



# Christ Lutheran Church

69 Main Street • Hellertown • Pennsylvania  
Rev. Philip C. Spohn

## 2026 Annual Report

January 18, 2026

*Covering January 1 - December 31, 2025 Church Activity*

### Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 1, 2026

11 am • Following Worship

#### **The Core Values of Christ Lutheran Church Hellertown:**

- † **Inclusiveness:** We welcome all people to participate in our ministries. We are all children of God, created in God's image. You are welcome here.
- † **Faith Journey:** We realize each one of us is on a faith journey. We value questions, searching, discussions and debates. Each of us sees faith from our own unique perspective. We want to grow in faith as we age in life. Come join the journey.
- † **Service:** We practice our faith in loving service to others.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



**NEPA SYNOD**  
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

## Annual Meeting Agenda

February 1, 2026, 11:00am, following Worship in the Sanctuary

- Call to Order – Secretary Roll Call, Approval of Quorum
- Meeting Procedures Governed by Robert’s Rules of Order
- Devotions
- Reading & Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Pastor Report – Pastor Phil
- Council President Report – Brenda Tarulli
- Staff & Team Reports
- Endowment Trustees Committee Report – Joe Tarulli
- Endowment Mission Team Report and Approval – Kim & Corky Blake
- Financial Report – John Varady
- Review and Approval of 2026 Budget – John Varady
- Nomination and Election of New Council Members
- New Business
- Adjournment

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## Annual Meeting Minutes - February 2, 2025

**Council Members Present:** Brenda Tarulli (P), Ed Alosi (VP), Kelly Meyer (S), Rachel Anthony, Ken Doremus, Glenn Clouser, Sam Raup, Judy Meier.

**Absent:** Dale Hazel, Mandy Mayer, Glenn Butterfield, Gary Milla

**Call to Order:** Brenda Tarulli (P) called meeting to order and welcomed attendees at 11:12am.

**Approval of Quorum:** Kelly Meyer (S) verified there were enough participants for a quorum and meeting could proceed.

- Meeting Procedures Governed by Robert's Rules of Order
- Approval of 2025 Meeting Minutes Motion

**MOTION:** Kelly Meyer made a motion to approve the 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes. Kim Blake seconded the motion. Motion is passed with no objections.

• **Council President Report** – Brenda Tarulli delivered the 2024 review of Council accomplishments. Council will focus on the guidance using the values of the church which are: inclusiveness, faith journey and service. Church membership and attendance have increased in 2024. Weekly worship has increased. The Youth, Family Ministry program led by Josh continues to grow and become fruitful. Teams continue to grow and increase in participation. The church website and social media has greatly improved with the addition of the Church's Communication Specialist. Giving significantly increased throughout 2024. Our Strategic Plan has been in place for 2024 with great success in implementing programs for the church. The 2025 Council goals include; re-evaluating and creating a new Strategic Plan for the next five years. This process will begin at the Council Retreat to be held in Spring 2025. Goodbye and thank you to outgoing council members, Rachel Anthony, Glenn Clouser, and Gary Milla. Welcome new council nominees, Judith Chernikovich-Clemens, Clair Kostbar, Regina Sands-Corl, and John Varady.

• **Strategic Plan Progress Report** – Ed Alosi showed the 22 current programs and activities in each Theme and strategic initiative

**MOTION:** Angela Drake to update the Strategic Plan goals and Kelly Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passed. Goal 3: Update to Garden first task—Add more drip irrigation. Labyrinth—Add a few more plants and replace trees. Goal 4: Update to ECO Page. Instead of Add ECO Page (in first task) to Contribute ECO Page. Theme 3 Communications—Update—Annual Strategic Plan—Add Volunteers..

• **Pastor Report** – Congregation funded giving to three important asks of the church, ELCA Good Gifts, Hurricane aid to victims, and CLC Staff Bonus. Discussed churches in Lehigh Valley closing and we are seeing some new individuals check us out on Sunday Mornings! Pastor wants to focus and learn more about Spirituality advisor for Christ Lutheran being connected and having spirituality for more than just one hour on a Sunday morning. Pastor will explore this and think forward for what our church can offer that is different and what will help our members and community grow in spirituality and faith and for the long term see what it may look like to become a Spiritual Wellness Center.

- **Team Reports**

Chris Myers reviewed **Stewardship** program results and volunteer brochure to encourage members to get involved. An increase in giving pledges and new member family pledges were much appreciated.

**MOTION:** Carol Raudenbush made the motion to accept the **Trustees** recommended distribution. Kurt Rank seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

**MOTION:** Angela Drake made the motion to add Front St. Sr. Apartments under 4th bullet point of the **Outreach** Team Report. Kelly Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection.

**MOTION:** Charlie Kimble made the motion to approve the **Endowment** distribution uses. Ali Myers seconded the motion. Motion passes with no objection.

Jim McCallister reviewed the financial statements for 2024, reviewed the Comparative Balance Sheet, discussed the Learning Center financial shortcomings; however, a big improvement from 2023. Tuition increases necessary to maintain level of expenses. \*Change BB&T to Truist on the report.

**MOTION:** Corky Blake mad the motion to approve the 2025 proposed budget. Regina Sands-Corl seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection.

- **Introduction of New Church Council Nominees:**

Regina Sands-Corl, Judith Chernikovich Clemens, Claire Kostbar, and John Varady

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Chris Meyers to approve the nominations of Regina Sands-Corl, Judith Chernikovich Clemens, Claire Kostbar and John Varady to the 2025 Church Council. Kelly Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection.

- **New Business:** None

**MOTION:** Sam Raup made the motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting. Regina Sands-Corl seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection.

- **Meeting Adjourned:** 12:14pm

## Council President Report

The Church Council is committed to living out the values of our faith community—**Inclusiveness, Faith Journey, and Service**. We strive to be faithful stewards of our resources, encourage participation in ministry and programming, and help guide the congregation as we live out our shared values. In partnership with our dedicated church staff, team leaders, and volunteers, the Council works to ensure the long-term stability of our congregation while pursuing meaningful goals that strengthen our mission. This report offers a snapshot of our activities and accomplishments in 2025, along with our vision and priorities for 2026.

### **Leadership, Planning, and Vision**

Our 2025 Leadership Retreat marked an important milestone as we began the work of developing a new five-year strategic plan, building on the progress achieved through our previous plan. As part of this process, we revisited our Faith Statement and recognized the need to update it to more accurately reflect where we are in our collective faith journey today.

Key priorities identified for the new strategic plan include intentional **succession planning for key staff roles**, continued growth in volunteer engagement and leadership development, and finding meaningful ways to celebrate the many accomplishments made possible by our volunteers. One simple but effective step toward stronger community connection has been the introduction of name tags, making it easier to get to know one another and discover opportunities to serve. Name tags are available in the narthex for anyone who would like one.

### **Commitment to Inclusion**

While the phrase “All are welcome” is often used, the Council believes inclusion must be demonstrated through clear and intentional action. For that reason, the Council voted to pursue designation as a **Reconciled in Christ (RIC)** congregation. The RIC program, initiated by the ELCA in 1983 and updated in 2021, provides a public commitment to welcome, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, while also working toward racial equality. We are currently following the steps required for certification and look forward to displaying the RIC icon on our website as a visible sign that we stand behind our words with action. Becoming an RIC congregation affirms our desire to be a faith community where all people are truly welcomed and valued.

### **Youth, Education, and Leadership Development**

In the spring, members of the Church Council met with our Confirmation class—an impressive group of young people who shared thoughtful ideas and perspectives about CLC and its programs. Their enthusiasm and insight were inspiring. Josh and the Faith Formation Team are actively developing new programming in response, and we looking forward to having a high school youth representative once again serve as a voting member of the Council.

We are especially grateful to **Josh Gulotta**, our Youth and Family Minister, for his outstanding leadership during Pastor Phil’s sabbatical last summer. His dedication and steady presence ensured continuity and care during that time.

### **Financial Stewardship**

Thanks to your generous giving and the careful stewardship of our leadership, teams, and staff, the church remains financially stable and on solid footing. While overall finances are strong, the Learning Center experienced a budget shortfall in 2025, with a loss of nearly \$25,000, reversing the gains made in 2024. The Finance Team continues to work closely with the Learning Center Director and Assistant Director to establish a clear path toward a break-even year in 2026. The church’s overall net income for 2025 did not fully offset this loss.

Church pledges for 2026 increased over 2025, and total giving in 2025 exceeded that of 2024. Every special offering—whether in support of our staff or those in need—has been met with remarkable generosity. Your faithful support enables the church not only to expand its ministries but also to more appropriately compensate our staff, who consistently give far beyond what any job description could capture. We are deeply grateful for their teamwork, dedication, and ministry alongside our volunteers.

### **Community and Gratitude**

CLC is a thriving faith community—and **community** truly is the key word. In 2025, we welcomed 14 new members. Our youth programs remain strong and consistent, and worship, service, and fellowship continue to bring us together in meaningful ways. We support one another during challenging times and celebrate together whenever possible, growing in relationship as we journey in faith.

None of this happens without the collective effort of our entire community—Pastor Phil, Josh, our devoted staff, Church Council members, team leaders, and the many volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Church Council and all team leaders for their thoughtful leadership and commitment. Most importantly, I thank every volunteer. Your service—both within the church and throughout the wider community—is the heart and soul of our faith community. Caring for one another and serving others is how we share the love of Jesus in the world.

With gratitude and hope for the year ahead,  
Brenda Tarulli,  
Church Council President

## Pastor Report

I notice a renewed or rekindled energy on Sunday mornings. Many churches after COVID immediately returned to their “normal” schedule. We chose to sit tight and try out one service. It has been great for our spirit and getting to know one another, but it has not been kind to the lawn. Almost every week, cars park on the lawn. It’s a great problem to have. Many people have commented to me that they like the one service because it created one congregation. When we had two very distinct and different worship services, 8:30 and 11:00, we had two congregations. Please let me or Kurt Rank, Team Leader for Worship & Music, know of your concerns and celebrations you have about our worship.

2025 was a special year for me. My summer sabbatical energized me and my continued passion for scripture. After 34 years in ministry, I have acquired a vast knowledge of scripture that I find helpful to share, especially with people who read things in the Bible that seems NON CHRISTLIKE. Believe me, there is much in the Bible that is not Jesus-oriented. We are Jesus people and need to be HIS light in our world.

My favorite thing to say about the Bible is, DPADTUGD, “Different People, At Different Times, Understand God, Differently”. The Bible is a library of books, letters, and poems, written to help convey the author’s opinion about God, the world, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. Not all authors agree. The more than 40 authors did not all live at the same time and wrote over a period of approximately 1,000 years. They all understood and articulated God differently!

My knowledge of scripture, or for that matter, anyone’s knowledge of scripture, is useless if it does not lead to a transformation of the heart and mind. I’m not the same person I was when I entered Seminary in 1987. I’m not the same person I was, when I was called to serve as pastor of this church in 1996. The Bible has transformed me. I hope in our lives together, we seek transformation into the likeness of Jesus. It is our challenge and journey of faith. Adult faith development is so very important to me.

This past year we added a Spiritual Director, Maureen to our staff. Maureen has offered classes via Zoom this past summer and sees individuals for spiritual direction. Due to a generous donation of \$2000, we are able to offer her services to our members for \$10/session. That is a bargain. I’d encourage you to seek her out for a session or two, if you want to grow spiritually, or if you struggle with your understanding of God in our world.

I am so fortunate to work with motivated, Christ-centered individuals. It is a blessing not to have to hound people to get work or ministry accomplished. When you have passion for what you are doing, no outside motivation is needed. Nancy, Bonnie, Steve, Chip, Barry, Enid, Josh, and Pete, thank you for choosing to work here!

As I always promise to do, I want to report to you on our Christmas Staff Bonus. This year we received a little over \$13,000. This allowed us to give 24 full time staff \$475, part time staff \$100, and all substitutes \$50. This is a nice tradition that lets us tell the employees they are valued here.

In 2026, we need to staff for growth. Ministers are not cheap. My medical insurance, that the church pays, totaled \$50,000 this year. Christ Lutheran participates in the mandatory clergy medical insurance program of the ELCA. I do say, thank you! How many ministers do we need on staff? We need to figure out our staffing needs and staff for growth. This is my focus in 2026.

I have started a group I call, Healthy Lutheran Congregations of the Lehigh Valley. There are not many of us. I started this group of clergy to learn, to share ideas, organizational charts, staffing positions, and find out what is working in other Lutheran congregations. What do we need to do differently? What positions do we need to fill to benefit our members and prospective community.

I believe we have a beautiful faith community due to our staff and due to members that embrace our love and grace focus. We need to be a light in our world for years to come.

## Youth & Family Minister (Faith Formation Team) Report

It's been a year of thriving and growth for the Faith Formation Team at Christ Lutheran, from Sunday School to Confirmation Class! Attendance and involvement is high.

We're seeing more families from the Children's Learning Center attend church events and Sunday worship. The Learning Center's Holiday Concert was a HUGE success, attracting almost 300 friends and family for performances from the kids and a live band composed of parents of students and members of the worshipping community. Pre-K students will soon begin their preparations for graduation.

Sunday mornings are still the busiest day of the week for the Faith Formation Team. During-worship Sunday School draws an average crowd of 13 children. Nancy DeVogel and Nancy Frederick, Bre, Elise, Mariah, and Carolyn are all committed and dedicated Sunday School Teachers, and the entire Team works hard to make a good classroom experience for the children each week. Our Christmas pageant this year was *A Christmas Carol*, and a lot of Sunday School time was spent preparing for our Christmas Eve scenes. In 2026, the Faith Formation Team is requesting that the Council hire an additional, part-time Sunday School Teacher so we can run two classrooms in the 2026-2027 year.

Our First Year Confirmation Class has five (5) students in Grades 6 and 7. Our Second Year Class has three (3) students who will submit their exams in August and graduate in October 2026. The confirmands engage in Christian practices of biblical study, fellowship and community, and thanksgiving and service. When they're not in the classroom, you might find them hiking, canoeing, decorating the church for Christmas, or raising funds this February for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Our main textbook is Pr. Daniel Erlander's workbook, *Manna and Mercy*, which follows the story of the bible in an accessible, teen-friendly way.

Easy to forget, a fun and successful ministry last summer was our Vacation Bible School. Last year's VBS saw fifteen (15) young people come together to learn about the beauty of caring for God's world. Lots of thanks to all the VBS teachers who made it happen!

Our Faith Formation Teams meets bi-monthly via Zoom, and we're looking for new congregants to join the fun! If you're interested in making a difference in the lives of the families and young people of Christ Lutheran, please let us know!

Thanks so very much for letting me be a part of your community! I look forward to another year in ministry together.

Joyfully submitted,  
Josh Labadie-Gulotta  
Youth & Family Minister

## Children's Learning Center Report

### Updates to our Program:

This year, we focused on improving our overall quality within our program. We are moving to a STAR 2 level through the Keystone STARS program. This process will continue in to 2026. What that means to our teachers, students, and families, is an increase in scientific explorations, more free expression of art, more multicultural materials and conversations, ensuring our students have enough time with quality learning materials throughout the day. Some of these steps are easier to fulfill than others, but we look forward to the positive impact it has made with the learning opportunities within our classrooms. Moving to a STAR 2 program will help provide additional opportunities for state funding as well as our self-improvement within our program. We have added the assessment tool from the Lillio app and it has been helping to support our student progress. We have added a school age assessment piece and started school age conferences this Fall. The conferences were well received!

### Summer Camp for School Age:

The Summer Camp teachers starting developing plans for the Summer in the middle of the Winter! Some of the activities were splash days, swimming at the Hellertown Pool, Dimmick Park, Polk Valley Park, Saucon Valley Park, Water Street Park, Jacobsburg Park, DeSales University theater show of The Princess and the Frog Prince, bounce house, Inside Scoop, Painting with Miss Gina, Klein Farms, McDonalds, and Rita's. We had more visitors this summer, including Scott Hanna as a Spiderman Artist and Officer Blake and police dog Suni visited. We had 39 students attend our Summer Camp this year.

### Special Events:

We hosted a Mother's Day event and Father's Day celebration that were well attended and received.

We celebrated and thanked our teachers for a week of Teacher Appreciation events and food in May.

We celebrated the Week of the Young Child with fun activities.

The Pre-K Graduation in the sanctuary was another big success!

The Dewey Fire Company paid us a visit to share fire safety tips to our students. The students enjoyed checking out the trucks and equipment as well. Firefighter Matthew Simkovic also came and trained 15 teachers on fire safety within our building.

We had an awesome Halloween parade and trunk-or-treat festivities. We are planning to make some fun changes to this event next year!

Our Holiday Concert was on 12/19. Mr. Josh helped each classroom to prepare for the self-selected songs and performance. We had a special visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus and special guest musicians!

### Support for our Employees with Children:

In 2025, eight employees received a total of \$61,858 in subsidized childcare as an employee discount.

*(continued)*

**Current Learning Center Staff:**

**Years of Service**

Nancy Frederick- Center Director	3 years
Jaclyn Ruch- Assistant Director	4 years
Michelle Bonfrancesco	16 years
Patrice Califano	3 years
Erica Carr	3 years
Kayla Branigan	1 year in February
Cailee Farkas	1 year in July
Ginger Feher	1 year in September
Jessica Flok	11 years
Kim Harte	5 years
Erin James	2 years
Emily Kalinchock	5 years
Victoria Kenderdine	2 years
Michelle Mora	3 years
Brittany Nadal	4 years
Eva Quici	2 years
Carolyn Raudenbush (substitute)	3 years in August
Semaj Sailor	2 years
Angela Santoni	1 year in October
Lisa Stockton	2 years
Danielle Turdo	6 years
Leslie Venable	5 years
Mary Weddle	2 years

Summer Camp Teachers: Morgan Mixa, Madelyn Adams, Rylie Baer, and Ruth Sterner

**2026 Plans:**

We added the Pearson assessment tool with our Lillio app this past year. The new assessment tools and school age assessment were helpful to prepare our family conferences and goals moving forward! With our plan to move towards a STAR 2 program, we will continue completing these student assessments, classroom assessments to ensure that we are on track for improving our overall quality of service.

We would like to host a summer picnic with our students, teachers, and families towards the end of the summer. This would be a time for families to build relationships and have fun outside of the classrooms.

We are looking forward to what 2026 will bring to our program!

Best regards,  
Nancy Frederick  
Children's Learning Center Director

## Church Office Report

### **Baptisms**

01/26/2025 Mia Elinor Eustice  
01/26/2025 Luke Harry Eustice  
01/26/2025 Macie Cynthia Eustice  
02/16/2025 Lainey Braxmeier  
03/23/2025 Hailey Ann Miller  
03/23/2025 Nicholas Wayne Miller  
05/04/2025 Mack McGovern Gough  
05/04/2025 Brooks Thomas Koehler  
09/21/2025 Rowan Tylor-Clay Holmes  
09/21/2025 Ryatt Thyme Holmes  
09/21/2025 Juliette Thanh Le  
10/19/2025 Emerson Kathryn Shermetta  
11/16/2025 Luke Thomas Loetzbeier-Milla  
12/21/2025 Travis Howard Stahler

### **Funerals**

01/06/2025 Patricia Ann Keefer  
02/24/2025 Ethel M. Israel  
03/02/2025 Walter T. Brzezinski  
03/03/2025 Christine Norma Henson  
03/11/2025 Dorothy (Loncaric) Anderson  
03/15/2025 Janet R. Mills  
05/14/2025 Frank E. Podleiszek  
07/02/2025 Alfred Louis Horvath  
05/30/2025 Kathryn T. Kulscar  
08/20/2025 Carole L. Ackerman  
08/22/2025 Anthony T. Herstich, Jr.  
11/24/2025 Gloria Elaine Bruch

### **Spring New Comers 06/01/2025**

Liz & Jay Hanson  
Jim & Melissa Young, Violet and Teagan

### **Confirmations 10/26/2025**

Brennan Fox  
Audrey Frederick  
Hunter Hill  
Kaleb Hill  
Daniel Reading  
Nick Werkheiser

### **Weddings**

09/12/2025 Sydney A. Posh & Nicholas C. Marro

### **Fall New Comers 11/16/2025**

Denise Adams  
Teresa Mackey & Steven Barnes  
Mary Barwick  
Peggy Marshall  
Matt & Bev Pizsel  
Lisa Pyles, John and Penelope  
Heather & Travis Stahler

Respectfully submitted,  
Barry Stauffer  
Office Administrator

## Minister of Music Report

I give thanks to God for another rich and faithful year of worship through music. Throughout the year, well over fifty people have shared their time, talents, and hearts to help lead our congregation in song and praise. Together, they remind me of the words of Psalm 100: *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord... come into his presence with singing.”* What we offer each week is not about perfection, but about joy, generosity, and faithfulness.

Our music ministry is wonderfully diverse. Approximately twenty singers and instrumentalists serve regularly in our worship band, while in the neighborhood of sixteen to twenty voices enrich our choir, which is flexible to join seasonally. We are also blessed by twelve or more soloists who offer special music throughout the year, as well as many who participate in our chime choir. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of technical volunteers faithfully supports worship by running our audio-visual systems. Each role—seen and unseen—matters deeply. Worship music truly takes many moving parts, and I am profoundly grateful for every volunteer who shows up week after week with a willing spirit.

We rejoice that several new members joined our music groups this year. Our ministry remains open to beginners, seasoned musicians, and everyone in between. *“There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit”* (1 Corinthians 12). Every person who participates expands what we are able to offer together, and your presence strengthens our shared worship.

Beyond Sunday mornings, our musicians provide music for Lenten services, Holy Week worship, Easter and Christmas celebrations, a special summer music series, and other community worship opportunities such as the Hellertown Area Ministerium’s Longest Night service on December 21. Of course, don’t forget about going carol singing each year for those who cannot easily make it to church. These offerings extend our worship beyond our walls and witness to God’s love throughout the year.

Special thanks are due to Barry, our exceptionally dedicated Office Administrator, who consistently goes above and beyond to support the many logistical needs of our music ministry. We are also grateful to the property team for their flexibility and care—most recently for moving a pew to give the band a few much-needed extra feet of space.

It is a true privilege to serve as director of this music program. To witness so many people offering their gifts as an expression of worship is both humbling and inspiring. What we do together is not a performance, but an offering—an act of praise shaped by community, faith, and joy.

With deep appreciation to the congregation for your encouragement and support, I invite anyone who feels a nudge of the Spirit to learn more about joining one of our music groups. There is always room for another voice, another instrument, and another willing heart.

*Thanks be to God for all that has been shared—and all that is yet to come.*

In Christ,  
Stephen Wysocki  
Minister of Music

## Faith Community Nurse Report

The Faith Community Nurse continues to utilize the Care Giving resources of Christ Lutheran to provide comprehensive support to the homebound, parishioners and community at large. The continued support of the FCN ministry by private donations & through the budget of Christ Lutheran is greatly appreciated.

### A. Staff & FCN Responsibilities:

1. Communication of care giving referrals to Pastor when identified by FCN, or follow-up of referrals from Pastor or parishioners to FCN.
  - a. Referrals included, but not limited to end of life or hospice, pre/post hospitalization, illness, surgery, health agencies & facility information.
  - b. Advanced Seniors, Homebound & other Parishioner communications within the Faith Community via email, FCN homebound monthly visitations or mailings, E-greeting cards, Phone calls, and Texts; whatever communication best for the client.
2. Visitations to facilities, hospitals, and private residences. FCN goal of monthly communion visits for the homebound.
3. Contributions to Dayspring newsletter, E-blast, and Sunday announcements
4. Transportation: Coordination of transports for doctor appointments, outpatient therapies, service activities, or other essential errands ~ 25 for 2025
5. Blood Drive Coordinator: 3 mobile blood drives were completed at Christ Lutheran. March yielded 23 units, June yielded 24 units, and November yielded 24 units of whole blood
6. Monthly mailings of "Hope Through Healing" bereavement series
7. Care to Share durable medical equipment donation management
8. Worship & Music collaboration regarding service recommendations, the scheduling of SVM monthly communion, and holiday services. Recommendations to Steve Wysocki for December caroling schedule
9. Identifying Thrivent members to sponsor Thrivent Action team to support CLC Ministries and related service projects. Assisting with the information needed for writing the grant requests and closing reports for the Thrivent grant process.
10. Liaison with local Food Bank for delivery of emergency community food requests or private donations
11. Monitor Blessing Box for appropriate donations, refill box as needed, and respond to damage of blessing box
12. Sunday Service Worship volunteer participant and coffee hour host

*(continued)*

13. Networking misc. needs & making referrals to requests for yard work help, family food support, durable medical equipment, furniture, etc.
14. Completion of continuing ed on-line offerings for maintenance of nursing license. CPR recertification.
15. Matter of Balance class: Co-taught 8 week Matter of Balance Class April thru May at the Lower Macungie Township building in partnership with St. Luke's Trauma outreach program director. MOB class held at Christ Lutheran June thru July.
16. Member of the National Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association in. Board of Director Position representing Synod district 7 Parish nurses since 2023. Monthly agenda & facilitation of monthly FCN Peer support meetings for synod regions 7 & 8 in 2025. FCN hosted LFCNA display at Synod Assembly & represented Christ Lutheran as the female voting attendee.
17. Monthly support group "Coffee and Conversation" with Communion at Saucon Manor Apartment building
18. Riverton Personal Care Devotion/Communion offering by FCN

B. Care Giving Team Liaison:

1. Coordinator for the Care Giving team ministries, see CG annual report
2. Donation distribution from church ministry groups & parishioners to community agencies, individuals or families in need

C. Care Giving/FCN Service projects 2025:

1. January: Blessing Box Family Meal kit bags
2. February: "Share the Love" Valentine related initiatives
3. March: Miller Keystone blood drive March 26th yielded 23 units of blood
4. April: Easter baskets homebound
5. May: Mother's Day 5/11/25 FCN coffee hour and distribution of carnation flowers by Sunday School
6. June: Father's Day treat bags distributed post service. June 4th blood drive yielded 24 units of blood
7. July: No service project since 2 completed in June.
8. August: Initiation of donation stations for GWOH service projects supporting Community Partners
  - a. New Stuffedies for St. Luke's Pediatric Hospital
  - b. Family Food Meal kits for Blessing Box
  - c. VA care packages for Wilkes-Barre VA hospital infusion center
  - d. Hospitality kits for Family Promise
  - e. Bingo prizes for Hellertown senior apartment buildings
9. September: GWOH Service projects
10. October: Blessing Box Family Meal kits from GWOH. Donuts delivery for Dewey Ambulance

- 11. November: Miller-Keystone Blood Drive Nov 5th yielded 24 units of blood
- 12. December: Christmas service blitz supported by FCN's Thrivent grant
  - a. Homebound Christmas caroling
  - b. Holiday cookie tray for Saucon Valley Manor Christmas service
  - c. FCN holiday gifts to homebound

D. GWOH 2025 Coordinator of 14 service projects

- 1. Execution of FCN stuffed animal project collection for St. Luke's Pediatric Hospital Children's Hospital
- 2. Oversight of Restore GWOH service project

E. November Holiday Bazaar oversight of Concession stand, Bake Sale & Soup Sale as FCN Discretionary Fundraiser

- 1. With Gratitude to Claire Kostbar & Carol Dishmon for managing Soup & Bake Sale

F. Longest Night service: FCN attendance & special music, "Breath of Heaven," with Steve Wysocki

G. Care packages as needed for illness, surgery, or sympathy via discretionary fund x 3

H. Replacement church AED donated through the FCN discretionary fund

I. Facilitator for GIGGLES Women's Ministry

- a. 14 New Mom Baby Baskets were completed with Thrivent grant support & GIGGLES support
- b. With Gratitude to GIGGLES women for their amazing volunteer time toward the Holiday Bazaar & GWOH projects
- c. With Gratitude to GIGGLES women for Planning and Executing Bold Women's Service March 9th
- d. With Gratitude to GIGGLES women for hosting Coffee Hours to support worship hospitality

J. Faith Community Fellowship Friday Events 2025: Coordinated by FCN unless stated otherwise below

- a. No January Event
- b. February 28th: "Bella Gaia" at Zoellner
- c. March 9th: "Jesus Christ Superstar" at Civic Theater
- d. April 25th: "Singing in the Rain" at DeSales University
- e. May 31st: Church Social at Saucon Valley Country Club
- f. June 20th: Iron Pigs coordinated by Alice Karpa
- g. July 25th: Deck Night Socials
- h. August 10th: "A Light in the Piazza" at Civic Theater
- i. September 7th: "Speech and Debate" at Civic Theater
- j. October 10th: Oktoberfest coordinated by Angela Drake
- k. November 8th: Newcomer Social at Carriage House
- l. December 7th: "The Games Afoot or Holmes for the Holiday" DeSales holiday show planned

Respectively submitted, Enid Rank, Faith Community Nurse

## Care Giving Team Report

The Care Giving Ministries at Christ Lutheran are the internal ministries within the Faith Community that support parishioners, families, and outreach into the local community as needed. The Faith Community Nurse continues to utilize the Care Giving ministry resources for comprehensive care of the Faith Community. The team hosts service opportunities throughout the year to support the Homebound, Faith Community, and Community beyond our parish walls. The Care Giving Team/FCN hosts Coffee Hour to network with parishioners and to contribute to worship service hospitality needs.

**A. Church Council Liaisons to Care Giving Team:** Judy Chernikovich-Clemens and Judy Meier

**B. The Active Ministries within Care Giving Team in 2025:**

1. The Blessing Box: Coordinator Enid Rank

Christ Lutheran's Blessing Box was certainly blessed by the continued generosity of many community donors and parishioners, all who faithfully gifted much needed food support to the local community. The Blessing Box has seen an increase in usage as families struggle with economic and food instabilities.

† Grateful for neighbors helping neighbors. A Thrivent Action team by Corky Blake during GWOH financed the creation of 80 Family meals kits for the blessing box

† Grateful to Tom Salmon & Greg Clemens for repairing the door to the Blessing box. The door has sustained wind damage several times during the year.

2. The Card Ministry: New Coordinator Sandy Moran June 2025

Anniversary, Birthday, Get Well, Graduate, Holiday, Homebound, New Member, Sympathy, and Thinking of You card categories totaling 324 cards were posted by Sandy in a 7 month period of time.

The Card Ministry was also supported by 153 e-greetings and 50 homebound cards sent by the Faith Community Nurse.

† With gratitude to Sandy Moran for an amazing 7 months of creating homemade greeting cards, that have blessed so many people in our Faith Community. Sandy has graciously agreed to continue her work in 2026.

3. The Eucharistic Lay Ministry: Coordinator Enid Rank. Coordinator goal for 2025 was to develop members of Eucharistic team interested in expanding responsibilities.

The Lay Eucharistic Ministers are utilized during the Faith Community's monthly communion service. Quiet Communion is facilitated by Eucharistic Team members once a month.

Pastor Phil and the Faith Community Nurse started the year with monthly communion rounds with the activity director for the memory units at Saucon Valley Manor. A monthly communion service was added late Spring in the Event Center at SVM through October. The Fall season at SVM ended with a Holiday service for Thanksgiving and Christmas on the secured units. The Faith Community Nurse coordinates and schedules the above communion offerings. We are welcoming parishioners to participate in the SVM services as well.

The FCN offers a monthly communion offering for the residents of Saucon Manor Apartments.

The FCN provides a monthly Devotion & Communion offering at Riverton Personal Care facility.

The FCN targets monthly Homebound communion visitations.

- † With gratitude to Lay Eucharistic team for officiating Quiet Communion & assisting with monthly Worship Communion
- † With gratitude to Claire Kostbar and Sheryl Caliguire for expanding roles by facilitating Quiet Communion
- † With gratitude to Josh Gulotta for assisting with SVM monthly communion while Pastor on sabbatical or FCN unavailable
- † With gratitude to Bonnie Banks-Beers for providing music for SVM monthly services
- † With gratitude to Sheryl Caliguire, Mary Ann Horvath, and Alice Karpa for assisting with SVM monthly services as readers and communion assistants
- † With gratitude to Kim Blake for resuming homebound communion visits with Kathy Einherst

4. Love Is Food Today, L.I.F.T.: Lori Gough & Enid Rank co-coordinators

LIFT food support is used for new moms, post hospitalization, and special circumstances; approximately 50 meals

- † With gratitude to all the earthly angels known or unknown in the Faith Community, who make soup and meals to support the needs within the Faith Community.
- † With gratitude to Marie Frey, who has been a consistent donator of food in 2025 for care giving meal needs.
- † With gratitude for SignupGenius meal schedules for 3 families during the year

5. Prayer Chain Ministry: Prayer Chain Coordinator, Enid Rank

The electronic email prayer chain distributes prayer requests via email or group text message.

6. The Prayer Shawl Ministry: Coordinator Enid Rank

Baby Blankets/lap quilts (3), Prayer shawls (9), Prayer pockets (2) were gifted

- † With gratitude to Cheryl Enslin, Kathy Kach, Sandy Moran, and Evelyn Patterson for their hand-made creations that supported GIGGLES new mom baby baskets, baptisms, and care giving needs for illness or grief

7. Quilters: Coordinators Mary Ann Horvath and Alice Karpa. See report from Alice Karpa on behalf of the Quilters.

† Grateful for the many donations of baby blankets, and quilts generously outreach to both Community partners and to the Faith Community for baptisms and GIGGLES new baby baskets

8. Sanctuary Prayer Box: The sanctuary box prayer petitions are forwarded to the bulletin prayer list and/or prayer chain by the Faith Community Nurse. Decline in usage as most petitions communicated directly to FCN or to the Office.

9. Soup Ministry: Coordinators Lori Gough & Enid Rank

Monthly food ministry delivers light fare meals to the homebound; 120 meals were delivered

† With gratitude to Lori Gough for her donations of food & time to prepare our monthly food delivery meals

† With gratitude to Carol Dishmon, Lori Gough, and Mark Wilten for assisting FCN with food delivery

**C. Care Giving/FCN Service projects 2025:** Team goal is to coordinate a monthly service project. See FCN report

† With gratitude to Terry Long for assisting with the Easter, Mother's Day, and Father's Day service projects

† With gratitude for the amazing support of the Faith Community with Donations, Volunteer and Delivery time to make this another great year for "Gods Work. Our Hands."

**D. 2026 Goals:** Involve new volunteers in the Care Giving Ministries & develop existing members interested in new opportunities. Monthly FCN/Care Giving service initiatives monthly. FCN/Care Giving Host coffee hour quarterly.

May Compassion & Love continue to guide Christ Lutheran's Care Giving efforts in 2026!

Respectfully submitted, Enid Rank, Care Giving Team Leader

## Connections with Each Other (CWEO) Team Report

The Connections with Each Other Team (CWEO) provides support, hospitality and fellowship opportunities to our members and guests. In addition to Sunday morning Coffee Hour this team provides social events throughout the year.

Team Members: Carol Dishmon (Co-Leader), Carolyn Raudenbush (Co-Leader), Elise Cheung (Co-Leader Coffee Hour), Liz Hanson (Co-Leader Coffee Hour), Louise Wagner (Bunco Leader), Lee Wagner (Men's Breakfast Leader), Angela Drake (Oktoberfest Leader), Diane Stehly (Pacesetters Leader), Lois Apple, Claire Kostbar (Council Liaison) and all the men and women who provide monthly brunches for our members.

Additionally, CWEO thanks the following groups for all their support - the Quilters, Men's Group, Enid Rank (Faith Community Nurse), GIGGLES, and other members of the congregation who give of their time and talents. Thank you!

### **Ongoing Activities in 2025 included:**

**BookClub** was led by Nancy DeVogel during the year. The group met 7 times during 2025 with the group averaging around 10 -12 members at each meeting.

Throughout 2025, the Men's Group provided a hearty **Brunch** following the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday service each month. This team is led by Lee Wagner and a group of dedicated men and women who shop, cook, bake and serve.

**Bunco**, with Louise Wagner as the Coordinator, met monthly at member houses (usually the last Friday of the month, except for summer months). This group has some funds that they give to charitable causes.

**Pacesetters** had two events in 2025 – organized by Diane Stehly - a luncheon in March at Braveheart and a brunch at Yianni's Taverna in May. Average attendance was 30 people.

### **Special Events in 2025 included:**

**Lenten Soup Suppers**, in March, were led by Nancy DeVogel with help from Carol Dishmon.

**Summer Member Social** in June at the Saucon Valley Country Club organized by Brenda Tarulli and Pastor Phil.

**Oktoberfest** in October was led by Angela Drake and many others who helped to prepare, donate and serve food.

A **Newcomer Social** was held on November 8, 2025, with about 90 members attending a dinner at the Carriage House at Heintzelman's. Claire Kostbar led the event with the help of Carol Dishmon and Carolyn Raudenbush.

**Holiday Bazaar (Bake & Soup Sale, Concession Stand)**, held on November 15, 2025 was led by Enid Rank, Carol Dishmon and Claire Kostbar. Many thanks to those who supported this effort by volunteering their time and energy to provide baked goods, soups and food, and, to those who served our members and guests

A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to those who helped with our events and coffee hours. If you are interested in joining any of these teams or events, or if you have ideas for member events, please contact Claire Kostbar (ckostbar54@gmail.com). If you are interested in helping or hosting a Coffee Hour, please contact Elise Cheung (elise.m.cheung@gmail.com) or Liz Hanson (hansonje3@hotmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Kostbar  
CWEO Team Lead

## Connections with Our Community (CWOC) Team Report

The purpose of the CWOC Team is to make our faith community and those that have not yet experienced Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) aware of the unique character, welcoming spirit, and many programs and opportunities that are offered here at CLC. Team members include Teresa Mackey, Lead; Ed Alosi; Nancy DeVogel; Ken Doremus; Dave Willard; Staff: Debbi Pereira, Communications Specialist.

In 2025, the Team continued rebuilding, gaining new members as a couple of existing members decided to step down. Within a couple months of joining, I accepted the request to become Lead and look forward to advancing the Team's objectives. If you would like to join our team in any capacity, please feel free to reach out to Teresa Mackey, Dave Willard or any Church Council member—they will help you get connected!

Our participation in Hellertown's Community Day was a big success. The Team extends gratitude to David Willard for coordinating, Enid Rank for confirming the volunteer schedule, Josh Gulotta for obtaining raffle gifts, Kevin Gough for his assistance with set-up, and all of the volunteers who made the day exceptional. An easel-sized Church calendar was posted this year providing event attendees a list of our upcoming weekly, monthly and annual activities and events. Handouts related to some of these activities also garnered interest from visitors.

Website cleanup and improvements are underway. A website review was conducted to document broken links, inconsistencies, etc., with the results provided to Debbi Pereira to make the needed changes. As part of making improvements, a comprehensive list of all the Church's activities/events has been drafted and will be finalized in January 2026. This will provide a framework for the What's Happening section and advertising events. The company that provides the Church's website platform completed an upgrade recently that streamlined the management of the website, along with minor functional improvements.

The Team's discussions have focused on using annual planning to drive activity and event advertisements, especially recurring events, through Facebook, email, the weekly bulletin, and the DaySpring newsletter. Once this process is setup and running and the website updates are completed, we hope to expand our use of social media, e.g., Instagram, and other advertising avenues. Debbi Pereira recently put an ad in the bulletin and newsletter requesting event attendees submit photos they take to her for posting on social media. Additionally, we have also generated a proposed action plan using ChatGPT, which uses artificial intelligence, that we will be reviewing next year for new ideas to get the word out about Christ Lutheran!

Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Mackey  
CWOC Team Lead

## Finance Team, Treasurer, and Audit Committee Report

For 2025, the Church income was over budget by 0.6% and expenses were 1.9% under budget, resulting in a net income of \$15,469 (compared to a budgeted loss of \$586). In summary we operated better than break-even.

The 2026 Church budget assumes that expenses are reasonably in line with estimated income. This requires a careful analysis of the 2026 Pledge Campaign, 2025 giving trends, and anticipated expenditures. Overall, we are budgeting a loss of \$6,305 for 2026; which is 1% of expected incomes. In summary we expect to operate slightly less than break-even in 2026.

For 2025 the Children's Learning Center income was under budget by 4.8% and expenses were 1.9% under budget resulting in a net loss of \$24,681 (compared to a budgeted gain of \$2,187). In summary, we did not achieve a break-even position in 2025.

The 2026 Learning Center budget has been set to achieve a break-even. Key assumptions for that budget include a resetting of the annual allocation of Church expenses applicable to the Learning Center. The elements of the allocation were reviewed and updated to more closely align with actual experience. That change, coincidentally, has put the Learning Center in a better position regarding a break-even goal. However, that alone, will not assure break-even.

More notably, we are implementing changes in the Learning Center pricing and operating practices to assure that we can sustain a year-to-year, financially stable, break-even operation. This includes price increases that are consistent with industry-wide trends and more closely aligned with our cost of offering the various stages of child development. We are also implementing marketing and contract practices to help achieve operating as close to maximum enrollment capacity as possible.

The Finance Team, Treasurer, and Audit Committee work together to assure the Church leadership and congregation that good stewardship is being used in the handling and accounting for the funds and other assets of the Church. We work closely with Chip Rust (Financial Administrator) and Nancy Frederick (Learning Center Director).

We need to add members to our Finance Team and Audit Committee. If you are interested, please let one of us know.

*2025 Financial Results (pg. 32-34) and 2026 Budget (pg. 35-36)*

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McCallister

Outgoing Finance Team Leader

John Varady

Church Council Treasurer

Kurt Rank

Audit Committee Chair

## Mutual Ministry Team Report

Team Members Participating in 2025: Nancy DeVogel, Ali Myers

### **Executive Summary:**

The role of a Mutual Ministry Team is to act as a human resources function, with involvement in staffing, personnel matters, staff compensation analysis, training, maintaining the church employee handbook, and ensuring Christ Lutheran adheres to employment laws. The Mutual Ministry Team provides support for Church Council, management staff, and employees in personnel related matters.

### **Mutual Ministry Team Vision**

*The Vision for Mutual Ministry Team is to provide supportive counsel and enable Church staff and Council to effectively manage the operations of the church related to personnel.*

### **What Support Does Mutual Ministry Provide?**

- Review documents for content, potential compliance considerations, and provide ideas/suggestions (e.g., job descriptions, performance evaluation forms, policies, etc.).
- Conduct an annual review of the Employee Handbook to keep current with laws, regulations, and industry best practices.
- Advise and maintain confidentiality on personnel related issues when church staff and council members feel they need additional support or ideas.
- Provide a safe outlet for church employees to contact and ensure Christ Lutheran provides a safe, fair, equitable, and supportive work environment.
- Interviewing and hiring support for department heads and when Church Council or an appointed Hiring Committee needs additional help.

### **Key Activities in 2025:**

- Updating the following sections of the Employee Handbook: State Teacher Certification Requirements, Staff Time-Off policy, Sick Days Policy, and adding an inclement weather policy. Updates are approved by Church Council.
- Conducted Learning Center employee check-in and feedback sessions.
- Provided guidance to the Learning Center Director on hiring and retention of teachers and the handling of personnel issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Mutual Ministry Team

## Outreach Team Report

Christ Lutheran's Service/Outreach ministry is an opportunity for church members and friends to positively affect our community and beyond. Our team is a vehicle to assist those who desire to volunteer for projects or become involved with non-profit agencies that improve the lives of those who are in need of basic services such as food, clothing and shelter. Here is a review of 2025:

**Back to School Supplies:** The generosity of Christ Lutheran members and friends was in full display when we put out a late request for "back to school" supplies. The response was overwhelming. We gave our donations to the Hellertown Area Food Bank for distribution to the children who visit with their families. The food bank gave out supplies over two months. We were told the smiles on the children's faces lit up the room! We provided them with 99 notebooks, 640 pencils, 60 markers, 96 colored pencils, 2,420 crayons, 5 pencil sharpeners, 5 three-ring binders, 72 pens, 16 Sharpies, 92 erasers, 4 rulers, 38 glue sticks, 4 scissors, 80 folders, 28 packs of lined paper, 3 book bags, 12 rolls of tape and 3 pencil bags.

**Bread and Produce Delivery to New Bethany:** Church members and friends have faithfully picked up and delivered produce and bakery items on weekdays from Giant Hellertown to the New Bethany pantry. On average, we deliver 30-40 pounds of donations daily to New Bethany. This ministry is in desperate need of volunteers who can donate an hour of time to serve as substitutes when the regular delivery people are unavailable.

**Children's Christmas Gifts:** In December, Christ Lutheran members and friends donated Christmas gifts for children of Hellertown Area Food Bank clients and for children associated with New Bethany.

**Coat Drive:** Christ Lutheran sponsored a coat drive in January and Friday with nearly 50 coats being distributed to New Bethany and Victory House. An assortment of coats were also dropped off at these non-profits throughout the year.

**Food Bank Collections:** Our collection of canned and dry goods for the Hellertown Area Food Bank and our blessing box is a year-round endeavor. We've improved our collection by responding to the Food Bank's specific monthly needs. For instance, the Food Bank was extremely low on jelly in November, and we responded by collecting 200 jars of jelly. We held our Harvest Home and Reverse Advent food drives, and the CLC Learning Center augmented our ministry with a month-long collection of canned and dry goods.

**Fresh Produce for Food Bank:** Twice a month our church purchases \$350 of fresh produce for the clients of Hellertown Area Food Bank. It takes three people each with a grocery cart to shop for produce at Valley Farm Market, transport the produce to the food bank and set up three long tables of fresh produce on a Friday morning for distribution to families on the third and fourth Saturdays of the month. We go to Valley Farm because we receive \$30 for every \$500 gift card purchased. Plus, we try to buy produce on sale so more money is saved by this practice. It takes less than 90 minutes to accomplish this task. We have a group of 6-8 people who volunteer one shift at a time. We are currently short on volunteers so if you're looking for an opportunity to help, the Sign-up Genius link is on the church website. In November and December, because of a

wonderful donation of \$1,000 made specifically for food by a family outside the church, we purchased approximately 50 cheese products to give out during four consecutive food bank Saturdays. Families were provided a choice of four kinds of cheese including block, sliced, stick and cottage cheese. Cheese is a valuable source of protein, and is something that is not available at the food bank for several reasons. It was certainly very popular this fall!

*(courtesy of Angela Drake)*

**Hellertown Area Thanksgiving Meal Donation:** Christ Lutheran, through the Service/Outreach budget, donated \$200 to help defray expenses for the free-will Hellertown Area Thanksgiving meal that was served to nearly 100 people at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church on November 22.

**Ingathering:** Christ Lutheran participated in the annual Bethlehem/Easton Mission District Ingathering event by donating \$300 to help defray the cost of personal hygiene items that were distributed to a variety of local non-profit agencies.

**Mitten Tree:** The mitten tree resulted in 14 pair of gloves, 15 pair of socks, 5 hats and 4 scarfs that will be donated to Hellertown Area Food Bank clients.

**New Bethany Lunch Serving:** Christ Lutheran's rotating crew of 7-8 members and friends prepare and serve lunch at New Bethany on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

**Soup Making for New Bethany:** Christ Lutheran members made more than 90 quarts of soup in September for the clients of New Bethany as part of God's Work Our Hands. A Thrivent Action Grant covered the project's expenses.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Blake  
Service/Outreach Team Leader

## Property Team Report

The Property Team's mission is to help care for the church building, grounds and property of the congregation. To accomplish this, we will rely on the experience and knowledge of our team members and their contacts throughout the contractor industry. The team will perform research for the purpose of making educated recommendations to church council and perform selected tasks internally at our own discretion. Numerous maintenance action items have been addressed throughout the year. Following are project highlights.

### **2025 Projects**

- Spring Clean Up: mulched around property including Labyrinth, trimmed shrubs, weeded and general property clean up.
- Replaced dead pine tree in front of the sanctuary.
- Replaced six complete HVAC systems. All units are now up-to-date.
- Installed decorative outdoor lighting on gazebo. If you would like to host an upcoming outdoor, personal evening event, contact office.
- Installed outdoor astroturf on toddler playground.
- Replaced obsoleted fire alarm panel.
- Installed wall mount changing table in fellowship hallway between two restrooms.
- Replaced all emergency light batteries throughout the building.
- Installed additional lower window pane in South Lounge door to enhance safety.

### **Potential 2026 Projects**

- Expanding parking lot.
- Refurbishing Narthex lady's room.
- Convert men's room in Narthex to a single-user multi-function restroom. It will be handicap accessible and include wall mount changing station.
- Upgrade camera surveillance, extend public address system capability and upgrade learning center portable radios (phones).
- Replace section of drainage pipe behind learning center.
- Replace learning center entrance sidewalk.
- Install stand-alone wall mount HVAC unit in library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Karpa  
Property Team Lead

## Stewardship Team Report

We are deeply grateful for the generous and faithful support of our congregation. Your stewardship is expressed not only through financial gifts, but also through the time, talents, and expertise you share in our many ministries, programs, and improvement projects. Together, you make our Faith Community vibrant and strong—thank you!

As we look ahead, Stewardship’s goal for 2026 is to continue **Grow in Giving**. When more people are involved, the impact of our ministry expands. Increased participation and generosity allow us to better support our dedicated staff and to strengthen and grow our programs.

We are excited to report that the results of our November 2025 Stewardship Campaign exceeded even last year’s outstanding totals—the best we have seen in recent history! For 2026, we received **92 pledge cards** totaling **\$380,600**, an increase over the **\$365,100 pledged for 2025**. 2026 Pledges by fund:

- General Fund: \$296,600
- Youth & Family Minister: \$38,100
- Faith Community Nurse: \$44,000
- Food Bank: \$2,000
- Total Pledges: \$380,600**

These commitments reflect the strong belief our congregation has in the ministries we share and the people we serve.

Our “Special Monthly Envelope” offerings continued in 2025, providing direct support to important ministries: January – Hellertown Food Bank: \$2,960, May – Faith Community Nurse: \$3,854, September – Youth & Family Minister: \$7,980. We are thankful for every gift given through these offerings and will continue the Special Monthly Envelope program throughout 2026 to support these vital ministries.

We also continued team leader presentations during worship in 2025. Hearing directly from ministry leaders helps our congregation better understand the work being done and discover new ways to get involved. These moments of sharing strengthen our connections and inspire participation, and we look forward to continuing them in 2026.

As we move into the coming year, we will build on recent successes while focusing on several important continuing initiatives:

- Increasing online giving through the church website and direct bank giving
- Providing education on giving through IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)
- Offering guidance on estate planning and including Christ Lutheran Church in those plans
- Creating the ability to complete and submit pledge cards electronically
- Working closely with Church Council to encourage more volunteers, leadership development, and stronger communication.

We see every day how generous giving of time, talent, and treasure reflects our love for one another and for those we serve. We invite everyone to help us continue spreading that love by getting involved. Thank you for all that you do as we continue to **Grow in Giving**—together.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Stewardship Team

## Worship & Music Team Report

**Team:** Lois Apple, Bonnie Banks-Beers, Glenn Butterfield, Ken Doremus, Josh Gulotta, Alice Karpa, Mandy Mayer, Ursula Merriman, Ferd Piccuiro, Kurt Rank, Enid Rank, Reverend Phil Spohn, Mark Stana and Steve Wysocki.

### Worship:

**Altar Guild** – Kay Cole, Alice Karpa, Kathy Paskewicz and Leeanne Weirback enrich the look and feel of our sanctuary. They ensure that supplies are in place for communion, devotional/altar candle lightings, baptisms, and seasonal services, Flowers and altar decorations beautified Easter, Harvest Home, Advent, Christmas, and other special services.

**Sunday Services** – Pastor Phil delivered inspiring and thought-provoking messages relating historic biblical passages to today’s challenges. Josh Gulotta delivered creative “A Time for all Ages” messages and periodic sermon support.

**Attendance Averages** –

	2 Services			1 Service			
	Pre-Covid			Post Covid (return in person)			
	2010	2015	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
In Person	174	163	151	95	126	131	126
Streaming *	NA	NA	NA	41	35	31	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>153</b>

\* Streaming = number of connections and may undercount viewership as families may share a stream

**Christmas Eve** – Two services: 4pm Attendance - 284 7pm Attendance - 203

**PowerPoint/Live Streaming** – Ken Doremus, Kevin Gough and Mark Stana run PowerPoint presentations created by Barry Stauffer and manage video streaming to Zoom and Facebook.

**First Wednesday Meditation Services** – Ferd Piccuiro and Bonnie Banks-Beers. Ministry temporarily on hold and will be assessed in 2026.

### Music:

Steve Wysocki, Music Director, leads the growing Praise Band, accompanies choir ensembles, vocalists and instrumentalists and provides prelude/postlude selections on the organ. (Pg. 13)  
Bonnie Banks Beers, Assistant Music Director, steps in when Steve is away, leads the Chime Choir and coordinates the Summer Music Program of varied vocalists and musicians.

### Other Supported Activities:

**Tree Lighting** – the December tree lighting ceremony included Christmas carols led by Steve Wysocki followed by fellowship and treats.

**Caroling** - coordinated by Enid Rank and Steve Wysocki, brought Christmas cheer to local friends of CLC. The carolers (12) gathered for food and fellowship afterwards.

**Saucon Valley Manor** - Bonnie Banks Beers, Josh Gulotta, Enid Rank and Pastor Phil Spohn brought Christmas cheer and carol singing to the Manor again this year.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers are a vital part of our Worship & Music ministry. We are blessed to have so many talented and dedicated people contributing their time and talents. My thanks to all W&M Team members, readers, communion servers, ushers & greeters, praise band and choir members, chimers, soloists, musicians, and the audio-visual team. You are truly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted, Kurt Rank, Worship & Music Team Lead

## Garden & Labyrinth Report

The Church Garden season was relatively successful. We had a banner crop of butternut squash and green beans, sweet peppers, eggplants and cucumbers produced strongly and the cherry tomatoes were prolific. We delivered more than last year to our target beneficiaries of the local food bank, the Front Street senior housing apartments and the senior highrise. We tried to grow yams with not much success and had limited production of large tomatoes. The drip irrigation system continued to perform well and was the reason we had an excellent growing season despite poor rainfall.

We still struggle with invasive voles who ruined the yam/sweet potato crop and nibbled on a lot of other produce spoiling it.

The trees we had nurtured in 2 of our raised beds were removed this past spring and those beds were returned to growing food for our charity clients. We put down more plastic in the walkways to reduce weed growth and this fall we covered all the beds with donated hay to limit soil loss (from wind) during winter which has been a big problem most years. We had tried that on some beds last winter and it was a success so we did all the beds this fall.

There were 8 families gardening this past season plus Josh, our youth pastor, had a full bed for the kids to grow veggies in. We are going to be looking for 2 new gardeners this spring; see Angela Drake if you are interested in growing vegetables in our organic church garden.

The Labyrinth saw success in the growth of the back row shrubs (St. John's wort shrubby) planted a year ago but we were unable to keep the scarlet oaks newly planted in the second wind/noise break row alive: they died twice in the summer heat and dry weather despite our efforts to keep them alive. 2 new shrubs, spicebush, were planted in those spots this fall and hopefully they will flourish as they require little watering and like a sunny spot. They have fragrant yellow blooms in early spring and are an outstanding nectar source for pollinators especially early in the year. and will provide great cover and nesting for native songbirds.

I put in 2 lavender plants in 2 different flower beds in spring but they also died in the summer heat. We will probably look for larger specimens and try again this spring to better establish them. The arbor rose died in the winter of 24 and was replaced with a different variety. Unfortunately, it grew poorly but we are hopeful that it will be more successful this growing season. Unfortunately the labyrinth is far from our water spigots and it takes serious work to keep new plants and shrubs adequately watered.

The polymeric sand under the benches needs renewing this spring and one or two screws need replacement at said benches. Otherwise the hardscape is in good condition.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Drake

## BookClub Report

The 2025 Book Club met during the year to discuss the novels selected by the members from some of the best authors in the country. The conversations are always simulating and provocative. Christ Lutheran Church Council graciously agreed to provide copies of each novel selected for those members that requested them. The total cost of books purchased by Christ Lutheran in 2025 was \$623.47.

The Book Club will continue to meet in 2026 with a fabulous reading list!

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy DeVogel

## Pacesetters Report

Pacesetters had two successful events in 2025: March 2<sup>nd</sup> a luncheon was held at *Braveheart* in town and May 4<sup>th</sup> a brunch at *Yianni's Taverna* in Bethlehem. All menus and set-ups are personally arranged with restaurant managers. Average attendance is 30. Pacesetters is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Stehly

## Quilters Report

The quilters are a wonderful group of dedicated sewers who keep their hands busy all year. We hand quilt tops for customers, make lap quilts to sell at craft shows and donate quilts to various organizations.

We quilt Wednesday 8:30-1:30 and Thursday 5:30-7:30 and welcome new quilters. We are also looking for people who like to sew and can help us assemble our lap quilts or want to learn how to knot the quilts. There are quite a few opportunities to get involved in our ministry!

We donated 63 lap or twin quilts to various organizations including St. Luke's Hospice, Family Promise, Freedom First Dog Rescue and Faith Community Nurse. We are always looking for organizations to donate, so if you know of any please reach out.

We quilted 12 tops for customers which were wall hanging up to queen size for a total of \$1,700.00.

We did 6 craft shows this year. Between the shows and using Facebook Marketplace, we were able to sell 131 quilts and 6 Twin quilts. We also sold a set of pillows and 3 wall hangings.

During 2025, we were able to donate our profits for the Social @ Saucon Valley Country Club, Al Horvath memorial, Food Bank, year-end bonuses, Faith community Nurse and Youth Ministry positions, Table covers for high top narthex tables, Easter baskets for FCN project, new screens, and Staff holiday dinner.

Our year always concludes with a beautiful lunch and gift exchange. We have a dedicated group who keep hands busy all year so we can spread joy and help others!

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Karpa

## Chair Yoga Report

The 2025 Chair Yoga class met on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in 2025 and the class size continuously increased to soon reaching full capacity (22 students).

Chair Yoga is providing an exercise option for church members and the community and the class continues to receive positive feedback from participants. Many of the participants from the community have also attended Christ Lutheran worship services and a few are coming on a regular basis.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy DeVogel

## Reiki Report

January 3rd	0 Sessions	Donations: \$0	Cancelled Due to Snow
March 3rd	18 Sessions	Donations: \$151.00	
May 5th	16 Sessions	Donations: \$140.00	
July 14th	14 Sessions	Donations: \$100.00	
September 7th	14 Sessions	Donations: \$99.00	
November 2	26 Sessions	Donations: \$264.00	
Total:	88 Sessions	Donations: \$764.00	All to Reiki/Yoga/Holistic Needs Fund

Some of the donations were used to purchase additional privacy screens for Christ Lutheran's use as needed.

There are now six (6) Reiki Masters volunteering their time as possible. (An increase from four (4) in previous years)

There is continually a waiting list of Church members and Community that wish to be called if additional times open up each Outreach evening.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Chernikovich Clemens

## Yoga Report

Yoga meets weekly on Saturdays at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall. Fees are \$5.00 per person, youth/students are free. Fundraisers are held during the year as well with all fees going to a charity of choice. In 2025, \$118.00 was raised for the Christ Lutheran Church & Children's Learning Center Christmas Staff Bonus Fund.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lenore Spohn

<b>Christ Lutheran Church</b>						
<b>P&amp;L Statement v. Budget</b>						
<b>Church</b>						
<b>For Year Ended December 31, 2025</b>						
				<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>\$ Variance</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>						
<b>Income</b>						
<b>CHURCH</b>						
Total 40000 · Contributions				441,697	441,646	51
Total 41000 · Church Projects & Programs				520	650	(130)
42100 · Faith Community Nurse				40,172	40,171	1
42150 · Youth & Family Minister				55,567	55,564	3
42155 · Spiritual Director				450	0	450
42200 · Facility Contribution				425	0	425
Total 42300 · Outreach Donation				8,313	8,400	(87)
42400 · Employee Bonus Contributions				3,408	0	3,408
42910 · Reimbursed Incremental Cost CLC				88,800	88,800	0
43000 · Bank interest				1	0	1
<b>Total CHURCH</b>				<b>639,353</b>	<b>635,231</b>	<b>4,122</b>
<b>Total Income</b>				<b>639,353</b>	<b>635,231</b>	<b>4,122</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
<b>CHURCH EXP</b>						
Total 60000 · GROSS PAYROLL				352,845	348,687	4,158
Total 60300 · Church Payroll Taxes and Fees				24,490	23,712	778
Total 60400 · PASTORAL SUPPLEMENTS				78,006	79,505	(1,499)
Total 60700 · YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY SUPPLEM				323	950	(627)
61000 · Ministry Teams						
Total 61100 · CAREGIVING				4,612	4,200	412
Total 61200 · CONNECTIONS WITH COMMUNITY				3,570	4,400	(830)
Total 61300 · CONNECTIONS WITH MEMBERS				3,295	3,200	95
Total 61400 · FAITH FORMATION				4,732	8,790	(4,058)
Total 61500 · STEWARDSHIP				3,463	3,695	(232)
Total 61600 · OUTREACH				26,655	27,200	(545)
Total 61700 · WORSHIP AND MUSIC				6,805	6,700	105
Total 61000 · Ministry Teams				53,132	58,185	(5,053)
Total 62000 · INSURANCE				17,532	17,850	(318)
Total 62300 · OFFICE EXP.				28,830	30,168	(1,338)
Total 62400 · PROPERTY				36,275	45,936	(9,661)
Total 62500 · UTILITIES				32,451	30,824	1,627
<b>Total CHURCH EXP</b>				<b>623,884</b>	<b>635,817</b>	<b>(11,933)</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>				<b>623,884</b>	<b>635,817</b>	<b>(11,933)</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>				<b>15,469</b>	<b>(586)</b>	<b>16,055</b>

Christ Lutheran Church P&L Statement v. Budget Learning Center For Year Ended December 31, 2025				Actual 2025	Budget 2025	\$ Variance
Ordinary Income/Expense						
Income						
LEARNING CENTER						
47000 · Child Care Fees				845,192	892,111	(46,919)
47100 · Title XX				22,248	29,870	(7,622)
47150 · Fundraising				1,360	1,000	360
47200 · LC Hourly Employee Bonus Collec				9,904	0	9,904
Total LEARNING CENTER				878,704	922,981	(44,277)
Total Income				878,704	922,981	(44,277)
Expense						
LEARNING CENTER EXP						
67000 · LC Employment						
Total 67100 · PAYROLL Expense				700,799	716,507	(15,708)
67150 · LC Employer Payroll taxes				53,502	54,741	(1,239)
Total 67000 · LC Employment				754,301	771,248	(16,947)
67160 · Worker's Compensation				6,654	6,111	543
67200 · Continuing Education LC				65	1,500	(1,435)
67250 · Curriculum				4,920	5,080	(160)
Total 67300 · Supplies				4,793	4,050	743
67350 · Food				3,803	4,000	(197)
67400 · Software Database				3,787	4,952	(1,165)
67500 · Certifications				1,410	1,221	189
67550 · Summer Camp				4,583	5,000	(417)
67600 · Special Events				798	1,000	(202)
67700 · Advertising				2,956	3,100	(144)
67800 · Equipment				1,699	2,000	(301)
67850 · LC Director's Discrecionary				818	1,500	(682)
67900 · Tuition Payment Processing Fees				23,998	21,232	2,766
67910 · Incremental Cost reimbursement				88,800	88,800	0
Total LEARNING CENTER EXP				903,385	920,794	(17,409)
Total Expense				903,385	920,794	(17,409)
Net Ordinary Income				(24,681)	2,187	(26,868)

<b>Christ Lutheran Church</b>					
<b>Balance Sheet w/ previous Year End</b>					
<b>As of December 31, 2025 and December 31, 2024</b>					
<b>ASSETS</b>				<b>Dec 31, 25</b>	<b>Dec 31, 24</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>					
<b>Checking/Savings</b>					
<b>    Truist</b>					
	10000	·	Checking	23,013	73,834
	10500	·	Savings	0	542
	10505	·	Truist Money Market Account	15,081	26,395
	<b>Total Truist</b>			<b>38,094</b>	<b>100,771</b>
<b>10600 · Morgan Stanley</b>					
	10601	·	Endowment	436,809	409,909
	10602	·	Maintenance	54,708	52,457
	10603	·	Memorial	207,057	193,600
	10604	·	Scholarship	95,422	91,910
	<b>Total 10606 · Savings Alternative</b>			<b>504,525</b>	<b>484,916</b>
	<b>Total 10600 · Morgan Stanley</b>			<b>1,298,521</b>	<b>1,232,792</b>
	10650	·	Mission Investment Fund - 1 YR	54,739	52,432
	10700	·	Mission Investment Fund 4149	261	260
	<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>			<b>1,391,615</b>	<b>1,386,255</b>
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>			<b>1,391,615</b>	<b>1,386,255</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>				<b>1,391,615</b>	<b>1,386,255</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>					
<b>Liabilities</b>					
<b>    Current Liabilities</b>					
<b>        Other Current Liabilities</b>					
	<b>Total 23000 · Designated &amp; Restricted Funds</b>			<b>459,624</b>	<b>510,779</b>
	<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>			<b>459,624</b>	<b>510,779</b>
	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>			<b>459,624</b>	<b>510,779</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>			<b>459,624</b>	<b>510,779</b>
<b>Equity</b>					
	30000	·	Opening Bal Equity	430,083	430,083
	31000	·	Unrealized Gain	90,006	73,843
	31001	·	Portfolio Income	995	0
	39000	·	Retained Earnings	371,551	311,632
	<b>Net Income</b>			<b>39,357</b>	<b>59,919</b>
	<b>Total Equity</b>			<b>931,992</b>	<b>875,477</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				<b>1,391,616</b>	<b>1,386,256</b>

<b>Christ Lutheran Church</b>						
<b>2026 Budget</b>						
<b>Church</b>						
		2026	2025		2025	
		TOTAL	Actual	\$ Variance	Budget	\$ Variance
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>						
<b>Income</b>						
<b>CHURCH</b>						
	Total 40000 · Contributions	478,793	441,697	37,097	441,646	37,148
	Total 41000 · Church Projects & Programs	650	520	130	650	0
	42100 · Faith Community Nurse	41,778	40,172	1,606	40,171	1,607
	42150 · Youth & Family Minister	54,288	55,567	(1,279)	55,564	(1,276)
	42155 · Spiritual Director	1,500	450	1,050	0	
	42200 · Facility Contribution	0	425	(425)	0	0
	Total 42300 · Outreach Donation	8,400	8,313	88	8,400	0
	42400 · Employee Bonus Contributions	0	3,408	(3,408)	0	
	42910 · Reimbursed Incremental Cost CLC	64,200	88,800	(24,600)	88,800	(24,600)
	42999 · Misc Income	0	0	0	0	0
	43000 · Bank interest	0	1	(1)	0	0
	<b>Total CHURCH</b>	<b>649,610</b>	<b>639,353</b>	<b>8,935</b>	<b>635,231</b>	<b>14,378</b>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>649,610</b>	<b>639,353</b>	<b>8,935</b>	<b>635,231</b>	<b>14,378</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
<b>CHURCH EXP</b>						
	Total 60000 · GROSS PAYROLL	360,322	352,846	7,476	348,687	11,635
	Total 60300 · Church Payroll Taxes and Fees	24,957	24,490	467	23,712	1,245
	Total 60400 · PASTORAL SUPPLEMENTS	82,740	78,006	4,734	79,505	3,235
	Total 60700 · YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY SUPPLEMENTS	950	323	627	950	0
	Total 61100 · CAREGIVING	4,420	4,612	(192)	4,200	220
	Total 61200 · CONNECTIONS WITH COMMUNITY	4,320	3,570	750	4,400	(80)
	Total 61300 · CONNECTIONS WITH MEMBERS	7,025	3,295	3,730	3,200	3,825
	Total 61400 · FAITH FORMATION	8,800	4,732	4,068	8,790	10
	Total 61500 · STEWARDSHIP	3,671	3,464	207	3,695	(24)
	Total 61600 · OUTREACH	25,200	26,655	(1,455)	27,200	(2,000)
	Total 61700 · WORSHIP AND MUSIC	8,300	6,805	1,495	6,700	1,600
	Total 61000 · Ministry Teams	61,736	53,132	8,604	58,185	3,551
	Total 62000 · INSURANCE	14,795	17,531	(2,736)	17,851	(3,056)
	Total 62300 · OFFICE EXP.	32,039	28,830	3,210	30,168	1,871
	Total 62400 · PROPERTY	46,290	36,276	10,014	45,936	354
	Total 62500 · UTILITIES	32,085	32,451	(366)	30,824	1,260
	<b>Total CHURCH EXP</b>	<b>655,915</b>	<b>623,884</b>	<b>32,031</b>	<b>635,818</b>	<b>20,096</b>
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>655,915</b>	<b>623,884</b>	<b>32,031</b>	<b>635,818</b>	<b>20,096</b>
	<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(6,305)</b>	<b>15,469</b>	<b>(21,774)</b>	<b>(587)</b>	<b>(5,718)</b>

Christ Lutheran Church						
2026 Budget						
Learning Center						
		2026	2025		2025	
		TOTAL	Actual	\$ Variance	Budget	\$ Variance
Ordinary Income/Expense						
Income						
LEARNING CENTER						
	47000 · DayCare Fees	903,647	845,192	58,455	892,111	11,535
	47100 · Title XX	20,383	22,248	(1,865)	29,870	(9,487)
	47150 - Fundraising	1,000	1,360	(360)	1,000	0
	47200 · LC Hourly Employee Bonus Collec	0	9,904	(9,904)	0	0
	<b>Total LEARNING CENTER</b>	<b>925,029</b>	<b>878,703</b>	<b>46,326</b>	<b>922,981</b>	<b>2,048</b>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>925,029</b>	<b>878,703</b>	<b>46,326</b>	<b>922,981</b>	<b>2,048</b>
Expense						
LEARNING CENTER EXP						
	67000 · LC Employment					
	Total 67100 · PAYROLL Expense	739,576	700,799	38,777	716,507	23,069
	67150 · LC Employer Payroll taxes	56,504	53,502	3,001	54,741	1,762
	<b>Total 67000 · LC Employment</b>	<b>796,079</b>	<b>754,302</b>	<b>41,778</b>	<b>771,248</b>	<b>24,831</b>
	67160 · Worker's Compensation	4,182	6,654	(2,472)	6,111	(1,929)
	67200 · Continuing Education	1,200	65	1,135	1,500	(300)
	67250 - Curriculum	4,900	4,920	(20)	5,080	(180)
	<b>Total 67300 · Supplies</b>	<b>4,350</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>(443)</b>	<b>4,050</b>	<b>300</b>
	67350 · Food	4,250	3,803	447	4,000	250
	67400 · Software Database	4,983	3,787	1,196	4,952	31
	67500 · Certifications	1,546	1,410	136	1,221	325
	37550 - Summer Camp	5,200	4,583	617	5,000	201
	67600 · Special Events	1,000	798	202	1,000	0
	67700 · Advertising	3,100	2,956	144	3,100	0
	67800 · Equipment	2,000	1,699	301	2,000	0
	67850 · LC Director's Discretionary	1,500	818	682	1,500	0
	67900 · Tuition Payment Processing Fees	25,527	23,998	1,529	21,232	4,295
	67910 · Incremental Cost reimbursement	64,200	88,800	(24,600)	88,800	(24,600)
	<b>Total LEARNING CENTER EXP</b>	<b>924,018</b>	<b>903,386</b>	<b>20,632</b>	<b>920,793</b>	<b>3,224</b>
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>924,018</b>	<b>903,386</b>	<b>20,632</b>	<b>920,793</b>	<b>3,224</b>
	<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>(24,683)</b>	<b>25,694</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>(1,176)</b>

<b>Christ Lutheran Church</b>				
<b>Designated &amp; Restricted Funds</b>				
As of December 31, 2025 and December 31, 2024				
			Dec 31, 25	Dec 31, 24
<b>23000 · Designated &amp; Restricted Funds</b>				
	23002 · AV Live Streaming Upgrade		146	146
	23005 · Bazaar		2,920	789
	23008 · Blessing Box		2,052	0
	23010 · Breakfast		2,008	487
	23020 · Bunco		1,226	820
	23030 · Church Beautification		3,279	3,279
	23034 · Contingency Reserve		45,237	50,000
	23040 · Employee Bonus		1,843	1,400
	23070 · Faith Community Nurse		83,360	62,757
	23075 · FCN Discretionary Fund		4,047	5,535
	23080 · Food Bank		8,590	10,693
	23085 · Community Garden		2,036	1,159
	23110 · Giggles Ministry		4,281	3,836
	23122 · Interest Inc - Council Discret		6,456	6,452
	23125 · Labyrinth		22	22
	23130 · Memorial Monies		11,385	995
	23146 · Flowers - Special Services		1,244	1,115
	23150 · Prayer Shawl		280	280
	23160 · Quilters		18,055	18,725
	23165 · Speaker Series		3,000	3,000
	23168 · Spiritual Director		1,640	0
	23190 · Youth Activities		28,034	27,434
	23195 · Youth & Family Minister		85,668	96,713
	23208 · Reiki - Yoga		1,119	836
	23212 · Temporary Programs		(92)	430
	23600 · Working Cap 50K		50,000	50,000
	23700 · Endowment - Benevolent Fund			
	23710 · Bear Creek Camp		1,000	2,500
	23730 · Endowment Memorial Distribution		7,068	7,068
	<b>Total 23700 · Endowment - Benevolent Fund</b>		<b>8,068</b>	<b>9,568</b>
	23800 · Endowment - Church Fund			
	23801 · Pastor's Discretionary Account		2,333	2,125
	23803 · Y&F Minister's Discretionary Fn		1,127	1,534
	23804 · Bibles for 5th Grade & Pews		400	400
	23805 · Church Improvemnt Projects Fund		4,500	0
	23810 · LED Replacement		191	191
	23820 · Kitchen Improvements		3,000	3,000
	23821 · Labyrinth Fund		400	400
	23823 · Yoga & Chair Yoga Classes & Equ		1,630	1,330
	23825 · ADA Compliant Pews		1,000	1,000
	<b>Total 23800 · Endowment - Church Fund</b>		<b>14,581</b>	<b>9,980</b>
	27000 · Learning Center D&R			
	27100 · LC Donation		465	285
	27200 · LC Security Deposits		15,820	14,109
	27250 · LC Deposits - Summer		225	0
	27300 · LC Helping Hands Fund		3,618	4,358
	27450 · LC State Grant		49,011	125,576
	<b>Total 27000 · Learning Center D&amp;R</b>		<b>69,139</b>	<b>144,328</b>
	<b>Total 23000 · Designated &amp; Restricted Funds</b>		<b>459,624</b>	<b>510,779</b>

## Endowment Trustees Committee Report

Five funds are managed by the Trustees - Balances as of Dec. 31, 2024, and 2025

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Endowment Trust Fund	\$ 409,909	\$ 436,809
Memorial Trust Fund	193,600	207,057
Scholarship Fund	91,910	95,422
Maintenance Fund	52,457	54,707
Savings Alternative	<u>484,916</u>	<u>504,525</u>
Total	\$1,232,792	\$1,298,520

The assets in each fund are professionally managed by Morgan Stanley to provide stable, short- and long-term funding to CLC for the objectives of each fund.

The Endowment Funds (Section A below) are governed by Pennsylvania Trust Regulations and Endowment Trust Agreements with CLC that define the authority and responsibilities of the Trustees.

Under Pennsylvania Trust Regulations, the money available for annual distribution from the Endowment and Memorial Trust Funds is between 2% and 7% of fund assets. The Maximum Percentage distribution for each year is determined by the Endowment Committee Trustees under the Endowment Committee By-Laws approved in 2019 by The Council. Pastor and The Council select an amount within the 2% and current year Maximum Percentage.

### A. Endowment Funds

#### 1. CLC Endowment Trust Fund

The CLC Endowment Fund was established in 1988 by a contribution from The Harrison and Myrtie Prosser Charitable Trust. The Trustee of the Prosser Trust requires fifty percent of the distribution from the fund to be used for benevolent projects and activities outside CLC. The remaining fifty percent is to be used for projects and ministries which normally are not in the operating budget of the church.

The charitable organizations outside CLC selected to receive a contribution are proposed to The Council by the Endowment Mission Team. The Mission Team is required to solicit suggestions from the congregation, make recommendations for the distribution of funds, and have them approved by The Council.

#### 2. CLC Memorial Trust Fund

The CLC Memorial Trust Fund Agreement states the trust fund was created to encourage stewardship for religious and charitable projects other than those provided for in the current budget of the church.

### B. Special Funds (Managed by The Trustees to provide funding as requested by Pastor and The Council)

#### 1. Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund was established for contributions designated to provide scholarships to members of the congregation. Interested members complete an application. The Scholarship Team reviews the applications and awards scholarships based on qualifications.

*(continued)*

2. Maintenance Fund

The Maintenance Fund was established for contributions designated to provide funds for major repairs and maintenance, including organ maintenance.

3. Savings Alternative

An interest-bearing cash and cash equivalent account maintained at Morgan Stanley for CLC operating, capital, and other expenditures.

**2026 Distribution Recommendations**

In consultation with Morgan Stanley, the Trustees estimate the long-term expected rate of return, after inflation, for the funds. This fall, we estimated a long-term 6.3% rate of return, and long-term 2.4% rate of inflation, resulting in a 3.9% after inflation real rate of return—The Maximum Percentage. The 3.9% falls within Pennsylvania Trust Regulations of 2%--7%. The method to calculate is consistent with best practice distribution policy followed by other endowment funds.

**Endowment Trust Fund**

Up to \$16,000, which is \$1,000 more than last year, and approximately 4% of the average balance of the previous twelve quarters ended September 30, 2025. Committee by-laws and Pennsylvania Trust regulations require a minimum distribution of 2%, or \$8,000.

**Memorial Trust Fund**

Up to \$7,500, which is \$500 more than last year, and approximately 4% of the average balance of the previous twelve quarters ended September 30, 2025. Committee by-laws and Pennsylvania Trust regulations require a minimum distribution of 2%, or \$3,700.

**Scholarship Fund**

The Scholarship Fund is not a trust under Pennsylvania law and, therefore, the amount distributed is at the discretion of Pastor and The Council. If the Scholarship Fund was managed as are the Endowment and Memorial Trust Funds, the recommended distribution would be in the range of \$1,700 to \$3,500.

**Maintenance and Savings Alterative Funds**

Distributions are at the discretion of Pastor and The Council.

**Trustee Terms**

5-Year Term, Renewable Once  
*14 years maximum if filling an un-expired term*

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Term End</b>	
Chris Nagy*	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2025	* New Committee Member TBD
Gary Milla	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2026	
Joe Tarulli, Chair	1 <sup>st</sup>	2027	
Laurie Stewart	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2028	
Chris Myers	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2029	

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe Tarulli  
Endowment Trustees Committee Chair

## Endowment Mission Team Report

### **Distribution Recommendations – 2026**

*The Endowment Mission Team provides recommendations for the annual distribution of income from the Endowment Trust and Memorial Fund accounts. These recommendations initially are approved by church council before being presented to the congregation for a vote. The amounts from 2025 that we will be distributing are \$16,000 from the Endowment Fund and \$7,500 from the Memorial Fund for a total of \$23,500. The Endowment Fund requires 50 percent (\$8,000) is allocated for outreach and 50 percent (\$8,000) is used within Christ Lutheran. The Memorial Fund requires disbursements be used for “religious and charitable activities of the church.” The Endowment Mission Team recommends the following distributions be made in 2026:*

#### **Benevolent (Outreach) Funding**

New Bethany	\$2,500
Bear Creek Camp	\$1,000
Bloom for Women	\$750
Danny’s Ride	\$750
Free to Be Church	\$750
Hellertown Library Children’s program	\$750
Lutheran Faith Community Nurse’s Association	\$750
Victory House	\$750
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>

#### **Church Funding**

Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	\$10,000
Church Improvement Projects	\$5,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>

#### **Proposed Outreach Funding Recipients**

**New Bethany:** The south Bethlehem-based organization offers hope and support to people who experience poverty, hunger and homelessness. New Bethany addresses immediate needs such as food and basic hygiene, provides short-term housing solutions, and encourages long-term change that will lift individuals out of poverty through housing, case management and employment assistance. *newbethany.org*

**Bear Creek Camp:** The 3,000-acre camp just south of Wilkes-Barre is operated by the ELCA South-eastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synods. The camp offers year-round opportunities, including summer residential youth camps, nature day camps, environmental education programs, weekend camp retreats and outside group rentals. *bearcreekcamp.org*

**Bloom for Women:** Bloom offers sanctuary and care to heal, empower and employ women survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. Bloom achieves this through its emergency response, its two-year residence program, pregnant survivor services and independent living housing. Bloom operates five homes in the Lehigh Valley to help women transition to a new, positive life. *bloomforwomen.org*

**Danny's Ride:** Danny's Ride, based in the Lehigh Valley, provides funds to cover the costs for outpatients needing transportation to attend substance abuse appointments and other recovery meetings. Rides, using Lyft or Uber drivers, are scheduled and paid through Danny's Ride portal by recovery or other staff members for their clients. *dannysride.org*.

**Free to Be Church:** Free to Be is a Lutheran-recognized community of small groups of families and individuals who come together for worship, mutual support, truth speaking, story sharing and connection building. Free to Be is based in Bethlehem and led by Rev. Lauren Applegate, a former minister at New Jerusalem. It is one of a number of nationwide, small, start-up ministries supported by the ELCA. *nepasynod.org/freetobe*

**Hellertown Area Library Youth Program:** The Youth Program offers numerous story times at the library and throughout the community, including Christ Lutheran's Learning Center. The youth services provided a spring egg hunt, a summer reading festival and a haunted library along with hosting programs by local entertainers and educators. *hellertownlibrary.org*

**Lutheran Faith Community Nurses Association:** The national organization provides a wealth of resources, continuing education and networks for parish nurses. LFCNA also provides grants to churches wishing to start a parish nurse ministry. *lutheranfcna.org*

**Victory House of Lehigh Valley:** Victory House, located in south Bethlehem, is a non-profit organization providing homeless veterans and men with an avenue to transition to independent affordable housing. Victory House offers case management, employment, education, recovery and mental health assistance and health center services. *victoryhouselv.org*

## Christ Lutheran Funding

**Pastor Spohn Discretionary Fund:** The fund allows Pastor Phil to discreetly assist members and families from Christ Lutheran and the community who are in need or may be facing an immediate financial crisis or use the funds as he sees fit. Pastor also may use the funds for other needs as they arise.

**Church Improvement Projects Fund:** This disbursement can be used by council and/or the property committee to offset costs of church property projects. Two projects that will be a priority in 2026 for the Property Committee are the renovation of the Narthex bathrooms and the replacement of a drainage pipe behind the Learning Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Blake, Corky Blake, Karen Milla, Chris Myers and Lee Wagner

## Council Nominee Biographies



I was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and spent my childhood in Southern California and the Twin Cities. For my entire life I have been a member of ELCA Lutheran churches wherever I have lived, including in Minnesota, Arizona, and Southern and Northern California. In 2023, we moved to the Lehigh Valley to be closer to family.

I live in Lower Saucon Township with my husband Phil and our beautiful daughters Eleanor and Genevieve who both attend Saucon Valley Elementary. We have been members of Christ Lutheran since the fall of 2023. My parents Jay and Liz Hanson recently moved to LST and became members at Christ Lutheran as well. I currently serve as co-coordinator for the coffee hour and as a Sunday school teacher.

### ***Elise Cheung***

After graduating from Scripps College and obtaining a Master in Public Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin, I became a Certified Public Accountant and worked for Deloitte & Touche as an auditor for 16 years. I recently stepped down from my role as Managing Director to spend more time with my family and volunteering. I am excited to work to support our wonderful church congregation in continued growth while bringing a diverse family and professional perspective.



I have been a member of Christ Lutheran Church since I was baptized here. I was never interested in going to church or learning about my faith. However, in the summer of 2025, I became very interested in Christianity. After that, I wanted to learn more about my religion. Now I go to church almost every Sunday with my dad and my stepmom, or attend alone. On the days when I can't make it in person, I join Facebook Live for the church service. Being a Youth Church Council Representative sounds fun, and I feel like I can meet amazing people and help other young adults find their own paths to God and to Jesus.

### ***Andrew Kubisek***

**2025 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY AMENDMENTS TO THE  
MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS OF THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA®**

*[WITH RATIONALES]*

August 2025

Following are amendments to the *Model Constitution for Congregations* that were approved by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. Additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struck through~~; all changes are highlighted. Adjusted for sections Christ Lutheran has already incorporated or had not previously included.

For convenience, the rationale that was presented to the Churchwide Assembly for each amendment is provided in italics following the amendment. These rationales are *not* part of the amendments with which they are associated, they are *not* part of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, and they are *not* intended to be incorporated into the constitutions of congregations. They are here only to give context for the amendments.

The Office of the Secretary would like to express gratitude for your faithful attention to your congregation's constitution!

**Chapter 1.  
NAME AND INCORPORATION**

**C1.02.** For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws [and continuing resolutions], the congregation of (insert full legal name) is hereinafter designated as “this congregation.”

*Rationale: Insertion for comprehensiveness.*

**Chapter 5.  
POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**\*C5.04.** This congregation or the Congregation Council shall elect from among its-the voting members of the congregation laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by this congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the (insert name of synod) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

*Rationale: This change allows for lay voting members of the Synod Assembly to be elected either by the congregation or by the Congregation Council. Current language requires election by the congregation.*

**Chapter 7.  
PROPERTY OWNERSHIP**

**\*C7.03.** If the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to relate transfer to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation, provided the process for termination of relationship in \*C6.05. has been followed. Before this congregation takes action to relate transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the (insert name of synod).

*Rationale: Consistency with 9.71.d. of the ELCA Constitution. Related to churches working together on a long term basis.*

**Chapter 9.  
ROSTERED MINISTER**

**\*C9.02.** Only This congregation may call as a pastor only:  
a. a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or  
b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop;  
may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

*Rationale: Formatting for clarity.*

**\*C9.03.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,  
a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:  
.....  
8) Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice, proclaiming God’s love for the world, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, proclaiming God’s love for the world.

*Rationale: A number of amendments were made by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to this bylaw and to its parallels throughout the constitutions, updating the language to broaden our commitment to all people.*

- \*C9.06. At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor shall may be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.

*Rationale: It is not always possible for a synod bishop to appoint an interim pastor for every congregation.*

- \*C9.22. Only This congregation may call as a deacon only:  
a. a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or  
b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop.  
may be called as a deacon of this congregation.

*Rationale: Editorial reformatting for clarity.*

- \*C9.23. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:
- ....
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice, proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad; advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations and proclaiming God's love for the world;

*Rationale: A number of amendments were made by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to this bylaw and to its parallels throughout the constitutions making it a consistent message.*

## Chapter 15. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

- \*C15.01. Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of this congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of this congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15–17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary:
- a) private counsel and admonition by the pastor,  
b) censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses,  
c) written referral of the matter by the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and  
d) written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod.  
If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by paragraphs a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council.

*Rationale: Formatting correction and consistency of constitutional language.*

- \*C15.11. When there is disagreement between or among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president [vice president] of this congregation of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in ~~§S14.18~~ \*C9.05.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

*Rationale: It is more logical to cross-reference within the Model Constitution, rather than to make reference to the synod constitution.*

**Chapter 16.**  
**AMENDMENTS**

- \*C16.02.** An amendment to this constitution, proposed under \*C16.01., shall:
- a. be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting; and
  - b. be ratified ~~without change~~ unchanged at the next regular meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.

*Rationale: Consistency of constitutional language.*

**Chapter 20.**  
**PARISH AUTHORIZATION**

*[\* Required provisions when congregation is part of a parish]*

- \*C20.04.** Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with the pastor as provided in ~~†S14.18 \*C9.05.d. of the synod constitution of the synod named in \*C6.01.~~ In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.

*Rationale: It is more logical to cross-reference within the Model Constitution, rather than to make reference to the synod constitution.*

- \*C20.05.** Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with a minister of Word and Service as provided in ~~†S14.43 \*C9.25.d. of the synod constitution of the synod named in \*C6.01.~~ In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.

*Rationale: It is more logical to cross-reference within the Model Constitution, rather than to make reference to the synod constitution.*

## New Business

### **New Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Welcome Statement:**

At Christ Lutheran, we believe that God's love knows no bounds — and neither does our Welcome.

No matter who you are, where you are from, or what your story is, we are here to love you, value you, and invite you to join us on this journey of faith together.

We warmly welcome all people, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

We are committed to racial equality and strive to create a community where every person is treated with dignity, compassion, and respect.

Whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, just starting to explore faith, coming back after a break, or simply curious about what it means to follow Jesus, there is a place for you here.

Come as you are, and let us all grow together, serve others, and celebrate God's grace.

### **Modified Christ Lutheran Church Hellertown Faith Statement:**

The people of Christ Lutheran Church of Hellertown invite you to join us as we seek to discover the importance of Jesus' teachings for our time.

We take the Bible seriously, not literally.

We look to scripture, faith, experience, and reason to guide our journey.

We affirm that everyone is created in the divine image, and that God is active in all people, including those who do not profess the Christian faith.

We acknowledge and respect people of other faiths who understand that God is working in them and through them to bring about peace, justice, love, and reconciliation.

We strive to transform our lives to live the teachings of Jesus and, above all, to love unconditionally.

We warmly welcome all people regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Everyone is welcome here.

## Church Council, Team Leads, and Staff

### CHURCH COUNCIL

**President:** Brenda Tarulli  
**Vice President:** Ed Alosi  
**Secretary:** Kelly Meyer  
**Treasurer:** John Varady  
Judy Chernikovich-Clemens  
Ken Doremus  
Dale Hazel (*Outgoing*)  
Claire Kostbar (*Outgoing*)  
Mandy Mayer  
Judy Meier  
Sam Raup  
Regina Sands-Corl

### TEAM LEADS

**Care Giving:** Enid Rank  
**Connections With Each Other:** Claire Kostbar  
**Connections With Our Community:** Teresa Mackey  
**Faith Formation:** OPEN  
**Finance:** OPEN  
**Mutual Ministry:** OPEN  
**Outreach:** Kim Blake  
**Property:** Mike Karpa  
**Stewardship:** OPEN  
**Worship & Music:** Kurt Rank

### STAFF

**Pastor:** Phil Spohn  
**Youth & Family Minister:** Josh Gulotta  
**Children's Learning Center Director:** Nancy Frederick  
**Children's Learning Center Asst. Director:** Jaclyn Ruch  
**Faith Community Nurse:** Enid Rank  
**Financial Administrator:** Chip Rust  
**Minister of Music:** Steve Wysocki  
**Asst. Minister of Music:** Bonnie Banks-Beers  
**Sexton:** Pete Kapustiak  
**Communications Specialist:** Debbi Pereira  
**Spiritual Director:** Maureen DeBellis  
**Office Administrator:** Barry Stauffer