

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving" (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



  
The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7



# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

**And also with you.**

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

**Amen.**

## Founded on Faith

1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—  
 2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.  
 3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.  
 4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,  
 5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,

pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - ry place.  
 Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.  
 Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,  
 we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;  
 we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.

The word of God re - sounds through time and space:  
 Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:  
 we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all,  
 a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.  
 Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!

Al - le - lu - ia!

*All Creation Sings*, 1048  
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## **2025 St. Mark's Annual Report**

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**St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting Agenda  
February 22, 2026  
11:15 AM**

1. Open with prayer
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of 2025 Congregational meeting minutes
  - a. Annual Meeting held 2/23/25
  - b. Election held 5/4/25
4. Reports: Pastor; President; Treasurer; Financial Secretary
5. Standing committees
  - A. Community Ministry
  - B. Evangelism
  - C. Facilities
  - D. Fellowship
  - E. Parish Education
  - F. Stewardship
  - G. Worship
  - H. Youth
6. Approval of 2026 Budget
7. Elect two members to 2026 Nominating Committee
8. Elect two members to represent St. Mark's at Synod Assembly
9. Set date for election meeting
10. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer

# **St. Mark's Church Annual Meeting**

## **Tuesday, February 23, 2025**

Church Council Members

President: Larrie Nichols

Vice President: Steve Benz

Treasurer: Dave Mindrup\*

Financial Secretary: Debbie Van Kempen

Secretary: Pam Thomas

Community Ministry: Joyce Johnson

Evangelism: Janie Best

Fellowship: Ali Luin

Parish Education: Mary Cobb\*

Stewardship: Joni Benz

Worship: Pam Wilson

Youth: Abby Polich

\*Members were not present at the meeting

The meeting was called to order at 11:22 AM by Larrie Nichols. There were 38 voting members in attendance.

### **Opening Devotions:**

Pastor Kris opened with a reading followed by prayer.

### **Agenda:**

A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Pastor Kris with a 2nd by Chris McMullin. Motion approved unanimously.

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting was made by Chris McMullin with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Darold Wulfekoetter. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes of the 2024 election meeting was made by Chris McMullin with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Darold Wulfekoetter. Motion approved unanimously.

### **Reports:**

The reports by Pastor, President, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary are printed in the annual report.

Nancy Bryer noted that Pastor's report was missing Emma Reddell's baptism and first communion. Thus, was corrected.

**Standing Committees:** The Standing Committees reports were all printed in the annual report.

### **New Business:**

#### **Budget:**

Contributions for 2024 were up 13.8% compared to 2023 primarily due to the appeals made by Council for designated offerings above and beyond their normal pledged giving for utilities, facilities, and ground maintenance. Those appeals will continue in 2025. There was a significant increase in insurance costs. We shopped around and picked State Farm to switch to for our coverage. Benevolence fell short of our 10% goal to the Central States Synod in 2024 giving only 6.5%. This was necessary to maintain a positive balance in our checking account. See Treasurer's report for a complete list of charities we give to. Total for all charities was 9.75%. 2025 proposed budget has a realistic number entered for benevolence to the Central States Synod. The CSS bases their budget on the numbers congregations provide to them. So, the Finance Committee felt that providing

them with a realistic number was the responsible thing to do. The Finance Committee tried to come up with a budget that was not much higher than the 2024 budget. By offsetting the increase in insurance costs with other cost savings including the benevolence to CSS. It is still our goal to give 10% to CSS. We did give 10% in January and February. Chose not to transfer the \$1,500 from the general fund to money market youth gathering in 2024 to conserve money and because the youth council representative did not request money in 2025 budget for this. Since St. Mark's youth did not attend the most recent youth gathering, the balance of the fund is \$14,909.

Chris McMullin moves to approve the 2025 budget with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janie Best. Motion approved unanimously.

**Nominating Committee:**

The representatives from the council will be Steve Benz and Joyce Johnson. Ali Luin nominated Julie Eiter that she would like to serve on the committee with a second by Chris McMullin. Motion approved unanimously. Frank Saunders nominated Char Saunders to serve on the committee with a second from Chris McMullin. Committee will meet within a week to select the chair for the committee. Motion approved unanimously.

**Date for Election:** The date for the election of council and committee members will be May 4, 2025.

**Nomination of Representatives to the Synod Assembly:**

We need two representatives (1 male and 1 female) to attend the online synod assembly to be held June 5-7, 2025.

Steve Benz nominated Don and Janet Anderson with a second from Joni Benz. Motion approved unanimously.

**General Discussion:**

Steve Benz wants to thank Larrie for his tremendous job for us as a congregation as a family. He has worked tirelessly. Lord knows he's busy already taking care of his lovely wife. And he puts every bit of extra time he has in something that having to do with St. Marks.

Don Anderson mentioned the helper in the audio booth is his grandson, Clayton. He is a full-time student, runs the sound and video systems for the Lansing High School band. And is a full-time musician as a drummer.

Chris McMullin moves to adjourn the meeting with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Frank Saunders. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Thomas

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Election Minutes**  
**May 4, 2025**

Meeting called to order at 11:15.

Council requirements in the Constitution for a Council person to serve read by Larry Nichols.

All the candidates the nominating committee has contacted have agreed with these. The candidates for office recommended are as follows:

Synod Assembly – Don and Janet Anderson  
Finance Committee – Jason Howe  
Audit Committee – Frank Saunders  
Youth Committee – Abby Polich  
Stewardship Committee – Dave Mindrup  
Evangelism – Nicole Moore  
Community Ministry – Janis Krevins  
Secretary – Marge Bot  
Treasurer – Joel Sorensen  
Vice President – Janie Best  
President – Chris McMullin

Call for nominations from the floor.

Don Anderson moved that the nomination cease, with a second by Jason Howe. Motion passed.

Motion to suspend the rule to require a vote by ballot by Darold with a second by Steve Benz. Motion passed.

Mary Mindrup moved that we vote by acclamation for all those nominated with a second by Joni Benz. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Chris McMullin with a second by Janie Best. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20.



## Pastor's 2025 Annual Report

\*\*\*\*\*

“Jesus said, ‘A give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’” John 13: 34-35

Dear friends in Christ;

One of the faith songs of my youth was “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love.” As I write this,, I can hear both the melody and the words about how the world will know that we are Christians by our love for God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and one another. It is a folk song about love, faith and service, three beautiful marks of discipleship.

It is a blessing to see each day how our congregation embodies the call of Jesus from John 13, that we are to love one another as He loves us. Thank you, good people of St. Mark’s for living out the great commandment of Jesus in our worship services, in Sunday School, Confirmation, VBS, choirs, puppets, quilting, committees, Council and service to the community. In 2025 we expanded our VBS ministry by partnering with Christ Community Church next door to us, and the results were beautiful. I think we had 100 people involved in VBS between kids, teen and adult helpers, food teams, etc. What a glorious week of celebrating and proclaiming the goodness of God with our neighbors. We plan to do this again in 2026 in June, join us if you can.

Our youth also continued their emphasis on service with making 200 sack lunches every month for Metro Lutheran Ministry (MLM) in KCMO. Every month 30 or more people of all ages join us in serving those in need by making the sack lunches. MLM needs 2,000 sack lunches every month and I’m thankful our congregation continues to support our youth in this important feeding ministry. Our youth and their families also both sponsored the Winter Apparel Drive for the MLM Christmas Store (951 winter items donated!) and served at the Christmas Store on December 12, with 35 of us serving as Christmas Store elves. We were blessed to be a part of helping over 1,200 families have Christmas again this year. Thank you for supporting the ministries of MLM!

Thanks be to God for all of you who share your gifts and talents in the congregation and out in the community. We are making a difference in peoples’ lives through sharing the love of Jesus through food, clothes, diapers, school supplies and more.

Thank you to our committee and Council members, it is a blessing to serve among you and watch the Holy Spirit work so powerfully through our worship services, Fellowship events and service days in the KC area through a variety of servant events/

Thank you to Tom our gifted organist who blesses us with beautiful music each week on the organ and piano. Thank you to Amanda and the Choir for blessing us with beautiful anthems. Thank you to Jane and the Handbells for songs of praise. Thank you to the LION puppeteers for fun faith filled messages. Thank you to Shondi for being the glue that holds our office together and for her gifts of technology that help so much with our weekly bulletins, email blasts and the Markings.

Thank you dear ones for the privilege of being your Pastor. It is an honor to preach, lead worship, visit the sick, teach Adult Sunday School, Confirmation, help with VBS, work with committees and serve on a Council of servant leaders. I’m blessed to know you. May God continue to bless and lead us in 2026 as we live and serve by the Great Commandment of Jesus, Love one another....

Blessings,  
Pastor Kris Dietzen

## 2025 Congregational Statistics

### Baptisms:

Rylan Mindrup Reddell—Feb. 16  
Charley Sue Weilert—Feb. 16  
Olivia Grace Dry—April 6  
Jameson Young—April 20  
Riley Spornitz—August 17

### First Communion- April 17

Kinlee Konrade—April 17  
Ella Polich—April 17

### Confirmation Sunday - April 27

Natalie Sublet

### New Members - June 28

Scott Enge  
Barbara, Warren and Wes Latham  
Sandra Price

### Funerals:

Greg Westbrook—Graveside at Johnson County Memorial Gardens—Sept, 5  
Celebration of Life at SMLC—Sept. 6  
Judith Weaver—Mount Moriah Cemetery—KCMO Oct. 17  
Michael Ortmann—Penwell Gabel Funeral Home—November 28

For membership statistics, please see the Evangelism Committee report

## 2025 President's Report

Dear St. Mark's Parishioners:

I had the privilege of serving as Council president beginning in July 2025. Thank you for your faith in me.

I rejoined Council after a long hiatus, and am happy to report that it is a friendly, functioning, efficient and dedicated leadership group.

As President, one of my main functions is to preside over meetings. This iteration of Council is productive, and works well. St. Mark's is in good hands. As I have learned, in a well-run organization, things just get done regardless of what management does. Our committee-and individual-level membership get things done!

Look around and you will see a vibrant worship atmosphere, full of music, puppetry, education, witness and preaching. Outside of the sanctuary we are involved in Christ's mission of peace and love throughout our community.

These things do not happen by accident-- our dedicated parishoners make them happen with the hard work of daily ministry.

I am therefore happy to say that so far my presidency has been uneventful-- because our good works continue to get accomplished by the people that make St. Mark's go.

Thank you to Pastor Kris and our professional staff: Tom and Shondi, for all of your hard work and individual ministry.

Thank you to all of our volunteers.

Thank you to my fellow council members.

God Bless everyone whose daily work helps St. Mark's spread the Gospel.

Yours In Christ,

Chris McMullin

President.

## 2025 Vice President's Report

Since assuming the office of Vice President of the St. Mark's church council, I have faithfully attended council meetings and supported the work of the council, staff, and good people of St. Mark's. In addition, I have assembled the following supports and supervised their activities.

- Assembled a staff committee consisting of former vice presidents that meets quarterly to address issues and concerns that support the staff. Many thanks to Mary Mindrup and Larrie Nichols for serving on the staff committee and guiding me through my first year!
- Assembled an IT committee for the purpose of addressing technical concerns that arise in the office, worship, etc.
- Assembled a subcommittee of the IT committee to address Audio-Visual (AV) issues that support our worship experience in person and online. This work is ongoing.
- Assembled a committee for the purpose of researching options and developing a plan for the restoration of the parking lot. This work is ongoing.
- Assembled a committee for the purpose of addressing housekeeping issues. This committee has worked to re-establish cleaning teams and a schedule for the regular cleaning of the church facility.

Many thanks to the fine and talented people who have agreed to serve on these committees!

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving the good people of St. Mark's! It is my pleasure to accompany you on this journey!

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22: 37-40

Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible”

Matthew 19: 26

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 3: 8-9

Respectfully submitted by,  
Janie Best

## 2025 Treasurer's Report

St. Mark's currently has the following financial accounts.

**General Fund (GF).** The Treasurer is responsible for paying the salaries and most of the church expenses from this fund. The Financial Secretary is responsible for seeing that offerings are received, counted, accounted for and deposited in this and other funds. The *2023/2024/2025 Income and Expense Comparison* table below provides a comparison of income and expenses for the last 3 years. The *2026 Budget* table, later in this report, provides a comparison of the 2025 approved budget, 2025 income and expenses, and 2026 proposed budget.

Historical information:

<b>General Fund Checking Account</b>						
<i>Year Ending</i>	<i>Contributions *</i>	<i>Contributions % Change To Previous Yr</i>	<i>-Expenses **</i>	<i>Expenses % Change To Previous Yr</i>	<i>=Contributions - Expenses</i>	<i>Ending Balance ***</i>
12/31/2025	284,610	-2.4%	(279,300)	0.4%	5,310	26,040
12/31/2024	291,708	13.8%	(278,323)	1.6%	13,385	20,730
12/31/2023	256,339	1.6%	(273,852)	2.9%	(17,513)	7,345

*\*2025 Contributions include \$15,395 in Designated Offerings rec'd for Utilities, Facilities, and Grounds Maintenance Appeals.*

*\*Noisy Offerings and One Time / Other net-zero account offerings are not included in Contributions and are also not budgeted.*

*\*\*Expenses do not include Noisy Offerings or One Time / Other net-zero account expenditures.*

*\*\*\*Ending Balance is the Reconciled balance which includes uncleared check deductions.*

Contributions were down 2.4% compared to 2024. Expenses were up by 0.4% compared to 2024 primarily due to Insurance Cost increases. See the Income and Expense Comparison table later in the Treasurer's Report for comparisons.

<b>*Net-Zero Accounts</b>				
<i>Year Ending</i>	<i>Noisy Offerings Rec'd</i>	<i>-Noisy Offerings Paid</i>	<i>One Time / Other Rec'd</i>	<i>-One Time / Other Paid</i>
12/31/2025	1,386	(1,386)	34,067	(34,067)
12/31/2024	1,277	(1,277)	15,235	(15,235)
12/31/2023	1,373	(1,373)	20,198	(20,198)

*\*Net-Zero account transactions are not budgeted and are not reflected in GF Contributions or Expenses.*

*\*Net-Zero accounts include things like Mtn of Food, Lenten Offerings, Staff Gifts, ELCA Disaster Relief and other designated gifts which are rec'd and paid out on a monthly basis.*

The 2025 Net-Zero Accounts One Time / Other amount is significantly higher than 2024 primarily due to significant Memorial, Playground, MLM Sack Lunch, and Confirmation Dinner donations. St Mark's contributed 3.2% of all General Fund offerings as Benevolence to Central States Synod in 2025. Designated gifts were given to various charities as listed below.

- \$8,683.00 Central States Synod: 3.2% of General Fund offerings
- \$3,904.94 Central States Synod (Lutheran Disaster Response)
- \$3,486.13 MLM Sack Lunches
- \$2,810.00 Olathe Food Pantry
- \$1,337.00 Center of Grace
- \$517.32 Wreaths Across America
- \$475.14 Olathe Animal Shelter
- \$104.94 UN Crisis Relief
- \$100.00 Hollis Center
- \$25.00 Happy Bottoms

*(continued on next page)*



**2025 Total Benevolence to Central States Synod and other Charities: \$21,443.47, which is 8.0% of undesignated General Fund offerings.**

**Money Market (MM) Checking Account.** This is our account to record the contributions and expenses for a long list of tracked funds. Currently, the treasurer is tracking transactions within these funds:

- MM Organ
- MM Memorials
- MM Music Bells/Singing Choir
- MM Interest
  
- MM Parish Ed-Library
- MM Parish Ed-Playground
- MM Audio / Visual
- MM-WINGS Womens Group
  
- MM Youth Gathering
- MM Youth-Youth Gen Acct
- MM Youth-Endowment Transfer
- MM Youth-Confirmation Dinners
- MM Youth Outreach (MLM Sack Lunch Program)

Please refer to the Detailed MM and BF Tracking Accounts table at the end of the Treasurer’s Report for the balances for the above funds. Expenditures are restricted to the purpose of each MM fund, as well as the BF discussed in the next section.

**Building Fund Checking Account (BF).** The BF is used to pay our Mission Investment Fund (MIF) mortgage each month. The 12/31/2025 Mortgage Fund ending balance of \$49,880 represents slightly under 6 months of future payments at \$8,392/month. The initial loan balance was \$1,397,487 on 11/24/2021. The outstanding loan balance as of 1/01/2026 was \$1,159,978. The monthly payment schedule allows for a 20-year payoff. The current interest rate of 3.875% is locked in until 11/24/2026 at which time the rate will change to the going interest rate, as determined by MIF.

Building Checking Account-Mortgage Account						
Year Ending	Contributions *	Contributions % Change To Previous Yr	-Expenses **	Expenses % Change To Previous Yr	Contributions - Expenses	Ending Balance
12/31/2025	95,824	-6.4%	(100,704)	0.0%	(4,880)	49,880
12/31/2024	102,341	-6.9%	(100,704)	-23.6%	1,637	54,760
12/31/2023	109,945	-24.5%	(131,845)	29.5%	(21,900)	53,123
*Contributions include interest.						
**Mortgage Expenses were down in 2024 due to the \$30,000 lump sum payment made in 2023.						

Mortgage account contributions were down 6.4% compared to 2024. Mortgage Fund expenses were unchanged from 2024.

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## 2023/2024/2025 Income and Expense Comparison

St Marks Lutheran Church Olathe KS		2023	2024	2025	
Acct	Account Name				2025 Comments
1010	Beginning Balance 1/1	\$ 24,858	\$ 7,345	\$ 20,730	
3101	Offerings/Contributions	256,339	291,712	284,610	2025 Offerings include \$15,395 in Designated Offerings for Utilities, Facilities, and Grounds Maintenance Appeals.
3120	GF Interest Earned	-	-	-	
	<b>Contributions/Additions</b>	256,339	291,712	284,610	2025 Offerings include \$15,395 in Designated Offerings for Utilities, Facilities, and Grounds Maintenance Appeals.
	<b>Benevolence</b>				
4015	Benevolence	25,899	17,865	8,683	Due to restricted General Funds for non discretionary expenses, only paid 4 months 10% benevolence to Synod.
	<b>Community Ministry</b>				
4005	Community Ministry	1	283	-	
4050	Community Care	-	-	-	
4380	Stephen Ministry	170	129	1,720	Paid for 1 Stephen Ministry Leader Training in 2025.
	<b>Facilities</b>				
4102	Insurance All	10,375	18,842	31,076	Significant increase in insurance costs in 2024, felt full 12 months of increase in 2025.
4103	Utility-Electric	12,923	14,061	14,805	2025 Utility Costs (Electricity, Gas, Water, Trash) up 8.5%
4104	Utility-Gas	4,103	3,193	3,937	
4105	Utility-Water/Sewer	4,696	4,825	5,560	
4106	Utility-trash / Other	1,867	909	649	
4108	Repairs //Maintenance	12,741	14,133	6,690	Approximately 4,000 of 2025 December work (invoiced received in January 2026). \$11,000 fire alarm panel replacement work began in 2025, finished in January 2026.
4109	Fire Service and PhoneLines	1,652	3,517	491	Significant cost in 2024 to fix fire alarm system false alarms.
4110	Maintenance and Supplies	643	432	814	
4111	Snow Removal	250	300	1,575	1 snow removal occurrence in 2024, 4 occurrences in 2025.
4114	Grounds Maintenance	6,598	6,500	7,796	Approximately \$1,800 tree trimming / removal expense in 2025.
4116	Organ	870	585	785	
4119	County or City tax or fe	40	80	-	
	<b>Worship</b>				
4210	Worship Supplies	3,200	2,845	3,028	
4230	Bell Choir Music / Suppl	-	-	-	
4290	Flower Expense	931	986	1,187	
3102	Flower Receipts	(1,040)	(930)	(1,165)	
4250	Copyright Fees	425	425	440	
4385	Puppet Ministry	-	-	-	
	<b>Evangelism</b>				
4315	Advertising / Web site	-	-	-	
4370	Evangelism / Mailings	-	-	-	
4375	Door Step/New Members	-	-	-	
	<b>Fellowship</b>				
4410	Refreshments Expense	-	169	718	
3111	Refreshments Receipts	-	-	(31)	
4440	Fellowship Programs	181	-	159	
	<b>Stewardship</b>				
4510	Stewardship Programs	-	-	-	
4520	Offering Envelopes	1,111	997	1,002	
	<b>Office</b>				
4610	Postage	19	71	52	
4620	Office Supplies	1,546	1,246	1,305	
4113	Copier or Printers	125	-	-	
4630	Internet Service	959	1,449	2,424	Comcast contract expired 6/30/25. \$200 month cost increase (4 months) while evaluating options / negotiating new contract. \$30 more per month for new contract.
4631	Information Technology	1,104	1,554	1,063	Saved: \$69 in 2025 w/switch from Breeze to Tithe.ly, more savings in 2026; \$300 InMotion Hosting / Backupplan is biennial that was paid in 2024 so no 2025 expense.
4640	Telephone	1,638	1,706	2,075	Included with 4630 Internet Service notes
4660	Library	-	-	-	
4670	Bank Charges or Expense	-	13	-	
4675	VANCO deposit costs	117	184	204	

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St Marks Lutheran Church Olathe KS					
		2023	2024	2025	
Acct	Account Name				2025 Comments
	<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>				
4710	Pastor Salary	63,968	66,015	67,665	2.5% salary increase approved at 2025 Congregational annual meeting.
4720	Housing	16,000	16,000	16,000	
4721	Utilities All	5,600	5,600	5,600	
4722	Furnishings	2,400	2,400	2,400	
4730	FICA	7,287	7,457	7,593	
4732	Payroll Service Expense	750	753	867	
4750	Pension / Med Ins Expens	28,482	28,727	23,849	Savings on Pastor Kris's medical benefits due to medicare cost savings.
4760	Auto	5,769	5,647	5,522	
4770	Continuing Education	2,775	-	2,828	There was a \$3,000 donation in 2024 to offset these costs.
4780	Professional Expense	213	116	-	
4785	Pastors Telephone	564	505	517	
4790	Pastor Misc	110	110	206	
4810	Worship Organist Salary	13,708	14,218	14,558	
4820	Worship Organist FICA	1,081	1,126	1,146	
4830	Office Support Salary	22,495	24,011	25,349	\$21 to \$22.50 per hour increase approved at 2025 Congregation annual meeting.
4831	Office Support Mileage	581	507	384	
4840	Office Support FICA	1,753	1,875	1,972	
4860	Supply Pastors	1,496	1,279	1,703	1 additional Sunday using Supply Pastor in 2025. Increase in Synod recommending fee per Service and mileage increase.
4910	Synod Assemblies	240	725	675	
5010	<b>Parish Ed &amp; Youth</b>				
5010	Parish Ed	3,771	4,994	3,424	Generally lower VBS, Confirmation, and Sunday School expenses.
5015	Youth	40	-	-	
5020	Youth Gathering	1,500	-	-	Not paid in 2025 due to low unrestricted funds balance, no immediate planned expenditures, good fund balance.
5510	Non-budgeted	125	-	-	
5800	5800 GF-Dir-Parish Ed Contributions/	-	(108)		
	<b>Expenses</b>	273,852	278,326	279,300	
	<b>Net Contributions-Expenses</b>	(17,513)	(3,967)	(10,086)	
	<b>Ending Acct Balance 12/31</b>	\$ 7,345	\$ 20,730	\$ 26,040	2025 Ending Balance includes \$15,395 in Designated Funds.

*(continued on next page)*

## 2026 Budget

St Marks Lutheran Church Olathe KS		Unrestricted General Fund			
Budget and Expenses Comparison		2025	2025	2026	
		Annual Budget	Income & Expenses	Proposed Budget	
Acct	Account Name				
1010	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	-na-	20,730	-na-	
3101	Offerings/Contributions	290,010	284,610	285,000	2025 Offerings include \$15,395 in Designated Offerings for Utilities, Facilities, and Grounds Maintenance Appeals.
3120	GF Interest Earned		-	-	
	<i>Contributions/Additions</i>	290,010	284,610	285,000	2025 Offerings include \$15,395 in Designated Offerings for Utilities, Facilities, and Grounds Maintenance Appeals.
	<b>Benevolence</b>				
4015	Benevolence	15,000	8,683	10,000	Budgeted realistic amount for Central States Synod budgeting purposes.
	<b>Community Ministry</b>				
4005	Community Ministry	600	-	500	
4050	Community Care	-	-	-	
4380	Stephen Ministry	1,500	1,720	350	
	<b>Facilities</b>				
4102	Insurance All	30,730	31,076	32,000	
4103	Utility-Electric	13,400	14,805	15,250	
4104	Utility-Gas	3,400	3,937	3,900	
4105	Utility-Water/Sewer	4,800	5,560	5,200	
4106	Utility-trash/ Other	700	649	900	
4108	Repairs //Maintenance	8,100	6,690	11,261	Significant increase in facility repairs and maintenance 2nd half of 2025.
4109	Fire Service and PhoneLines	1,650	491	1,700	
4110	Maintenance and Supplies	700	814	519	
4111	Snow Removal	1,500	1,575	1,275	
4114	Grounds Maintenance	6,500	7,796	7,300	
4116	Organ	725	785	615	
4119	County or City tax or fe	80	-	80	
	<b>Worship</b>				
4210	Worship Supplies	3,000	3,028	3,100	
4230	Bell Choir Music / Suppl	100	-	-	
4290	Flower Expense	1,000	1,187	1,100	
3102	Flower Receipts	(1,130)	(1,165)	(1,060)	
4250	Copyright Fees	425	440	440	
4385	Puppet Ministry	100	-	100	
	<b>Evangelism</b>				
4315	Advertising / Web si te	-	-	-	
4370	Evangelism/ Mailings	100	-	-	
4375	Door Step/New Members	-	-	-	
	<b>Fellowship</b>				
4410	Refreshments Expense	2,050	718	700	
3111	Refreshments Receipts	-	(31)	(25)	
4440	Fellowship Programs	-	159	260	
	<b>Stewardship</b>				
4510	Stewardship Programs	-	-	-	
4520	Offering Envelopes	1,100	1,002	1,000	

(continued on next page)

St Marks Lutheran Church Olathe KS		Unrestricted General Fund		
Budget and Expenses Comparison		2025	2025	2026
		Annual Budget	Income & Expenses	Proposed Budget
Acct	Account Name			
	<b>Office</b>			
4610	Postage	71	52	40
4620	Office Supplies	1,255	1,305	1,275
4113	Copier or Printers	150	-	-
4630	Internet Service	1,620	2,424	2,307
4631	Information Technology	1,550	1,063	1,050
4640	Telephone	1,700	2,075	1,620
4660	Library	-	-	-
4670	Bank Charges or Expense	13	-	-
4675	VANCO deposit costs	160	204	300
	<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>			
4710	Pastor Salary	67,665	67,665	69,357
4720	Housing	16,000	16,000	16,000
4721	Utilities All	5,600	5,600	5,600
4722	Furnishings	2,400	2,400	2,400
4730	FICA	7,593	7,593	7,733
4732	Payroll Service Expense	768	867	1,000
4750	Pension / Med Ins Expsns	23,849	23,849	20,000
4760	Auto	5,825	5,522	5,600
4770	Continuing Education	3,000	2,828	3,000
4780	Professional Expense	225	-	225
4785	Pastors Telephone	520	517	520
4790	Pastor Misc	110	206	225
4810	Worship Organist Salary	14,563	14,558	14,927
4820	Worship Organist FICA	1,114	1,146	1,142
4830	Office Support Salary	25,750	25,349	27,456
4831	Office Support Mileage	533	384	50
4840	Office Support FICA	1,970	1,972	2,100
4860	Supply Pastors	1,300	1,703	2,350
4910	Synod Assemblies	600	675	700
4940	Council Retreats	-	-	-
	<b>Parish Ed &amp; Youth</b>			
5010	Parish Ed	6,500	3,424	5,000
5015	Youth	1,475	-	1,200
5020	Youth Gathering	-	-	-
	<b>Expenses</b>	290,010	279,300	289,643
	<b>Net Contributions-Expenses</b>	-	5,310	(4,643)
	<b>Ending Acct Balance</b>		\$ 26,040	

Electronic bulletin delivery to living facilities will reduced mileage costs for delivery.

Youth Budget paid from MM Youth Gen'l in 2026.  
Did not put money into Youth Gathering fund in 2025 due to low unrestricted funds balance, no immediate planned expenditures, and a good MM Youth Gathering fund balance.



## 2025 Detailed MM and BF Tracking Accounts Table

St Marks Lutheran Church Olathe KS

Detail MM and BF Tracking Accounts - YTD to

12/31/2025

	12/31/2024 Year End Balance	This Year To Date		= YTD Dec-25 Balance
		Contributions/ Additions	Expenses/ Reductions	
<b>Money Market Fund Tracking:</b>				
MM Organ	274.92	-	-	274.92
MM Memorials	3,633.88	20,000.00	(299.00)	23,334.88
MM Music Bells/Singing Choirs	745.81	625.00	(83.00)	1,287.81
MM Interest	585.95	220.07	(683.74)	122.28
MM MoneyMarket:MM - Other Tracking	-	-	-	-
MM Parish Ed-Library	854.91	-	-	854.91
MM Parish Ed-Playground	3,305.85	130,561.82	(130,832.12)	3,035.55
MM Audio/Visual	-	400.00	-	400.00
MM-WINGS Womens Group	3,146.23	837.00	(1,359.71)	2,623.52
MM Youth Gathering	14,908.50	3,000.00	(3,000.00)	14,908.50
MM Youth-Youth Gen Acct	3,729.45	-	(653.56)	3,075.89
MM Youth-Endowment Transfer	380.00	-	-	380.00
MM Youth-Confirmation Dinners	10,021.49	3,500.00	(580.93)	12,940.56
MM Youth Outreach	3,492.31	6,544.03	(3,398.89)	6,637.45
	-	-	-	-
<b>Balances</b>	<b>45,079.30</b>	<b>165,687.92</b>	<b>(140,890.95)</b>	<b>69,876.27</b>
	-	-	-	-
<b>Building Fund Tracking:</b>				
BF Mortgage Fund	54,760.20	98,223.91	(103,104.00)	49,880.11
BF Other Tracking	-	8,398.08	(8,398.08)	-
BF Cross Project	-	-	-	-
BF Landscaping	-	-	-	-
BF Mowing Fund	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Balances</b>	<b>54,760.20</b>	<b>106,621.99</b>	<b>(111,502.08)</b>	<b>49,880.11</b>
	-	-	-	-
<b>MIF Investment Tracking:</b>				
Balance (Initial Investment \$1,000)	1,015.81			
<b>MIF Loan Tracking:</b>				
Initial Loan Amount (11/24/21)	1,397,487.46			
Principal Paid to Date	242,081.21			
Interest Paid to Date	207,518.79			
Outstanding Loan Amount	1,155,406.25			

### Summary

As the budget shows, 2026 expenses are expected to exceed General Fund donations. To help address this, the directed appeals for utilities, facilities, and grounds maintenance that the Council established in 2024 with successful results will continue in 2026. This will require significant continued support from the congregation with gifts above and beyond their currently pledged amounts.

There are additional church maintenance needs in 2026 as well, such as audio-visual upgrades, parking lot resurfacing, and general maintenance on a facility that gets a year older each year. Audio-visual and parking lot resurfacing needs are not included in the 2026 operating budget, and as such will require separate appeals.

Benevolence was paid in a measured way in 2025 to maintain a positive balance in the general operating account. St Mark's paid 3.2% to Central States Synod for Benevolence in 2025, short of our 5% goal. The Treasurer will continue to pay Central States Synod Benevolence in a measured way in 2026 in order to maintain a positive balance in the General Fund account, with the goal still being a 3.5% contribution level.

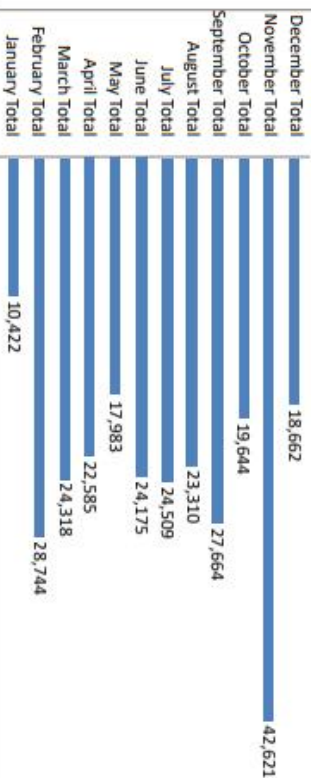
Per previous year Council approval, Youth General funds from the Money Market account will be used to fund the 2026 Youth budget in the General Fund account.

Respectfully submitted,

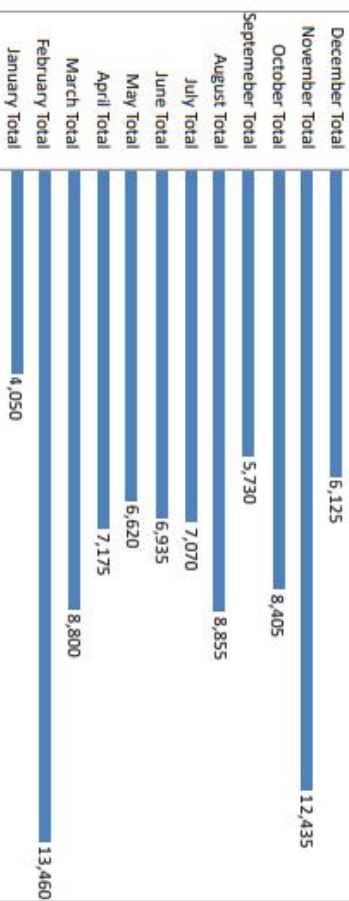
Joel Sorensen  
Treasurer

## December 2025 Financial Secretary Report

## General/Checking Account



## Mortgage Fund Account



Designated Gifts      **Facilities**      **Utilities**      **Ground Maintenance**  
 YTD thru Dec      \$10,295.00      \$2,650.00      \$2,450.00

## 12 General Checking Account

2025	Month	YTD	YTD Budget @ 24,168	Ahead/ (Behind) Budget
1	January	10,422	24,168	(13,745)
2	February	28,744	39,167	(9,168)
3	March	24,318	63,485	(9,017)
4	April	22,585	86,070	(10,600)
5	May	17,983	104,054	(16,784)
6	June	24,175	128,229	(16,776)
7	July	24,509	152,738	(16,434)
8	August	23,310	176,049	(17,291)
9	September	27,664	203,713	(13,795)
10	October	19,644	223,357	(18,318)
11	November	42,622	265,979	136
12	December	18,662	284,641	(5,369)
monthly average .....		23,720		
Past Year Comparisons ...				
2024 December YTD	291,608	(6,967)		
2023 December YTD	256,290	28,351		
2022 December YTD	251,784	32,857		
2021 December YTD	247,648	36,993		

## Mortgage Fund Account

2025	Month	YTD	YTD Budget @ 8,392	Ahead/ (Behind) Budget
1	January	4,050	8,392	(4,342)
2	February	13,460	17,510	726
3	March	8,800	26,310	1,134
4	April	7,175	33,485	(83)
5	May	6,620	40,105	(1,855)
6	June	6,935	47,040	(3,312)
7	July	7,070	54,110	(4,634)
8	August	8,855	62,965	(4,171)
9	September	5,730	68,695	(6,833)
10	October	8,405	77,100	(6,820)
11	November	12,435	89,535	(2,777)
12	December	6,125	95,660	(5,044)
monthly average .....		7,972		
Past Year Comparisons ...				
2024 December YTD	102,050	(6,390)		
2023 December YTD	108,466	(12,806)		
2022 December YTD	145,510	(49,850)		
2021 December YTD	140,347	(44,687)		

## Monthly Attendance Schedule

2025	#Sundays	Total Attend	Mo Avg Attend	YTD Average
1	3	243	81	81
2	4	338	85	83
3	5	384	77	80
4	4	475	119	90
5	4	289	72	86
6	5	336	67	83
7	4	244	61	80
8	5	377	75	79
9	4	278	70	78
10	4	320	80	78
11	5	357	71	77
12	4	298	75	77
51		3,939		
Past Year Comparisons				
2024 December YTD	76		1	
2023 December YTD	80		(3)	
2022 December YTD	78		(1)	
2021 December YTD	73		4	

Financial Statement  
December 2025

## **St Mark's Youth Endowment Fund**

### **December 31, 2025**

The St. Mark's Youth Endowment Fund was established by an anonymous donor in honor of Tom and Shirley Knappenberger's 40th wedding anniversary. The initial "seed" deposit of \$25,000, additional contributions to date and earnings comprise the endowment fund with an annuity value of \$55,889.87 as of December 31, 2025. As the Fund balance increases, a portion of the earnings will be used, in addition to Council funding, to the benefit of youth activities. The Youth Endowment committee voted on January 21, 2025 to make a \$3,000.00 transfer to the Playground Renovation Project. Those funds were received by the Playground Project in March 2025. Additional requests for funds are to be submitted for review and approval by the Youth Endowment committee prior to disbursement.

Kevin Larson  
Trustee

### **Evangelism Committee Annual Report for 2025**

The purpose of the Evangelism committee is to communicate love to people outside the church, keep the membership directory current, contact members who have not been worshipping regularly, coordinate outreach to visitors, and promote marketing efforts.

This year the evangelism committee accomplished the following:

- Promoted participation in Adult Sunday School and Mom's Group.
- Sent care and communication cards to those on the prayer list.
- Contacted those that are possibly in need of pastoral care or other needs.
- Assembled and distributed several visitor packets to newcomers.
- Attempted to contact members who had not worshipped for two years or more.

Members removed in 2025 per their agreement or with no response to efforts to contact, and by council vote are as follows:

Shane and Kelly Gigstad  
Kenneth and Jaynelle Griffitt

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Moore

## Community Ministry Annual Report 2025

The Community Ministry thanks the congregation for their support throughout the year. Together, and with God's grace we have:

### **Fed the hungry:**

- The MLM Sack Lunch Program received \$2246 through the Lenten donations.
- Olathe Food Pantry was given a check for \$2175 through our Mountain of Food collection.
- Supported by funds from Thrivent, SLMC prepared and served 450 meals at Center of Grace on three evenings.
- The congregation bagged 120 pounds of Rice and Beans for Mission Southside.
- We collected and delivered 47 Thanksgiving boxes to Olathe Food pantry.

### **Provided supplies as needed:**

- School supplies were given through our MLM School Supply Drive. Pastor Kris took two carloads of backpacks, pencils, notebooks, crayons, glue, etc. to MLM.
  - We provided gifts for the MLM Christmas Store. We had a very full truck of gifts, blankets, and cookies.
  - We gave \$246.26 in online donations which equates to 1539 diapers and collected 810 diapers for HappyBottoms. We bundled 6912 diapers in packs of 25 which will help 92 children for one month.
  - "The Birthday Club" is an ongoing monthly project for Mission Southside that collects supplies for birthday parties
- \*Supported Wreaths Across America by donating \$517.32 in October & November.

### **Volunteered our time:**

- baking cookies
  - shopping, preparing and serving the meals at Center of Grace
  - helping at Mission Southside's sale
  - participating in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery
  - bagging rice and beans
  - bundling diapers for HappyBottoms.
  - planting trees in our orchard
- \*worked at the Habitat Build in Olathe

\*Lou Johnson and Janis Krievins continue to work on the orchard with new apple and peach trees and will plant cherry trees this year.

Your giving hearts make these things possible. Thank you! The Community Ministry team is humbled by your generosity and support. We are making a difference!

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Janis Krievins

Lynn Wray

Trish Klima

Linda Bayer

Lou and Joyce Johnson

Sue and Bob Fetsch

Louise Easterberg

Robbie Robertson

Jason Howe

## 2025 Carillon Ringers Annual Report

“Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.”

- Tennyson

The Carillon Ringers rehearsed on Wednesday evenings from January to May and from September to December in 2025. The choir played in Sunday worship once a month from September to May. On September 21 we dedicated our song in memory of Dee Iverson. Dee was a member of our choir for over 30 years. She made all the coverings for our bell tables and she and her husband Merlin, donated one of the three octaves of our handbells. Thank you to all of you who have made donations to our bell choir fund in Dee's memory. She was a gem. We will always remember her musical talent, sense of humor and great spirit!

We appreciate our accompanists Lisa Erickson, who played flute with us, Jaime Tanner who played piano and our wonderful substitutes on bells, Vicki Larson, Donna Ronnebaum and Ben Wackerla. Thank you to all our Carillon Ringers for your loyalty to our choir, for sharing your musical talent and for bringing your fun and splendid spirit each week to rehearsals!

Praise be to God for the gift of music!

The Carillon Ringers: Kari Bollinger, John Bott, Marge Bott, Nancy Bryer, Linda Cagle, Kathy Fryd, Shelly Harrison, Kathy Hinkle, Cindy Sorensen, Jennifer Wackerla and Diana Wickersham.

Jane Scherrer, Director

## Fellowship Annual Report 2025

### **The St. Mark's Fellowship Committee hosted or assisted with several events in 2025.**

- We continued to provide and enjoy donuts on Sunday mornings.
- In April we assisted with a Reception of cake, punch, and mints for our 2025 Confirmand.
- In April, we joined the Youth Committee and provided pizza, cookies, and carrots for the fabulous pool party they hosted.
- In May we gave out carnations to All Mothers at St. Mark's.
- In August we hosted a New Member Reception.
- In October we partnered with our Youth Committee so everyone could enjoy a lovely Fall Festival.
- In November we hosted Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mark's.

We enjoyed the events we were involved with in 2025 and we look forward to planning and hosting activities and events in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Ali Luin, Fellowship Council Liaison

And your St. Mark's Fellowship Committee



## **Facilities 2025 Annual Report**

The Church sign was repaired from the wind damage.

Received a bid to repair the parking lot from Asphalt Masters. \$43,000 to repair.

A New Thermostat was installed behind the Altar.

Fire Department recommended removing Fire Extinguishers from under the kitchen sinks and placing them above the counter between the sinks.

KC Ham visited the Church and gave his recommendations for maintenance on the Video Equipment.

EEC visited the Church and gave their recommendations for purchasing new video equipment.

Accepted bid from Arbor Masters to clean up the broken limbs that landed on our neighbors fence .  
(\$1,546.24)

Housekeeping and Landscaping committees were started at St Marks.

Lightning strike damaged Fire Protection System.

Board replacement and for Fire Protection System to be back up and running took over 4 mos to complete.

PMC inspected heating units at Church.

Joe tested the Emergency and Exit Lights.

Jayhawk performed annual review of the Fire Prevention System.

Code Red checked all six Fire Extinguishers.

PMC replaced the heat exchanger unit on the outside system.

Jayhawk replaced the broken pipe which was leaking air causing the air compressor to continue to run.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Schmideskamp

## 2025 Parish Education Annual Report

### **Committee Members**

Mary Cobb, Pastor Kris Dietzen, Ali Luin and Robbie Robertson

### **Confirmation Class:**

The confirmation class met in person all year

We look forward to sharing in the faith journey with the current crew of young adults and walking with them as they confirm in 2026

### **First Communion:**

In May we celebrated first communion student.

### **Bibles**

Parish Ed and Pastor Kris handed out Bibles to 3rd graders

### **Sunday School:**

Sept 14th we started Sunday school

We couldn't have done this without the help of the following very giving individuals; Tom Bryer, Maggie Vandenburg, Mary Cobb, Nicole Moore and Robbie Robertson.

### **We would like to thank the following for all their help this year**

- Mary Cobb for being superintendent and Parish ed council
- Pastor Kris and Ali Luin for coordinating confirmation.

## Lucy Reed Library Annual Report 2025

The Lucy Reed Library exists to serve our entire congregation. If you have suggestions for books to add to our collection, please speak with a member of the library committee.

We would like to remind everyone that the library remains open during church hours for those who may need to step out of the service. The room is equipped so you can continue to see and hear the service while inside. We provide comfortable rocking chairs and a wide selection of books for your use.

This year, we are pleased to announce the addition of 14 new books to our shelves and five new puzzles for children.

Library Committee: Geneice Linsey, Barbara Strampe, Ginny Schwartzbeck, Jan Wulfekoetter, Jeannine Matthews, Mary Weeg, Anne Seitz, Robbie Robertson and Joyce Johnson

## 2026 Stewardship Report

The 2026 Stewardship Committee, consisting of Dave Mindrup, Debbie VanKempen, and Vicki Larson, selected an ELCA Stewardship Program called ***Because of Gods Great Mercy***. It included templates for a timeline, newsletter articles, worship talks, bulletin inserts, and emails. The Stewardship Committee tailored the program for St Mark's Lutheran Church.

The 2026 campaign received a good response from the congregation. 32 Commitment Cards were received with the totals shown below.

Fund	Total Amount
General Fund (30 pledges)	\$180,106
Mortgage Fund (25 pledges)	\$79,804

Time and Talents Forms were also received from church members and will be entered into the Breeze Church Management System to be utilized by Council Members to better match members' interests and talents with church programs and needs.

Many thanks to the congregation for your participation in the 2026 Stewardship process to help make St Mark's a thriving, welcoming church, spreading God's Great Mercy and Love through your service, support, and financial gifts.

As part of the research process for Stewardship Programs, it was discovered that the ELCA had a partnership with Tithe.ly. Tithe.ly is an all-in-one church technology platform designed to help churches manage digital giving, communication, and administration through integrated tools like mobile apps, text-to-give, church management software (ChMS), websites, and event registration, simplifying engagement and fund-raising for religious organizations. The Tithe.ly partnership allows ELCA churches to subscribe to a suite of church management software products from them at a greatly reduced price, even lower than the subscription St Mark's had for the Breeze church management system (ChMS) that we have been using.

Tithe.ly owns Breeze, so the new suite of products includes Breeze ChMS (People, Giving, Events/Calendar, and more) plus it includes the Tithe.ly website platform as well as a dedicated phone application for St Mark's for Android and iPhone. The Giving tool has been implemented and was rolled out during the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. Tithe.ly Giving offers secure, easy to use website giving, QR Code giving, and Text-to-Give options. This suite of products allows St Mark's to have a software ecosystem that works together, having a single database of people to use for church communications, Giving reports, event planning, volunteering, time and talents, people directory, housekeeping teams, food teams, etc. It has a permission structure to keep financial information secure and only visible to the Financial Secretary.

All of the Tithe.ly tools are in the process of being implemented as time permits. The new St Mark's website includes YouTube Live streaming as well as worship service recordings. There is a Members (Protected) page with information not accessible to the general public. The password for this protected page can be obtained from the church secretary. Facebook has changed its archival policy such that recordings will only be kept for 4 weeks, so we have switched to St Mark's YouTube Channel for live streaming and archiving worship service videos. YouTube has a much more user-friendly interface and is more compatible with the Tithe.ly web platform.

Respectfully,

Dave Mindrup -Stewardship Chair

## WINGS 2025 SUMMARY

**WINGS** 2025 SUMMARY WINGS started off the year with ***Planting the Seeds of Faith Brunch*** held on Saturday, March 1st at 9:30 am. Members decorated small clay pots with colored gel pens. Afterwards, they filled the pot with dirt and seeds ( or bulb) of their choosing to take home and grow. The brunch also was an opportunity to meet fellow team members and organize the Lenten Soup Suppers for 2025.

**VBS** was held jointly with Christ Community Church of the Nazarene in June. WINGS helped with donating food for the meals and serving at each of the 4 nights.

On Saturday, November 1st at 11:30 am, WINGS held a ***WINGS Afternoon Tea***. The WINGS board members prepared sandwiches, baked tea breads and sweets, and served tea to those in attendance. Paula Quade donated several tea cups for WINGS to use and to keep for future tea parties. Three lucky attendees went home with a prize drawing of a fancy single serve tea pot with matching tea cup.

The **quilters** were busy making their many beautiful quilts this year. They had made 45 adult quilts and 21 baby quilts which were blessed before being donated to the annual MLM donation drive in November. They were very busy this year as they increased their quilt numbers over last years.

The **BookMarks** group, headed by Joyce Johnson, is also included in WINGS activities and they meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. In December their meeting included their annual Christmas Brunch which is always enjoyed and well received. Throughout the year homemade communion bread is always supplied by various women of the church and everyone is grateful for those who provided it faithfully.

**Financially**, we had a beginning balance of \$3,237.11. Total deposits of \$837.00 (5 soup supper nights receipts). Total expenses = \$1,359.71. They included a \$1,000 donation to our new playground fund, Gather Magazine subscription of \$79.80, March brunch flower pot expenses of \$164.38, and Nov. Tea party expenses of \$115.53. Leaving a year end balance of \$2,714.40. ***We look forward to serving in 2026 and helping others wherever we can.*** Please mark your calendars to attend all five [Wednesday night Lenten Soup Suppers beginning Feb 25th, 2026 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.](#)

We want to thank all of you who have given of your time, talents and money to help support WINGS during 2025.

Debbie Van Kempen, WINGS Group Leader

## Worship Committee Report 2025

"Oh, Come Let Us Adore him, Christ the Lord."

These powerful words, express how worship means to many of us. Our committee planned many new worship experiences this last year and we hope you enjoyed them. St. Mark's worship committee is, Pastor Kris, Chris McMullin, Larrie Nichols, Tom Watgen and Pam Wilson. We meet the second Tuesday of every month. If you would like to join us, please do.

### Worship Reflections 2025

1. Scout Sunday
2. Ash Wednesday - Lenten Services - Palm Sunday. Maundy Thursday - Good Friday and Easter.
3. Reading of the Passion Play.
4. Youth Sunday - Youth lead our worship.
5. "Stump the Organist" (We came close to stumping Tom.)
6. Blessing of Educators and Backpacks.
7. Confirmation - First Communion - Presentation of Bibles.
8. Baptisms and New Members.
9. Advent wreath lighting with new St. Mark's members. The Christmas story told from first person of the many who witnessed and experienced the birth of Christ.
  - Christmas Eve services and luminarias in/outside the church.

2026 will be even better! The planning has started. We hope you will enjoy the new experiences planned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Wilson, Liaison to Council



## **2025 Youth Committee Annual Report**

**Mission Statement:** Youth, gathering to love, learn, serve, and share in Christian Fellowship.

The Youth of St. Mark's continued to show their resilience throughout the year and gathered to love, learn, serve, and share in Christian Fellowship. Listed below are the events the Youth participated in:

### **January 2025**

January 12, 2025 – Took down Christmas decorations and cleaned the church.

January 19, 2025 – Packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program.

January 19, 2025 – Kicked off "Souper Bowl of Caring."

### **February 2025**

February 9, 2025 – Packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program.

February 9, 2025 – Completed "Souper Bowl of Caring" where we donated 207 cans of soup to the Olathe Food Pantry.

### **March 2025**

March 2, 2025 – Packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program.

March 2, 2025 – Filled over 650 Easter eggs for the egg hunt with 7 youth.

### **April 2025**

April 6, 2025 – Packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program.

April 6, 2025 – Hosted a pool party at the Olathe Community Center with the Fellowship Committee; about 35 people attended.

April 13, 2025 – Hosed the annual Easter Egg Hunt with 20 youth participating, followed by a reception.

April 17, 2025 – First Communion of Ella Polich and Kinlee Konrade.

April 27, 2025 – Confirmation of Natalie Sublet.

### **May 2025**

May 4, 2025 – VBS Co-Lead training session #1.

May 18, 2025 – Packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program.

May 28, 2025 – Child Protection Training in person at St. Mark's for VBS.

### **June 2025**

June 8, 2025 – VBS Co-Lead training session #2.

June 15, 2026 – Street clean up, led by Jason Howe and family.

June 22, 2025 – All VBS Training, decorating, and cleaning.

June 23-26, 2025 – "True North" VBS at St. Mark's, co-hosted with Christ Community Church of the Nazarene. We had over 50 teen and adult volunteers, 10 children registered from St. Mark's, 14 children from CCC, and 22 children from the community. We averaged 30 children in attendance each evening.

June 29, 2025 – Packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program.

### **July 2025**

July 13, 2025 – Packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program.

### **August 2025**

August 17, 2025 – Packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program in coordination with Youth Sunday.

### **September 2025**

September 14, 2025 – Packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program.

September 14, 2025 – Call to Action request for church funds for the MLM Sack Lunch Program; giving was over \$5,000, allowing us to be able to continue the program for the 2026 calendar year!

### **October 2025**

October 25, 2025 – Held the annual Fall Festival, in partnership with the Fellowship Committee, from 5:00-7:30 PM. We had a potluck dinner and trunk-or-treated indoors due to the weather. About 40 people were in attendance. In addition, we packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program in honor of Greg Westbrook.

### **November 2025**

November 1-2, 2025 – Homelessness Awareness Sleep Out; 10 youth and 4 adult chaperones participated.

November 9, 2025 – Packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program in memory of Olivia Copeland.

### **December 2025**

MLM Winter Apparel Drive contributions throughout the month.

December 7, 2025 – Packed 200 sack lunches for the MLM Sack Lunch Program in honor of Greg Westbrook.

December 12, 2025 – Volunteered at MLM Christmas Store.

Respectfully Submitted by Abby Polich

### **Altar Care 2025**

The Altar Committee continues to have a faithful group of women and men who set up communion every week and I am grateful for their faithfulness. Volunteers are still needed if anyone would like to participate in serving the Lord's supper.

This year the altar group was again assisted by the confirmation students and their families decorating the church for Advent and eating pizza. The students seemed to enjoy decorating as did their families. Making this a yearly event is such a fun event for everyone involved. Other members of the congregation also helped, and it was a joyful group.

The St. Mark's Altar Care Guide was updated with the help of Susan Fetsch and was recently sent to members of the care team. If anyone did not get one or if someone would like to have one, please let me know and it will be made available.

Respectfully submitted,

Larrie Nichols for  
Donna Nichols



## **2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

This past year was one of preparation for rebuilding our Stephen Ministry chapter.

RuthAnn Hackler, Jeannine Matthews and Donna Frenzl retired after many years of serving as leaders. Jenny Wheeler took the 50 hour remote leadership training in January, and was commissioned on June 8th. Donna has stayed on temporarily as an advisor and mentor.

Ruthann was interviewed by the St.Louis Stephen Ministry home office, spotlighting her longevity in Stephen Ministry, being the oldest leader in the organization.

Our active ministers are Bob Fetsch, Joyce Heckman, Stan Thompson, Trish Klima, and RuthAnn Hackler.

The goals for 2025-26 are rebuilding the Stephen Ministry Team with at least one more leader and 3 more caregivers; and building an awareness of our Stephen Ministry chapter, it's purpose and the services it offers.

We discussed and have a list of prospective candidates for leadership and ministers. Planning for a "Stephen Ministry Sunday" was put in place for Sunday, February 8th, 2026. The announcement for our monthly meetings was added to St.Mark's publications as well. We are building a collection of books/publications to be available in the church library.

Our continuing education during our monthly meetings covered "life challenges", topics that we as care-givers might encounter: long-term illness, cancer, dementia, divorce, family member addiction, loneliness/depression, etc.

We are planning for growth, awareness and revitalization in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Wheeler  
Stephen Ministry Leader

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### MISSION SUPPORT

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

### ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

### LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

### WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



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