

**St Mark's Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
January 13, 2026**

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Social Ministry Report
Preliminary 2025 Year End Financial Statements

Attendance

Date: January 13, 2026	Location: St. Mark's Church
Time Started: 7PM	Time Ended: 8:50PM

Invited	Apr 29	May 27	June 17	Sep 23	Oct 21	Nov 18	Dec 7 Budget	Jan 13	Feb 17	Mar 24	Apr 19	Apr 21	Ma y
Jen Polet (S)	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P					
Brian Lorch (T)	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P					
Nels Kristenson	P	E	E	P	E	P	P	P					
Tom Lewis	P	E	E	P	P	E	P	P					
Jodi Pappel	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P					
Cole Parsons (VC)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Marijus Timmerman (C)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Lyndon Graff	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E					
Pastor Zsófi (exofficio)	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E					
VACANT													
	Guests												

Minutes

1. Opening Devotion - led by Marijus

2. Approval of Agenda

MSC CC-2026-01 - That the Agenda for January 13, 2025 be approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

MSC CC-2026-02 - That the Minutes of the Council Meeting dated November 18, 2025, be approved.

4. Business Arising from minutes

5. Finance - see report

6. Reports

a) Chair - Question regarding Invitation to Communion: re: welcome wording with open table vs. baptism Communion Invitation, does it contradict? Should we remove "through our baptism" line? We will revisit.

Gimli had personal wording that Brian will obtain

- Discussion also included reducing redundancy in wording, possible omission of some PP slides and using only a verbal invitation
- Possible Worship Committee restart, this may fall in their domain

Committee membership recap:

Cole, Jodi, Tom in last year

Marijus, Nels in 2nd year

Brian, Jen, Lyndon finishing first year

Call Committee - potential Chair names put forth

b) Pastor - No Report

7. Committee Reports:

- Social Ministry - see report
- Sunday School - see report
- Social Ministry - see report

8. New Business

Meeting with Bishop Jason regarding Interim Ministry

- Part-time contact vs. supply Pastor
- Intentional Interim (if conflict exists) vs. Interim (regular)
- Bishop has someone for us 1 full office day a week here plus 2 Sundays a month, plus some extras starting mid-Feb - Rev. Vincent Solomon
- Interim would have 30 days notice to end contract
- A Sunday (service and sermon prep) accounts for $\frac{1}{4}$ of Pastoral hours of a $\frac{1}{2}$ time position

Meeting Dates for 2026-27: Jan 13, Feb 17, Mar 24, Apr 19 (AGM), April 21

Adjournment 8:50PM

Finance Report

January 12, 2025

General Offerings

- A total of \$50,532 was received in general offerings in December which surpassed last year's December giving by just over \$2,500.
- December giving this year was bolstered by a gift of securities that, when sold, generated net income of \$10,424.

Expenses

- Invoices dated 31 December 2025 were received from Howell Mechanical a few days into the new year. We were able to process these as 2025 expenses. The invoices covered work for the complete boiler inspection carried out in early December and the service call related to the loss of heat on December 28. Total expense was \$3,578.
- Given the level of December giving, we were able to meet our 2025 Mission Partner Support goals of \$21,000 for the MNO Synod and \$1,000 for Lutheran Urban Ministry.
- Once all expenses were accounted for, we were showing a net operating surplus of just under \$12,200. Following CC-2025-60, 15% of the surplus was allocated to additional Mission Support disbursements bringing year end totals as follows:
 - To MNO Synod: \$22,687.50
 - To LUM: \$1,200

Preliminary Year End Financial Position after Final Mission Partner Disbursements

- Subject to adjustments recommended by the Audit Committee, we will be showing a net operating surplus in 2025 of \$10,645.
- The surplus will become part of our unencumbered cash reserves. As of December 31, 2025, unencumbered reserves totaled \$110,326.

Memorial / Bequests

In December, we received donations from two estates totalling \$4,000. These funds have been placed in the Memorial Fund until Council decides on their final allocation. An alternative location could be the Capital Works fund.

Other Business

- We have received our order of 500 blank cheques. Total cost including shipping and taxes will be \$631.21. Doing the math, it costs us \$1.24 for each cheque we write plus postage if needed.
- Currently, we cannot pay bills using e-transfers given the need for two signatures on transactions.
- The expenses for the catered lunch on January 11 was \$1,301.

- **VISA Cards** – Pastor Zsofi’s card, which has a limit of \$2,000, will be cancelled. The limit on Melissa’s card is \$1,000. For the time being, some expenses normally paid by credit card will have to be covered by a member’s personal card with the member being reimbursed by cheque.

Please see the January 2026 meeting folder for preliminary year end Balance Sheet and Income Statement.

Submitted by on behalf of the Finance Committee
Brian Lorch, Treasurer.

Council Chair Report

For January 13, 2026

Submitted by Marijus Timmerman

The following are the actions taken as Council Chair since the last Council meeting November 18, 2026:

Budget Meeting

Thank you to the Finance Committee for their fine work in preparing and presenting the St. Mark’s budget for 2026. The process of making the numbers understandable at Council and then again at the Congregational meeting made for an easy discussion. I assisted in the setting up of the Congregational meeting.

Pastor Zsofi’s impending departure

Thank you to Pastor Zsofi for continuing to perform her pastoral duties as the family packs and prepares for their move to BC. A meeting was arranged with Bishop Jason to conduct an exit interview which took place on Nov. 27, 2025. Information recorded from this meeting will be shared with the Call Committee, once formed, to assist in their tasks. There have been ongoing conversations with Pastor Zsofi over the past few months including a meeting to discuss the transfer of information – passwords, cards on January 9 and a final ‘passing of the keys’ on January 15.

Planning Pastor Zsofi’s farewell has been an ongoing project for the last while and thanks go out to the people I have leaned on to make arrangements. These include Signe, Melissa, Monica and various others who have contributed. Thanks to all who have pitched in for this occasion.

Office Administrator

There is a congregational volunteer ready to take on some of the office tasks once John has departed. As result of bureaucratic delays in John’s efforts to begin his teaching career he has been able to continue with us for some time in January. We have agreed

to have John continue in his position until he is cleared to pursue his teaching career. This may be one more week or a few more.

Pastoral Leadership moving forward

Lists of the needs, wants and expectations from our congregational perspective have been compiled in preparation for a discussion with Bishop Jason. There are several questions to be answered including what can be expected from a half time interim pastor. Bishop Jason has committed to attend our council meeting Tuesday, January 13 after 8:00pm

Call Process

Lists of candidates for the Call Committee have been compiled, and the expected process has been outlined. It was decided to wait until Pastor Zsofi is officially done before beginning the process of building a Call Committee.

Planning for the next few months

The process of planning for the needs of the congregation in the coming months has been initiated and is taking shape. I have leaned on Melissa for information regarding the process of producing our worship service and the various other aspects of the roles and responsibilities of the office staff team. Other information has been collected from Pastor Zsofi and John.

The present thinking is that we would make it through to the next month or so with a combination of lay lead services and supply minister led services. During this time, we would be working on arrangements for an interim minister.

All are encouraged to consider where they might have time, energy and expertise to help out during this time of transition.

Sunday School Report

Prepared by: Alisha Sherlock

Date: January 10, 2026

1. Highlights Since Last Report

The Sunday School program materials have arrived. They have been sorted and placed in the church office. With each program guide there is a set of activity pages that need to be copied in colour each week.

The Sunday School put on our Christmas program on December 14th and it was well received by the congregation.

2. Sunday School 2026

- Sunday School continues on a weekly basis. On long weekends there are no Sunday School classes. In the past there have been no classes when Alisha is unavailable but with the new curriculum the goal is for Sunday School to run consistently, even if Alisha is away.
- Current teachers: **Marla, Shirley, Cyan, Ken, Mary, and Alisha**. Teachers sign up for the weeks they are available using a google document.
- **Average attendance:** 7–10 children per week.

3. Upcoming Plans / Goals

- Sunday School will conclude sometime in May.
- A Sunday School wind up will be planned for May 2026, Date is TBD

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

JANUARY, 2026

1. HARVEST VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

On November 26th, six St. Mark's members had their first volunteer shift at Harvest Manitoba. It was a very positive experience for everyone. Our next shift will be on January 19 with our whole group of ten volunteers. Our intention so far is to volunteer once per month.

2. CHRISTMAS MINISTRY PROGRAMS

The 2025 Christmas Ministry which we organized went very well. Through the Angel Tree Program, 36 presents were provided to children in the Urban community. We also delivered two good-sized boxes of much-needed food items to Harvest from donations made by parishioners to the big yellow bin over the Advent season. Through the generosity of our members, we also raised roughly \$1700.00 in donations (exceeding our goal) to purchase gift coupons for eight households in the St. Mark's community, helping to make their season a little brighter.

3. REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

The family that St. Mark's is sponsoring to come to Canada has again been harassed by Turkish police as Abdulaziz tried to work to support his family. He has been unable to earn a steady income this year and his mother and sisters here in Canada have been sending money to keep the family afloat. This means that their grocery budgets have been cut in order to afford the support needed for the family in Turkey and so they have been able to purchase fewer proteins and fresh fruit and vegetables for their own meals. This year, St Mark's Christmas Ministry was able to offer each of these four new Canadian households a Superstore gift card for their grocery needs which in turn will help them to continue to provide support for Abdulaziz, Meryem, Ayse and Hasan until they receive travel authority to come to Canada.

Forty-two members of Gimli Lutheran Church have written to their MP to encourage the speedy processing of the refugee application given that all

the funding is in place. At our next Social Ministry Committee meeting, we intend to discuss encouraging St. Mark's members to write a similar letter to their MPs.

4. Lake Chad Project

CLWR was informed in December that St. Mark's is willing to become a Friend of Creation by taking part in the restoration of 100 acres of Lake Chad. Planning for the educational and fundraising components of the program (\$5000.00 goal) and its schedule will begin this month. Much to our surprise, CLWR recently informed us that \$2100.00 has already been donated to this initiative from St. Mark's members.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Jennifer Moroz
K. Jennifer Moroz (chairperson)

Statement of Financial Position
St. Marks Lutheran Church Inc
As of December 31, 2025

Distribution account	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
1000 TD Bank	50,606.11
Total for Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$50,606.11
1300 GST Receivable	664.94
Total for Current Assets	\$51,271.05
Non-current Assets	
Property, plant and equipment	
1400 Buildings	
1401 Original cost	1,917,133.16
1402 Depreciation	-1,334,804.24
Total for 1400 Buildings	\$582,328.92
Total for Property, plant and equipment	\$582,328.92
1200 TD Direct Investing	
1205 Inv. Savings Account / Cash	112,341.96
1207 TD Bond Fund - Unrestricted	30,960.13
1208 TD Bond Fund - Scholarships	30,960.13
1209 TD Bond Fund -Social Ministry	29,871.27
Total for 1200 TD Direct Investing	\$204,133.49
Total for Non-current Assets	\$786,462.41
Total for Assets	\$837,733.46
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
2000 Accounts Payable (A/P)	0.00
Payworks	58.28
Total for Accounts Payable (A/P)	\$58.28
Credit Card	
Melissa Gingrich Visa	0.00
Pastor Zsofi Visa	87.63
Total for Credit Card	\$87.63
2001 Miscellaneous Obligations	0.00
2002 ELCIC - GSI	534.53
2004 Memorial Fund	17,613.50
2006 Youth Fund	1,604.18
2007 Youth Activities	0.00

2011 Community Garden Project	753.08
2013 ELCIC Appeals	0.00
2014 Cdn Luth World Relief	0.00
2016 Urban Ministry	0.00
2017 Lutheran Urban Mission Meals	1,000.80
2020 Refugee Sponsorship	41,648.10
2022 Luther Village Camp	0.00
2028 Sunday School Offerings	1,700.90
2030 Music Ministry/Instruments	759.85
2032 Christmas Hampers	293.48
2048 Canada Lutheran Subscription	74.93
2068 Coffee House	212.22
2078 Education	233.50
2081 Hagglund Endowment Interest	1,574.85
2082 Social Ministry Interest	1,034.85
GST/HST Payable	0.00
GST/HST Suspense	0.00
Total for Current Liabilities	\$69,184.68
Non-current Liabilities	
2403 Capital Works Fund	10,940.29
Total for Non-current Liabilities	\$10,940.29
Total for Liabilities	\$80,124.97
Equity	
3401 Endowment - Hagglund Scholarship	23,611.34
3402 Endowment Fund - Social Ministry	29,871.27
Opening Balance Equity	986,309.35
3504 Prior Year Retained Earnings	-292,829.21
Profit for the year	10,645.74
Total for Equity	\$757,608.49
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$837,733.46

Monday, January 12, 2026 08:04 PM GMTZ

Statement of Activity
St. Marks Lutheran Church Inc
January-December, 2025

Distribution account	Total
Income	
4000 General Offerings	
4000.1 Envelope Offerings	27,444.00
4000.2 PAD Offerings	161,981.00
4000.3 Electronic Transfers	57,040.88
4000.4 Loose Offerings	854.23
4000.5 Gifts of Securities	24,170.89
4000.6 Fr. Charitable Organization	191.38
Total for 4000 General Offerings	\$271,682.38
4560 Gain/Loss - Investments	77.83
4602 Interest Income	2,850.52
4603 Other Income	
4603.1 Facility Rentals	7,550.00
4603.5 Misc. Income	507.08
Total for 4603 Other Income	\$8,057.08
Total for Income	\$282,667.81
Gross Profit	\$282,667.81
Expenses	
5000 Programming	
5002 Worship Committee	
5002.1 Resource Materials and Music	888.38
5002.2 Communion Supplies	293.70
5002.3 Flowers and Decorations	347.79
5002.4 Licences and Subscriptions	1,979.78
5002.5 Equipment Maintenance	556.11
5002.6 Equipment Purchase	21.79
Total for 5002 Worship Committee	\$4,087.55
5010 Confirmation Ministry	
5010.1 Confirmation Resources	66.34
5010.3 Confirmation Sunday Expenses	205.25
5010.4 Thanksgiving Retreat	200.00
Total for 5010 Confirmation Ministry	\$471.59
5014 Children's Ministry	
5014.1 Curriculum Supplies	247.05
5014.3 Grade 5 Bibles	697.99
Total for 5014 Children's Ministry	\$945.04
5026 Com Care / Outreach	
5026.2 Supplies	21.88

5040.1 Congregational Events	114.92
5040.2 Coffee Hour Kitchen Supplies	666.66
Total for 5026 Com Care / Outreach	\$803.46
5036 Youth Committee	
5036.1 Assistant Youth Leader Honorium	400.00
5036.2 Local Programming	141.01
5036.3 Event Expenses - leaders	480.00
Total for 5036 Youth Committee	\$1,021.01
5045 Social Ministry	
5045.1 Programming	40.00
Total for 5045 Social Ministry	\$40.00
Total for 5000 Programming	\$7,368.65
5038 Synodical/National Events	
5038.1 Synod Convention Fee	74.00
5038.2 CLAY Gathering	1,490.71
5038.3 Other events	800.00
Total for 5038 Synodical/National Events	\$2,364.71
5046 Council/Governance	
5046.2 Staff/Volunteer recognition	480.36
Total for 5046 Council/Governance	\$480.36
5070 Administration Expenses	
5074 Office Expenses	
5074.1 Stationery and Misc. Supplies	253.33
5074.2 Postage	243.80
5074.3 Photocopier lease	1,373.44
5074.4 Photocopier Operating Expenses	488.96
5074.5 Software Expenses	1,351.77
5074.6 Office Equipment Maintenance	147.82
5074.7 Office Equipment Purchases	40.04
5074.8 Other Admin Expenses	40.00
Total for 5074 Office Expenses	\$3,939.16
5079 Technology	
5079.1 Internet Service	1,728.09
Total for 5079 Technology	\$1,728.09
5080 Bank charges	
5080.1 Monthly Plan Fee	576.00
5080.2 EFT Billing	681.52
5080.3 Other bank fees	153.26
Total for 5080 Bank charges	\$1,410.78
5088 Telephone Expenses	
5088.2 Telephone Monthly Bill	892.40
Total for 5088 Telephone Expenses	\$892.40
Total for 5070 Administration Expenses	\$7,970.43

5090 Property Expenses	
5091 Utilities	
5091.1 Gas	4,846.63
5091.2 Electricity	6,363.65
5091.3 Water	839.87
5091.4 Alarm	590.64
Total for 5091 Utilities	\$12,640.79
5092 Furnishings and Equipment	
5092.2 Furniture	19.49
Total for 5092 Furnishings and Equipment	\$19.49
5098 Insurance and Taxes	
5098.1 Insurance	12,608.12
5098.2 Property Taxes	1,539.29
Total for 5098 Insurance and Taxes	\$14,147.41
5100 Property Committee	
5100.1 Interior Maintenance and Repair	11,238.89
5100.2 Custodial Supplies & Services	9,799.21
5100.4 Snow Clearance	3,720.74
5100.5 Lawn Care	640.62
5100.6 Misc. Outdoor Property Expenses	575.40
Total for 5100 Property Committee	\$25,974.86
Total for 5090 Property Expenses	\$52,782.55
5115 Personnel Expenses	
5116 Staff Expenses	
5116.1 Mileage	394.94
5116.2 Parking Expenses	7.50
5116.3 Pastor's Miscellaneous	78.12
5116.4 Pastors Book Allowance	409.57
5116.5 Director of Music Cont Education	115.00
Total for 5116 Staff Expenses	\$1,005.13
5145 Payroll Expenses	
5145.1 Wages	122,275.58
5145.2 Benefits	26,178.48
5145.3 CPP Employer Paid	6,579.03
5145.4 EI Employer Paid	2,443.89
5145.5 Payworks Fees	858.32
Total for 5145 Payroll Expenses	\$158,335.30
Total for 5115 Personnel Expenses	\$159,340.43
5150 Other HR Costs	
5150.1 Supply Pastor	705.00
5150.2 Supply Musicians	750.00
5150.4 VPP Record Checks	63.25
5150.6 Miscellaneous HR Costs	16,165.31

Total for 5150 Other HR Costs	\$17,683.56
5301 Mission Partner Support	
5301.1 MNO Synod	22,687.50
5301.2 Lutheran Urban Mission	1,200.00
5301.3 Other partners	143.88
Total for 5301 Mission Partner Support	\$24,031.38
Total for Expenses	\$272,022.07
Profit	\$10,645.74

Accrual Basis Monday, January 12, 2026 08:01 PM GMTZ

Unencumbered Cash Analysis

As of Dec 31, 2025

Assets

1000 TD Bank	50,606.11
1300 GST Receivable	664.94
1205 Inv. Savings Account / Cash	112,341.96
1207 TD Bond Fund - Unrestricted (Market Value)	26,838.12

Total Assets **190,451.13**

Liabilities

Total Accounts Payable (A/P)	145.91
2002 ELCIC - GSI	534.53
2004 Memorial Fund	17,613.50
2006 Youth Fund	1,604.18
2011 Community Garden Project	753.08
2013 ELCIC Appeals	-
2014 Cdn Luth World Relief	-
2016 Urban Ministry	-
2017 Lutheran Urban Mission Meals	1,000.80
2020 Refugee Sponsorship	41,648.10
2022 Luther Village Camp	-
2028 Sunday School Offerings	1,700.90
2030 Music Ministry/Instruments	759.85
2032 Christmas Hampers	293.48
2048 Canada Lutheran Subscription	74.93
2068 Coffee House	212.22
2078 Education	233.50
2081 Hagglund Endowment Interest	1,574.85
2082 Social Ministry Interest	1,034.85
2403 Capital Works Fund	10,940.29

Total Liabilities **80,124.97**

Unencumbered Cash **110,326.16**