



Central Lutheran Church

Annual Report for 2024

**CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – Provost, Alberta
ANNUAL MEETING – January 26th, 2025**

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Devotion
3. Consideration of Agenda
4. Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting (p. 2)
5. Old Business
 - A.
 - B.
6. Correspondence
 - A. Bishop's Letter (p. 3)
 - B.
7. Reports – the following reports to be adopted in one motion
 - A. Committees
 - i. Mission and Outreach (p. 5)
 - ii. Worship (p. 6)
 - a) Attendance Record for 2024 (p. 7)
 - b) Servants List (p. 8)
 - iii. Sunday School Superintendent/Education (p. 10)
 - iv. Property (p. 11)
 - v. Cemeteries - Skyline Historical Society (p. 12)
 - B. Treasurer's
 - i. Fund Report (p. 13)
 - ii. Financial Statement (p. 14)
 - C. Chairperson's (p. 16)
 - D. Pastor's (p. 17)
8. 2025 Proposed Budget (p. 18)
9. Nominations and Elections (p. 19)
 - A. Church Council (1x2 year term, 1x1 year term, and 4x3 year terms available)
10. New Business
 - A. Date of 2026 Annual Meeting
 - B.
 - C.
11. Closing Devotion
12. Lord's Prayer
13. Adjournment

Central Lutheran Church
Annual General Meeting – January 28, 2024

Members Present:

Susan McElhinney	Donna Johnston	Norma Paulgaard
Carol Paulgaard	Darlene Downing	Alyssa Rab
Kaylee Pylypow	Lauren Heck	Lorne Olson
Julie Olson	Carol Johnston	Floyd Johnston
Kim Larson	Deb Larson	Luce Golding
Dawn Paulgaard	Linda Aker	Cheryl Bouma
Deon Erasmus	Dick Brouwer	Elaine Brouwer
Ed Masson	Marie-Lucie Gendron	Trevor Provick

Meeting Called to Order at 10:54 a.m. by Vice-Chair Susan McElhinney

Motion: to approve agenda, by Kim , seconded by M.L., carried.

Motion: to approve Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting, by Trevor, seconded by Ed, carried.

Motion: to accept the annual committee reports, by Norma ,seconded by M.L., carried.

Request to have weekly update of information via email, text and/or What'sApp. Council to implement.

Motion: to accept the 2024 Proposed Budget, by Deon, seconded by Trevor, carried.

Nominated for church council: Melanie McGowan, Darlene Downing, Ruth Pahlke, acclaimed.

Motion: to cease nominations, by Darlene, seconded by Carol, carried.

Nominated to attend Synod Convention 2024: Paul McCormick

Motion to approve Paul McCormick as delegate to National Convention 2025, by Paul, seconded by M.L., carried.

Motion: to set Date for 2025 Annual Meeting as January 19, by Kim, seconded by Darlene, carried.

Motion: to adjourn, by M.L., seconded by Deb, carried at 11:26 a.m.

January 2025

Grace and peace to you from Jesus who loves us.

It's AGM season and congregations will be sitting down together to undertake visioning, discussion and decisions for the upcoming year. While sometimes it may seem like the same old thing year after year, we must remember that motions, budgets and voting are also a ministry of stewardship as we bridge where we have come from, and the future God is leading us into.

Many years ago, when the journey to seminary began, there appeared a card in our church mailbox. It was from an elderly woman of the congregation, Helen. It was a card of encouragement for Ken and I and the journey of ministry before us. Included in the card was five dollars. It may not sound like much, but it had a powerful impact on us both. That first contribution taught us that ministry is not of our own doing but is the love and care of us together passed from one generation to the next.

Think about Helen as you plan to meet. Helen, who contributed to the work of the church, work from which she wasn't likely to directly benefit. Helen knew however, that ministry wasn't about her or even Ken and I, but about tomorrow. She understood she was included in the need to steward the future of ministry for arriving generations.

Some congregations will be facing difficult decisions this AGM. It may be a ministry transition, another year without a minister and in some cases even the decision to sell a church property. Those are just the practical ones. There are also faith challenges too. Times when we feel the pain of decline or continuing conflict, we may feel somewhat hopeless or doubting if God is even around.

We are at a crossroads in North American life today. It may feel that much is at stake. We might be tempted to cling tenaciously to what we have left. So, I remind you that God is a generous God. God is a future God. God has already given us what we need to continue in the life of faith.

How will you be a steward at your AGM? Perhaps you could make time to give thanks for those who came before, purchased land, fostered Sunday schools and building projects, those who stepped into an unknown future with hope but no certainty. How will you ensure the future of ministry, even if you or your membership does not directly benefit?

For those of you who will attend your AGM – thank you for the gift of your presence. For those of you who will hear and accept the call to serve in leadership – thank you for



listening. To those of you who cannot be present – hear the call to pray for your church family. For those who face difficult decisions – remember you are not alone.

I pray that we will remember that we are larger than our individual congregations and I trust that God will bless you as you meet together.

In Christ,

Bishop Trish

+The Rev. Trish Schmermund, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Spirit-Led Leadership Hope-Filled Discipleship Innovative Tradition Collaborative Partnerships

Mission & Outreach Review

2024

Spring's Great Giveaway and Community Garage Sale was held on May 3, 2024 in the Basement of the church. Participation and attendance was very good. The unclaimed items were boxed up and taken to a second-hand store.

Thank you to Pastor Paul and all who donated, organized and helped on the day of the sale.

Cookies and bits and bites were packaged and taken to the RCMP and Firehall. Thank you to Susan for delivering the goodies.

Fall's Great Giveaway and Community Garage Sale was held on Sept 6, 2024 in the church parking lot. Participation and attendance was very good. Any unclaimed items were taken to the second-hand store downtown.

Thank you to Pastor Paul and all who donated, organized and helped on the day of the sale.

Our Silent Auction and Potluck was held on Nov. 24, 2024. The theme was Christmas consumables. So many wonderful goodies! Monies raised went to the Food Bank and CLWR. Thank you to all who donated, organized and participated.

Respectfully submitted

Melanie Hilt-McGowan
Antoinette Erasmus

Central Lutheran Church
Worship Committee Report – 2024

As we look back on another year, we are so grateful for the members of our congregation who willingly give their time in the operation of our church; from the regular Sunday service duties to the serving of funerals, and hosting visitors in our church for special events like Grief Share, Bible Study, and VBS. We are truly blessed to have Pastor Paul as our shepherd, leading us by example with all the many services he provides to our church and community.

Please continue to pray for our Church and all it's programs for 2025 and our faithful Pastor and congregation as we serve God in the upcoming year.

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

Church Attendance 2024

(website service usage in brackets)		<i>(italics indicates Holy Communion)</i>		
<u>Sundays</u>	* - pastor's vacation or illness	X – council choice, no in-person		
Jan 7 – 38 (2)	Jan 14 – 22 (8)	Jan 21* – (8)	Jan 28 – 40 (2)	
Feb 4 – 28 (4)	Feb 11 – 45 (3)	<i>Feb 18 – 48 (6)</i>	Feb 25 – 39 (2)	
Mar 3 – 17 (7)	Mar 10 – 21 (4)	<i>Mar 17 – 46 (3)</i>	Mar 24 – 39 (3)	Mar 31 – 95 (3)
Apr 7 – 42 (3)	Apr 14 – 34 (12)	<i>Apr 21 – 44 (2)</i>	Apr 28 – 43 (3)	
May 5 – 51 (1)	May 12 – 49 (4)	<i>May 19 – 36 (0)</i>	May 26 – 46 (1)	
Jun 2 – 104 (4)	Jun 9 – 27 (10)	<i>Jun 16 – 33 (4)</i>	Jun 23 – 22 (10)	<i>Jun 30 – 23 (5)</i>
Jul 7* – (10)	Jul 14* – (14)	Jul 21* – (9)	<i>Jul 28 – 25 (0)</i>	
Aug 4 – 25 (8)	<i>Aug 11 – 34 (3)</i>	<i>Aug 18 – 30 (8)</i>	<i>Aug 25 – 30 (2)</i>	
Sep 1 – 32 (5)	Sep 8 – 46 (1)	<i>Sep 15 – 33 (5)</i>	Sep 22 – 37 (5)	<i>Sep 29 – 32 (6)</i>
Oct 6 – 46 (1)	Oct 13 – 57 (6)	<i>Oct 20 – 30 (5)</i>	Oct 27 – 50 (7)	
Nov 3 – 52 (0)	Nov 10 – 38 (3)	<i>Nov 17 – 43 (2)</i>	Nov 24 – 48 (1)	
Dec 1 – 55 (2)	Dec 8 – 40 (2)	<i>Dec 15 – 53 (4)</i>	Dec 22 – 87 (2)	<i>Dec 29 – 20 (2)</i>
In-person:	48 services	HC: 28 services	Virtual:	52 services
Attendance	2024 Avg. - 41	2023 avg. - 41	2022 avg. - 36	2021 avg. - 31
	Virtual Avg. - 5	2023 V.avg. - 5	2022 V.avg. - 6	2021 V.avg. - 8
<u>Midweek - Lent</u>				
Feb 21 – 21	Feb 28 – 19	Mar 6 – 19	Mar 13 – 14	Mar 20 – 22
	2024 avg. - 19	2023 avg. - 24	2022 avg. - 19	2021 avg. - 11
	No virtual in '24	Virtual avg. - 2	Virtual avg. - 0	Virtual avg. - 1
<u>Midweek Festival</u>				
Ash Wednesday	Good Friday	Easter Vigil Sat.	C-mas Eve (Tue)	
Feb 14 – 19	Mar 29 – 70	X	Dec 24 – 163	
<u>Christmas/Easter</u>	2024	2023	2022	2021
Easter Sunday	95	93	76	40
Christmas Eve	163	125	110	109

2025 – 2026 Servants List

Date	Servant	Reader	Date	Servant	Reader
Jan. 26	Rod & Joanne Paulgaard	Brad Pylypow	* July 13	Whidden Family	Darlene Downing
*Feb. 2	Kris & Tara Mills	Kris Mills	July 20	Virtual Service	
Feb. 9	Whidden Family	Darlene Downing	July 27	Virtual Service	
* Feb. 16	Tom & Diana Kroetsch	Diana Kroetsch	Aug. 3	Virtual Service	
Feb. 23	Trevor & ML Provick	Vivian Baier	* Aug. 10	Lorne & Julie Olson	Lorne Olson
* Mar. 2	Gary & Donna Johnston	Donna Johnston	*Aug. 17	Val Paulgaard & Darlene Downing	Darlene Downing
Mar. 9	Norris & Ruth Pahlke	Ruth Pahlke	*Aug. 24	Tom & Diana Kroetsch	Diana Kroetsch
* Mar. 16	Melanie McGowan & Susan McElhinney	Susan McElhinney	*Aug. 31	Trevor & ML Provick	Vivian Baier
Mar. 23	Elton & Linda Paulgaard	Linda Paulgaard	* Sept. 7	Gary & Donna Johnston	Donna Johnston
* Mar. 30	Brad & Cindy Pylypow	Brad Pylypow	Sept. 14	Lloyd Family	Stacy Lloyd
* Apr. 6	Lauren & Nathan Heck	Lauren Heck	*Sept.21	Norris & Ruth Pahlke	Ruth Pahlke
Apr. 13	Stephen & Karen Paulgaard	Darlene Downing	Sept. 28	Melanie McGowan & Susan McElhinney	Susan McElhinney
* Apr. 20	Ed & Connie Mason	Ed Mason	*Oct. 5	Elton & Linda Paulgaard	Linda Paulgaard
Apr. 27	Andrew & Alyssa Rab	Alyssa Rab	Oct. 12	Ken & Diane Berg	Ken Berg
* May 4	Spencer Family	Spencer Family	*Oct. 19	Lauren & Nathan Heck	Lauren Heck
May 11	Lloyd Family	Stacy Lloyd	Oct. 26	Darlene Downing	Darlene Downing
* May 18	Darlene Downing & Val Paulgaard	Darlene Downing	*Nov. 2	Ed & Connie Mason	Ed Mason
May 25	Vivian & David Baier	Vivian Baier	Nov. 9	Stephen & Karen Paulgaard	Diana Kroetsch
* Jun. 1	Levi & Joelle Paulgaard	Donna Johnston	*Nov. 16	Andrew & Alyssa Rab	Alyssa Rab
Jun. 8	Ken & Diane Berg	Ken Berg	Nov. 23	Spencer Family	Spencer Family
* Jun. 15	Dirk & Elaine Brouwer	Dirk Brouwer	*Nov. 30	Vivian & David Baier	Vivian Baier
Jun. 22	John & Brenda Sullivan	Brenda Sullivan	*Dec. 7	Deon & Antoinette Erasmus	Deon Erasmus
* Jun. 29	Deon & Antoinette Erasmus	Deon Erasmus	Dec. 14	Lorne & Julie Olson	Lorne Olson
* July 6	Kris & Tara Mills	Kris Mills			

Date	Servant	Reader			
*Dec. 21	Donna & Gary Johnston	Donna Johnston			
<u>2026</u>	Dirk & Elaine Brouwer	Dirk Brouwer			
* Jan. 4					
Jan. 11	Levi & Joelle Paulgaard	Darlene Downing			
*Jan. 18	Elton & Linda Paulgaard	Linda Paulgaard			
Jan. 25	Brad & Cindy Pylypow	Brad Pylypow			

SS SUPERINTENDENT / EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2024

Sunday school resumed in January 2024 with the curriculum “Holy Moly” with congregational members instructing, along with four craft Sundays. On June 2nd we combined the Sunday School wrap up with Confirmation Sunday when we celebrated seven young people into the faith affirmation. A wonderful potluck dinner was enjoyed by all and there was a swim party at the pool for the young kids and their families in the afternoon.

Our VBS took place August 19-23rd and 98+ children were shown how they could “dive into a friendship with God”. Central Lutheran became an underwater wonderland as our VBS team displayed their awesome talent and dedication to this outreach that touches so many children in our community.

Sunday school classes began again in September with 11 children ranging in ages from 5 to 11. No confirmation class started this fall.

Stacy Lloyd worked her magic to create a wonderful Christmas performance on December 22nd. The children joined the adult choir for a song, “What Did the Star See? The blend of the voices was truly magical and heartwarming. Then we were inspired by the story behind the Christmas carol favourite, Silent Night. After service, we enjoyed the fellowship that only a potluck can provide.

Thank you to everyone for their talents, time and dedication to nurturing faith in our children and youth.

1 Peter 4:10 – Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.

Respectfully submitted:

Sherrilyn Spencer – SS Superintendent

Linda Aker Paulgaard

Central Lutheran Church
2024 Property Committee Report
Ken Berg & Ed Masson

We did not incur any significant repair or maintenance items in 2024. Our snow removal and grass cutting was looked after by two local contractors, who did an excellent job. The following are specific items that were looked after or organized by committee members.

- A new janitor(Tina Peterson) was hired in April.
- The annual church yard clean up was held in early May.
- In June, Ken sprayed weeds around the church and met with a Town of Provost employee to put burn off chemicals down the church septic system to remove roots that are impacting the sewer pipes. This will need to be done every year.
- A new vacuum cleaner was purchased in July.
- In early summer, repairs were made to the mantle in the fireplace room, as it had come loose from the wall. Thanks for the great work, Trevor.
- In August, Ken sprayed weeds around the church.
- In October we switched our church internet service provider from Telus to SwiftNet. The resulting increase in upload speed/bandwidth will allow funerals and other events to be live streamed from our church.
- In November the leaves were cleaned out of the parking lot.

Skyline Church Historical Society Annual Report – 2024

Skyline Church Historical Society (SCHS) recommended Stacey Lakevold be hired to mow the grass and maintain the cemetery grounds at the Skyline Cemetery for 2024. He has submitted an invoice for his maintenance hours directly to the Provost Central Lutheran Church.

There was one burial at Skyline Cemetery during 2024: Ken Stuber (August). In accordance with the Provost Central Lutheran Church Cemeteries Bylaw #7 all record keeping and plot purchases were handled by the Provost Central Lutheran Church and Gregory's Funeral Home.

The installation of new siding has been scheduled for spring of 2025. The siding supplies for the Skyline Church building have already been purchased with the proceeds from the January 2022 Casino.

Thanks to the continuing work and dedication of Iris Larson and Janet Paulgaard all known burials at Skyline Cemetery are recorded on the website findagrave.com and most headstones have been photographed. A short history of Skyline Cemetery is also on this website. Janet Paulgaard has updated the burial list to include the 2024 burials.

SCHS is a registered Alberta Society and is governed by a four person executive. Current executive members are:

Chairperson	Blaine Lakevold
Vice – Chair	Darwin Berg
Treasurer	Joan Olson
Secretary	Jody Paulgaard

Submitted by:

Jody Paulgaard

Secretary

Skyline Church Historical Society (SCHS)

BMO Funds **December 31, 2024**

BMO FUNDS (Worship Enhancement)

2023 Balance Forward	\$ 40,550.62
2024 Interest	3,659.87
Carpet/Building	4,050.00
2024 Memorials	1,195.00
2024 Honorariums	1,300.00
2024 Our Saviour's Maintenance	(10,345.00)
2024 Our Saviour's Donation/Memorials	16,150.00
2024 Skyline Maintenance	(990.00)
2024 Skyline Plots	1,000.00
2024 Skyline Donation/Memorials	<u>1,820.00</u>

BMO Fund Balance at December 31, 2024

\$58,390.49

** These Funds are included in the total BMO Fund Balance above:

Skyline Cemetery Fund

2023 Balance Forward	\$ 6,628.00
2024 Plot Sales	1,000.00
2024 Maintenance	(990.00)
2024 Donation/Memorials	<u>1,820.00</u>
	\$ 8,458.00

Our Saviour's Cemetery Fund

2023 Balance Forward	\$ 5,519.53
2024 Maintenance	(10,345.00)
2024 Donation/Memorials	<u>16,150.00</u>
	\$ 11,324.53

Carpet Fund

2023 Balance Forward	\$ 9490.00
2024 Donations	<u>4,050.00</u>
	\$ 13,540.00

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Financial Statement
January 1 - December 31, 2024

Income

Current Envelopes		\$ 128,443.00
Synod Benevolence		
Benevolence/Alberta	\$ 4,790.00	
CLWR	15,930.00	
CLWR/Emergency Relief	<u>860.00</u>	21,580.00
Loose Offerings		2,536.00
SS & VBS Offering		1,195.00
Other:		
Interest	\$ 11.67	
Funeral Lunches	2,000.00	
Choir Income	955.00	
Janitor Reimburse	250.00	
Lent	750.00	
Silent Auction	1,013.50	
Girl Guides/Building Use	720.00	
Hymnal	50.00	
Skyline Lease	1.00	
Skyline Plot Sale	<u>1,000.00</u>	6,751.17
Donations to:		
Our Saviour's	\$ 50.00	
Carpet	4,050.00	
Pleasant Ridge	600.00	
Skyline	700.00	
Food Bank	<u>2,850.00</u>	8,250.00
Honorariums		1,300.00
BMO: Skyline Yard/Our Savior's Yard/Maintenance		11,335.00
Memorials:		
V. Larson	\$ 75.00	
D. Bertschi	775.00	
B. Varty	25.00	
K. Larson	8,475.00	
K. Stuber	1,120.00	
H. & G. Larson	840.00	
M. Mielke	75.00	
R. & K. Helander	<u>150.00</u>	<u>11,535.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME		<u>\$ 192,925.17</u>

Expenses

Salary/Receiver General		\$ 72,236.54
Health & Dental		6,000.00
Pension, Group Benefits, CEP, & Book Allowance		11,699.20
Car Expense		0.00
Parsonage Repair & Maintenance		5,122.66
Parsonage Utilities:		
EPCOR	\$ 2,449.79	
DERS	1,383.38	
Telus	1,747.68	
Water	<u>888.81</u>	6,469.66
Synod:	Benevolence/AB	\$ 4,790.00
	CLWR	15,930.00
	CLWR-Emergency Rel.	<u>860.00</u>
		21,580.00
Janitor/Yard		7,150.00
Sunday School		400.32
Vacation Bible School		3,760.83
Church Utilities:		
Telus	\$ 1,033.14	
EPCOR	6,903.32	
DERS	3,599.33	
Water/Garbage	<u>1,220.67</u>	12,756.46
GST Paid		1,487.13
Repair & Maintenance		3,622.80
Office Supplies		2,019.29
Other:		
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 694.25	
Envelopes	291.64	
Choir Music	634.72	
Advertising	784.00	
Convention Fee	554.18	
Miscellaneous	<u>776.72</u>	3,735.51
Insurance		7,859.00
Our Saviour's Yard Maintenance/Site Prep/Monuments		10,344.31
Skyline Yard Maintenance		990.00
Invest in BMO/Worship Enhancement		18,635.00
Donations to: Ministerial Food Bank/Pleasant Ridge		<u>3,450.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$ 199,318.71</u>

BANK RECONCILIATION – 2024

December 31, 2023 Balance Forward	\$ 27,064.57
Plus: 2024 Income	<u>192,925.17</u>
	219,989.74
Less: 2024 Expenses	<u>199,318.71</u>
Balance at December 31, 2024	<u>\$ 20,671.03</u>

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Paulgaard-Johnston, Treasurer

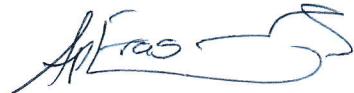
Annual Report 2024

As we reflect on the past year, I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow council members—whether your terms are concluding or continuing—for your unwavering dedication and service. I am equally thankful to our congregation for your steadfast support and engagement, which have been vital to our shared mission and ministry.

I also want to recognize the many individuals and groups whose contributions have made a lasting impact this year. To our Sunday School volunteer teachers, Vacation Bible School volunteers and teachers, Choir members, the Cemeteries Committee, Ladies Serving Groups, special event volunteers, Donna, our dedicated treasurer, and all committee members—thank you for sharing your time, talents, and energy in service to our congregation and the wider community.

A special acknowledgment goes to Pastor Paul for his extraordinary commitment and service that consistently goes above and beyond expectations. His remarkable efforts in community outreach have been a true blessing. Pastor Paul's passion for fostering meaningful connections, organizing impactful events, and addressing the needs of our neighbors has greatly enriched our church's mission. His dedication exemplifies compassionate leadership and embodies the love of Christ, strengthening the bonds within both our congregation and the broader community. We are deeply grateful for his tireless work and servant-hearted example.

Your generosity and commitment truly reflect the spirit of Christ's love. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of God's people, and for that, I am deeply grateful.



Respectfully submitted,
Antoinette Erasmus
Chairperson, Provost Central Lutheran Church

Pastor's Report for 2024

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'" (Matthew 11:16-17)

With a new regime down south and the prospect of a new regime in our country, we are guaranteed to fulfill the Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times!" Regardless, we have the tasks that God has given us to do in front of us, and they provide a solid foundation in "interesting times." Here are the highlights of our past year together in ministry:

Outreach:

Our signature event for outreach was Vacation Bible School in August, "SCUBA", and the response by the community was excellent, with attendance near 90 children per day, and many volunteers from outside the congregation. We held Free Garage Sales in both May (indoors) and September (outdoors), and many people found them valuable. We started a weekly GriefShare meeting in October for those who have recently lost loved ones – it will run until February and if the demand is there, we will offer it again in 2025. And we continued to offer the use of our building to the Girl Guides and the Music Festival Association.

Wider Church:

Synod Convention was held from June 22-24 at Kings in Edmonton, at which we elected a new synod bishop Trish Schermund on the third ballot. Your delegates to this convention were Vivian Baier and myself. National Convention will be held July 10-13, 2025, and that will include the election of a new national bishop, as Bishop Susan Johnson has announced her retirement.

Education:

Massive thanks to our Sunday School superintendent, teachers, parents, and volunteers for their efforts in continuing to make Sunday School possible, this is a critical ministry! On June 2, we confirmed Tenley Kostiuk, Violet McElhinney, Adam Petersen, Lena Spencer, Maxwell Spencer, Colton Swanson, and Grenville Swanson in their Lutheran faith. Confirmation class is now on hiatus, waiting for students to reach the appropriate age. Bible study is ongoing at the nursing home, and on Wednesday evenings.

Worship:

Average Sunday morning worship attendance for 2023 held the line at 41, no change from last year but still down from our 2019 pre-pandemic average of 55. Pre-recorded services were provided every week on the website (including Sundays where there was no in-person service due to vacation), and on average they were accessed by 5 devices before Sunday noon. Our Lenten sermon series was on the Fruits of the Spirit, as described by Paul in his letter to the Galatians, and attendance at the midweek Lenten soup suppers and services averaged 19. We mourned the loss of Kim Larson in 2024, and I presided at sixteen other funerals and interments in the community. I also presided at two weddings of people not attached to our congregation. Shockingly, there were no baptisms in our congregation in 2024 – your pastor needs to get busy!

Property:

No major issues came up at either the church or the parsonage – thank you, Jesus!

Personal:

Thank you for your support of my work with the Provost Ministerial Food Bank, and with services and bible studies for the wider community! And thank you for your prayers for my family, it is much felt and much appreciated!

Outlook:

As Jesus said to his disciples, "In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" - we always have cause for optimism! As the wider world becomes more complicated, and the contrast between the darkness of the world and the light of Christ increases, we are hopeful that the Gospel message will have even greater impact on our wider community. May God guide us in 2025, such that His love, grace, and truth are obvious in everything we do, and to everyone we encounter...

Yours in Christ,



Central Lutheran Church
Proposed 2025 Budget

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Actual '24</u>	<u>Budget '24</u>	<u>Proposed '25</u>
Salary	\$ 66,793.50	\$ 66,793.50	\$ 68,576.00
Car Expense	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Receiver General	5,443.04	5,340.00	5,590.00
ELCIC Pension & Benefits	10,599.20	10,860.00	11,500.00
CEP	600.00	600.00	600.00
Book Allowance	500.00	500.00	500.00
Pulpit Supply	0.00	400.00	400.00
Conferences & Convention	239.18	500.00	500.00
Parsonage	5,122.66	7,500.00	7,500.00
Parsonage Utilities	6,469.66	8,500.00	8,500.00
Dental & Medical	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>6,564.00</u>
	\$ 101,767.24	\$ 107,993.50	\$ 111,230.00
Janitor/Yard Maintenance	\$ 7,150.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
Telephone	1,033.14	1,000.00	1,500.00
Office Supplies	2,019.29	2,000.00	2,000.00
SS & VBS	4,161.15	5,000.00	5,000.00
DERS	3,599.33	5,000.00	5,000.00
EPCOR	6,903.32	8,000.00	8,000.00
Water, Sewer, Garbage	1,220.67	1,600.00	1,600.00
Canada Lutheran	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repair & Maintenance	3,622.80	6,000.00	6,000.00
Conferences & Convention	315.00	500.00	500.00
Church Envelopes	291.64	300.00	300.00
Insurance	7,859.00	7,500.00	8,000.00
Advertising	784.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Choir Music	634.72	1,000.00	1,000.00
GST	1,487.13	1,500.00	1,500.00
Conference Dues	0.00	500.00	500.00
Miscellaneous	776.72	1,000.00	1,000.00
Educational Supplies	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Mission/Outreach	0.00	500.00	500.00
Kitchen Supplies	<u>694.25</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
	<u>\$42,552.16</u>	<u>\$ 48,900.00</u>	<u>\$ 53,400.00</u>
	<u>\$ 144,319.40</u>	<u>\$ 156,893.50</u>	<u>\$ 164,630.00</u>

Nomination Report 2024

Church Council

Terms expiring at this meeting (all ineligible for re-election):

Ken Berg
Antoinette Erasmus
Trevor Provick
Sherrilyn Spencer

Terms expiring in January 2026:

Donna Paulgaard-Johnson
Linda Aker
Ed Masson
1 vacancy

Terms expiring in January 2027:

Melanie Hilt-McGowan
Ruth Pahlke
Darlene Downing
1 vacancy

Thanks to our departing and ongoing Church Council members for all their work in 2024!

The following people have been identified as willing to serve a three-year term on council and are considered nominated by council:

Cheryl Bouma Deon Erasmus Susan McElhinney Brad Pylypow

Nominations to council will also be solicited during the Annual Meeting, for either vacancy on council with term expiring in 1 or 2 years, or for election to one of the four vacancies with standard 3 year terms. Please make sure when nominating that you have the permission of the person nominated, thanks!

2025 is a National Convention year in our three year cycle, and delegates have already been chosen for this convention through the Synod. No delegates are required for election at this Annual General Meeting.

Compiled by Paul McCormick

Opening Devotion for Annual General Meeting

Reading – Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Opening Prayer

Gracious Lord, we thank you that you have gathered this congregation around your Holy Word and Sacraments. Bless our ministry in this place and time. Help us to weep with those who suffer, and rejoice with those who are glad. Keep our testimony to your love effective in all that we say and do in your name. Direct us now, and make your presence known to us as we make decisions for the year ahead, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Closing Devotion for Annual General Meeting

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the vast array of gifts and talents that you have provided for this congregation through your Holy Spirit. We thank you for this time of deliberation and discussion on our shared ministry. Send us out re-energized for service in your name, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Table Grace for Potluck Lunch