

St Mark's Lutheran Church Incorporated

600 Cambridge Street

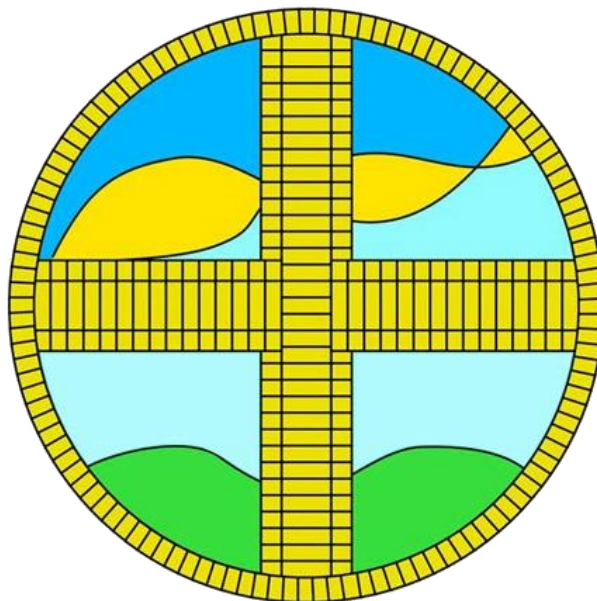
Winnipeg, MB

Annual Congregational Meeting

April 19, 2026

Bulletin of Reports

For the year ending December 31, 2025



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AGENDA FOR AGM APRIL 19, 2026

1. Establishment of a quorum
2. Opening Devotion
3. Approval of AGM Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Minutes of 2025 AGM (for information only)
 - b) Special Congregational Meeting – December 7, 2025
5. Secretary's Report: Approval of Congregational Council actions in 2025

That the actions taken by the Congregation Council in 2023 be approved as presented.

6. Questions regarding Pastor's Report
7. Questions regarding Congregational Council Chair's Report
8. Questions regarding Submitted Reports
 - a) Staff Reports
 - b) Program Committees
 - i. Adult Education
 - ii. Congregational Care and Community Outreach
 - iii. Property
 - iv. Social Ministry
 - v. Children's Education
 - vi. Worship
 - vii. Youth and Young Adult
 - b) Other Reports
 - i. Lutheran Urban Ministry
 - ii. Urban Meals

iii. MNO Synod Office

9. Finance / Treasurer's Report
10. Audit Committee Report
11. Report of the Nominating Committee
12. Elections
 - a) Congregational Council
 - b) LUM AGM Representative
13. Enabling Motion regarding Approval of Minutes

**That the Congregational Council be given authority to approve the minutes of the
congregational annual meeting held on April 21, 2024**

14. Motion to Adjourn

Minutes of St. Mark's 2025 Annual Congregation General Meeting

For information only. Approved by Congregational Council: CC-2025-14

Date: April 6, 2025	Location: St. Mark's and Zoom Virtual Meeting
Time Started: 11:41 AM	Time Ended: 12:08 PM

Establishment of Quorum (46 Members attending)

Opening Prayer

Approval of AGM Agenda

MSC CM-2025-01 That the agenda be approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 2024 AGM (for information only) - It was noted that the date of the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of December 10 should have read "2023", instead of "2003" (MSC CM-2024-02).

MSC CM-2025-02 That the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of December 8, 2024 be approved.

Secretary's Report

MSC CM-2025-03 That the actions taken by the Congregational Council in 2024 be approved as presented.

Pastor's Report - No questions

Council Chair's Report - No questions

Director of Music Ministry Report - No questions

Senior Youth Leader Report - No questions

Program Committees Reports

Adult Education - No questions

Congregational Care and Community Outreach - No questions

Property - No questions

Social Ministry / RAP Report - No questions

Children's Ministry - No questions

Worship - No questions

Youth and Young Adult - No questions

Lutheran Urban Ministry - No questions

Saturday Breakfast - No questions

MNO Synod Office - No questions

Finance/Treasurer's Report

Discussion included the following; general offerings continue to decrease and dropped \$16,000 from \$285,000 in 2023 to \$269,000 in 2024; offerings surged again at year-end helping the financial outcome; and, general offerings in the first quarter of 2025 are lower than the first quarter of 2024.

A question was raised regarding a discrepancy in the Miscellaneous HR Cost detailed in the financial statements which noted a \$9000 expense in 2023, when no costs were expensed in 2024. In response, it was advised that the expense was related to the termination of a former administrative assistant offset in 2024 by a volunteer working in the office, and therefore there was no net cost to the congregation.

Audit Committee Report

MSC CM-2025-04 That the Audit Committee Report on the 2024 Financial Statements be approved.

Nominating Committee Report

Lyndon Graff, Brian Lorch and Jennifer Polet are the nominees to the four vacant positions on Congregational Council.

Ed Mann is the nominee to represent St Mark's at the Lutheran Urban Ministry (LUM) Annual General Meeting.

Elections

Congregational Council - The Chair declared Lyndon Graff, Brian Lorch and Jennifer Polet elected by acclamation.

LUM AGM Representative

MSC CM-2025-05 That Ed Mann be appointed as delegate to the 2025 Lutheran Urban Ministry AGM.

Enabling Motion regarding Approval of Minutes

MSC CM-2025-06 **That the Congregational Council be given authority to approve the minutes of the congregational annual meeting held on April 6, 2025.**

MSC CM-2025-07 **That the meeting be adjourned.**

Closing Prayer

Minutes of St. Mark's Congregational Budget Meeting

December 7, 2025

Purpose of Meeting: St Mark's Congregational Budget Meeting	
Date: December 7, 2025	Location: St. Mark's and Zoom Virtual Meeting
Time Started: 11:33 AM	Time Ended: 12:05 PM

Minutes

1. Opening Prayer led by Pastor Zsofi.
2. Establishment of Quorum
Quorum reached (40)
3. **MSC CM-2025-08 That the Agenda for December 7, 2025 be approved**
4. 2025 Financial Update –
 - 15% of operating surplus will be sent to mission partners – MNO Synod and LUM
 - Giving to these partners has decreased each year since 2019
5. **MSC CM-2025-09 That the Budget for 2026 be approved**
6. **MSC CM-2025-10 That Andy Dale and Caroline Mann be appointed to Audit Committee**
7. **MSC CM-2025-11 That the congregational council be granted authority to appoint one additional member to the Audit Committee.**
8. Closing Prayer

Congregational Budget Meeting December 7, 2025, Comments & Questions

- Comment regarding membership: we should be focusing on growing membership
- Question regarding renting users – who are they?
- Question regarding funds for MNO Synod: how is it used?
- Question regarding membership: is it stable? There has been more loss this year – funerals/death; there will be a review of membership this year led by Signe J.
- Question regarding contributions for MNO Synod: offerings from congregation through envelopes/giving accounts go directly to LUM

Secretary's Report

The following are substantive motions passed by St. Mark's Congregational Council in the year 2025 A.D.:

January 23, 2025

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| MSC CC-2025-01 | That the Agenda for January 23 be Approved |
| MSC CC-2025-02 | That the Minutes of the Council Meetings dated November 21 and November 27, 2024, be approved. |

February 27, 2025

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| MSC CC-2025-03 | That the Agenda for February 27, 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-04 | That the Minutes of the Council Meeting dated January 23, 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-05 | That the David Liesle Bequest of \$5000 be placed in the Memorial Fund. |
| MSC CC-2025-06 | That Verle-Ann Irvine be re-appointed Financial Secretary. |
| MSC CC-2025-07 | That we adopt the employee benefits administration agreement for the position of office administrator as presented on February 27, 2025. |

March 27, 2025

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| MSC CC-2025-08 | That the Agenda for March 27, 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-09 | That the Minutes of the Council Meeting dated February 27, 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-10 | That council authorize the Finance Committee to process benevolence remittances to the Synod at the rate of 75% of the budgeted monthly amount and seek advice from the Finance Committee as to whether the final contribution of 2025 can be increased to meet the full budgeted annual amount of \$21,000. |
| MSC CC-2025-10 | That the recommendation of the property committee to renew the property maintenance contract for Spring and Fall clean up with Da Boy Next Door for 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-11 | That the recommendation of the property committee to contract Winnipeg Alarm as the St. Mark's Building Security provider for a two-year contract be approved. |

April 29, 2025

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| MSC CC-2025-12 | That the Agenda for April 29, 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-13 | That the Minutes of the Council Meeting dated March 27, 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-14 | That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting dated April 6, 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-15 | That Brian Lorch be authorized to file the 2024 Charity Return with CRA. |
| MSC CC-2025-16 | That the following be designated as having signing authority on congregational bank accounts effective May 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter pending updating of signing authority documents with TD Canada Trust: Jodi Pappel, Cole Parsons, Marijus Timmerman, Brian Lorch. |
| MSC CC-2025-17 | That 5000 dollars of the Leisle bequest be allocated to the Refugee Sponsorship Initiative. |
| MSC CC-2025-18 | That a cheque for 760 dollars be sent to the MNO Synod for Pastor Zsofi's attendance to the Anglican Lutheran Study Conference in June. |

May 19, 2025 E-Vote

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| MSC CC-2025-19 | That Pastor Zsofi's request to be absent from the worship service at St. Mark's, June 1, 2025 in order to attend the 2025 Winnipeg Pride Parade and Rally as a representative of St. Mark's and as part of the MNO Synod delegation and as a paid day of work be approved |
|----------------|---|

May 27, 2025

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| MSC CC-2025-20 | That the Agenda for May 27, 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-21 | That the Minutes of the Council Meeting dated April 29, 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-22 | That the Minutes of the E-vote meeting of Council dated May 19, 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-23 | That the recommendation by the Youth and Young Adult Committee that Ken Charleson go to CLAY in Wei-An Lau's stead as Home Team Leader be approved. |

June 17, 2025

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| MSC CC-2025-24 | That the Agenda for June 17, 2025 be approved. |
|----------------|--|

- MSC CC-2025-25 That the Minutes of the Council Meeting dated May 27, 2025 be approved.
- MSC CC-2025-26 That the policy on E-Meetings be approved as amended by deleting 1(b)
- MSC CC-2025-27 That the Facility Use Fee Schedule be approved as amended by eliminating kitchen use surcharge of \$100.
- MSC CC-2025-28 That the following Committees of Council appointments be: Finance (Brian Lorch, Cole Parsons, Rachel Martens), Governance (Marijus Timmerman, Nels Kristenson)
- MSC CC-2025-29 That the following Committee appointments be: Property (Fred Mann, Ken Charleson, Perry Kohli) Children's Ministry (Alisha Sherlock, Alanna McNaught, Kim Downie) Youth and Young Adult (Lawrence Gargol, Annette Gargol, Rachel Martens, Brenda Catchpole) Congregational Care and Community Outreach (Signe Jewett, Chris Hlady) Social Ministry (Jennifer Moroz, Rhonda Lorch, Dean Parsons) Scholarship (Jennifer Polet, Signe Jewett)
- MSC CC-2025-30 That St. Mark's church council provide Alison Norberg with a letter from the council chair on June 27, 2025, in accordance with the advice of St. Mark's legal council, advising Ms. Norberg that:
a) her employment with St. Mark's has been terminated effective June 30, 2025,
b) in accordance with The Employment Standards Code, she will receive one week's salary in lieu of notice, and
c) offering Ms. Norberg an additional payment equivalent to seven week's salary provided that Ms. Norberg signs the Release accompanying the letter.
- MSC CC-2025-31 That the Executive Committee be authorized to act on behalf of the council during the period June 18, 2025 to September 22, 2025.
- September 23, 2025
- MSC CC-2025-32 That the Agenda for September 23, 2025 be approved.
- MSC CC-2025-33 That the Minutes of the Council Meeting dated June 17, 2025, be approved.
- MSC CC-2025-34 That the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of July 15, 2025, be approved.
- MSC CC-2025-35 That the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of August 18, 2025, be approved.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| MSC CC-2025-36 | That St. Mark's Lutheran Church agree to host the Manitoba Mobile Music event entitled 'Messiah Queered', waiving rental fees. |
| MSC CC-2025-37 | That Charlie Polet be approved as the replacement trustee of the Alva Houston Trust pending the removal of current trustee Hugh Adams. |
| MSC CC-2025-38 | That the unallocated balance of the Leisle bequest be transferred to the Capital Works Fund. |
| MSC CC-2025-39 | St Mark's Lutheran Church Council authorizes the Council Chairperson to sign the partnership agreement with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Canadian Lutheran Relief and Khotol Dost, for the private sponsorship of Milad Noori, with St Mark's thereby becoming the Constituent Group for the sponsorship. |
| MSC CC-2025-40 | That the recommendation of the property committee to renew the property maintenance contract for Fall yard Clean-up and Snow clearing with Da Boy Next Door for 2025 be approved. |

October 6, 2025 E-Vote

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| MSC CC-2025-41 | That the Agenda for October 6, 2025 be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-42 | That John Himes be hired as Office Administrator at St. Mark's Lutheran Church based on the terms as outlined in the offer of employment. |

October 21, 2025

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| MSC CC-2025-49 | That the Agenda for October 21, 2025 be approved. (should be #43?) |
| MSC CC-2025-44 | That the Minutes of the Council Meeting dated September 23, 2025, be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-4 | That the Minutes of the Council Meeting of October 6, 2025, be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-46 | That the Council Meeting be moved in Camera. |
| MSC CC-2025-47 | That the Youth Leadership structure as presented in the Report to Council re Youth Leadership 2025-26 with Mabel Harrington filling the paid position and Rachel Martens continuing as a volunteer be approved. |
| MSC CC-2025-48 | That Sari Reider and Ella Sauer Dojack be approved for confirmation. |

November 18, 2025

- MSC CC-2025-49 That the Agenda for November 18, 2025 be approved.
- MSC CC-2025-50 That the Minutes of the Council Meeting dated October 21, 2025, be approved. (Note any changes/edits to Oct 21 minutes here)
- MSC CC-2025-51 That the Policy on Designated Funds be approved as amended in 2025.
- MSC CC-2025-52 That the Congregational Council accept the resignation of Pastor Zsofi Schmiedge as presented in the letter of resignation received by council on October 21, 2025.
- MSC CC-2025-53 That the Schedule of Honoraria and Fees for Funeral and Memorial Services be approved as amended in October 2025.
- MSC CC-2025-54 That the 2026 Draft Budget prepared by the Finance Committee and revised by council be recommended to the congregation for approval at the congregational meeting scheduled for December 7, 2025 be approved.
- MSC CC-2025-55: That the Finance Committee be authorized to adjust the council approved 2026 Budget prior to the December 7 Special Congregational Meeting to reflect updated information regarding Synod Salary Guidelines and other pertinent information not yet in our possession.
- MSC CC-2025-56 That a special congregational meeting be held on Sunday, December 7, following the regular Sunday Worship service for the purpose of (a) approval of the proposed 2026 budget (b) appointments to the Audit Committee.
- MSC CC-2025-57 That the Notice and Agenda for the special congregational meeting be scheduled for December 7, 2025.
- MSC CC-2025-58 That Andy Dale and Caroline Mann be nominated to serve on the Audit Committee and their names be presented to the congregational meeting on December 7, 2025.
- MSC CC-2025-59 That Verle-Ann Irvine be appointed Financial Secretary for the 2026 fiscal year.
- MSC CC-2025-60 That the Finance Committee be authorized to make final remittances to the MNO Synod and Lutheran Urban Ministry prior to closing off the 2025 financial statements, subject to the following limitations: (a) for the MNO Synod and LUM, amounts to fulfill not exceed our budgeted goals of \$21,000 for MNO and \$1,000 for LUM without creating an overall operating deficit; (b) if an operating surplus exists after budget goals for the MNO

Synod and LUM have been met, an additional amount equivalent to 15% of the surplus be distributed to MNO Synod and LUM with MNO receiving 90% of this additional distribution.

MSC CC-2025-61 That Congregational Council approve St. Mark's participation in CLWR's Friends of Creation campaign, to be administered by Social Ministry Committee, with the goal of raising \$5000.00 to restore 100 acres of Lake Chad.

MSC CC-2025-62 That the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee be approved with Hagglund Scholarships being awarded as follows: Michael Gingrich \$500.00; Ava Gargol \$500.00

Executive Committee Motions

July 15, 2025

MSC EX-2025-01 That the severance counter offer from Alison Norberg in correspondence dated July 8, 2025 is accepted entitling her to 2 additional weeks of pay, her legal fees and a transitional allowance.

August 18, 2025

MSC CEC-2025-59 Agenda approved for August 18, 2025.

Pastor's Report

Greetings from a not-so-distant past.

A world where Christ's unconditional love is felt by all of creation.

Well, hello there beloveds-of-God! I can't imagine you thought you would be reading an annual report from me, but Council thought it would be good for me to touch on my last year with you.

I do want to encourage you to read the full bulletin of reports – learn what has been happening through the ministry of this congregation. Look for the monthly minutes and reports of council and all the ministry committees to get the story of everything that has happened this year. And if you're not finding the information you are hoping to find – ask Council. They ought to know or know how to find that information for you.

When I was meeting with Council (I tried my best to submit a written report for each meeting), I talked about what ministry I had observed happening, what I had done, and what was coming up in the near future. I also reported on parochial data that council needed to know (membership changes, deaths, visits, etc.)

The most spiritually enriching thing this past year was truly stepping back and giving voice to what I was witnessing in and around the people and the space that is St Mark's. From the incredible ministry of Music to the dedication of the Sunday School Team; the drive of the Home Communion Team to the passion of the Social Ministry Committee; the life overflowing of the Youth and Young Adult activities to the commitment of the Adult Education group ... and so much more! There is SO much ministry, Gospel, and life happening at St Marks when you pause and look around. It has been a fulfilling, if difficult, year. I am ever grateful for the time I have been given to spend with you, for the team of staff and lay leaders I have had the privilege to work collaboratively with, for the council members who care so deeply about this congregation, and for all of you. The litany of my thanks at the end of this report is really just the highlight reel of how truly thankful I am that you have called me your pastor.

I want to acknowledge that the changes in church staffing had continued to be a theme that Council needed to deal with. We downsized the office staffing for the second year in a row, said goodbye to Alison and Wei-An, welcomed John back again for a temporary position, and started to parcel out tasks and jobs to congregation and council members to manage communications and HR details. I have been so happy with the support and interest, and I believe we are beyond fortunate to have the kinds of members who are willing to learn new things and take on small (and not so small) roles to ease the times of transition.

There are still some details that will need sorting – the membership list has been neglected (though there are some who have been actively working behind the scenes to do a survey of members) and a failure of passing on transferable knowledge from staff to staff.

I have tried to leave the pastoral affairs in decent order for the next pastor, with clear communication and detail.

We've Been, You Are, and You're Going On

Generosity - *"We value the abundant sharing of our love, time and talents."*

Inclusiveness - *"We believe that differences enrich our community and our common ground is our loving Creator. We are called to love and support each other following Christ's example. All people, including people of all sexual orientation, gender identities, race, beliefs, faiths and abilities are welcome to be who they are in this community."*

Nurturing - *"We value the relationships we have in our community by nurturing and supporting each other in times of struggle, respecting differences of opinion, and dealing with conflicts in an open manner."*

Justice - *"We value working towards peace and justice in the world around us through collaboration with other organizations and faith groups."*

Thank-you's

*⁴I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus.
[1 Corinthians 1:4]*

Thank you to each and every one of you at St Marks! You affirmed for me the life of a pastor.

Thank you for sharing your lives with me, for inviting me in and asking me to pray with and for you. I am grateful for the small moments as much as the big ones: our interactions at the rail during communion, the peace shared across the sanctuary, the considerable amount of feedback I receive each week when I greet people after worship, and the quick check in moments each Sunday. Thank you for being unapologetically yourselves. For asking questions, seeking conversation, and allowing my presence as pastoral accompaniment. For praying **for me** and my family. For emailing or calling or texting when you need something, and even when you don't.

I don't think you really realize what a special Sunday morning congregation you are for a pastor. You are so engaged and vibrant. Do not lose that spirit!

Thank you to the members of Council: It has been a very full year of Council business with a number of long meetings. Thank you for the care and consideration in all the business, life,

and ministry of St Marks. I pray that you will continue to lead the Vision, Mission, and Ministry so well.

A HUGE thank you to my co-conspirator, your Music Ministry Director - Melissa! A gifted musician and a thoughtful co-worker in Christ. I will miss how symbiotically worship came together with you. Thank you for your insight, your challenges, and your grace. Remember: *if it was perfect, we wouldn't need God.*

I'm going to repeat what I said last year:

To all of you who give of yourselves in many and various ways to the life and ministry of St Marks: Thank you, thank you, thank you. Especially now. What you are doing is living faithfully into God's ministry in the world, and that is what a congregation is for. Every time we risk something for the sake of God and Gospel, we are a little bit more invested in active faith, active ministry, active discipleship, and an openness to what incredible things God can do with just a little bit. So, thank you.

To every single person who comes through the doors of St Marks – even if only once this year – thank you. You have brought a part of yourself, your God-called-and-claimed self, into this beautiful mishmash of people of all walks of life. You have enriched us with your presence in whatever way you have shared it. Thank you for doing that.

Not everything was brilliant – and not everyone was happy – and I apologize sincerely for the times I have hurt someone knowingly or unknowingly. But sometimes it was incredibly joyous and sometimes it was indescribably awesome. We weathered worry about the finances and the building, about people power, about attendance, and a number of other things, but life and ministry and worship happened. We have gathered, we have listened to God's word, we have shared our gifts, we have shared the meal, and we are going out, living what we have learned. Though the world keeps changing, though we keep changing, we're presently discovering that God is still here and we're living into the reality that God provides abundance and incredible things with whatever we bring to the table whenever we show up to the table, each and every time we listen to God's invitation to come.

May God bless us and keep us;
may God's face shine on us and be gracious to us;
may God look upon us with favour and grant us peace,
Until we meet again,

Rev. Zsófi B. Schmiedge 

The DATA

Pastoral Acts - 2025

Baptisms **04** **Affirmation** **03** **Weddings** **00** **Funerals** **07**

Vocational Activities - 2025

Worship Services: 55 of which 50 were Communion Services

Adult Education:	06	“Home” Communion:	15
1:1 Pastoral Response:	50	Hospital Visits:	08
Baptismal Preparation:	04	Meetings:	25
Council Meetings:	12	Visitation/Family Prayer:	25
Confirmation Classes:	14	Staff Meetings:	11
Funeral Preparation:	10	Wedding Preparation	0

Wider Church Responsibilities (year to date)

MNO Meetings/Events: 39

Mentorship/Collegiality: 15

Other Meetings/Events: 15

MNO Synod Leadership Conference: ☺

STATISTICS - HR Reporting:

<i>Guidelines</i> <i>Year to Date</i>			Actual Year to Date
5 days per week, including Sundays	253	Days Worked	219
24hr period, 2 days per week	100	Days Off	84
Per Manitoba Mandatory Stats	12	Statutory Holidays	11
Total Set Aside			Year to Date Used
4 weeks (+4 days rollover)	32	Vacation Days	25
2 weeks (+9 days rollover)	23	Study Days	12
18 days (+5 rollover)	23	Wellness Leave	14

Parish Records 2025

Baptisms:

Sari Reider

Confirmation: October 26, 2025

Sari Reider

Funerals & Memorials:

*Denotes non-member

Lynn Bendinger (December 6)

Milt From (May 24)

David Leisle (January 10)

Marlene Taylor (April 28)

Christina Taylor (May 26)

Carol Palmer * (May 30)

Betty Schweitzer (March 21)

Transfer In

Membership as of December 31, 2023

Baptized:	429	Confirmed:	396
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Director of Music Ministry Report

St. Mark's, we're the most musical ELCIC congregation in town. I remember visiting this church before I applied for the music position and was delighted with how participatory the assembly was. St. Mark's sings. It doesn't mumble along – it *sings*. I dare say, in my thirteen years in this position, that enthusiasm and level of engagement have not dampened. St. Mark's has a fantastic, big-hearted community and I'm proud to belong to it.

I report that music ministry continues on the same positive trajectory. My musical style remains varied – traditional, modern, choral, band, instrumental, classical, organ, even a funk bass saxophone solo last year. There's a time and place for each. My criteria remain the same – worship needs to be accessible, yet inspiring; familiar and yet urging forward towards advocacy and social justice; leaning on tradition but always with texts that use modern language and progressive, expansive language; our music seeks to please and inspire and yet never for the performer's glory. As they say, singing is praying twice. Our worship is a sharing of gifts for the sake of the community.

I try to build each year on positive things that have been developed and form a new worthy catalogue of faith songs for the modern church. But in the end, it's always about people. I am grateful for the partnership I shared with Pastor Zsófi in worship formation and leadership. I am deeply grateful for the partnership of our fantastic, devoted choir. These fine folks are at the heart of our congregation. I'm grateful to our ever-growing band. Our youth and young adults are so gifted and capable – they keep us other older members of the band feeling young ;D I'm grateful to our council and committees who take the lessons we learn in worship like *“let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live”* and make it so in our hospitality, outreach, and activism.

I request more participation! Don't hide your light under a bushel. Please don't wait to be invited or discovered. If you can share a song, or play a recital piece, or strum a guitar, or hand out bulletins, or assemble powerpoint at **any** age, I welcome you! Let me know!

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Gingrich (she/her)

Senior Youth Leader Report

Since taking over for Wei-An Lau in September I have greatly enjoyed getting to spend time with the youth in our congregation and work alongside my fellow youth leaders, Rachel Martens (Co-Youth Leader), Michael Gingrich (Leader-in-Training), and Taus Kristenson (Leader-in-Training). We've grown well as a team and have taken some creative liberty in bringing new ideas to the table!

Some Highlights! (September 2025-February 2026)

- Worship Nights! So far we've had the chance to have two worship nights and they have been a hit! These have been a great chance for youth to gather, sing, and ponder the wonderful work of Jesus together!
- Thanksgiving Retreat! At the beginning of October we got to attend the annual Thanksgiving Retreat held at Luther Village. It was a great weekend spent in the woods with amazing food, community, and worship!
- Corn Maze! At the end of October we had a few youth join in for a collaborative youth event at A-Maze-In-Corn organized by Michelle Collins. This was a wonderful chance to meet other youth around the city!
- Powerpoint Night! In November we introduced our very first power point night! Youth had so much fun coming up with creative and entertaining presentations. We even got the chance to spend this time with the Youth at Faith Lutheran Church.
- Cookie Baking! As always we spent our Christmas party decorating cookies for those who are homebound. Thank you to all those who donated pre-made cookies and helped deliver our cookie tins! You helped make this possible.
- Youth Service! We got the chance to have a youth lead service back in February, filled with laughter, singing, and acting! Our youth pulled through with their amazing talents and leadership roles!

We would like to thank the continued support from the congregation towards our youth. Whether it be donations of time, items, or money your contributions are greatly appreciated. This is a time of change for youth in our churches, and it's wonderful to know that here at St. Mark's we are staying constant. Thank you St. Mark's for supporting our youth!

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel Harrington

Congregational Council Chair's Report

Council met formally 14 times including 3 meetings by Zoom and two special in-person meetings related to Pastor Zsofi's resignation.

Council Members:

Council Chair	Marijus Timmerman
Council Vice- Chair	Cole Parsons
Treasurer	Brian Lorch
Secretary	Jennifer Polet
Member at Large	Jodi Pappel-Reider
Member at Large	Tom Lewis
Member at Large	Nels Kristenson
Member at Large	Lyndon Graff

Thank you to all council members for their dedication to this leadership role at St. Mark's. I would especially like to thank Cole, Jodi and Tom who have completed their three-year terms. It is important to have members of the congregation available to give prayerful consideration to issues regarding church matters and to arrive at a consensus in the decisions made. Additionally, thank you to council members for leading our meetings in opening devotions. These personal and meaningful moments helped direct the business of council in its intended light – that of doing God's work in our community and beyond.

Actions Taken

For a list of actions taken please refer to the Secretary's Report. Likewise, the committee reports offer a meaningful reflection of the good work being done in our congregation. What follows are details of a few significant topics from last year.

Staffing

We started last year with an Office Administrator, Alison, who we shared with Messiah Lutheran. This arrangement required an employment contract and financial agreement to meet the requirements of ELCIC Group Services Inc. regarding shared employees in the Lutheran Church. By June other issues had arisen, and council was compelled to terminate the shared agreement which left the Office Administrator's position vacant over the summer months. In September, a search committee was formed, eight suitable candidates were interviewed, an offer was made but that candidate had found other employment. Fortunately, John Himes became available and was hired on the basis of his previous tenure at St. Mark's, and he saw us through into the first week of the new year.

We are also grateful for the work being done by Youth Leader Mabel Harrington who formerly started her tenure in that position in October. Thank you to Rachel Martens who is in the role of support/assistant as a volunteer as well as Taus Kristenson and Michael Gingrich who are leaders-in-training also on a voluntary basis.

Pastoral Leadership

As council chair I met formally with Pastor Zsofi on a monthly basis as well as informally as required to discuss church matters. In March, a Pastoral Performance Review was conducted which included input from congregational members, council and interviews with Pastor Zsofi. The written review cited strengths and suggested areas of improvement, all of which was received by the pastor with a positive lens and the intentions of future application.

In November, council received the pastor's letter of resignation citing personal reasons. November 27, Council met with Pastor Zsofi and Bishop Jason to conduct an exit interview. Subsequently several meetings and discussions took place to plan the transition in pastoral leadership.

Council is grateful for Pastor Zsofi's spiritual leadership over the past years and wish her grace and blessing in caring for her parents. We pray that the transition for Pastor Zsofi, Paul and Perrin proceeds without too many hurdles in the way.

Townhall Meeting

In March we held a townhall meeting at which five questions regarding our church community were posed and open to small table discussion. It is safe to say that the groups were energetic and had a lot of thoughts about how we worship and work in fulfilling our mission. The list of ideas was shared and discussed at council meetings, and I believe can still be useful as an idea-generating document for future planning. As is often the case, the gathering and sharing of ideas is the easy part, it is the work of implementation that is harder to achieve.

When looking at the townhall document it is clear that the feeling one year ago was that the St. Mark's community had great potential and was in a good place. I would suggest that is still the case today.

Final Remarks

St. Mark's is a good place. It is a place where I can find refuge from a troubled world and give thanks to a generous God and worship in that light. It is a good place because there are so many good and talented people who share in the common goal of kindness to each other. The foundation of this is the willingness to serve. I thank our friends who stock the kitchen or prepare our treats and beverages for after service visits; I thank those who take care of our property and trouble shoot the problems; I thank the members of our church committees who give meaning to the young or purpose and understanding to our worship and mission; I thank the many who assist in our worship services; I am thankful for the music leadership which fills my ears, heart and soul each week; and I am thankful to share peace with all who walk in the doors of St. Mark's.

Respectfully submitted by Marijus Timmerman, St. Mark's council Chair

Program Committee Reports

Adult Education

During the fall of 2025 the Adult Study group conducted one five-week study. The five sessions were held from October 21st to November 25th. These sessions continued our study of the Old Testament began in 2023. We began each study with a video based upon *Understanding the Old Testament* by Professor Robert D. Miller (PhD). Each session then continued with a discussion and study of each of the books.

The studies featured the following books of the Old Testament:

1. Genesis (Abraham)
2. Judges
3. Job
4. Ecclesiastes
5. Various books (Slaying the Dragons of the Old Testament)

Many thanks to Pastor Ron Long, Marijus Timmerman, Norm Fullerton and Pastor Zsofi for leading sessions.

If you would like to join our discussions please watch for further studies in 2026. Each study session lasts about ninety minutes. All are welcome!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Adult Education Committee

Dean Parsons

Children's Ministry

1. Committee Members (2025)

- Alisha Sherlock
- Alanna McNaught
- Kim Downie
- Volunteers / Helpers: Marla Hughesman, Jaina Hughesman, Ken and Mary Charleson, Cyan Gargol, Ava Gargol, Shirley McLellan

2. Overview

This report outlines the actions taken and events that occurred within the Sunday School program during the 2025 calendar year. The committee focused on providing a safe, welcoming, and engaging learning environment for children while supporting teachers and volunteers.

3. Key Actions and Activities (2025)

- Regular Sunday School classes were held throughout the school year and following the church calendar.
- Sunday School had special craft Sunday's where the children stayed as whole group and made crafts themed around the church holidays or special days.
- Sunday School had a wind up in May 2025 for the summer months and resumed in September 2025.
- Supplies and materials were reviewed and replenished as needed to support programming. September 2025 hard copies of the Spark curriculum and materials were purchased for teachers to use. These include one hard copy of each worksheet to be copied for children to use in class.
- December 2025 Children put on a Christmas Pageant for the congregation during the third Sunday of Advent.

5. Challenges and Considerations

- Volunteer availability and scheduling continued to be monitored

6. Action Items for 2026

- Recruit additional Sunday School volunteers to support programming.
- Review and update curriculum resources as needed.
- Explore opportunities for additional special activities or events.

7. Closing

The Sunday School committee thanks all teachers, volunteers, parents, and church members for their continued support throughout 2025. Their commitment plays an important role in the success of the program.

Respectfully submitted,
Alisha Sherlock

Congregational Care and Community Outreach & Fellowship

There are three subgroups within the CCCO

- Social Committee- I have been acting in a coordinators role as it relates to the manpower required for our Congregational events. Coffee hour and Potluck Lunches continue to offer fellowship opportunities in a welcoming atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who has taken on the task of hosting these events as well those who have been occasional helpers.

The Kitchen Ministry Team ensures that the kitchen is stocked with supplies and organized. Team Members are Marilyn Simonsen, Verle Anne Irving, Donna Breyfogle and Karen Martin

Weekly Coffee Hour, Monthly Potluck Lunch, and Occasional Event Hospitality such as Funerals are facilitated through this committee. There should be an active team leading the coordination of these events so please consider how you can participate here.

- Congregational Care- Two main activities have been the focus of efforts in this area:

--Home Communion Team- led by Ron Long. There is a team of 5-6 folks (Ron and Judy Long, Ed Mann, Signe Jewett, Lawrence Gargol and Norm Fullerton, Marijus Timmerman) providing home communion for those who are home bound and unable attend in person. There are 16 members who are visited as part of this program.

--Membership Directory- In June Pastor Zsofi , Marijus and I met to review the Directory and identify those registered that we have not seen in person for quite some time now. I have been doing a phone contact mainly as well as trying email contact to some. I forward the information I receive to the Pastor and the Office Administrator to update the records.

- Community Outreach—There were no projects in this area,

There is much more that could be accomplished through a more rigorous activation of this committee. We invite anyone interested in contributing to taking care of our congregation and community to become an engaged participant of the CCCO Committee.

Respectfully Submitted

Signe Jewett, Chair

Property Committee

Committee members are: Fred Mann (interim chair for 2025), Perry Kohli, Ken Charleson, Travis Wog, and Ed Mann. Kurt Simonsen and Rob Hammerling support the committee in an advisory role.

In addition to the regular maintenance duties, the following are some of the highlights of the committee's work:

- Due to poor customer service, the security monitoring company was changed from API to Winnipeg Security.
- Howell Mechanical completed their annual servicing of the heating system. During the year they were called out twice to correct boiler related problems.
- The kitchen fridge required professional repairs.
- The annual check of the smoke and fire alarms was completed by ABC Fire and Safety. The batteries and fire extinguishers were also checked and updated at that time.
- Due to a second break-in to the garden shed, the lock was replaced by a "puck" lock that is more tamper resistant and requires a key. A key box was installed by the south entrance door for the people caring for the lawn, landscaping and garden.
- A new underground wire was installed from the church foundation to the electrical outdoor sign. This was required as the old underground wire had stretched and snapped at the foundation entrance due to the ground sinking as a result of the drought conditions.

I thank the committee members and the many people who are not on the committee but also work at maintaining our church property. Specifically, I thank Sarah Harrington for creating the annual schedule for grass cutting and the group who looked after the flower and shrubbery beds around the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Mann, Interim Property Chair

Social Ministry Committee

Committee Members: Sila Kisoso (Jan. – June), Stephen Sauer (Jan – April), Rhonda Lorch, Dean Parsons, Jennifer Moroz. Associate member: Merle Zbrog

Chairperson: January through March: Rhonda Lorch

April through December: Jennifer Moroz

Purpose: The Social Ministry Committee exists to inform congregational members about social ministry issues and promote congregational involvement in the pursuit of social justice and stewardship of God's creation.

Activities: The following activities were carried out by the committee over 2025.

I. Refugee Sponsorship

Committee members continued to advocate with MP's offices for our sponsorship of Abdulaziz, Meryem, Ayse and Hasan Margribi, Syrian refugees currently residing in Turkey. MP Terry Duguid's office kindly checked every quarter for progress and reported to the committee.

In April, Epiphany Lutheran Church held a 'Taste of Syria' dinner catered by Abdulaziz' mother and sisters. The dinner raised \$9295.00 for the St Mark's sponsorship fund.

St Mark's was approached by Canadian Lutheran World Relief in late summer to endorse a refugee sponsorship application as the Constituent Group for Millad Noori, an Afghani currently residing in Pakistan. Many of Noori's family had been sponsored to come to Canada by Sherwood Park Lutheran, but with their closure, they were unable to sponsor this man. The family has signed an undertaking that they will be completely responsible for all settlement duties, and for providing the funds required for the sponsorship. CLWR will hold the funds in trust so that St Mark's has no financial obligation for the project. The St Mark's Council agreed to sign the agreement and it will be submitted by CLWR to IRCC early in 2026.

In October, the committee sent a letter to the federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Lena Metlege Diab, requesting expedited processing of the file. Although the Minister's office responded to the correspondence, the file remains open in Ankara.

Also, in October, Rhonda and Brian Lorch travelled to Gimli Lutheran Church to receive their generous gift to the sponsorship fund of \$5300.00. This gift was designated to provide new mattresses, bedding and winter clothing for the family once they arrive.

In December, donors to the refugee sponsorship fund agreed that some of the money they donated could be used to provide mattresses and bedframes, and winter coats and boots for members of the Magribi family who arrived in Winnipeg as government sponsored refugees in 2025. Brian and Rhonda Lorch shopped for the required items, arranged delivery of the beds and delivered coats and boots to the families.

At the end of 2025, the refugee sponsorship fund held just over \$41,000, sufficient to provide the funding needed to support the Magribi family on arrival.

II. Refugee Sunday

For Refugee Sunday, June 22, our committee invited several refugees with connections to St. Mark's to attend the service. Hanaa and Hammoud Jumaa, Syrians that St Mark's sponsored in cooperation with Bethel Mennonite Church in 2016, attended with their young family. Raymond Ngarboui, a refugee from Chad who arrived in Canada more than a dozen years ago, attended with a number of the young gardeners who use the community gardens at St Mark's.

III. Community Garden

In June St. Mark's provided soil to amend the community garden which was used by Rainbow Community Gardens again this year.

IV. Wildfire Response

The committee published an article in the E-News in June about the various ways to provide aid to wildfire evacuees, including donations to Red Cross.

V. Harvest Manitoba

- Social Ministry organized a Harvest food drive during the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving and again during Advent.
- A group of St. Mark's members was organized and registered to volunteer at Harvest on a monthly basis. We have registered a group of ten volunteers, plus we now have a few members on a wait/substitute list.

VI. Reconciliation

- The RAP Task Force (Jennifer Moroz, Rhonda Lorch) completed their activities at the end of 2024 and provided their final report to council in February. The Task Force concluded that its goals of raising awareness of Indigenous issues and providing educational opportunities had met with success, noting that Orange Shirt Sunday and Red Dress Day which were initiated by the Task Force have become annual observances and some of the book studies were quite well attended. However, it was recommended that all sectors of the congregation take up the mantle of reconciliation, rather than having a single task force dedicated to this issue.
- In November three committee members attended a seminar on the David Robertson Book "52 Ways to Reconcile" organized by the Diocese of Rupert's Land and St. John's College. This book has been added to the church library and may become the subject of a future study.

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VII. Christmas Ministry

The 2025 Christmas Ministry which we organized went very well.

The Angel Tree Program: 36 presents were provided to children in the Urban community.

Harvest Donations: We 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.

Gift Coupons: We also raised roughly \$1700.00 in donations (exceeding our goal) to purchase gift cards for eight households in the St. Mark's community in lieu of food hampers.

VIII. CLWR Friends of Creation

In November Social Ministry submitted a recommendation to council that St. Mark's join the CLWR's Friends of Creation program. This program is intended to raise awareness of climate change and its impacts on our environment and people. The CLWR program also raises funds to assist the people of the Lake Chad area as they try to cope with the devastating impacts of climate change and other factors on Lake Chad. Council approved St. Mark's participation with a fund-raising goal to restore 100 acres of Lake Chad (\$5000.00) as well as the organization of four congregational events to learn and pray about climate change and two congregational activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Lorch, Jennifer Moroz

Worship and Music Committee

Worship Committee essentially folded in 2025 and the work of worship was staff-driven by Pastor Zsófi, Melissa, and Alison and John. Thanks to Sarah Harrington for her time with several behind the scenes worship-related tasks.

This third year of Pastor Zsófi's leadership allowed for settling into patterns. Thoughtful liturgies that had been carefully produced in previous years were recycled to build familiarity with the congregation and ease the workload of staff. Things that help St. Mark's shine happened again: the Sunday School Christmas pageant, our Prayer for Peace service, we confirmed one student, a Post-CLAY service following the Youth trip to Saskatoon, our Season of Creation with an emphasis on Reconciliation and a roof-raising Come Together Sunday, Pride and RIC Sundays, Holy Humour, a 7 person chamber ensemble for Good Friday, and many more efforts and initiatives drawing on the talents of our community. Just glancing at this list gives one a fine sense of what St. Mark's is about. Each of these takes time and effort to produce, but we are the kind of congregation that sees it as a solid investment.

In summer we gave our volunteer base a "vacation" by having a sign up sheet for lector & usher duties, and pausing powerpoint, camera, and sound volunteerism. We were able to continue to offer livestream by having staff turn basic settings on and off. On weeks when Pastor Zsófi was away we utilized the video sermon series.

In Lent we shared mid-week services with Messiah Lutheran Church, alternating which congregation hosted and "swapping" leaders. Again, this was a response to fatigue by staff and those who tend to host the weekly meal and worship, but it was also an opportunity to enrich our connection with our sister church and many jolly conversations were had.

Our attendance through the year was solid and stable. We are fortunate to have a dedicated core, a sense of welcome to visitors and those who attend infrequently, and such a fantastic broad demographic. We emphasized in worship *welcome* and *inclusion*.

The news that our pastor and office person are leaving in the new year requires that the work of planning shaping the theme of each church season, planning liturgy and music, responding to community feedback, recruiting worship volunteers, changing paraments, and sourcing worship supplies now needs to be distributed among other shoulders. It will be imperative in the coming year that we form a much broader team of dependable contributors.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Gingrich, Director of Music Ministry

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Committee

Members (since): co-chairs Annette Gargol /Lawrence Gargol (Sept 2023), Mabel Harrington (Sept 2024), Rachel Martens(July 2022) and Brenda Catchpole (Sept 2023).

Youth Sub-Committee members (Aug 2025): co-leaders Rachel Martens and Mabel Harrington
Leaders-in-Training Michael Gingrich and Taus Kristenson

A very sincere thank you is extended to Wei-An Lau who stepped away from her leadership role in August to focus on studies after being part of St. Mark's Youth for many years. Her contributions especially as Youth Leader have been very much appreciated.

Thank you also to Pastor Zsófi who provided guidance and support to the Committee over the years. Her commitment and dedication to young people in the church including Confirmation, Youth and Young Adults at St. Mark's was central to the work that this committee has undertaken since it's inception in 2023.

Meetings were held on March 24th, June 4th and October 2nd.

The Youth Group activities continue throughout the year with regular fellowship and fundraising activities as listed below. Excellent planning and leadership continue to be provided by co-Leader Rachel Martens / Mabel Harrington and new Youth Leader in Training. The st.marks youthgroup Instagram account continues to provide photos and information on youth events.

St. Mark's attendees at CLAY2025 Saskatoon in August included Rebecca Charleson, Ava Gargol, Michael Gingrich Sarah Gingrich, Henry Harrington, Jens Kristenson, Siri Kristenson and Don-Han Lau. A huge thank you to Rachel Martens and Ken Charleson who were the adult leaders for this event.

2025 Youth Events

Jan	Youth Art Workshop at Messiah Manitoba Harvest Volunteering	June August	Pride Parade Rooted & Rising CLAY Gathering,
Feb	Winter Quest Festival Du Voyageur	Sept	Saskatoon SK Games Night & Worship
March	Games Night Escape Room Harvest MB volunteering Siloam Mission	Oct	Escape Room LV Thanksgiving Retreat A Maze in Corn
April	Easter Brunch prep Easter Brunch	Nov	D&D Bible Study Powerpoint Night
May	Quiz Night Pride Winnipeg clean-up	Dec	Holiday Party & Cookie Decorating

<u>2025 Youth Fundraisers</u>	\$384	Easter Brunch	\$160	Gift Baskets Silent Auction
	\$1107	Quiz Night	\$567	Glenlea Spring
	\$160	Gift Baskets	\$390	Sobey's gift card
	\$800	Matching grants	379	Wall of Money

Young Adult Ministry A very successful 'Amazing Race' event held in January was enjoyed and well received by all participants with everyone having a good time. Thank you to Brenda for extensive planning and opening her home to the participant after-party!

In the spring St. Mark's recognized the high school graduates at this transition to next steps in life. The committee organized a congregational gift of We Rise Higher, a book of prayer & poetry for graduates and a St. Mark's window logo cookie for 12 Class of 2025 St. Mark's members.

Confirmation St Mark's continued in-person classes with Faith, Messiah and St Luke/Zion to offer a 3-year program, consisting of two 8-week terms and a few extra gatherings per year. classes. St. Mark's has about ten students in the confirmation program. We celebrated confirmation of one student in the fall and we look forward to celebrating with the confirmands who are finishing the program in fall 2026.

Thank you very much to all of our Committee Members for their participation and contributions. Again, additional gratitude is extended to both Jennifer Polet and Judy Grossman who have continued to manage & provide support to youth fundraising activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Gargol, Co-Chair

Lawrence Gargol, Co-Chair

Other Reports

Scholarship Committee

Funds able to be disbursed, Houston Scholarship	(no access to funds in 2025)
Funds able to be disbursed, Hagglund Scholarship	\$2369 (at Nov 3, 2025)

Two applications were received this year: Michael Gingrich and Ava Gargol. The two applications were found to be very worthy of scholarships on the basis of excellent transcripts, participation in the life of the congregation, and volunteer activities in the community.

The Scholarship Committee recommends that Michael be awarded the Hagglund Scholarship for \$500.

The Scholarship Committee recommends that Ava be awarded the Hagglund Scholarship for \$500.

The Committee recommends disbursing only from the Hagglund fund this year since our Houston fund assets are currently frozen with the Hugh Adams situation. Hopefully we will have access to this fund next year since it is the hope that we (council or a representative) will look after the administration of the Houston Scholarship Fund.

Thank you,

Jennifer Polet, Signe Jewett
St Mark's Lutheran Church Scholarship Committee

Saturday Breakfast Meetings

St Marks breakfast presentations: in January Brian Baily did a presentation on the challenges of decreasing carbon emissions and climate change; in Feb Tom Lewis reflected on his work as a geologist and his experiences of consulting and working with indigenous people; March/April Brian Lorch did a slide presentation on his and Rhonda's trip to the Canary Islands; in October Hammoud Juma reflected on the new government in Syria as they attempt to create peace among the various factions; in Nov Jane Karpa and Harold Shuster reflected on the Palestine /Israel conflict. Special thanks to the various presenters and the committee (Fred Mann, Dean Parsons, Rob Dojack, and Ron Long) that assists with set-up and putting together the breakfast menu.

Submitted by Ron Long

Urban Ministry Meal Program

A big thank you to all members of St. Mark's for their ongoing support for the Urban meal program at St. Mark's. Your prayers and financial support of this program make it possible for the three meal teams (Ron and Judy Long, Mark and Verle-Ann Irvine and Ed Mann) to continue to prepare and provide a monthly dinner meal for 75 people. One meal prep costs a meal team approximately \$200.

This cost is covered by donations from our congregational members and is not included in the annual church budget. All donations to the Urban Meal program are eligible to be included in the tax statement that members receive at the end of the year.

A special thank you to Jean and Norm Fullerton for their past contribution to the meal team ministry. Norm Fullerton and Signe Jewett have joined the board of the Urban and help provide guidance and support to the Urban staff. The major announcement from the Urban annual meeting is that the Urban will be relocating to First Lutheran Church due to closure of Cross Lutheran. This will take place starting August 1st.

Submitted by: Ed Mann

MNO Synod



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA
**MANITOBA/NORTHWESTERN
ONTARIO SYNOD**
*Empowered by God, shepherding the church,
serving the world.*

MNO SYNOD REPORT TO CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETINGS JANUARY 2026

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of Christ our Saviour.

I want to thank all of the congregations of the MNO Synod for your faithful partnership over the last year. We have had many blessings and have faced some challenges over the year. But we trust and know that God will continue to be good and move us into a future full of life.

I especially want to thank leaders in congregations without a regularly called pastor or deacon for their ongoing care and support of congregations. Your congregations are blessed to receive your faithful service, and you are helping to continue the growth in faith of entire communities. I also want to thank those retired pastors and deacons who continue to faithfully serve and take on interim roles in leadership. Our leadership challenges would become crises without your support and service.

Over the past 7 years, the work of the synod office staff has been guided by four Ministry Priorities: **Empowered Discipleship; Community & Connections; Faithful Transformation; and Mutual Support.** These have directed our work and helped us understand God's call. (see <https://elcic.box.com/v/2022-MNO-Ministry-Priorities>)

These Ministry Priorities have helped us focus on building relationships and partnerships; redeveloping youth and young adult ministry to focus on discipleship; support congregational ministry through grants; walk with congregations in times of change and challenge; test the waters of small group ministry; build collegiality and collaboration between clergy and congregations; help congregations with visioning and future planning, and more.

While these priorities are still in place, the MNO Synod Council has been at work discerning how God is shaping the ministry of the Synod Office in the next few years. We continue to evaluate what has been working, where we need to make adjustments, and the support that congregations need. Over the next 6 months we will be working to clearly define our Mission, Vision, and Values that will inform our work moving forward.

While we do that work, it is important to note a subtle shift in the approach of the MNO Synod Office. For many decades we have tried to provide programs and training that we believed would support congregations in their ministry. Sometimes these programs were wildly successful. However, more often, they were not well supported, poorly attended, or had little lasting value. Our approach to ministry in the coming years will be more focused on supporting the ministries already happening (or hoped for) in congregations. We want to help plant seeds for ministry to grow into something substantial.

This work will include: facilitating conversations around purpose, identity, and strategic planning; supporting youth and young adult ministry leaders; building relationships between congregations and rostered leaders; support and training for lay leaders; navigating congregational changes like rostered ministry staff changes, closures, mergers, and shared ministries; and many other areas.

Below are some highlights from 2025.

Blessings

For the past year we have shared a staff person with the ELCIC National Office in the area of administration and finance. We were blessed to work with Tatiana Aguirre for the past year until her departure, but welcome **Ashwanpreet Kaur** into the role. Ashwanpreet is in our office on Thursdays and Fridays only, so please be patient if some responses are delayed.

Congregations are relying more on lay leaders, and in some cases, lay leaders are entirely responsible for the leadership of congregations. This is truly an important calling, and we are so thankful for those who continue to serve our congregations in this way. Without your dedicated and faithful work, many congregations would be hard pressed to maintain their ministries or worship lives.

Synod Council has had some in-person retreats dedicated to developing mission, vision, values, and strategic planning to help our shared ministry thrive. It has been good to meet more often in person, and we believe that this renewed attention to future direction and mission will help our synod move forward into God's promised future for us.

Several retired pastors have answered a call to serve congregations in an interim capacity through ministry changes. We cannot overstate how appreciative we are for this as it ensures that these congregations have regular pastoral support through what can be a long process of calling a new pastor.

After a few years with no candidates, our Candidacy Committee is now walking with three candidates. It is important to see how our congregations are passing on faith and encouraging members in their call to leadership. If you have wondered about a call to ordained ministry, or need someone to talk to about it, please reach out to your local pastor or deacon, or call the Synod Office to speak with Bishop Jason.

We are working on a partnership with the Diocese of Rupert's Land and St. John's College at the University of Manitoba to support and grow campus and young adult ministry. There are no defined timelines yet, but we continue to look at how we can support our students at the UofM campus.

Synod Council and staff are focused on helping all congregations, leaders, and members of the MNO Synod understand our purpose and direction as the church. We are committed to helping MNO Synod congregations grow in faith and discipleship as our primary vocation. Deacon Michelle and Bishop Jason have been in congregations to facilitate discussions and lead workshops to help with this discernment.

At National Convention, the ELCIC elected **Bishop Larry Kochendorfer** as our new National Bishop. Please pray for Larry and his family as he leads our church over this next term.

Facing Today, Dreaming for the Future is an ELCIC initiative that began at National Convention 2025. It is aimed at opening conversation with all members of the ELCIC to determine shared purpose, vision for the future, and potential changes to how we organize and operate in order to

Thank you for your continued prayers. We appreciate and need them in our ministry. Please continue to pray for:

Synod Council

Gabriella Balog - Chairperson
Dan Brunet - Treasurer
Bev Wahl - Secretary
Martin Kruse
Sandra Tymchyshyn
Nina Niemisto
Michelle McConomy
Caitlin Kostna
Rev. Jennifer Marlor
Rev. Debra Johnston

Staff

Ashwanpreet Kaur
Deacon Michelle Collins
Bishop Jason Zinko

Synod Committees, and partners

realize that vision. This initiative is similar to the process that MNO intended to start this past year, so we deferred our discussion to the National process. Stay tuned for more news and dates to bring people together for these important conversations.

We are thankful for the strong sense of collegiality and support that has developed among our clergy. Since Covid we have continued weekly meetings (Zoom and hybrid) in which clergy can opt to gather for conversation, support, learning, and sharing. We continue to invite all clergy to attend.

We have been trying to replace the term 'benevolence' with 'Common Mission Support'. We feel that this better describes the importance and function of congregational support for the MNO Synod and the ELCIC National Office. It shows that we are in ministry together and mutually supporting one another in our calling to follow God. We want to thank our churches who have been, and continue to be, generous in their support of our common mission, including those who have reached out to ask how best to direct their giving so it has the most impact. We appreciate your faithful generosity and look forward to serving our congregations and ministries.

Challenges

Over the past year we have been called to care for congregations who were unable to continue their ministry in its current form. Please pray with me as we remember and celebrate the faithful ministry of Sherwood Park Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church of the Cross, both of Winnipeg, MB.

In 2025, we said our final goodbyes to several leaders who have faithfully led our congregations and synods. We hold up: Pastor Leslie Poulin; Bishop Lee Luetkehoelter; Pastor and Gordon Hendrickson.

Before the end of the year, we had several changes in our rostered leadership announced. With thanksgiving for their gifts and ministry here, I want to pray for the continued ministry of: Rev. Theo Robinson (Anglican) who departed from the Interlake Regional Shared Ministry; Pastor Michael Kurtz who retired from First Lutheran in Winnipeg; Pastor Courtenay Reedman Parker who announced her departure from Messiah Lutheran in Winnipeg in early 2026; Pastor Erik Parker who departed from Sherwood Park Lutheran Church in Winnipeg; Pastor Jennifer Marlor who departed from the Interlake Regional Shared Ministry; Pastor Val From who retired from St. Mary Magdalene (Anglican); Pastor Zsófi Schmiedge who announced their departure from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Winnipeg in early 2026.

Our supply roster is stretched thin and many of our retired ministers are finding themselves in part-time employment and/or interim ministry. In fact, some congregations would not have any leadership if it weren't for the faithful and generous work of our retired pastors. We continue to be grateful for their ongoing ministry, but our current situation is not sustainable. We hope that congregations will be willing to work with us contemplating different models of ministry, shared ministries, and potential mergers. As we wrote in this report last year, we must find ways of prioritizing ministry while also being faithful stewards of our financial resources and people. Without these conversations, we are simply planning to die slowly.

Looking Ahead

We trust that God continues to make all things new, and that we are invited into co-creating that new thing. Our hope is that our leaders, members, congregations, and staff – the whole MNO Synod together – will have the courage and faith to wonder about what that could be. We live in changing times and, like everything else, must learn to adapt while holding on to the central things of our faith and calling.

We hope that 2026 will be a year of conversation, a year of vision, a year of faithful discipleship as we live our baptismal call to be God's children in all we do.

We also hope that we will continue to grow in our ability to work together, to build relationships, and to become a more unified and supportive MNO Synod. Please reach out to our synod office staff with any ideas of how we can do that in your context and for your people.

Thank you again to all of you who continue to explore and grow in faith, serve your congregations, serve your communities, support one another, and follow Christ in your daily lives. We hope that God continues to bless you and show the path forward. We look forward to your ongoing partnership in ministry, knowing that we can only be the MNO Synod when we work collaboratively as the body of Christ.

Blessings for the year ahead.

Yours in Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Zinko', with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

Bishop Jason Zinko
Manitoba Northwestern Ontario Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Lutheran Urban Ministry Report to St. Mark's

2025 was a busy year of fellowship and spiritual care at the Urban. We are so very grateful to St. Mark's Lutheran for your kindness and support in so many ways for our Urban community. And thanks so very much also for your support of our *Going the Distance* for the Urban fundraiser and for meal team.

Nine years ago, we began our weekly men's lunch/sharing circles, as well as women's and co-ed sharing circles. I'm continually inspired by our wonderful Urban community, and I constantly feel privileged to know the people who attend – some occasionally stopping by and many regularly over the past 10 to 20 years. This is an absolutely amazing outreach ministry here in the west end of Winnipeg - made possible by the support of congregation members of the MNO Synod.

We have a sit-down hot lunch for men on Wednesdays preceding our men's sharing circle. As well, bagged meals are provided at the side door of the church two evenings per week, and presently we provide bagged lunches on Sundays.

Our Urban community of worshippers on Sundays consist of seniors (many with disabilities or lonely), families, newcomers, single guys in rooming houses or group homes, women and men struggling with housing/food insecurity, and every month a few come by who are unhoused for many different reasons.

A few of our highlights of 2025:

"Sharing our Hearts with Art" in our women's sharing circles bi-monthly March-May made possible by MNO Mission Grants-CECF. Ten-session art therapy program in which the art therapists guided our women in interesting artistic projects and self-discovery.

At our Women's Sharing Circle on April 16, *a facilitator from Willow Place* provided information on the different types of violence, information of the myths surrounding it, how everyone can help, and the resources available to those experiencing family violence.

Our *annual Father's Day Picnic in the Park* at the Valour Community Club Orioles Site was so much fun! Picnic lunch, baseball, kid's races and prizes.

Once again, we were invited by Monica Zinn and her son Andreas to have a farm tour on August 29 at Zinn Farm near Starbuck. They made a delicious BBQ lunch for us - and it felt like a mini-holiday that day! The Urban rented a bus to take us all there!

We had a wonderful *Going the Distance for the Urban* annual fundraiser day on October 4 at Abundant Life Lutheran. Walking and biking, and BBQ afterwards with inter-congregational fellowship. Much gratitude to the teams and donors.

On Sunday, December 21, our *Urban Christmas Carol Worship Service* was led by Pastor Don Engel. Donna Engel played the piano. A choir of 20, mostly from First Lutheran, and some from St. Mark's and St. Luke's Zion, led us in the carols. A lovely addition was Katie who played the oboe. The ingredients for the wonderful bagged lunches for all were provided through a grant from the DMSMRI/West End Resource Centre. Everyone received Christmas presents.

Our new location update: Construction will begin later this year at Lutheran Church of the Cross on Arlington St. to re-purpose the church building into affordable housing for seniors. *The Urban is very excited that we have been welcomed by First Lutheran Church, 580 Victor Street (not far away) to be tenants there.* First Lutheran is a loving, inclusive, and vibrant congregation. Our sharing circles and other programs will continue there. However, I'm really pleased that instead of the Sunday afternoon worship service that we currently have, our Urban community will be worshipping with the First Lutheran congregation on Sunday mornings after the relocation. The Urban will be moving to First Lutheran on June 1, 2026. The phone number and email address will remain the same.

- Rhonda Gorham, Ministry Manager, Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of age, ability, health, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expressions, language, sexual orientation, life circumstances, marital status, race, or anything else which sometimes divides us. The Urban is committed to racial equity. We welcome diversity and uniqueness. Our unity is in Christ, whose grace is freely given to all. All are welcome. The Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp. is a member of Reconciling Works – Lutherans for Full Participation www.reconcilingworks.org

Finance Committee Report

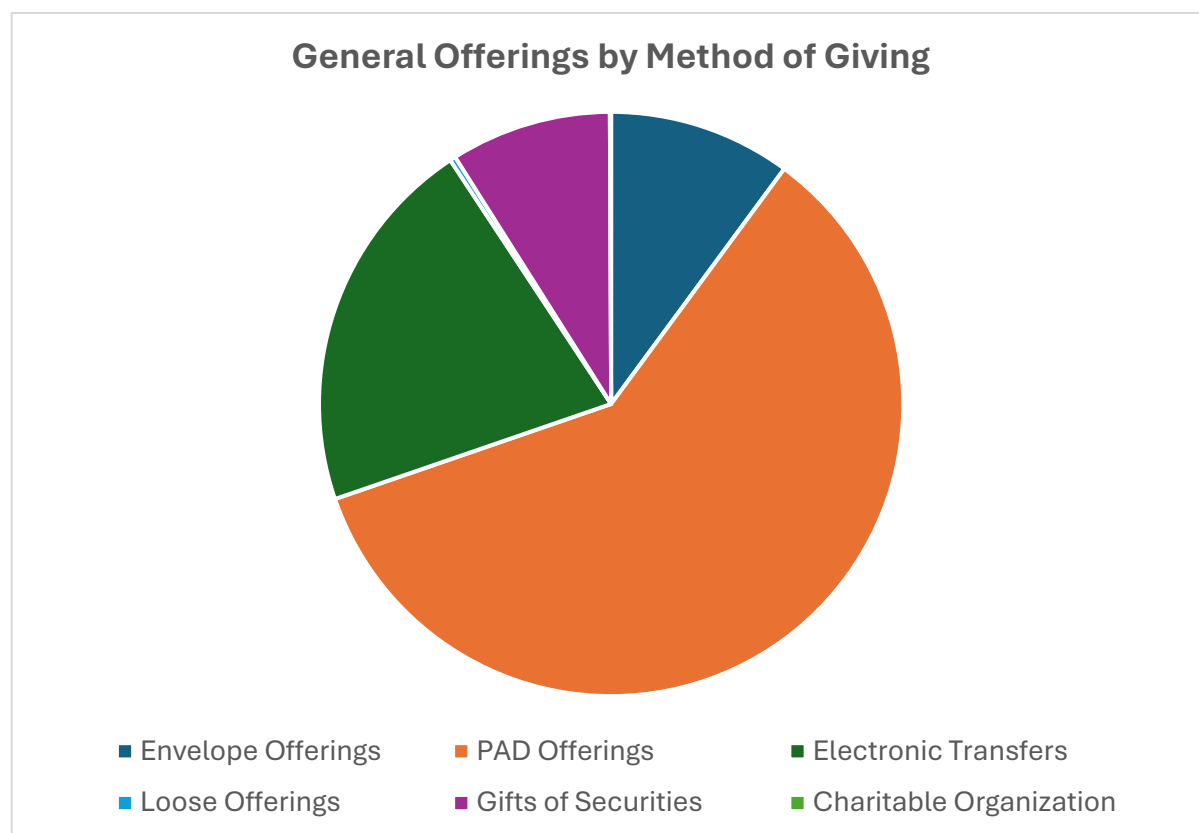
Year-end financial statements are available elsewhere in the Annual Meeting Bulletin of Reports. At the time of writing of this report, the Audit Committee had not yet completed its review of the 2025 financials. While we have confidence that the information contained in the following report is reasonably representative of the congregation's finances, there may be some minor modifications once the Audit Committee has completed its work.

General Offerings

General offerings, that is offerings given to support the operating budget of the congregation, received in 2024 were \$271,682, an increase of \$2,247 from the previous year.

As in the past, there was a significant surge of giving in December with total receipts that month being just over \$50,500. This represented almost 18% of all giving in 2025.

The trend towards giving via means other than traditional envelopes continues. Offerings received on Sunday mornings accounted for 10% of overall giving whereas PAD / E-transfer giving represented 84% of total receipts.



Other Income

Other income in 2025 amounted to \$10,985. Of this, \$2,850 was interest earned by an investment savings account with the balance coming from facility rentals.

The bulk of our rental income comes from what we call recurring use. Three groups rented our space on a regular basis in 2025: Archimedes Math, Village Green Dancers, and Retired Teachers of Manitoba Choir.

How we used your offerings in 2025

By far the largest expense is related to our staff. Personnel / HR costs (i.e., salaries, wages, benefits, etc.) accounted for 65% of our expenses. Other HR costs this year included payments to Messiah Lutheran during the time we were reimbursing Messiah Lutheran for salary and benefit costs incurred by them on our behalf.

A favorable year-end balance made it possible increase support for Mission Partners by almost \$2,000.

About 20% of our expenses are related to the building. Repairs to our HVAC system accounted for a large portion of maintenance expenditure this year. Still, overall expenses were down from the previous year when we purchased a new dishwasher and paid held-over expenses related to the water-damage insurance claim from 2023.

Administration expenses include such things as office supplies, photocopier lease, postage, software licenses, etc.). These amounted to just under 2.9% of expenditures.

Programming expenses – that is expenditures made by our various program committees (i.e., Worship, Social Ministry, Community Care, Youth, Sunday School, Adult Education) accounted for 3.3% of expenditures. Expenses related to sending youth to CLAY were much less than what had been anticipated largely due to the proximity of the CLAY venue (Saskatoon) to Winnipeg.

Governance includes our annual convention fee paid to the MNO Synod (which incidentally was waived in 2025), Pastor's registration fee for attending the annual Synod professional leadership event, and funds expended on staff and volunteer recognition.

Year over Year Comparison of Expenditures

Expense	2025	%	2024	%
Programming	8,859.36	3.3	9,603.18	3.4
Governance	1,354.36	0.5	1,610.00	0.6
Administration	7,970.43	2.9	9,236.79	3.3
Property	52,782.55	19.4	61,572.05	22.0
Personnel	159,340.43	58.6	173,985.32	62.3
Other HR	17,683.56	6.5	1,376.26	0.5
Mission Partner Support	24,031.38	8.8	22,106.13	7.9
TOTAL	272,022.07	100	279,489.73	100.0

Year-End Operating Position

Preliminary results indicate we finished 2025 with an operating surplus of \$10,645. This is a substantial improvement over the almost \$25,000 deficit incurred two years ago. It is also a welcome gift considering we entered 2025 with an operating budget that projected a deficit of about \$10,000. The turn-a-round can be attributed to:

- The generous support of members and friends of the congregation especially in last few months of the year.
- Volunteers who maintained basic office functions during times we were without an admin staff person. We note that the Finance Committee has assumed full responsibility for all financial functions previously handled by the office admin staff person.
- Less than budgeted for spending in several areas (e.g., the reduced cost of CLAY, a decision by the MNO Synod to forego collecting convention fees in 2025).

Unencumbered Reserve Funds

Unencumbered Reserve funds represent accumulated savings that have no designated purpose. As you are likely aware, the balance of this reserve had declined in recent years when it was used to offset deficits in our operating budget.

As of December 31, 2025, the balance in the reserve fund is \$110,326 up from \$99,802 at the end of 2024.

We are indeed grateful for and feel blessed to have a sizeable cash reserve. Among other things it:

- Allows us to cover ongoing expenses such as salaries, utility bills, and other programming expenses during times of year when offerings wane.
- Serves as a form of self-insurance that will be there to cover insurance deductibles in the event of a catastrophic loss.
- Makes it possible to address large, unexpected expenses when they arise.

Designated Giving

Designated giving represents offerings that are directed to special purposes outside of what is set out in the congregation's operating budget.

Gifts Designated to External Agencies

The following amounts were forwarded to external agencies in 2025:

Lutheran Urban Ministry	\$1,370
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	\$780

Gifts Designated to Special Programs of St. Mark's

- Memorial Fund

Memorial Fund balance at the beginning of 2025 was \$7,745. Donations during the year were \$10,035. Two bequests were received in December totalling \$4,000. No restrictions were placed on how the

bequests may be used. The funds were placed in the Memorial Fund until the congregational council decides where they can be best used.

The only purchase from the fund this year was for a small number of perennial flowers that were planted along the west wall of the parish hall.

- Urban Meals

Donations to the Urban Meal Program in 2025 totalled \$825 while expenditures were \$1,683. Consequently, the balance in this fund decrease during 2025 to just over \$1,000. Expenditures represent reimbursement to members for grocery supplies purchased to prepare meals / bag lunches. The Urban

- Christmas Hampers

The opening balance of the Hamper fund was just over \$700 to which \$1,845 was added during the November campaign. Support this year went mostly to families in need within our congregation and close community. The year-end balance of the fund was \$293.

- Coffee House

Two Cambridge Coffee House events were held in 2025. Net proceeds of \$2,628 were designated to two causes: Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation to support its Better Access to Groceries program and Main Street Project.

- Refugee Fund

The Refugee Fund received \$34,089 in donations in 2025 bringing the year end balance to \$41,648. We are grateful for support received from two other MNO congregations, Gimli Lutheran (\$5,350) and Epiphany Lutheran (\$9,295). Other significant gifts from within our congregation included a bequest of \$5,000 and a donation of securities worth \$10,600. With the permission of that donor, we were able to purchase winter coats and boots for a newly arrived family of five as well as a mattress and bedframe.

Endowment Funds

St. Mark's manages two endowment funds: Hagglund Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Social Ministry Endowment Fund. A third endowment fund, the Houston Memorial Scholarship Fund is managed by a local law firm.

Interest earned by the two scholarship funds is used to award scholarships to students beginning or continuing in post-secondary programs. In 2025, awards were made to two students: Ava Gargol and Michael Gingrich. Total disbursements were \$1,000 all of which came from the Hagglund endowment.

Interest earned by the Social Ministry Fund amounted to \$935. As of year-end, the Social Ministry Committee had not identified a recipient so the funds will be held over for disbursement in 2026.

Finance Committee Activity in 2025

The Finance Committee is a committee of the congregational council charged with overseeing the financial record keeping of the congregation.

Committee activity in 2025 included:

- Quarterly financial updates to the council.
- Financial updates to program committees upon request.
- Completed and submitted the annual charitable return to Canada Revenue Agency
- Distributed year-to-date individual giving reports to members in October.
- Generated and distributed 2024 Receipts for Charitable Donations.
- Creation of a draft budget for presentation to the council in October.
- As per council's direction, met in late December to make final decisions on year-end disbursements to mission partners.
- Completed the transfer of all financial functions to volunteers. Office admin staff are no longer responsible for any financial tasks.

Financial Secretary / Bookkeeper / Payroll and PAD Manager

The committee is grateful for volunteers who fill important financial support roles.

We are thankful for Verle-Ann Irvine's willingness to serve as our Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary is responsible for entering information about offerings into our Church Watch software. Among other things, that software generates your income tax receipt for charitable donations.

Towards the end of 2025, Cole Parsons assumed the tasks of submitting monthly PAD offering reports to TD Bank and semi-monthly payroll reports to Payworks. Thank you, Cole, and thank you to Rhonda Lorch who had been managing these two functions.

Gratitude is also extended to our offering counting teams. The decline in the number of members using offering envelopes make this task less onerous but no less important. So, we give thanks to: Inga Skundberg and Signe Jewett, Annette and Lawrence Gargol, Marijus Timmerman and Jennifer Moroz, Darlene and Perry Kohli, and Rhonda and Brian Lorch.

Bookkeeping duties in 2025 were handled by Brian Lorch.

Finance Committee Membership

Serving on the Finance Committee in 2025 were Rachel Martens, Cole Parsons and Brian Lorch.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee.

Brian Lorch
Treasurer



2025 Auditor's Report

The Audit Report was not available by our printing deadline. It will be distributed during the Annual Meeting on April 19, 2026

Nominations Committee Report

Council Vacancies

Three members of council will end their terms at the 2026 annual meeting: (1) Cole Parson (2) Jodi Reider and (3) Tom Lewis. There was also one vacant seat on Council this past year. Many thanks to Cole, Jodi and Tom for their time on council.

Nominations presented by the Nominating Committee.

The following persons have been approached by the committee and have agreed to be nominated for positions on the congregational council for three-year terms:

Sheila Matsubara

Kurt Simonsen

Brenda Catchpole

There will be a call for additional nominations during the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Appendix A: Financial Statements

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

2025 Financial Statements

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

*600 Cambridge Street Winnipeg, MB
R3M 3G9*

Balance Sheet

	As of Dec 31, 2025	As of Dec 31, 2024
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalent		
TD Bank	50,606.11	35,704.38
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	50,606.11	35,704.38
GST Receivable	664.94	701.15
Total Current Assets	51,271.05	36,405.53
Non-current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment		
Original cost	1,917,133.16	1,917,133.16
Depreciation	-1,430,660.90	-1,334,804.24
Total Property, plant and equipment	486,472.26	582,328.92
TD Direct Investing - Cash / Inv Sav	112,341.96	73,750.57
TD Bond Fund - Unrestricted ¹	30,960.13	30,960.13
TD Bond Fund - Scholarships ¹	30,960.13	30,960.13
TD Bond Fund - Social Ministry ¹	29,871.27	29,871.27
Total Non Current Assets	690,605.75	747,871.02
Total Assets	741,876.80	784,276.55
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable (A/P)		
Payworks	58.28	58.28
Total Accounts Payable (A/P)	58.28	58.28
Credit Card	87.63	1,095.99
Miscellaneous Obligations	0.00	0.00
ELCIC - GSI	2,996.84	373.61
Memorial Fund	17,613.50	7,745.74
Youth Gathering	1,604.18	6,072.83
Youth Activities	0.00	0.00
Community Garden Project	753.08	949.37
ELCIC Appeals	0.00	0.00
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	0.00	0.00
Urban Ministry	0.00	0.00
Lutheran Urban Mission Meals	1,000.80	1,858.91

Refugee Sponsorship	41,648.10	11,744.60
Sunday School Offerings	1,700.90	1,700.90
Music Ministry/Instruments	759.85	759.85
Christmas Hampers	293.48	700.11
Canada Lutheran Subscription	74.93	74.93
Coffee House	212.22	212.22
Education	233.50	233.50
Hagglund Endowment Interest	1,574.85	1,657.27
Social Ministry Interest	1,034.85	99.55
Total Current Liabilities	71,646.99	35,337.66
Non-current Liabilities		
Capital Works Fund	10,940.29	1,976.14
Total Non-current Liabilities	10,940.29	1,976.14
Total Liabilities	82,587.28	37,313.80

Equity

Endowment Fund - Hagglund Scholarship	23,611.34	23,611.34
Endowment Fund - Social Ministry	29,871.27	29,871.27
Opening Balance Equity	986,309.35	986,309.35
Adjusted Retained Earnings	-292,829.21	-197,883.62
Profit (loss) for the year	-87,673.23	-94,945.59
Total Equity	659,289.52	746,962.75
Total Liabilities and Equity	741,876.80	784,276.55

Notes:

(1) St Marks initially measures financial assets at fair value adjusted by the amount of transaction costs directly attributable to the investment. Assets are not subsequently tested or measured for impairment against market values as such impairments in financial instruments is discretionary as per guidelines. Unrealized Capital gains/losses on investments resulting from market fluctuations have not been realized in operating income. As these funds are unrealized until the assets are sold the fluctuations in asset values do not reflect any additional costs to the church and as such, have not been included in financial statements.

Asset	Stated Value as of December 31, 2025	Market Value as of December 31, 2025
TD Bond Fund - unrestricted	\$30,960.13	\$26,838.12
TD Bond Fund - scholarships	\$30,960.13	\$26,838.12
TD Bond Fund – Social Ministry	\$29,871.27	\$27,231.55

Schedule of Receipts

	2025	2024
General Receipts		
Offering Income – General Offering	271,682.38	269,435.19
Offering Income – Other Offering	-	-
Interest Income, & Conf Fees, other fees	2,850.52	3,983.48
Grants	-	-
Rental Income	7,550.00	6,918.00
Gain / Loss on Investments	77.83	10.40
Miscellaneous Income	507.08	53.73
Total General Receipts	282,667.81	280,400.80
Directed Offerings		
Canada Lutheran	-	232.90
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	780.00	2,104.00
Capital Works	8,964.15	-
Christmas Hampers	1,845.00	1,600.00
Coffee House	2,628.00	1,110.00
Community Garden Project	-	-
Education	-	-
Hagglund Scholarship Interest	917.58	894.99
Luther Urban Mission	1,370.00	1,225.00
Luther Urban Mission Meals	825.00	755.00
Luther Village	-	140.00
Memorial Fund	10,035.00	505.00
Misc. Obligations	13,509.00	
Music Ministry	-	-
Refugee Sponsorship	34,089.00	11,744.60
Social Ministry Fund - interest	935.30	879.90
Sunday School Offerings	-	-
Youth Fund	12,988.94	15,166.25
Total Directed Offerings	88,886.97	36,357.64
Total Receipts	371,554.78	316,758.44

Schedule of Disbursements

	2025	2024
Support of Ministry in our Parish:		
Pastor and staff salaries / benefits / other HR costs	179,486.30	175,361.58
Services in our Parish:		
Worship, Education, Outreach, Stewardship, Youth, Congregational Events, Conventions, Conferences	10,213.72	11,213.18
Office, Postage, Building, Property Maintenance, Repair, Insurance, Utilities, Furnishings	60,752.98	70,808.84
Mission Partner Support		
MNO Synod, Lutheran Urban Ministry, RIC	24,031.38	22,106.13
Total Operating Expenses	274,484.38	279,489.73
Disbursements from Funds		
Canadian Lutheran Magazine	-	307.84
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	780.00	2,104.00
Capital Works	-	-
Christmas Hampers	2,251.63	1,200.00
Coffee House	2,628.00	1,110.00
Community Garden Project	196.29	-
Education	-	-
Hagglund Scholarship Grants	1,000.00	700.00
Lutheran Urban Mission	1,370.00	1,225.00
Lutheran Urban Mission Meals	1,683.11	1,054.07
Luther Village	-	140.00
Memorial Fund	167.24	996.02
Misc. Obligations	13,509.00	
Music Ministry	-	-
Refugee Sponsorship	4,185.50	-
Social Ministry Fund grants	-	1,333.31
Sunday School Offerings	-	-
Youth Fund	17,457.59	10,820.34
Total Disbursements from Designated /Special Gifts	45,228.36	20,990.58
Total Disbursements	319,712.74	300,480.31

Detailed Operating Statement

	2025	2024
INCOME		
General Offerings		
Envelope Offerings	27,444.00	26,768.00
PAD Offerings	161,981.00	176,750.00
Electronic Transfers	57,040.88	50,663.29
Loose Offerings	854.23	1,237.55
Gifts of Securities	24,170.89	13,785.95
From Other Charitable Organizations	191.38	230.40
Total General Offerings	271,682.38	269,435.19
Gain/Loss - Investments	77.83	10.40
Interest Income	2,850.52	3,983.48
Other Income		
Facility Rentals	7,550.00	6,918.00
Miscellaneous Income	507.08	53.73
Total Other Income	8,057.08	6,971.73
Total Income	282,667.81	280,400.80
EXPENSES		
Programming		
Worship Committee		
Resource Materials and Music	888.38	796.66
Communion Supplies	293.70	306.08
Flowers and Decorations	347.79	402.38
Licences and Subscriptions	1,979.78	2,176.63
Equipment Maintenance	556.11	486.34
Equipment Purchase	21.79	479.02
Total Worship Committee	4,087.55	4,647.11
Confirmation Ministry		
Confirmation Resources	66.34	43.75
Confirmation Hospitality	-	122.35
Confirmation Sunday Expenses	205.25	35.47
Thanksgiving Retreat	200.00	100.00
Total Confirmation Ministry	471.59	301.57
Children's Ministry		
Curriculum Supplies	247.05	957.29
Splash Program	-	-
Grade 5 Bibles	697.99	-

Special Events	-	-
Total Children's Ministry	945.04	957.29
Adult Education		
Curriculum Materials	-	-
Total Adult Education	-	-
Congregational & Community Care		
Canada Lutheran Cong Subscription	-	82.14
Supplies	21.88	-
Congregational Events	114.92	109.11
Coffee Hour / Kitchen Supplies	666.66	808.50
Total Congregational & Com Care	803.46	999.75
Youth Committee		
Assistant Youth Leader Honorium	400.00	400.00
Local Programming	141.01	958.89
Event Expenses - Leaders	480.00	678.52
Total Youth Committee	1,021.01	2,037.41
Social Ministry		
Local Programming	40.00	660.05
Local Emergency Relief	-	-
Total Social Ministry	40.00	660.05
Total Programming	7,368.65	9,603.18
Synodical / National Events		
Synod Convention Fee	74.00	850.00
CLAY Gathering	1,490.71	-
Other Events	800.00	760.00
Total Synodical/National Events	2,364.71	1,610.00
Council/Governance		
Council Meeting Expenses	-	-
Staff / Volunteer recognition	480.36	-
Total Council/Governance	480.36	-
Administration Expenses		
Office Expenses		
Stationery and Miscellaneous Supplies	253.33	359.28
Postage	243.80	300.77
Photocopier lease	1,373.44	1,400.56
Photocopier Operating Expenses	488.96	494.85
Software Expenses	1,351.77	1,478.79

Office Equipment Maintenance	147.82	-
Office Equipment Purchase	40.04	110.01
Other Admin Expenses	40.00	40.00
Total Office Expenses	3,939.16	4,184.26
Technology - Internet Services	1,728.09	1,140.00
Bank charges		
Monthly Plan Fee	576.00	864.00
EFT Billing	681.52	553.40
Other bank fees	153.26	167.71
Total Bank charges	1,410.78	1,585.11
Telephone Expenses		
Telephone Lease	-	1,206.86
Telephone Monthly Bill	892.40	895.77
Telephone Service Plan	-	224.79
Total Telephone Expenses	892.40	2,327.42
Total Administration Expenses	7,970.43	9,236.79
Property Expenses		
Utilities		
Gas	4,846.63	4,493.16
Electricity	6,363.65	6,658.54
Water	839.87	398.62
Alarm	590.64	550.96
Total Utilities	12,640.79	12,101.28
Furnishings & Equipment		
Computer Hardware & Accessories	-	989.42
Furnishings	19.49	-
Other Equipment & Accessories	-	12,019.81
Total Furnishings & Equipment	19.49	13,009.23
Insurance and Taxes		
Insurance	12,608.12	12,951.46
Property Taxes	1,539.29	1,548.05

Total Insurance and Taxes	14,147.41	14,499.51
Property Committee		
Interior Maintenance and Repair	11,238.89	1,908.73
Custodial Supplies and Services	9,799.21	8,829.53
Misc Interior Property Expense	-	7,431.25
Snow Clearance	3,720.74	2,391.07
Lawn Care	640.62	882.33
Misc. Outdoor Property Expense	575.40	519.12
Professional fees	-	-
Total Property Committee	25,974.86	21,962.03
Total Property Expenses	52,782.55	61,572.05
Personnel Expenses		
Staff Expenses		
Mileage	394.94	685.00
Parking Expenses	7.50	22.50
Pastor's Book Allowance	78.12	209.94
Pastor's Miscellaneous	409.57	-
Director of Music - Cont Education	115.00	112.39
Total Staff Expenses	1,005.13	1,029.83
Payroll Expenses		
Wages	122,275.58	137,432.36
Benefits	28,640.79	25,168.70
CPP Employer Paid	6,579.03	6,683.97
EI Employer Paid	2,443.89	2,778.11
Payworks Fees	858.32	892.35
Total Payroll Expenses	160,797.61	172,955.49
Total Personnel Expenses	161,802.74	173,985.32
Other HR Costs		
Supply Pastor	705.00	670.00
Supply Musicians	750.00	650.00
VPP Record Checks	63.25	56.26
Miscellaneous HR Costs	16,165.31	-
Total Other HR Costs	17,683.56	1,376.26

Mission Partner Support		
MNO Synod	22,687.50	21,000.00
Lutheran Urban Mission	1,200.00	1,000.00
Other Partners	143.88	106.13
Total Mission Partner Support	24,031.38	22,106.13
Total Operating Expenses	274,484.38	279,489.73
 Operating Surplus (Deficit)	 8,183.43	 911.07
 Depreciation Expense	 95,856.66	 95,856.66
 NET INCOME (LOSS)	 (87,673.23)	 (94,945.59)

Retained Earnings

	2025	2024
Opening Retained Earnings	(292,829.21)	(197,883.62)
Transfer to Endowment Fund - Social Ministry	-	-
Adjustment to Book Value of Investments	-	-
Adjusted Opening Retained Earnings	(292,829.21)	(197,883.62)
Net income (loss)	(87,673.23)	(94,945.59)
Mortgage principal pymts	-	-
Current Earnings	(87,673.23)	(94,945.59)
Ending Retained Earnings	(380,502.44)	(292,829.21)
Opening Haglund Fund Balance	23,611.34	23,611.34
Ending Haglund Fund Balance	23,611.34	23,611.34
Opening Social Ministry Fund Balance	29,871.27	29,871.27
Ending Haglund Fund Balance	29,871.27	29,871.27

Statement of Fund Balances

	Opening Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Closing Balance
Canada Lutheran	74.93	-	-	74.93
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	-	780.00	780.00	-
Capital Works	1,976.14	8,964.15	-	10,940.29
Christmas Hampers	700.11	1,845.00	2,251.63	293.48
Coffee House	212.22	2,628.00	2,628.00	212.22
Community Garden	949.37	-	196.29	753.08
Education	233.50	-	-	233.50
Hagglund Endowment Interest	1,657.27	917.58	1,000.00	1,574.85
Lutheran Urban Ministry	-	1,370.00	1,370.00	-
Lutheran Urban Mission Meals	1,858.91	825.00	1,683.11	1,000.80
Luther Village (incl Bike-a-thon)	-	-	-	-
Memorial Fund	7,745.74	10,035.00	167.24	17,613.50
Misc. Obligations	-	13,509.00	13,509.00	-
Music Ministry / Instruments	759.85	-	-	759.85
Refugee Sponsorship	11,744.60	34,089.00	4,185.50	41,648.10
Social Ministry Interest	99.55	935.30	-	1,034.85
Sunday School Offerings	1,700.90	-	-	1,700.90
Youth Fund	6,072.83	12,988.94	17,457.59	1,604.18
TOTAL	35,785.92	88,886.97	45,228.36	79,444.53

Unencumbered Cash

	As at 12/31/2025	As at 12 / 31/2024
Liquid Assets		
Current Account - TD Bank	50,606.11	35,704.38
GST Receivable	664.94	701.15
TD Direct Investing - Savings Acct	112,341.96	73,750.57
TD Direct Investing - Bond Fund - Mkt Value	26,838.12	27,072.52
Total Unencumbered Liquid Assets	190,451.13	137,228.62
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	145.91	1,154.27
Benefits Payable	2,996.84	373.61
Canada Lutheran	74.93	74.93
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	-	0.00
Capital Works Fund	10,940.29	1,976.14
Christmas Hampers	293.48	700.11
Coffee House	212.22	212.22
Community Garden	753.08	949.37
Education	233.50	233.50
Hagglund Endowment Interest	1,574.85	1,657.27
Luther Urban Ministry	-	0.00
Lutheran Urban Mission Meals	1,000.80	1,858.91
Memorial Fund	17,613.50	7,745.74
Music Ministry / Instruments	759.85	759.85
Refugee Sponship	41,648.10	11,744.60
Social Ministry Interest	1,034.85	99.55
Sunday School Offerings	1,700.90	1,700.90
Youth Gathering	1,604.18	6,072.83
Total Current Liabilities	82,587.28	37,313.80
Unecumbered Cash Reserve	107,863.85	99,914.82