, our churches raised another \$20,000 in October 2025. We now have slightly more than \$57,000 for the family after Fardous.

But we have some uncertainty about who that family will be. We expected it would be Chehade Al Talha's family of nine. They are Syrians and have been sheltering in Lebanon. But in 2025 they were forced to leave Lebanon by the Lebanese military, and return to Syria. They have now been in Syria for several months. CLWR has told us the IRCC visa office is not likely to approve them for admission to Canada. The war in Syria ended in 2024, and Syrians who have returned to their home country no longer meet the United Nations definition of "refugee", someone whose life would be in danger if he or she were to go home. CLWR has let the IRCC know that Chehade Al Talha and his family are living in Syria again. CLWR has advised us to wait a while before giving up hope. If we cannot sponsor the Al Talha family, we will use the \$57,000 we have raised to sponsor another family, already chosen by a selection committee in October 2024.

In closing:

Special thanks to all our diligent volunteers who collect, store and distribute donations of furniture; keep track of our finances; and help make decisions for our group.

If you would like to donate in 2026, please send your cheques to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, (3015 Queen Street, Regina S4S 2G2), or make an e-transfer to stmarksdonations@myaccess.ca. All donations should be marked "for refugee support." St. Mark's will send you your tax receipt.

We ask that you please continue to pray for us, and for all the world's refugees. Thank you for your generous support, and may God bless you!

From Meredith Cherland, for the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee

Bishop's Letter to Congregations, of the Saskatchewan Synod

Dear sisters, brothers, siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As you prepare for your Annual General Meetings, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to every congregation, every pastor and deacon, every council chair, and all members of our Saskatchewan Synod family. Thank you for your dedication, your commitment, and the deep faith and faithfulness you continue to show in these challenging and ever-changing times. Your ministry in your communities, your care for one another, and your steadfast witness to the Gospel are gifts to the whole church.

As we look ahead to a new year of ministry, I encourage each congregation to make intentional room in your budget for strong synodical benevolence. Your benevolence contributions support the mission we share together across the province and beyond. Benevolence contributions by each congregation are part of our expectations of each other, that we would support the work of the church at the synodical level. They strengthen our capacity to equip leaders, accompany congregations, resource ministries, and participate in the work of our wider church. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

I am also pleased to share that starting January 1, 2026, we will be launching a new synod-wide strategy for children's ministry, youth ministry, and young adult ministry. This initiative has been shaped by the many conversations and longings expressed across our synod. Its purpose is simple: to support you, as you nurture the faith of young people, create spaces of belonging, and form the next generation of disciples. Resources, training opportunities, and ongoing accompaniment will be made available to congregations throughout the year.

As we step into this season with hope, I encourage each congregation to continue growing in a life of worship, prayer, discipleship, and stewardship. Rooted in prayer, we listen for God's leading. Through discipleship, we deepen our walk with Christ. Through stewardship, we respond with gratitude, giving generously so that ministry may flourish in the congregation and in every corner of our synod.

Thank you for the many ways you embody the Gospel. Thank you for your partnership, your leadership, and your trust. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the work ahead and fill your congregation with renewed vision and joy.

Abundant blessings in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Ali Tote
Bishop, Saskatchewan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Canada