

Minutes
Saint Luke Lutheran Church
<https://saintluke.us/>
Congregation Annual Meeting
Sunday June 1, 2025
In-Person and Live Streamed

Draft:8/2/2025

Call to Order – President Rob Grace called the meeting to order at 11:00 am

Opening Prayer – Pastor Miller opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of the Agenda –

The agenda for the Congregation Annual Meeting was approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Resolved, that the minutes of the June 2, 2024, Annual Congregation Meeting and the minutes of the April 3, 2025, Special Congregation Meeting be adopted.

The minutes of the Annual Congregation Meeting and the Special Congregation Meeting were both approved by unanimous consent.

Reports

Senior Pastor – Pastor Connie Miller

Pastor Miller provided her report by video highlighting significant events in our 2024-2025 ministry. The Senior Pastor Annual Report can be found in Appendix A and can be viewed online at: [Senior Pastor Annual Report \(Video\)](#)

New Business

Nominating Committee Report - Pastor Miller, Nominating Representative

Pastor Miller provided the report from the Nominating Committee for vacant positions on the Congregation Council, The Mission Endowment Fund (MEF)

Board, and the Audit Committee. The Nominating Committee submitted the following motion for a Congregation Vote:

- *Resolved that the following voting members be elected for the terms indicated.*
 - *Congregation Council:*
 - Beatrice Kilima for a term of 3 years,*
 - Kristina Schendt for a term of 3 years,*
 - Brock Beamer for a term of 3 years,*
 - Two vacancies are to be filled by the council.*
 - *Mission Endowment Fund Board of Managers:*
 - Andy Boston for a term of 3 years,*
 - One vacancy is to be filled by the council.*
 - *Audit Committee:*
 - Four vacancies are to be filled by the council.*

The motion was approved by voice vote and electronic voting.

2025 – 2026 Ministry Proposal (Budget)

Deacon Warfield presented the 2025 – 2026 Ministry Proposal (Budget) for the General (Operations) Fund, the Christian Day School, and Hallowood Fund. The presented information is included as Appendix B. He presented the following motion:

- *Resolved, that Saint Luke adopts the following 2025-2026 Ministry Proposals:*

	<i>Expense</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Income-Expense (Net)</i>
<i>General (operations) Fund</i>	\$857,071	\$857,400	\$329
<i>Christian Day School</i>	\$619,865	\$621,000	\$1,135
<i>Hallowood Fund</i>	\$288,069	\$331,972	\$43,903

The motion was approved by voice vote and electronic voting.

2025 – 2026 Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) Proposal

Andy Boston presented the 2025 Mission Endowment Fund Proposal. The MEF total invested assets as of May 2025 are \$677,000. The MEF invests assets in accordance with ELCA guidelines and Saint Luke bylaws. An annual distribution is made from a portion of the earnings of the investment fund. The principal is never touched. The current earnings are \$44,651. He presented the following motion.

- *Resolved that the following Mission Endowment Fund grants be adopted:*
 - *Calvert Charitable Concept Corp \$1,000, (\$5,000)*
 - *Saint Luke Bethany Walk \$7,000, (\$7,000)*
 - *Hope and Faith -Mexico \$6,600, (\$9,790)*
 - *Saint Luke Pavilion \$5,000, (\$11,435)*
 - *Lutheran World Relief \$10,200, (\$10,200)*
 - *Saint Luke Food Pantry \$6,800, (\$20,000)*
 - *Humble Walk Campus Ministry \$3,400 (\$5,000)*
 - *Total Requested \$68,425*
 - *Total Allotted \$40,000*

The motion was approved by voice vote and electronic voting.

Thanks to Departing Council Members

The congregation expressed thanks and appreciation for the service and dedication of the departing Council Members.

- Rob Grace – President
- Annika Dodrill - Vice President
- Jacky Heinbaugh Dooly Martin - Former President

Closing Prayers and Adjournment.

The meeting closed with a prayer by Pastor Miller and President Rob Grace adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

Appendix A
Senior Pastor Annual Report
Pastor Connie Miller
June 1, 2025

GRACE UPON GRACE

St John says, from the fullness of Jesus Christ, we have received grace upon grace. Indeed, we have. Indeed, we have.

WORSHIP

During the program year of 2024-25, the presence and joy of Jesus Christ was obvious in so many ways. We worshiped. We praised.

On Anniversary Sunday we gave thanks for 85 years of mission and ministry, welcoming a daughter of Saint Luke, Pastor Anna Ernst Roper, to be the preacher.

(The first worship service was September 10, 1939 in the Silver Spring Masonic Hall, as noted by an article back then in the Washington Star.)

We dedicated the new baptismal font, enjoyed the Wickre Organ concert, and the rendition of Messiah with orchestra and soloists. How blessed we are to have the Schola Cantorum, the Choristers, the Reformation bells, rehearsing and filling our worship with such spirit and grace.

On Reformation Sunday we welcomed former pastors back, and how exciting to have the pews full for festivals.

Lent saw us look at the characteristics of the Early Church, their firm faith in the face of the Empire. Several guest preachers helped us with this - gracing our presence for the midweek Lenten worship.

We livestreamed whenever possible and what a response from the online community.

How we give thanks to our tech team and the privilege to touch lives with the Gospel, those locally, but so many in other states and even countries.

What a blessing, too, to be able to offer worship in Spanish on the first and 3rd Sundays – this community is certainly growing.

Several times during the year we even took the worship service to retirement communities, especially Riderwood, now where at least 25 from Saint Luke reside.

We continued to be a community rooted in prayer, where thanks to our Prayer Partners, each member of Saint Luke was lifted in prayer each day.

Also, we are sent from worship to care, and the Caring Ministries team distributed numerous Home Communions, and made many hospital and care facility visits.

FAITH FORMATION

We grew in grace through faith. Amazing opportunities through through Sunday School, Confirmation, SLSHY+ (btw this became the group for high school as well as young adults),

Adult Education.

Even during the week, faith formation didn't stop. Women in Community, Wednesday morning Bible study Group, Book and Video, Men's Group, WELCA Circles, gathered to cultivate the Word in our hearts.

What a joy too, the outreach we had for Vacation Bible School –100 youth, teens and adults to Camp Firelight.

We sent 11 to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans – life changing for them – thanks to your support.

We received new members, who graced us with new talents and gifts.

We hosted a major international event in October, *Discipleship in a Democracy: Responding to the Threat of Christian Nationalism*. Bishop Eaton brought greetings and we had words from Representative Raskin about separation of Church and State. Lecturers came from countries such as Ethiopia and Germany.

Also, along with Luther's teaching about the importance of mutual consolation and conversation, we began a series in the Fireside Room called LET'S TALK, a time to engage with guests and ourselves on very timely topics. (Dr. Paul Wee – The Church as Sentinel)

COMMUNITY LIFE

We gathered, we laughed, we enjoyed food and hospitality, we were and are a grace-filled community. We found it best to have congregation celebrations on Sunday so several times we did just that.

We had a beach party in the summer.

We enjoyed September Homecoming Sunday, jazz band, with delicious food.

We had a Reformation Celebration and Oktoberfest, with German Band, and delicious German fare.

We participated in the Thanksgiving Day parade, Saint Luke float and all.

We had a grand Christmas Tree Lighting, and sing-a-long, out in the front yard, yes, a tree of lights 40 feet high.

Right before Lent we had a Mardi Gras Celebration for all.

During all these events we enjoyed food. We had 7 people take the ServSafe course, so food safety was always a priority. We thank them so much. At any dinner or celebration one of these certified individuals is always there to oversee.

SERVICE+OUTREACH

The wonderful quilters made 190 quilts – some went to border ministries, some went to Lutheran World Relief. What a ministry, with quilting and baby blankets for Global Health Ministries and so much more.

On Saint Luke Sunday we celebrated God's Work our Hands, with a special service project, assembling Fresh Change kits (clothing) for Border Service Corps – we assembled 267 kits!

We had food drives through Sunday School and Christian Day School, and also the one for Thanksgiving. Adult volunteers and also SS children helped so much.

Our SLSHY+ group did some shopping and filled the truck with food for the Food Pantry. What a treat for so many at the holiday to not only get a food card but pick actual food as well.

The Food Ministry outreach never was stronger. On the average we assisted 175 families per month, (approximately 600 individuals) giving out an average of \$5000 in food cards each month to those referred. We received a \$20,000 grant for food from the county to buy food, and the congregation learned about the blue bags and remembering food for the food cart. Did you get your blue bag? Thank you for remembering so many who are food insecure.

GIVING

The Saint Luke community has always been so generous – grace-filled giving.

Various needs came to us from Lutheran Disaster Relief, LWR... and the congregation responded gloriously.

For the Anniversary Offering we designated Our Redeemer Lutheran, Jerusalem, for their social outreach to help people displaced by the war. We received \$8000.00 to send – so wonderful.

Whether it was Easter Lily Food Cards for refugee assistance or Poinsettia Food Cards, collecting for the Hat, Mitten and Scarf tree and so much more, the people of Saint Luke came through with love and care.

Thanks to the *21 and Building Strong* campaign and again people's response, we exceeded giving until February 2025. This was the time many of our federal workers were laid off. We can do it, however, and this next year the Stewardship Committee will be asking each giving unit to give \$20 more to their regular giving. Stay tuned for more information from the Stewardship committee.

HALLOWOOD

How we reached out to those who wanted a place away to gather for retreats, meetings, conferences, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. Our Conference and Retreat Center was filled to 95% capacity the past year, and we continued to have a positive cash flow. We welcomed approx. 900 guests, (many groups).

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

We welcomed Tracy Kingcade, the spring of 2024 and this past year she did a great job in her first year, moving the school along to new and exciting places. We also welcomed 3 new teachers, Samantha Loufik, Geneva Williams and Mary Gonzales, and a new CDS administrative assistant, Lola Powel. The Spirit was soaring and continues to show us the path toward building the Christian Day School back to maximum enrollment.

We also began something new, CDS Summer camp, taking place these early weeks of June – exciting times.

LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

This ministry is supported by Lutheran Campus Ministry, College Park, the Synod and others, but Saint Luke gives it a home, staff, oversight and all the support of the people of God at Saint Luke.

We continued to have midweek after school programs 4 days a week, tutoring, fellowship, music, art and much more.

We also continued ESL classes several nights a week. Thank you so much for your support of this vital ministry outreach.

SERVANTS OF GOD

Those who work among us at the church, the school, the Conference Center, or La Sagrada bless us all. The staff family is a gift we have among us. We celebrated Howard Harris, Hallowood Chef and Sr. Associate for his service of 25 years. We thanked Bishop Graham for his time with us as Pastor-In-Residence. We walked with a former staff person and spouse of Deacon, Sofia Chatos, during her extended illness and then passing from this earthly life.

Thank you again for your support during these times and your love and care for Deacon.

One of my greatest blessings is to be surrounded by such dedicated servants of God. Their witness is sheer grace.

So these are just some highlights of the 2024-25 program year. Is this report exhaustive – in no way. Each of these staff people and many ministry partners, and you made this mission outreach possible.

As we said at the beginning, St John says, “from the fullness of Jesus Christ, we have received grace upon grace.

Indeed, we have. Indeed, we have.

Thank you for sharing that grace.

Now please watch as the names of this wonderful team scroll on your screen

**Saint Luke Lutheran Church, School, Hallowood
Conference Center, La Sagrada Familia
Staff/Staff Partners
2024-25**

CHURCH

CARLOS ESQUIVEL Hallowood)	Campus Associate/Groundskeeper (also Hallowood)
ALIX EVANS	Assistant Director of Music
ADAM SCOTT GRAHAM	Director of Music
MELISSA GROEN	Director Children's Ministries
RUTH MANCHESTER	Parish Nurse, Director of Caring Ministries
PASTOR CONNIE A. MILLER	Senior Pastor
PASTOR GARY NUSS	Support Pastor
PASTOR ELIZABETH PLATZ	Teaching Pastor
DAN THOMAS	IT Assist/Sharing Editor
NATALIE UGARTE	Administrative Assistant
DEACON KYLE WARFIELD Ministries	Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries
PASTOR RICH ZAWISTOSKI	Confirmation Pastor

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

MARGARET DICKINSONSEIFERT Administrative Assistant

MARY GONZALEZ Teacher

MINDY GIBBS Teacher

BETSY HATCHER Teacher

LAURA HEINLE Teacher

TRACY KINGCADE Director, CDS

SAMANTHA LOUFIK Teacher

ASHLEY MARCHIONINI Teacher

GENEVA MCNEILL Teacher

DEACON LINDA PANNEBAKER Music Resource

LOLA POWELL Administrative Assistant (Spring
2025)

CLAIRE PRETZFELDER Teacher

KAREN RIEDLINGER Teacher

BLANCA SEGURA Teacher

KAREN YEP Teacher

HALLOWOOD

EMMA HOLMQUIST	Registration
HOWARD HARRIS	Sr. Associate/Chef
NANCY GURGANUS	Art Teacher Volunteer

LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

SULEYMA ALFARO	La Sagrada Coordinator Activities Campus Associate/ Food Services Associate
PASTOR MANUEL CACERES	La Sagrada Supply Pastor

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

RICK AHLBERG	Treasurer
ADRIANNE BELL	Payroll Administrator
JUAN BONILLA	Campus Associate
KAREN EVANS	Asst. Financial Secretary
SCOTT MCKAY	Financial Secretary
DIANE VAN LONKHUYZEN	Food Services Sr. Consultant
GERSON VASQUEZ	Campus Associate
ANDREW VIGLIOTTA	IT Associate
ARTURO VILLARROEL	Building Services

Again, thank YOU for sharing that grace.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

Appendix B – Proposed Budgets

5/27/2025 03:39p	Saint Luke Lutheran Church					
	GENERAL FUND					
Account	Actual Last Year	Budget This Year	YTD Actual	Budget for Remaining Months	Year End Projection	Budget Next Year
Fund 01, GENERAL FUND						
Income Accounts (Type 5)						
OFFERINGS:	702,468	750,100	553,096	149,915	703,011	765,500
OTHER INCOME:	123,452	84,400	77,615	3,840	81,455	91,900
Total Income:	825,920	834,500	630,711	153,755	784,466	857,400
Expense Accounts (Type 6)						
BENEVOLENCE:	116,955	124,620	80,367	40,542	120,909	126,160
PROGRAMS:	27,349	37,591	27,979	2,601	30,580	37,191
ROSTERED SALARY:	264,903	272,275	226,130	46,214	272,344	260,679
LAY SALARIES:	201,811	184,719	167,710	30,964	198,674	204,332
PROPERTY:	82,980	74,834	78,513	22,056	100,569	76,609
UTILITIES:	59,503	48,300	45,934	5,094	51,028	56,250
ADMINISTRATION:	93,638	91,950	90,519	2,728	93,247	95,850
Total Expense:	847,139	834,289	717,152	150,199	867,351	857,071
Income less Expense:	-21,219	211	-86,441	3,556	-82,885	329
Total Income less Expense:	-21,219	211	-86,441	3,556	-82,885	329

5/27/2025
03:40p

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
HALLOWOOD FUND

Account	Actual Last Year	Budget This Year	YTD Actual	Budget for Remaining Months	Year End Projection	Budget Next Year
Fund 03, HALLOWOOD						
Income Accounts (Type 5)						
OTHER INCOME:	22,278	23,000	16,781	3,977	20,758	21,972
USER FEES:	266,042	288,500	231,278	41,552	272,830	310,000
Total Income:	288,320	311,500	248,059	45,529	293,588	331,972
Expense Accounts (Type 6)						
PROGRAMS:	32,140	34,500	30,863	8,410	39,273	38,000
ROSTERED SALARY:	12,027	15,560	12,967	2,593	15,560	15,949
LAY SALARIES:	148,163	142,974	127,350	24,212	151,562	155,470
PROPERTY:	51,382	47,550	33,618	9,752	43,370	48,360
UTILITIES:	27,205	25,970	24,779	2,964	27,743	28,540
ADMINISTRATION:	1,172	1,100	1,356	315	1,671	1,750
Total Expense:	272,089	267,654	230,933	48,246	279,179	288,069
Income less Expense:	16,231	43,846	17,126	-2,717	14,409	43,903
Total Income less Expense:	16,231	43,846	17,126	-2,717	14,409	43,903

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03:37p

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Account	Actual Last Year	Budget This Year	YTD Actual	Budget for Remaining Months	Year End Projection	Budget Next Year
Fund 06, CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL						
Income Accounts (Type 5)						
OTHER INCOME:	5,644	-12,000	-12,112	216	-11,896	-25,000
USER FEES:	310,307	567,000	411,766	-1,137	410,629	646,000
Total Income:	315,951	555,000	399,654	-921	398,733	621,000
Expense Accounts (Type 6)						
PROGRAMS:	7,520	54,000	22,438	36,280	58,718	58,000
LAY SALARIES:	343,102	489,500	407,804	36,080	443,884	549,925
PROPERTY:	311	6,000	0	-9,741	-9,741	
ADMINISTRATION:	8,624	11,200	8,480	3,213	11,693	11,940
Total Expense:	359,557	560,700	438,722	65,832	504,554	619,865
Income less Expense:	-43,606	-5,700	-39,068	-66,753	-105,821	1,135
Total Income less Expense:	-43,606	-5,700	-39,068	-66,753	-105,821	1,135