



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace.
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace.

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boan - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABYLONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlides en Contadansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

Text and music are in the public domain. May be reproduced without restriction.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Agenda

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Call to Order – Glenn Mitchell, Council President

Gathering Prayer – Pastor Tari

Minutes of January 2023 Meeting (included in annual report)

Review of Mission Statement & Values

Loved by God, loving others. Fed by God, feeding others.

Values:

- We are centered on Christ.
- The community around Christ can be messy.
- We are beloved children of God who fall short of the glory of God and gather in communion for healing, mercy, and renewal
- We gather to praise God and to explore together God's will for our lives as revealed in Holy Scriptures and inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- We are sent into the world to use the gifts God has given us.

Pastor's Report (included in the Annual Report) – Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey

Council President's Report – (included in the Annual Report) – Glenn Mitchell

Treasurer's Report – (included in the Annual Report) – Gail Fenumiai

Adoption of Budget

Other Committee Reports (included in the Annual Report):

Stewardship – Pastor Tari

Financial Secretary - Teresa Kissel

Scholarship – Gail Fenumiai

Worship & Music/Altar Guild - Katherine Andrews and Alice Gates

Fellowship – Linda Landvik

Property Management – Dan Corson

Master Facility Plan - Theresa Ross & Pastor Tari

Parish Education – Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey

Social Concerns – Becky Corson & Eileen Hosey

Communications & Social Media – Becky Corson

Summer Lunch – Hannah Harvey

Southeast Cluster - Pastor Tari

Family Promise Update: Coordinators: Eileen Hosey, Becky Corson, and Pastor Tari

January-February we are site host, 1/28-2/4, 4/28-5/5, 8/25-9/1, 10/6-10/13

Approval of Revisions to Constitution

Election of Council: Lisa Wallace, Sue Trivette, Helen Mehrkens, Chuck Orsborn

Thank you to Glenn Mitchell, Eileen Hosey and Helen Mehrkens for finishing Kristina Abbott's term

Election of Treasurer & Financial Secretary – Gail Fenumiai and Teresa Kissel

Election of Nominating Committee - Dan Corson, Julie Jenkins, Linda Landvik

Synod Assembly Delegates - Gloria Dei April 26-28

Announcements

Conversations about Sex and Aging lunch on Wednesday, February 7 at noon

Revision of Constitution and Bylaws of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church of Juneau, Alaska

Copies of the revised constitution and bylaws are available separately from this Annual Report. Everyone is encouraged to give it a read. Thank you to Dan Corson for his work on the revision.

Constitutional revision highlights:

Everything with an * is mandatory language from the ELCA so the revisions are to make our document consistent with the ELCA.

Many of the revisions are to clarify the relationship between the local congregation, the synod, and the national body of the ELCA. There are extensive additions related to how a congregation leaves the ELCA and what happens to property if a congregation leaves or dissolves.

Some additions were made to accommodate electronic meetings and voting.

*C4.02. d Language is changed to be more descriptive of what “working for peace and justice in all the world” looks like

C5.05 and continuing resolutions describe the mission endowment funds' purposes

*C15.11 outlines what happens if there is a disagreement among factions in a congregation

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Call to Order & Approve Electronic Format (Voting in chat for those on digital devices, *6 unmute, *9 raise hand on phones) – Glenn Mitchell, Council President called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. It was determined that a quorum of 25 was in attendance.

Gathering Prayer – Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey explained our place in the Alaska Synod as well as within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and read a prayer.

Minutes of January 2022 Meeting (included in annual report) The minutes have been distributed for review by those present. There was one minor change and Katherine Andrews requested her name be added to those present. There being no other corrections, the minutes were approved.

Review of Mission Statement & Values. Glenn encouraged all present to review the mission statement and values as written. They are found on the agenda and available to everyone.

Loved by God, loving others. Fed by God, feeding others. (Our Mission Statement).

Recommended Values: Glenn read the values to those present, in person, on zoom, and on the phone. It was M/S/A (Dan/Katherine) to accept the values as presented and the motion was unanimously approved.

- We are centered on Christ.
- The community around Christ can be messy.
- We are beloved children of God who fall short of the glory of God and gather in communion for healing, mercy, and renewal.
- We gather to praise God and to explore together God's will for our lives as revealed in Holy Scriptures and inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- We are sent into the world to use the gifts God has given us.

Pastor's Report (included in the Annual Report) – Pastor Tari discussed the print-out "A Typical Week" which was made available to all present and everyone was encouraged to review it. She discussed her weekly pastoral duties in greater detail, outlining the myriad of duties and responsibilities involved.

Council President's Report – (included in the Annual Report) – Glenn Mitchell. Glenn discussed his report and reflected on his year as council president.

Treasurer's Report – (included in the Annual Report) – Gail Fenumiai. Gail discussed the finalized 2022 budget items and how we ended the year with all bills paid and a bit left over for the coming year. There were no questions from the group.

Adoption of Budget. The proposed 2023 budget was discussed and reviewed by the congregation and Gail discussed some specific changes to be found. It was M/S/A (Katherine/Marie) to accept the budget as presented. There being no further discussion, the budget was unanimously approved.

Other Committee Reports (included in the Annual Report):

Stewardship – Julie Jenkins

Financial Secretary - Teresa Kissel

Scholarship – Gail Fenumiai

Worship and Music - Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey & Roger Birk

Fellowship – MJ Hinman

Property Management – Dan Corson

Master Facility Plan - Theresa Ross. Jeff Jenkins discussed in greater detail the work of this committee who have been working on some long-term improvements. The driveway issue was discussed in greater detail and Jeff encouraged the congregation to provide feedback on any concerns.

Parish Education – Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey & Glenn Mitchell

Social Concerns – Becky Corson & Eileen Hosey

Communications & Social Media – Becky Corson

Summer Lunch – Hannah Harvey & Teresa Kissel

Budget for Driveway Move: The MFP Committee has requested a budgeted amount of \$20,000.00 to be considered for the work anticipated. Glenn requested a motion to approve up to \$20,000.00 to move the driveway from Mendenhall Loop to Keegan. It was M/S (Dan/Sue) to approve this amount. There was general discussion about details of what this project would entail and maybe a timeline, and Steve gave a more detailed explanation with the architectural drawing and practical details.

A right-of-way permit has been presented to CBJ. The winter snows and plowing problems were also discussed and the new entrance would alleviate a great deal of the safety concerns that have been raised for when a large amount of snow has fallen and egress to the highway is visually compromised.

Kirt also addressed some of the processes that have been undertaken to make the area safer and more visible. It should be noted that the original property documents filed with CBJ stated that the driveway would eventually be moved to a different place. Jeff explained in greater detail the specifics and rationale of what would be needed financially to get things going.

At the conclusion of the discussion a vote was taken, and the motion passed with one dissension.

Family Promise Update: 1/22-1/29, 3/12-3/19, 4/23-4/30, 8/27-9/3, 11/19-11/26

Coordinators: Eileen Hosey, Becky Corson, and Pastor Tari

Election of Council: Scott Hinton, Gail Fenumiai, Glenn asked for any nominations from the floor and there were none. It was M/S/A to accept the current slate for nomination.

Election of Treasurer & Financial Secretary – Gail Fenumiai and Teresa Kissel. There were no other nominations from the floor and the vote was unanimous.

Election of Nominating Committee - MJ Hinman, Eileen Hosey, Glenn Mitchell. Three people from the congregation are also needed. Katherine, Steve, and Julia agreed. The motion was unanimously passed.

Cluster in Juneau – March 10-12. We are hosting this in Juneau this year. Details to follow.

Synod Assembly Delegates - April 22-23 in Soldotna. We need two people from our congregation. Gail and Katherine have agreed to be our delegates.

Grief Coaching Training - July 11-13. A facilitator will be here to assist us.

Our Whole Lives Older Adult Sexuality Facilitator Training July 13-15. A facilitator will be here to train and assist in the training at UAS.

Announcements. There were no further announcements, and the meeting was adjourned.

Eileen Hosey
Secretary

Pastor's Report 2023

We did some work on our values in the last year and one change was going from “we all are broken and come here for healing, mercy and a second chance” to “We are beloved children of God who fall short of the glory of God and gather in communion for healing, mercy, and renewal.”

The council spent a long time discussing this change and it was an intentional move from starting with our brokenness to starting with our belovedness. I think that is a good lens through which to see this last year. Our faith puts love at the core of our being, our gathering, and our sending. It's not a feel-good affirmation, but a proclamation that love is the truth of being. The question I had as I reviewed 2023 was “where is the love?”

Here are some of the places where I witnessed belovedness:

1. **Willingness to risk and be uncomfortable.** This is a congregation where people share their faith stories. We share our insights in the Lenten and Advent devotions, we gather to stretch and learn with each other. One of the great risks this last year was the teens gathering every Sunday for the 25 week Our Whole Lives healthy sexuality classes. Parents also gathered for the “Parents and Caregivers as Sexual Educators” and we delved into challenging conversations. The discipleship academy was a place where we wrestled with theology, scripture and each other to figure out what we believe.
2. **Willingness to provide hospitality.** SOV hosted Southeast Cluster for our first in person gathering since COVID. The theme was purple potpourri and one of my favorite moments was that it included tie-dying with a study about purple in the Bible. This became a wonderful God moment because Doug Harris, who died this last year, loved tie-dying and his family joined us for this event before his memorial. We are also a cornerstone for Glacier Bible Camp. We welcomed youth and adults from Anchorage who hung out at summer lunch and loved their time at camp. Following the flood, we were one of the first congregations to reach out to the Red Cross to volunteer as a shelter. We are working on becoming an official sheltering site in 2024 so we'll be ready to go when there is another emergency. SOV continues to participate in Family Promise hosting families. They have been through major staff transitions, but we will host in 2024.
3. **Willingness to reach out.** I worked with the synod to provide two training courses this past summer at UAS. We did a training on grief coaching with participants from around the community and state; we also did training on Sexuality for Older Adults. Willie, Linda and I are working on starting that small group next year. Meagen Hinton and Lily Larsen met with the young adults several times to work through the curriculum. We never quite got it going, but it was good to gather. Gail Fenumiai and I met with the congregations on Mendenhall Loop Rd to work together to provide a hot meal weekly by Chinook apartments. All the congregations in our neighborhood except for one plan to participate and we received a \$30,000 domestic hunger for three years to help. Our relationship with Nigeria continues to flourish. I got to go to Ketchikan and work with their congregation on healthy boundaries and values.

4. **Willingness to walk with people in faith.** We walked with the families of Doug Harris and Steve Landvik as we laid them both to rest. We surrounded Erik Thompson, Maddox Rasmussen, and Brady Newport as they affirmed their faith. There were no baptisms or new members in 2023. One of the goals for 2024 is to be more intentional in inviting people into the community at SOV.
5. **Willingness to dream.** We still feel the effects of COVID, and it will take a while to build back up, but we are a community that seeks to trust God's dream and that helps us dream. We spent some quality time planning the playground, columbarium, and prayer area. The driveway move was many things, but it is nearly completed, and it does open a whole area for us to develop. It's fun to look at the dreams we've had over the last fifteen years and see some of them coming to fruition and some of them laid to rest.

Looking ahead to 2024:

Peer Support Team: I'm applying to be a part of the peer support team at Juneau Police Department. It's a possible step in revamping chaplaincy programs in Juneau.

Safety Concerns: We had someone steal a wallet during worship and someone else tried to scam the congregation into buying gift cards. We'll spend some time working on healthy boundaries and awareness of threats.

Grants: Summer lunch needs a sustainable source of income so I'm working on developing steady support. Some of the building projects can be supported through grants so we're working on those.

Dean for Southeast Cluster: I'm the current dean for our cluster and I would like to see the congregations in Southeast connect and share ministry more.

Greece Pilgrimage: Sacred moments happen on these pilgrimages, and I look forward to learning more about the people who are going and the refugee experience in the EU.

Lunches, Walks, and Worship: People ask what I do the rest of the week and the answer is somewhere between "not a lot" and "too much." I am available for visits so please don't hesitate, but it is helpful for me when we schedule those. There aren't many typical weeks, but here is an idea.

Monday	Sabbath - I turn off my phone and get into the woods.
Tuesday	Administration day - emails, phone calls, organizing events, writing grants, bulletins, plan camp, summer lunch, Family Promise, classes. I'm normally around the office 10-4. I reserve 9-10 for devotions and prayer.
Wednesday	Visit day (10-6)
Thursday	Community Day and Evening Meetings (10-7)
Friday	Office and visits. I normally write my sermon on Friday mornings. A sermon is about 6-8 hours of study, thought and writing.
Saturday	Catch up on whatever needs done before Sunday (typically about 4 hours)
Sunday	8:30-12:30 Church and classes. Scott Hinton and I teach the senior high class so I often disappear during coffee time.

President's Report 2023

At last year's annual meeting I talked about acknowledging how many people were still tuning in on Zoom, but we no longer get to see folks on Zoom anymore, but we can compare that to the ever-changing atmosphere here at SOV. This church is not stagnant, but an ever-evolving church and I believe that is a good thing. I heard during one of our men's group a joke about Lutheran's not liking change, but that certainly does not apply to us. To be honest, it is one of the best things about being a part of the church council, because of decision-making and because we get to see firsthand the changes and happenings at SOV and even have a voice in seeing them through. Sometimes saying NO, because you may feel a particular topic may or may not work best for the church, can be part of the process as well. Some of the things we get to vote on here are hard, but we stop to consider God's word first, then the congregation second. With prayer and God's help we can do and have done some amazing things here at SOV.

Speaking of changes, our food pantry numbers have changed from previous years, and we are seeing smaller numbers, yet we are still serving many families in need, and that includes deliveries to participants that would not be able on their own come to our pantry. We are blessed with a few more volunteers that serve on a regular basis, and blessed with food donations from our congregation, and the end of the month breakfast is always a big hit. Thanks to all the dedicated and caring regulars that show up and serve each week. If you have never come to a monthly pantry breakfast, then I challenge you to come enjoy some good food, good conversation and some good people.

The columbarium is here and what a blessing it is to have here. It is still a work in progress, and we are looking forward to how it will become even more a part of the landscape, playground, parking areas, driveway and all the rest. We call it "men's group" but that's only because that is who shows up on Sunday mornings, and we are seeing on average 5 to 7 showing up at 8:30, and for a few of us, that is an answer to several prayers, cause for a while, there were only two and three of us that attended. If I am being honest, our group makes the best breakfast (when asked and on Mother's Day) so if you want to be part of a winning team, come join us! Mentioning the Driveway, Men's Group and Columbarium together, I have to mention Steve Landvik because he was the main vehicle that made it all happen because of his knowledge, experience and many connections throughout this community and in other communities as well. A huge THANK YOU to Steve Landvik for his dedication, caring, professionalism and love for Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

The past year has flown by really fast, especially for me and that is because there has just been so many things going on not just personally but here at SOV, and 2024 is starting out the same way, as several things are starting to line up and I am super excited about all the exciting changes happening at SOV, besides all the other wonderful ways we all show love for one another. Other areas where this congregation shows and shares love are:

- Summer Lunch Program
- Glacier Bible Camp
- Fundraisers for the trips/sabbaticals

- Family Promise
- Attic Art Auction
- Mom's Group
- Men's Group
- Youth Group
- Advent and Lent evening gatherings
- Choir
- Monthly Meals at the Glory Hole
- Winterwear Tree
- AWARE Shelter Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets as well as presents for Christmas
- Faith Formation
- Greg and Marie's Wedding!

And others I'm sure I've left out but not on purpose. ☺

We are all truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful community of God's people and my prayer for our church is that we continue to grow in love for one another as we continue to grow even closer to Christ. **"Loved by God; loving others. Fed by God; feeding others."** Thank you for allowing me to serve.....again.

Respectfully,
Glenn Mitchell

Treasurer's Report 2023

Thanks to your faithful giving, we ended the year with **all** our 2023 expenses paid. And, carried forward into 2024, \$3,551.35 in general fund.

Big projects were taken on this year. The driveway is complete. Many thanks to the Master Facility Plan Committee, Steve Landvik, Mark Landvik and Jon Dederer for their work. The community playground is making great progress.

In addition to the above and ending the year with no bills, SOV saw many more successes – summer lunch, food pantry, AWARE, Glory Hall, Nigeria support just to name a few. Member donations and non-member donations contributed to these.

The 2023 other benevolence included items such as support for our Nigerian friends, ELCA disaster relief and gifts of appreciation to Pastor Tari, Becky, Misuri, John Gates (volunteers weekly to clean) and Katherine Andrews (filling in for Becky), Whitehorse trip and AWARE baskets. These were paid with a mixture of designated and general funds.

Expenses for world hunger, trips, summer lunch, food pantry, columbarium, driveway and master facility plan projects (playground) were paid entirely with designated funds. Expenses for other benevolence, family promise, fellowship, Faith Formation/Adult Ed (majority was for Our Whole Lives and Grief Training - \$3,870.40 which was paid with designated funds), publicity, youth, camp and oil were paid for with a mixture of general and designated funds.

Designated Funds Balance, 12/31/2023

Altar Guild	\$ 375.28*
Youth/Education	\$ 265.09*
Food pantry	\$ 683.68*
Building/Maintenance	\$ 3,187.72*
Driveway	\$ 5,150.00
Fellowship	\$ 300.00
Art Auction	\$ 1,250.47
Heat/Snow	\$ 2,400.80*
Camp	\$ 1,857.25
Summer Lunch	\$ -2,006.14
Glory Hall	\$ 781.01
Trips	\$ 41,912.16
Faith Formation	\$ 409.59
Master Facility Plan/Playground	\$ 11,207.19
Nigeria	\$ 500.00
Columbarium	\$ 18,109.70
Special Trainings	\$ 96.60
Wrangell	\$ 37.00
Total	\$ 86,517.40

To the left is the balance of designated funds. \$7,212.57 in designated funds will be carried forward into 2024 for items such as altar guild, youth/education, food pantry, building maintenance, heat/snow (identified with an asterisk). Art Auction is to be split between World Hunger and Wrangell. The shortage in Summer Lunch was absorbed by trips and will be reimbursed with funding from the Gaguine Foundation. There is \$5,621.77 in the sabbatical fund and \$2,592.34 in the scholarship fund.

Thank you for your generous contributions to our wonderful ministries and upkeep of SOV.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Fenumiai
Treasurer

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
2023 Budget Actuals Thru 12-31-2023 and 2024 Proposed Budget

Income	2021 Actuals	2022 Actuals	2023 Proposed	2023 Actuals	2024 Proposed
General Fund Carry Forward	\$ 17,072.08	\$ 23,921.68	\$ 6,408.80	\$ 6,408.80	\$ 3,551.35
General Offering	\$ 195,912.76	\$ 167,419.91	\$ 174,718.15	\$ 169,789.03	\$ 176,175.08
Designated Funds Carry Fwd	\$ 19,449.65	\$ 12,233.45	\$ 8,687.05	\$ 8,687.05	\$ 7,212.57
Faith Formation	\$ -	\$ 28.39	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 1,022.05	\$ 1,088.40	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 695.09	\$ 1,000.00
Designated Offerings	\$ 109,482.27	\$ 106,329.44	\$ -	\$ 232,313.82	\$ -
World Hunger	\$ 796.88	\$ 140.00	\$ -	\$ 120.00	\$ -
User Fees	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,075.00	\$ 6,000.00
Building Fund	\$ 3,352.63	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
PFD/Winter Heat	\$ 1,906.02	\$ 8,267.27	\$ -	\$ 2,401.70	\$ -
Newsletter Adoption	\$ 601.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,200.00
Driveway	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 355,445.34	\$ 326,318.54	\$ 219,214.00	\$ 449,190.49	\$ 196,339.00
EXPENSES					
ELCA Benevolence	\$ 16,100.04	\$ 17,100.00	\$ 18,100.00	\$ 18,099.96	\$ 18,600.00
Lutheran Magazine	\$ 592.61	\$ 412.62	\$ 450.00	\$ 352.82	\$ 375.00
TEAM	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Total Benevolence	\$ 17,192.65	\$ 18,012.62	\$ 19,050.00	\$ 18,952.78	\$ 19,475.00
World Hunger*	\$ 1,024.88	\$ 330.00	\$ -	\$ 716.90	D \$ -
Other Benevolence*	\$ 13,792.70	\$ 7,121.01	\$ -	\$ 10,291.62	M \$ -
Family Promise	\$ 2,720.70	\$ 1,092.24	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,793.70	M \$ 500.00
Total Designated Benevolence	\$ 17,538.28	\$ 8,543.25	\$ 500.00	\$ 13,802.22	\$ 500.00
Salary	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 27,400.18	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 25,200.06	\$ 25,506.00
Pension/FSA	\$ 15,915.23	\$ 18,583.35	\$ 20,024.00	\$ 20,558.90	\$ 16,800.00
Housing Allowance	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 40,500.50	\$ 40,500.00	\$ 40,500.20	\$ 40,508.00
Supply Pastor	\$ 125.00	\$ 503.71	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Pastoral Outreach	\$ 64.60	\$ 493.93	\$ 750.00	\$ 742.07	\$ 750.00
Loan	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Vehicle/Mileage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00
Total Pastoral Ministry	\$ 81,604.83	\$ 97,481.67	\$ 92,774.00	\$ 87,001.23	\$ 86,464.00
Continuing Education	\$ 931.26	\$ 3,703.57	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,701.62	\$ 5,000.00
Sabbatical	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Meeting Expenses	\$ -	\$ 504.61	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,026.54	\$ 600.00
Pastoral Travel - Mtgs/Cont. Ed	\$ 322.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 322.00	\$ 1,000.00
Conventions/Meetings - Lay	\$ -	\$ 434.27	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,000.00
Secretary Wages/Benefits	\$ 10,328.18	\$ 8,422.33	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 9,681.99	\$ 14,560.00
FICA - Secretary/Janitor	\$ 1,335.14	\$ 1,970.07	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,123.86	\$ 1,700.00
Office Supplies	\$ 3,033.46	\$ 2,499.30	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,806.42	\$ 2,800.00
Postage	\$ 1,552.80	\$ 1,280.55	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,632.55	\$ 1,700.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 3,274.38	\$ 3,014.78	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,594.21	\$ 3,000.00
Office Mach. Repair	\$ 856.88	\$ 916.88	\$ 920.00	\$ 916.88	\$ 920.00
Office Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Total Parish Admin.	\$ 23,634.10	\$ 24,746.36	\$ 34,720.00	\$ 28,506.07	\$ 37,280.00
Supplies	\$ 4,664.67	\$ 3,713.59	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,919.31	\$ 3,000.00
Organist	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 4,420.00	\$ 3,580.00	\$ 4,420.00

1/10/2024

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
2023 Budget Actuals Thru 12-31-2023 and 2024 Proposed Budget

Choir	\$ 300.00	\$ 975.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,987.50	\$ 2,000.00
Total Worship Supplies	\$ 8,264.67	\$ 8,338.59	\$ 8,420.00	\$ 8,486.81	\$ 9,420.00
Fellowship**	\$ 458.97	\$ 1,170.38	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,190.76	M \$ 1,100.00
Advertising/Publicity	\$ 492.92	\$ 407.04	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,973.80	M \$ 600.00
Faith Formation/Other Educ.	\$ 458.99	\$ 6,368.66	\$ 600.00	\$ 4,286.13	M \$ 600.00
Youth Group	\$ 341.18	\$ 1,722.05	\$ 500.00	\$ 978.61	M \$ 500.00
Stewardship**	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Concerns**	\$ -	\$ 20.63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Glacier Bible Camp	\$ 2,559.01	\$ 9,961.06	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,046.44	M \$ 500.00
Website Support	\$ 49.99	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 49.99	\$ 300.00
Summer Lunch Program	\$ 19,062.68	\$ 32,676.31	\$ -	\$ 56,596.42	D \$ -
Day Camp	\$ 8,768.92	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Trips	\$ 4,165.97	\$ 57,512.29	\$ -	\$ 7,711.63	D \$ -
Food Pantry	\$ 7,241.88	\$ 5,503.56	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,855.59	D \$ -
SSS	\$ 19,039.51	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Support	\$ 62,640.02	\$ 115,341.98	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 81,689.37	\$ 3,600.00
Mortgage	\$ 23,682.96	\$ 10,135.23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Maintenance**	\$ 29,565.49	\$ 15,623.53	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,892.35	\$ 5,000.00
Energy Efficiency Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Roofing/Stain	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Janitor	\$ 1,173.12	\$ 739.96	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 421.13	\$ 2,000.00
Oil	\$ 4,766.99	\$ 8,691.39	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,314.89	M \$ 8,000.00
Water/Sewer	\$ 1,387.40	\$ 1,524.21	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 1,590.06	\$ 1,600.00
Electricity	\$ 3,447.93	\$ 3,298.83	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,469.47	\$ 3,500.00
Garbage	\$ 2,104.61	\$ 2,181.51	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,690.04	\$ 2,700.00
Snow Removal/Driveway	\$ 4,625.00	\$ 5,105.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,020.90	\$ 7,000.00
Insurance	\$ 9,026.00	\$ 5,462.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 9,755.00	\$ 9,800.00
Columbarium	\$ 8,062.50	\$ 23,363.37	\$ -	\$ 353.88	D \$ -
Columbarium Niches	\$ 18.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Driveway	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 15,750.00	D \$ -
Master Facility Plan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86,458.34	D \$ -
Total Center for Ministry	\$ 87,860.70	\$ 76,125.03	\$ 56,250.00	\$ 137,716.06	\$ 39,600.00
Total Expenses	\$ 298,735.25	\$ 348,589.50	\$ 219,214.00	\$ 376,154.54	\$ 196,339.00
General Fund balance (non obligated funds+carry forward)	\$ 3,551.35				
Designated Fund CF	\$ 7,212.57				
Remaining Des. Fund	\$ 79,304.83				
TOTAL Des. Fund Balance	\$ 86,517.40				
*D Indicates expenses paid for with designated funds.					
*M Indicates expenses paid for with general and designated funds.					
** Does not include out of pocket expenses paid directly by members for Glory Hall, food pantry and repairs.					

Stewardship Report

I asked to write the stewardship report this year because Scott Hinton and I have been working with the senior high youth on finances. It is probably harder to talk about faithfulness and money than it is to talk about faith and sex.

Stewardship is about managing our resources. How do we tend what we are given to build up the greater good? It is not just about money; stewardship is about creation, our bodies, our time, our relationships, our talents, and our finances. We are given so many good gifts and stewardship is about intentional gratefulness, consumption, and sharing of those gifts.

We have a big election coming up in 2024 and people will start getting anxious soon. There are so many things outside our control and stewardship invites us to look at our sphere of influence, look at all the ways we “vote” with how we spend our money, time and talents. How are you as an individual and we as a community steward the gifts we have been given and does that reflect our values and faith?

I’m thankful for the leadership at SOV who take seriously their role as faithful stewards. We spend time thinking through values and priorities. I’m also thankful for all who give generously of their time and talents to be a part of living out our faith in the context of Shepherd of the Valley.

Giving is related to stewardship, but also different. How we give our talents and money reflects our values and shapes our values. We give to what we care about, and we start to care more about things we invest in.

There is no magic in paying for things or getting things done at church. We all do that together, so we need to talk some about the nitty gritty of giving.

Tax laws have changed and charity giving does not have some of the same benefits. With two kids in college, it is better for me to have my salary reduced by the amount we give to the church than it is to give regularly. It feels weird, but giving at that rate became unaffordable with the penalties in financial aid. We had to balance how to continue to give faithfully with our current life circumstances.

That is what we are asking of you all. How will you give faithfully in your current life circumstances? Prayerful intentionality is more important than amounts. Talking about money isn’t meant to be shaming; it is actually freeing to be open about where and how we spend it.

Here are some practical things to consider:

1. Look at your weekly or monthly budget and think about whether it reflects your values. If you’ve never given regularly to church, please consider \$5 a week. That’s the cost of a fancy coffee. If you haven’t increased your regular giving in the last five years, then please consider a 3% increase for inflation.
2. If you have a minimum IRA withdrawal, please talk with your financial advisor to have it sent directly to the church. That saves you paying taxes on it and it helps fund ministry.

3. If you have stock that has accrued value, please talk with the ELCA stock person to donate the stock, and have the church sell it. The fees are minimal, and you won't have to pay capital gains.
4. Consider the church as you work on wills and trusts. Legacy giving will be one way to stabilize ministries like summer lunch. I'm not a fan of endowments to keep a church running, but there is so much ministry that happens at SOV above and beyond general fund giving.

Below is the chart Teresa Kissel, our financial secretary, put together to reflect giving trends.

SOV Number of Giving Individuals for General Offering Totals

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
# that gave more than \$10,000 a year	2	4	3	1	1
# that gave more than \$8000	0	0	0	1	1
# that gave \$5000-7,999	8	6	8	6	9
# that gave \$3000-4,999	10	11	18	15	10
# that gave \$1500-2,999	18	15	7	14	14
# that gave \$500-1,499	14	23	20	17	22
# that gave less than \$500	21	22	20	22	84

The 84 reflects people who contributed to fundraisers and camp, so it is a little skewed. Let's assume we have 60 households who give regularly. Our general fund giving is budgeted at **176,175.08**. If that budgeted income is divided by 60, then each household would need to give \$2936 a year. That would be \$56 a week. We're not asking people to necessarily give that, but it puts into perspective what is needed to keep the church running.

Thank you again for your intentional giving and faithful stewardship – *Pastor Tari*

SOV Scholarship Fund

Submitted by Gail Fenumiai

There were no applications received in 2023. The scholarship is offered annually and any post-high school student, involved in their congregation, and continuing their education with a vision of Christian service, is eligible to apply. Donations may be made to the scholarship fund on-line or with a check designated for "scholarship" in the memo. The current balance is \$2,592.34 invested in an ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

Worship & Music and Altar Guild

Worship and Music Committee: Alice Gates, Helen Mehrkens, Kristin Larsen, Katherine Andrews, Misuri Smythe, and Pastor Tari

This past year our worship accompanists were: Misuri Smythe, Edgar Higgins and Helen Mehrkens on piano; and Kirt Stage-Harvey and Denny Corson on guitar. Xandor Beck on guitar and leading the kids on percussion. I believe there were a few others on occasion. Thank you all for helping us make a more joyful noise unto the Lord.

Our choir has struggled for a few years to have consistency in attendance. We are no longer meeting regularly. This year we tried combining our church choir with Misuri's Community Choir for Monday evening rehearsals, but there was very little participation from church members. We have had a good response to gathering a choir for special events. We sang for Steve Landvik's memorial and Christmas Eve services. We plan to do the same for Easter. When you hear we are pulling a choir together for a special event, please consider joining us. The more voices we have the better we sound.

Our goal is to have special music at least once a month. Anyone interested in providing special music (usually during offering), is invited/encouraged to do so. If needed, Helen Mehrkens is happy to play (when she is in town), as is Misuri Smythe. Contact the church office to schedule.

Hymns are chosen by different people throughout the year, rotating monthly. This year's hymns were chosen by Helen Mehrkens, Alice Gates, Katherine Andrews, Kirt Stage-Harvey, Kristen Larsen, and Pastor Tari. If you are interested in choosing hymns for worship, please contact a member of the Worship & Music Committee.

We continue to provide Zoom as an option for worshipping with us. It is so nice to have this option to keep in touch with folks who have moved away, or gone for college or vacation, or for those here but not able to attend in person due to illness or whatever the case may be.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine Andrews

Altar Guild: Roger Birk, Mindy Birk, Kristin Wright, Katherine Andrews & Alice Gates.

Altar Guild is responsible for the preparation of communion and maintenance of the altar. They change the eternal flame weekly and altar candles as needed. They rotate paraments and banners in harmony with the seasons of the church year. This year new banners and paraments were created for All Saints Day and Christ the King Sunday by Roger Birk.

Altar Guild is also responsible for banners for special Sundays, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Palm Sunday and Easter. During Holy Week they reset the worship setting for each service. They coordinate the potluck and set up the sanctuary for Maundy Thursday worship.

It has been challenging to find our traditional bread this year. Thank you to Kristin for providing homemade bread during your months. Thanks to Katherine and Mindy for occasionally making homemade bread. Kudos to Katherine for scoring a box of Hawaiian while it was in stock. We have become resourceful in providing a suitable loaf each week.

Altar Guild Goals for 2024:

- *Reviving the Flower Chart for flowers on the altar. (Look for it on the bulletin board.)
- *Continue to refresh the Parament and Banner collection
- *Find a reliable source for King's Hawaiian bread

Respectfully submitted by Alice Gates

Fellowship Committee 2023

Respectfully submitted by Linda Landvik.

Fellowship Committee was busy during 2023 with social functions and gatherings. One main purpose of the activities we host is to strengthen and enhance relationships among attendees.

The Committee is responsible for making coffee and serving snacks following Sunday morning worship. Your snack donations are always welcome. We also host special occasions such as picnics, receptions, funerals, and anniversaries. While the Committee does not coordinate all events, they are responsible for most events that include food preparation, serving and clean up.

Additionally, typical activities include keeping supplies in stock for the kitchen and keeping the kitchen in good working order.

Over this last year we have been diligent about reducing the use of paper plates and plastic utensils choosing instead to use washable cups, plates, and flatware.

We meet as needed (usually monthly) to plan and prepare for upcoming events.

Committee members include Mindy Birk (chairperson), Alice Gates, Sue Trivette, Katherine Andrews, MJ Hinman and Linda Landvik.

MONTH	ACTIVITY
January	
February	Fat Follies Pancake Extravaganza
March	Prepared food for Southeast Cluster Meeting Memorial Service for Pastor Larry
April	Easter Brunch
May	
June	Wedding Reception for Marie and Greg Parfitt Goodbye picnic for awesome friend and committee member, MJ Hinman Father's Day Brats Cookout
July	
August	
September	First Bunco night Root Beer floats to commemorate start of new faith formation year
October	Elfrida Nord's 90 th Birthday Celebration Reformation Rebellion Potluck
November	
December	Memorial Service for Steve Landvik New Year's Eve cupcakes and sparkling cider

Property Management 2023

With the passing of Steve Landvik, we lost an extremely knowledgeable and capable committee member. His spirit is felt throughout the church, and we will continue to take care of this building and church he loved so much.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped maintain our church. From mowing the lawn, to changing light bulbs, to cleaning bathrooms, to shoveling and sanding the sidewalks, to trapping mice (thanks PT), we all maintain the property.

Here are some of the highlights of property management from 2023.

- Of course, the big highlight was the driveway move. Too many folks were involved in this undertaking that I cannot name them all here.
- We had a spring work party, getting the church ready for summer.
- Heat pumps continue to work well and save SOV money on heating oil.
- Playground equipment has been purchased.
- Thank you to John Gates for his weekly cleaning.
- Kirt replaced the drain on a leaky kitchen sink.
- Michael Ross did some electrical work for us.
- Thinned the trees on the east side of the property.
- Got the church ready for winter with a fall work party.

Plans for '24

- Improving the use of the sheds.
- Columbarium landscaping.
- Permanent sign at the entrance of the driveway.
- We are not sure how, but we would like to relocate the “zoom desk” to the back of the sanctuary.
- Continued replacement of parking lot lights with LED lights.
- Security cameras and better internet security.
- Better outdoor lighting.
- Restore the wooden sign on the west side of the fellowship hall.
- Better drainage for the parking lot and playground.

Once again, thank you to the property management committee members and everyone who pitched in to help throughout the year.

Many hands make light work.

Dan Corson

Master Facility Report

Submitted by Pastor Tari & Theresa Ross

Thank you to Jeff Jenkins, Dan Corson, Jim Wilson, Chuck Orsborn, Steve Landvik, Elfrida Nord, Theresa Ross, and Linda Thompson for their work on the master facility team. We will miss Steve, but we are thankful for his work in getting the driveway moved. Thank you also to Mark Landvik and John Boy as well as Brandon Godkin in finishing the project.

Here is a look at what we did in one year:

January

The committee met to discuss what to do next. There were many possibilities and priorities without a ton of resources. They decided to request a grant to hire a landscape architect and to commission a thorough survey. A \$17,000 grant was received for these preliminary steps.

February

The columbarium committee met to discuss landscaping possibilities. Monique Anderson was hired as a landscape architect to help with planning, funding, and drawing. RESPEC was hired for surveying. The scope of the project for the driveway was developed and put out to bid.

March

Two bids were received for the driveway and Viking Construction was the lesser bid.

April

Monique led us in a visioning session and the digital minutes are attached. Thirty-five people attended and a general plan for the property was developed. The top priorities were the driveway, playground, and columbarium.

May

A contract is negotiated with Viking and construction begins.

July

A congregational information session is held to discuss the playground. There is enthusiasm for moving forward.

August

After summer lunch is finished, the driveway move starts again. The committee decided against using an interior lit sign and chose to refurbish the current sign and use sandwich boards temporarily. Grants for playground equipment are started and a fundraising committee is formed (Malinda Linstid, Gail Fenumiai, Michelle Weaver).

September

Elfrida does great work gardening the islands and it is decided to adjust them to match the new traffic pattern. Columbarium landscaping is put on hold. A bid for an engineering proposal for drainage comes in at \$10,000.

October

Work on the driveway pauses while Steve recuperates. Proposals for security cameras for the playground area and entryway are solicited.

November

GameTime gives a 100% match for play equipment. See the breakdown of funding, but SOV raised a lot of money in a short amount of time. Play equipment is ordered and discounted shipping is negotiated. Driveway move is completed.

Priorities for the next year:

- Finish decommissioning old driveway.
- Drainage & surfacing for play area
- Install playground.
- Landscape around the columbarium
- Find a place for the “name bricks.”
- Signage
- Security

We are incredibly thankful for all those who have volunteered to help facilitate places where people can connect to each other and grow in trusting the God of love. What a blessing it is to see the many places where this is happening.

Sunday morning:

Thank you to our faith formation teachers.

Preschool/Kindergarten - Talea Kellar and Michelle Weaver

Elementary - Lisa Wallace and Meagan Hinton

Middle School - Mariel Odum and Glenn Mitchell

High School - Pastor Tari and Scott Hinton

Adult - Linda Landvik and Friends

Thank you to everyone who participates and helps with the small groups and thank you for providing the brunches through Advent.

Sunday - Men's Group before worship

Monday - Book Group

Wednesday - Holden Evening Prayer

Friday - Devotion Group

The discipleship academy meets once or twice a month for a couple hours to dig deep. We enjoyed having the rabbinical students join us and then worshipping at Sukkat Shalom.

Community Book Club is a wild and wonderful mix of women who meet at Forbidden Peak to talk, laugh, and read books mainly by international female writers.

We tried to get a young adult group going, but that didn't quite work. We look forward to the Circle of Security parenting course facilitated by Talea to bring some young parents together. We're also working on gathering a small group to focus on grief and one to discuss sexuality for older adults.

One new thing this year, after consultation with parents, was nursery time during worship. Thank you to everyone who has helped supervise little ones during the sermon.

Social Concerns Committee, Shepherd of The Valley

While our numbers are not exact, we have a good estimate of the number of clients who visited the pantry this past year. It's worth noting that every week we had a consistent number of people who came to pick up groceries, and the numbers are growing. The number of home-delivered groceries remained consistent, with between 7 and 12 home deliveries every week.

Estimated Food Pantry Numbers (Teresa Kissel tallies the weekly sign-in sheets to get our estimates for each year):

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	625 (203)	692 (242)	104 [42]		226 (71)
February	734 (242)	726 (262)	124 [46]		233 (74)
March	806 (304)	738 (243)	91 [40]		307 (91)
April	643 (228)	124 (32)	77 [29]	181 (62)	362 (110)
May	556 (201)	? ?	81 [35]	228 (75)	196 (76)
June	890 (309)	130 [40]	77 [32]	241 (80)	212 (64)
July	810 (292)	99 [39]	89 [38]	98 (30)	409 (94)
August	741 (281)	148 [53]	106 [43]	259 (78)	256 (81)
September	535 (216)	136 [54]	99 [39]	235 (74)	313 (97)
October	604 (231)	125 [43]		283 (76)	200 (69)
November	531 (193)	85 [?]		165 (57)	265 (81)
December	457 (208)	89 [?]		239 (67)	247 (91)
TOTAL	7,922 (2,876)	3,092 (1,008)	1,856 [344]	1,929 (599)	3,226 (999)
	# fed (# came into pantry)	[households served]			

Because of the consistent and faithful donations from members and friends of SOV, we have been able to offer generous amounts of needed groceries throughout the year.

Pete Mores, our food pick-up person for the past few years had to end his participation as his office moved to downtown Juneau, and it wasn't feasible for him to do the pickups.

Ed Flannagan has returned as our weekly pick-up person, and Corinne Orsborn steps in whenever Ed is out of town or unable to do the weekly pickup. Elfrida Nord continues to work diligently and faithfully putting away the incoming items and bagging the home deliveries, so they are ready to go out the door Saturday morning. We have a great crew of volunteers who help every week, and welcome anyone who would like to be a part of this endeavor.

We also restarted the Saturday morning breakfasts on the last Saturday of each month and that has been a most welcome addition for both the shoppers and those who help cook and serve. It is a fun filled and positive experience and outreach.

We're looking forward to the food truck ministry that hopefully will begin in the spring or early summer.

Family Promise continues to be a solid program and they have undergone some personnel and structural changes this past year. They are now actively recruiting families and our congregation is ready to resume our support of this vital ministry. We may likely see one or more families joining us in late January.

The Glory Hall monthly meals continue to be smoothly run and thanks galore to Roger and Mindy Birk for their leadership in this very important outreach and ministry.

AWARE was the recipient of Easter and Thanksgiving food boxes and the congregation provided the items to provide wonderful and festive items. As Christmas approached, we were notified by AWARE that in lieu of food boxes, gift cards would be enjoyed so that the clients could shop individually for their special meals. The congregation stepped up and made this switch with no fuss or muss. Thanks to Alice and Mindy, gifts were also bought, wrapped, and delivered along with the gift cards. The ladies wished to relay to the congregation how grateful they were for the ease and flexibility of all who contributed, and it made the whole activity so positive.

As we dig deeper into the harsh winter months, the food needs at our pantry remain high. Every Saturday the shelves are nearly cleaned out and it has been such a pleasure to see bags, cans, and boxes of food appear on the table. We are so grateful to our congregation for their generosity in helping feed the hungry.

As always, we welcome your thoughts, ideas, and input on how to best reach out and respond to the needs in our community.

Eileen Hosey, Council Rep.

Communications and Social Media 2023

The technology we use to stay connected is a blessing!

Tithely/Elvanto Platform – Giving, Data Base, Website, and App

We have continued to improve our use of this platform by leaps and bounds over the past year. Through this platform we coordinate giving, our database, the website, and the app. Having the church database updated on a regular basis has proven to be very useful in keeping us better connected. We use it for all our mail correspondence, as well as for our regular emails and to schedule our pantry and worship servant volunteers. It's also useful for keeping track of everyone who participates in summer lunch. Everyone is encouraged to set up their own account with Tithely, so you can access the online directory and keep your own information updated (addresses, phone numbers, etc.) We also hope you have used the website www.sovlutheran.org and loaded the app on to your mobile device.

Website

We do our best to keep the website updated. It's the best place to go to find Zoom links and information about events, as well as SOV news. www.sovlutheran.org

App

If you don't yet have the app on your mobile devices, please consider loading it on them. Look for "Church App - Tithe.ly" in your devices' app store. Once you have it loaded, when directed to do so, you search for Shepherd of the Valley and set up a free account.

Church Email

We continue sending one or two emails from the church office each week. The number of emails sent each week depends on how much we have going on at church at the time, but we try not to send more than two.

These emails include general announcements, both from within SOV and some from the Juneau community. If you would like an announcement included in an SOV email, feel free to send it to the church office at sovjuneau@gmail.com.

We do our best not to fill up your email inboxes. Pastor Tari does send specific emails on an occasional basis about topics and events at church.

Church Email Addresses

The preferred church office email address is sovjuneau@gmail.com. Our long-time address sov@alaska.net is still functional, but we will soon discontinue use of that address.

Instagram

SOV has an Instagram account to make it easier to share photos and messages with our youth. This account is seldom accessed.

Zoom

We continue to use Zoom and find it to be a valuable tool for worship and small groups.

Facebook

Pastor Tari and Becky use Facebook as a tool to share church events and other relevant information with SOV's Facebook friends. It's a good way to reach folks who may not be on our email list and/or folks who are on our email list but use Facebook as their primary method of "social" communication. We also post photos of church events on the Facebook page.

If you have not "liked" SOV on Facebook, please do so. From your Facebook page just search for "Shepherd of the Valley Juneau." Our profile photo is of the church.

Click share. To help us further spread the word about SOV events and reach more people, when you receive an SOV post on your news feed, simply click "share" to share the post with your friends too.

The Shepherd's Voice – Our Monthly Newsletter

Thank you to Lewis and Alice Gates for getting our monthly newsletter in the mail; to Pastor Tari for providing content to Becky; and to Becky for being the editor.

If your address changes, you want to be on the mailing list, or taken off the mailing list for the newsletter – please let us know in the church office.

The newsletter is available on our website too if you'd like to read it online.

A Few Notes about Scams

Many of us received a text recently from someone posing as Pastor Tari, who asked for donations of gift cards. Thankfully, no one gave the "fake" Pastor Tari any donations. However, in lieu of this experience and its unfortunate common occurrence in the world today, Pastor Tari is hoping to soon have a member of the Juneau Police Department fraud team talk to the congregation about how to avoid being scammed via technology.

In the meantime, to the right are some general tips to avoid being scammed. And remember, Pastor Tari will never send a mass text asking for gift cards.

Blessings,
Becky Corson
SOV Office Manger

Top 5 scam prevention tips



1. If you receive a text message that contains a link, **do not click on the link** unless you are confident it is legitimate. Regularly install operating system updates and use anti-virus software.



2. **Never provide any of your personal or banking details** to someone you don't know and trust, and never provide banking passcodes (including authentication codes received via phone or email) to anyone.



3. If you receive a suspicious request from someone who says they represent an organisation or government agency, **call back using details you find in an independent search**, rather than details they give you.



4. **Be wary of unusual payment requests.** Scammers will often ask you to use an unusual payment method, including preloaded debit cards, gift cards, iTunes cards or virtual currency such as Bitcoin.



5. Anyone who has provided their banking details to a scammer should **contact their bank or financial institution immediately**.

Summer Lunch Report 2023

Wow, what a year for summer lunch! This summer, we served a total of **2,128 meals** to **236 different kids**. We were able to handle anywhere from **30 to 65 kids** each day thanks to our amazing team of **22 paid staff** and **37 volunteers**! Thank you to everyone who volunteered at summer lunch this year. Whether it was washing dishes, serving food, or just coming by to hang out with the kids, your efforts make a huge difference!

This year our staffing was a little different, so we shifted our approach to a couple things. Most of our paid staff (besides Hannah, Rosemary, and Teresa) were high school kids between the ages of 14 and 18. This meant that a lot of our time was spent on general and specific job skill training, as well as creating opportunities for team bonding since we had such a large group of staff. There were quite a few bumps navigating this group (mostly to do with staying on task and engaging with the kids rather than each other) but it presented some great opportunities for us as the supervisors to adjust our leadership styles and try out some new systems. This was a lovely group of kids, and I am so glad I got to build relationships with all of them this summer. We hope to see a few of them back next year.

This was also a great year for day camp! After summer lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-10 kids participated in super fun day camp activities that included building (and erupting) baking soda volcanoes, studying animal pelts and skulls to learn about animal behavior in Southeast Alaska, listening to speakers from the community talk about their areas of expertise, making music with boomwhackers, and learning how to cook some staple foods! We are so grateful to Fish and Game, the Raptor Center, Discovery Southeast, and all the individuals who were willing to share their time and resources with the kids at day camp. For this next year, we hope to continue reaching out to organizations within our community so we can give these kids exposure to lots of different experiences and opportunities that they would not have otherwise.

We are also looking forward to having a new playground! With a better space that offers more options for kids to play, we hope to engage those kids who tend to be left out drifting between activities in a safe and fun way. The driveway move will also be a huge help in making sure that our kids who walk or bike to the program can do so safely away from the traffic of the main road.

Running summer lunch and day camp these past couple years has been such a blessing. I hold all the kids who have come through these programs very near and dear to my heart, and I feel very confident leaving them in the hands of our next supervisor.

Hannah

Summer Lunch Stats

Weekly Avg.s

6/5-6/9 = **52 kids/day**

6/12-6/16 = **53**

6/19-6/23 = **56**

6/26-6/30 = **60**

7/3-7/7 = **48**

7/10-7/14 = **45**

7/17-7/21 = **33**

7/24-7/28 = **45**

7/31-8/4 = **42**

Highest day = 65 kids

Highest weekly avg. = 60 kids/day

236 different kids

22 staff and 37 volunteers served 2,128 meals

Southeast Cluster Report

submitted by Pastor Tari

There are six congregations in the Southeast Cluster of the Alaska Synod. There is a long tradition of shared ministry between First Lutheran in Ketchikan, Island of Faith in Wrangell, Sitka Lutheran in Sitka, Resurrection Lutheran in Juneau, Petersburg Lutheran Church in Petersburg, and Shepherd of the Valley in Juneau.

In 2023, we had two cluster gatherings. In March, we met at Shepherd of the Valley for “Purple Potpourri” where we explored the color purple. In September, we met at Sitka Lutheran for “Art and Faith”. Congregations also got to gather as part of Synod Assembly in April. Pastor Tari was willing to serve as dean and Pastor Sandra is the clergy representative for synod council.

Some of the business items discussed at the three different gatherings:

1. Glacier Bible Camp will be held at Eagle River Camp in Juneau July 29-August 3. The bank account at Northrim was closed. Hannah Harvey is willing to direct for one more year and Pastor Tari will be camp pastor. We are reaching out to Anchorage to recruit more youth and helpers.
2. We discussed sharing curriculum ideas, software suggestions, and creative ways for accompaniment in worship
3. Pulpit swaps and support for Ketchikan were discussed
4. We are still working on what the future of gathering looks like. It was suggested to meet in Petersburg in 2024 and Wrangell in 2025, but Petersburg is unable to host.

Some highlights from congregations:

Petersburg Lutheran is served by Pastor Tim and Pastor Deborah.

The congregation has moved beyond a benevolence fund to also bringing food for distribution each month for Humanity in Progress, which supports persons and families experiencing food and housing insecurity.

They host a collaborative, weekly Community Meal (open for all!) since October 5th. Thanks be to God for the generosity and participation of people from the church and the wider community. This meal has been well received and is well attended (average 40+). People come bringing soup or bread or fruit, some bring desserts, making this an inclusive, warm, nourishing and special time of fellowship every week.

It has been a privilege to partner with the local school system, and medical center to provide support as public chaplains offering spiritual care and accompaniment on call and as needed, especially during crisis. The same concept has been extended to the Home Health team, in order to support their staff and also provide Spiritual Care for (hospice) patients (as requested) and their loved ones. It has been humbling and a privilege to offer this care.

Partnering with the Medical Center’s Long Term Care wing there is now an opportunity to participate in a weekly creative hour! Members are welcome to join in “coloring in or out of the lines” for an hour every Thursday. This ministry has brought loving, creative presence to long term care patients, and respite support to nursing and care staff in that unit of the hospital.

First Lutheran in Ketchikan elected Lane Johnson as the next council president. Prayers for Virginia Klepser at the recent death of her husband. Here is the update from Lane:

Highlights from First Lutheran in Ketchikan. Not having a called pastor or an interim pastor we have been nurtured through a variety of professional gifted clergy who have provided part time pastoral services and training. They have been inspirational and our spirits are growing. This year we had a Leadership Retreat instead of a council retreat because leadership is happening everywhere. Our retreat focused on a vision for next year. 1. Leadership casts a vision and mission worth committing your lives to. 2. Leadership defines reality and intentionally leads us to face reality. 3. Tells an alternative story based on reality, a vision worth committing your life to. 4. Leaders are intentional about how we are going to address our future shared ministry. *Material from Ed Stetzor.* We are a congregation maximizing our laity and exciting things are happening. For next year instead of trying to start new ministries we are going to be intentional about letting Ketchikan know how God is working here. Our focus is to be inviting and Letting our Light Shine, Letting God's light shine. The excitement caught on with our music ministry this Advent with a combined Brass, Bell and Vocal choir hymn that kicked off Advent. Our vocal choir performed at the community's Monthly Grind with an invitation to Ketchikan to our worship services. They then went Caroling at the Pioneer Home and the Hospitals long term care unit. The brass choir accompanied our Christmas service and we had multiple bell choir hymns. We had 3 services on Christmas eve with our youth delivering a powerful gospel message through their puppet ministry. Lots more, we have to let our communities know how God works in our lives. So many good things are happening in the name of Christ. Our vision for the next year is being very **intentional in letting our light shine.**

Shepherd of the Valley is working on a food truck ministry with the area congregations and developing a master facility plan that includes a new playground

Resurrection hosted a huge Christmas dinner for the community. They celebrated 10 new members and five adult baptisms. Prayers appreciated as they discern what the next phase will be

Island of Faith in Wrangell called Sue Bahleda for a fourth year. There is lots of ecumenical sharing with St. Philip's Episcopal church and First Presbyterian Church. They continue to participate in the Interfaith Table. Support was appreciated following the landslide.

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).

