



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

All around us, we see signs of God's love and goodness. A person who has stepped away from church for many years steps back into a congregation, feeling the call of the Holy Spirit. Young adults feeling isolated in a digital-first world start gathering in person in a small group, enjoying the warmth of a hug and a new friend asking about their week. A mother plants a garden, and it yields fruits and vegetables, giving her nutritious food for her kids and extra produce to sell at the local market. Everywhere we look, we see signs of Christ's love. In Psalm 93, we read: "More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore" (4-5).

God's love is a majestic thing, and it moves us to share it in word and deed. The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, across our country and around the world.

I am so grateful for you, dear church. Your generosity to each of these three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has bolstered the church's ability to share the message of God's love to people who are longing for it. Through your

“More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.”

—Psalm 93:4-5

financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices, you've helped carry this message of God's majestic love. Thank you, dear church. As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to stand steadfast in God's promises, sure of God's love and goodness.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Confident in God's generosity and gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us praise God and give thanks ...

God, we praise you and give you thanks.
You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.
We praise you for food that nourishes us.

You rescued your people from slavery.
We praise you for freedom.

You gave us prophets to correct, rebuke and encourage us.
We bless you for your justice and mercy.

You gave us your Son, Jesus, to love, redeem and save us.
We praise you for his death and resurrection.

You gave us your Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and Comforter.
We bless you for the gifts of every tribe and nation.

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift
and commission us again to be your servant people.

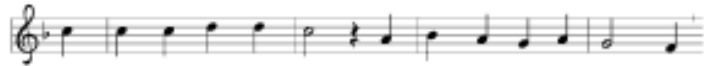
Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Send us in your love and mercy,
that the world may know you and praise you.

Now Thank We All Our God



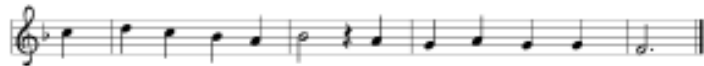
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,
2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 840

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Cathering Winkworth, 1827-1878

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name, that we might be a blessing to others. In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Agenda Sunday, January 26, 2025

Call to Order – Dan Corson, Council President

Gathering Prayer – Pastor Tari

Minutes of January 2024 Meeting (included in annual report)

Review of Mission Statement & Values ((Join Wifi at SOV, password sinBoldly and go to slideswith.com/MEETING)

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.

Message from Bishop Video

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

Council President’s Report – (included in the Annual Report) – Dan Corson

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

Adoption of Budget

Bid for Playground Site Work and Timeline/Expectations

FEMA security grant and Emergency Operations Plan
-Positions described and volunteer sign up

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 Roger Birk

Fellowship – Linda Landvik & Sue Trivette

Property Management – Dan Corson

Master Facility Plan - Theresa Ross & Pastor Tari
Parish Education – Lisa Wallace
Social Concerns – Becky Corson & Gail Fenumiai
Communications & Social Media – Becky Corson
Summer Lunch – Teresa Kissel
Family Promise Update: Coordinators: Eileen Hosey, Becky Corson, and Pastor Tari

Election of Council:
Thank you to Dan Corson, Julie Jenkins, and Linda Landvik

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

Election of Nominating Committee - Gail Fenumiai and Scott Hinton

Synod Assembly Delegates – Anchorage, April 25-27

Announcements

Wedding! Hannah and Braden can't invite everyone to the wedding, but they plan on blessing their marriage on Sunday, June 15 with everyone involved. We are also looking for some rooms where we can put guests on a tight budget June 12-15.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes Sunday, January 28, 2024

Call to Order – Glenn Mitchell, Council President called to order

Gathering Prayer – Pastor Tari

Minutes of January 2023 Meeting (included in annual report) Katherine/Sue M/S. Approved.

Review of Mission Statement & Values Reviewed with survey and interactive game on Slides with Friends.

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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 asked for comments and Sue supported our willingness to be uncomfortable as a congregation. Pastor commented on synod guidelines at \$94,000 salary and our ability to sustain a full-time call. She encouraged giving to general fund as a regular discipline for people.

Council President's Report – (included in the Annual Report) – Glenn Mitchell gave flowers to Becky Corson and Gail Fenumiai for their service. Glenn expressed his appreciation at being part of council and the ministry at SOV.

Treasurer's Report – (included in the Annual Report) – Gail Fenumiai noted that we paid all our bills and had a little bit left for carryover.

Adoption of Budget - Benevolence increase, pastor's pension increase with a salary decrease, mileage reimbursement, raise for Becky, need new copier, and no other big changes. Mindy Birk and ? M/S and passed.

Other Committee Reports (included in the Annual Report): Reports were shared

Stewardship – Pastor Tari presented and Sue Trivette affirmed Alice for washing dishes instead of using single use plastics

Financial Secretary - Teresa Kissel was affirmed for her work

Scholarship – Gail Fenumiai encouraged applicants. Pastor Tari shared that Jemima Verebasaga would lead summer lunch and might apply for scholarship.

Worship and Music - Katherine Andrews and Alice Gates. Andy Peterson encouraged choir involvement.

Fellowship –Linda Landvik presented, and congregation affirmed the great work fellowship does. Glenn mentioned how grateful he is for birthday cards.

Property Management – Dan Corson thanked everyone for their work.

Master Facility Plan - Theresa Ross & Pastor Tari presented and mentioned how much Steve Landvik was missed. FEMA grant mentioned as well as Emergency Procedures committee (Joann, Josh, Roger, and others volunteered)

Parish Education – Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey. Bob Williams thanked pastor for work.

Social Concerns – Becky Corson & Eileen Hosey complimented the fantastic team

Communications & Social Media – Becky Corson commented on fraud and scam awareness

Summer Lunch – Hannah Harvey discussed how great summer lunch has been

Southeast Cluster - Pastor Tari is the dean

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 - Agenda item was missed until after elections and then returned to. Dan Corson and Gail Fenumiai M/S. All approved.

Election of Council: Lisa Wallace, Sue Trivette, Helen Mehrkens, Chuck Orsborn. Gail Fenumiai and Bob Williams motioned/seconded for unanimous consent for slate of nominees. Passed.

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. Unanimous Consent passed.

Election of Nominating Committee - Dan Corson, Julie Jenkins, Linda Landvik. Glenn Mitchell, Mindy Birk, Theresa Ross, Amy Witt plus two from council. Unanimous consent.

Synod Assembly Delegates - Gloria Dei April 26-28. Sue Trivette and Becky Corson

Meeting Adjourned

Announcements

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

Pastor's Report 2025

Eons ago while in seminary, I helped local churches with youth lock-ins. There was a moment with an older pastor in Toledo that will remain etched in my mind forever. His congregation had gone from a suburban, predominantly white congregation to a transitional neighborhood with many younger people of color. We were playing games with a bunch of neighborhood youth and he came alongside and said in my ear, "I don't know how to do this anymore." It felt like a confession and I remember telling him that it was okay, he knew how to reach out for help.

COVID's impact is still being felt and it's been interesting as a pastor to adjust to what feels like massive shifts in culture, worship, and participation. I find myself feeling like I'm one step behind in technology, youth programs, and revamping activities that were stable for so long but now have to be re-imagined each year. I find myself saying, "I don't know how to do this anymore", but the difference is that we are a community that's okay with not knowing and I am a leader who is happy to reach out for help. We are a congregation willing to try new things and that means sometimes no one shows up to a planned event and sometimes twice as many show up. Committing is not where people are right now so it means flexibility and openness to uncertainty. I still put everything through the bitter test (If I plan this activity and no one shows up, will I be bitter? If yes, then better left undone).

The building projects also feel like a significant investment of time and energy. There are some wonderful projects talked about in the master facility report, but they take a lot of coordinating, patience, and attention to detail.

Highlights from the year:

January & February - SOV hosted the Circle of Security Parenting classes with twelve parents from the community participating. Thank you to Talea Kellar for teaching and Eileen Hosey for providing meals. Hannah Harvey, Rosemary Kiessling, and Pastor Tari attended the ELCA World Hunger Gathering in Houston, Texas.

We received a \$30,000 grant over three years from the ELCA domestic hunger fund to facilitate the food truck ministry in Chinook area with churches on Mendenhall Loop

March & April - Fundraising for the playground began in earnest with several foundations making large donations. A committee started working on an emergency operations plan. Pastor Tari attended the Festival of Faith and Writing at Calvin College in Michigan.

May & June - Jemima Verebasaga and Ambar Henriquez supervise summer lunch with a staff of twelve teen guides. They do a training at the ropes course out the road and learn how to fill out paperwork for employment. A crew of 33 went to Lesbos, Greece to learn more about refugees and grow as a community. We loved Hotel Votsala and had a beautiful time. Playground equipment was purchased, trees were felled, and the columbarium work began. Elfrida made eight prayer shawls for our graduates! Liam Kiessling, Travis Ross, and Annika Linstid affirmed their faith (and Annika was baptized) on June 2, 2024. Dominick Boerem was also baptized on May 19, 2024.

July & August

We hosted another week at camp with 60 participants from all over Alaska. Shepherd of the Valley continues to lead the program and have the most campers. Denny Corson and Sophia Harvey directed camp and many of our young people were the counselors. Thank you to the excellent cooks and to Talea and Meagan for leading crafts. On August 5, the flood hit the valley and many of our parishioners and friends were hit hard. Shepherd of the Valley stepped up to feed volunteers and victims as well as gut houses. Thank you for all who volunteered and continued prayers for all who are still recovering. Shepherd of the Valley completed the paperwork to become an emergency shelter for Red Cross.

September & October

Faith Formation classes started back up. We are working on a program that is flexible and connects us across generations. Thank you to all the teachers and to everyone who participated. We had a fun field trip to JPD.

Thank you to Saralyn Tabanichak, AWARE and Dave Ringle, St. Vincent's, for sharing their stories and ministries with us. They talked with me after about what a blessing it was to be with you all. I attended a Fire and Police Chaplaincy training in Colorado while I was gone. There have been many nudges along the way to provide better care for first responders. The training was not for me and I've been discerning how I can use my gifts to help get a healthy program going.

We also laid to rest our brother Willie Anderson. Willie and I spent countless hours working on Family Promise stuff and he will be greatly missed.

November & December

We are people who are willing to try new things and I appreciate the flexibility to dig into a new way of serving people during the holidays. There were wonderful Advent brunches and so many God moments as people gathered.

There are times I get anxious about finances or attendance or having enough kids or teens, but those are all distractions from the real markers of a faithful congregation. Are we loving? Are we meeting people where they are? Are we shining a light of grace? I don't always know how to do that, but together we can faithfully keep adapting, growing, and trying new things.

President's Report – 2024

I believe SOV is living our mission statement, “Loved by God, Loving Others. Fed by God, Feeding Others”. One example is our food ministries. These are people feeding people and I believe both the recipients and preparers of this food are getting more than just nourishment for their bodies. We do so many activities with other congregations throughout town, regardless of beliefs of the hosts or participants. An exciting new idea that has recently been offered is a way of interacting with our food pantry clients. That idea is an art table the clients could participate in while the food pantry is open. I am sure other activities can be developed as well. Thank you to all the volunteers that make this ministry, and all our ministries, so successful. There are many other examples of SOV living our mission statement, just a few minutes to read the committee reports and you will see this at work.

I must thank Pastor Tari for doing a wonderful job of community and church outreach. She has a knack of being able to talk with other church denominations and get them involved with other church and community members. Such as the food truck and Family Promise.

The Columbarium is looking beautiful. Thanks to Mark Landvik and Austyn Schmidt for all their hard work. It looks great and is a wonderful ministry.

After navigating the governmental bureaucracy and developing an Emergency Operations Plan, SOV received a FEMA security grant. These monies will be used on parking lot lighting, security cameras, doors, windows as well as internet security. For the most part, we wanted this grant to help ensure the safety of kids utilizing the playground. In case of an emergency, in this day and age, council thought it was a good idea to develop a plan to ensure congregants' safety.

The playground is a good example of ‘loving others’ but has been on hold due to not being able to receive a site preparation bid that we could reasonably expect to fundraise for. That was until we recently received a bid from a contractor in Sitka. If the bid is approved, which I hope it will be, the contractor will start work in late spring.

Good communication is essential in any community and as much as council tries to keep the congregation informed, we are human and may fail. Council minutes are posted online for everyone to review but the minutes are just a snapshot of the discussions. So, if you ever have questions about what the church is doing, please ask a council member.

It is difficult to put into a simple report all the wonderful things SOV is involved with while we love and feed each other. But I feel blessed to be able to be part of this great community as it continues to grow in love.

Respectfully,
Dan Corson

Treasurer's Report 2024

Thanks to your faithful giving, we ended the year with all our 2024 expenses paid. And, carried forward into 2025, \$13,753.63 in general funds.

The driveway is done! The columbarium is complete. Thank you Mark Landvik and Douglas Island Development. There are plans in the spring to complete the playground.

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

The 2024 other benevolence included items such as support for our Nigerian friends, ELCA disaster relief and gifts of appreciation to Pastor Tari, Becky, Jon Gates (volunteers weekly to clean) and Calvin Landvik. Starting in October, loose offerings were designated to Food Pantry, AWARE, Housing First and Meals on Wheels (sent in early January). The scholarship fund received \$2,000 from the fall clothing sale. There was over \$6,500 related to direct flood response in the form of gift cards for SOV members affected and reimbursements. Island of Faith received \$662.24 for those affected by the devastating landslide in late 2023. These were paid for with a mixture of designated and general funds.

Expenses for world hunger, summer lunch, food truck, trips (pilgrimages), service trips, food pantry, columbarium, driveway, and master facility plan/playground were paid entirely with designated funds. Expenses for other benevolence, pastoral outreach, faith formation/other education, youth, camp, property management, snow removal, and oil were paid for with a mixture of general and designated funds.

On the next page is the balance of designated funds. \$10,023.46 in designated funds will be carried forward into 2025 for items such as altar guild, youth/education, food pantry, building maintenance, fellowship, winter fund, pastoral outreach, and mom's group (identified with an asterisk).

There is \$7,643.27 in the sabbatical fund and \$3,601.82 in the scholarship fund.

Thank you for your generous contributions to our wonderful ministries and property.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Fenumiai
Treasurer

“May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.”
2 Thessalonians 3:5

Designated Funds Balance, 12/31/2024

Altar Guild	\$ 795.19*
Youth/Education	\$ 449.08*
Food pantry	\$ 1415.28*
Building/Maintenance	\$ 3,163.72*
Fellowship	\$ 535.00*
Winter Fund	\$ 3,572.00*
Pastoral Outreach	\$ 76.06*
Mom's Group	\$ 17.13*
Camp	\$ 500.00
Summer Lunch	\$ 30,841.19
Glory Hall	\$ 500.82
Trips	\$ 744.79
Faith Formation	\$ 375.21
Master Facility	
Plan/Playground	\$ 59,904.46
Nigeria	\$ 940.50
Columbarium	\$ 2,197.59
Food Truck	\$ 1,583.52
Snowblower	\$ 278.03
Meals on Wheels	\$ 458.00
Bethel Trip	\$ 500.00
Total	\$ 108,847.57

**Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
2024 Budget Actuals Thru 12-31-2024 and Proposed 2025 Budget**

Income	2022 Actuals	2023 Actuals	2024 Proposed	2024 Actuals	2025 Proposed
General Fund Carry Forward	\$ 23,921.68	\$ 6,408.80	\$ 3,551.35	\$ 3,551.35	\$ 13,753.63
General Offering	\$ 167,419.91	\$ 169,789.03	\$ 176,175.08	\$ 180,547.89	\$ 172,036.91
Designated Funds Carry Fwd	\$ 12,233.45	\$ 8,887.05	\$ 7,212.57	\$ 7,212.57	\$ 10,023.46
FF 2022/Grants 2024	\$ 28.39	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -
Other	\$ 1,088.40	\$ 695.09	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 36,231.52	\$ 1,000.00
Designated Offerings	\$ 106,329.44	\$ 232,313.82	\$ -	\$ 111,152.81	\$ -
World Hunger	\$ 140.00	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ 230.00	\$ -
User Fees	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 7,075.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Building Fund	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
PFD/Winter Heat	\$ 8,267.27	\$ 2,401.70	\$ -	\$ 2,602.26	\$ -
Newsletter Adoption	\$ 550.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00
Driveway	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 326,318.54	\$ 449,190.49	\$ 196,339.00	\$ 437,528.40	\$ 200,714.00
EXPENSES					
ELCA Benevolence	\$ 17,100.00	\$ 17,100.00	\$ 18,600.00	\$ 18,608.00	\$ 19,800.00
Lutheran Magazine	\$ 412.62	\$ 412.62	\$ 375.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
TEAM	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Total Benevolence	\$ 18,012.62	\$ 18,012.62	\$ 19,475.00	\$ 19,108.00	\$ 20,700.00
World Hunger*	\$ 330.00	\$ 330.00	\$ -	\$ 1,041.73	D \$ -
Other Benevolence*	\$ 7,121.01	\$ 7,121.01	\$ -	\$ 12,482.17	M \$ -
Family Promise	\$ 1,092.24	\$ 1,092.24	\$ 500.00	\$ 553.00	\$ 500.00
Total Designated Benevolence	\$ 8,543.25	\$ 8,543.25	\$ 500.00	\$ 14,076.90	\$ 500.00
Salary	\$ 27,400.18	\$ 27,400.18	\$ 25,506.00	\$ 24,306.00	\$ 25,506.00
Pension/FSA	\$ 18,583.35	\$ 18,583.35	\$ 16,800.00	\$ 23,229.03	\$ 24,400.00
Housing Allowance	\$ 40,500.50	\$ 40,500.50	\$ 40,508.00	\$ 40,508.00	\$ 40,508.00
Supply Pastor	\$ 503.71	\$ 503.71	\$ 500.00	\$ 735.60	\$ 500.00
Pastoral Outreach	\$ 493.93	\$ 493.93	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,960.28	M \$ 1,800.00
Loan	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Vehicle/Mileage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 645.21	\$ -
Total Pastoral Ministry	\$ 97,481.67	\$ 97,481.67	\$ 86,464.00	\$ 91,384.12	\$ 92,714.00
Continuing Education	\$ 3,703.57	\$ 3,703.57	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,084.47	\$ 6,500.00
Sabbatical	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Meeting Expenses	\$ 504.61	\$ 504.61	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,384.50	\$ 600.00
Pastoral Travel - Mtgs/Cont. Ed	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 369.99	\$ 1,000.00
Conventions/Meetings - Lay	\$ 434.27	\$ 434.27	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,000.00
Secretary Wages/Benefits	\$ 8,422.33	\$ 8,422.33	\$ 14,560.00	\$ 9,396.25	\$ 14,560.00
FICA - Secretary/Janitor	\$ 1,970.07	\$ 1,970.07	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,787.99	\$ 1,700.00
Office Supplies	\$ 2,499.30	\$ 2,499.30	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 3,170.42	\$ 3,000.00
Postage	\$ 1,280.55	\$ 1,280.55	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,456.75	\$ 1,700.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 3,014.78	\$ 3,014.78	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,515.52	\$ 3,000.00
Office Mach. Repair	\$ 916.88	\$ 916.88	\$ 920.00	\$ 231.78	\$ 920.00
Office Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ -
Total Parish Admin.	\$ 24,746.36	\$ 24,746.36	\$ 37,280.00	\$ 33,297.67	\$ 35,980.00
Supplies	\$ 3,713.59	\$ 3,713.59	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,997.25	\$ 3,000.00
Organist	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 4,420.00	\$ 3,317.50	\$ 4,420.00

1/9/2025

**Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
2024 Budget Actuals Thru 12-31-2024 and Proposed 2025 Budget**

Choir	\$ 975.00	\$ 975.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 112.50	\$ 1,000.00
Total Worship Supplies	\$ 8,338.59	\$ 8,338.59	\$ 9,420.00	\$ 6,427.25	\$ 8,420.00
Fellowship**	\$ 1,170.38	\$ 1,170.38	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 322.87	\$ 1,100.00
Advertising/Publicity	\$ 407.04	\$ 407.04	\$ 600.00	\$ 634.95	\$ 600.00
Faith Formation/Other Educ.	\$ 6,368.66	\$ 6,368.66	\$ 600.00	\$ 725.51	M \$ 600.00
Youth Group	\$ 1,722.05	\$ 1,722.05	\$ 500.00	\$ 676.78	M \$ 500.00
Stewardship**	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Concerns**	\$ 20.63	\$ 20.63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Glacier Bible Camp	\$ 9,961.06	\$ 9,961.06	\$ 500.00	\$ 8,418.54	M \$ 500.00
Website Support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Summer Lunch Program	\$ 32,676.31	\$ 32,676.31	\$ -	\$ 28,615.78	D \$ -
Food Truck	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,221.48	D \$ -
Trips (Pilgrimages)	\$ 57,512.29	\$ 57,512.29	\$ -	\$ 85,781.40	D \$ -
Service Trips	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 511.70	D \$ -
Food Pantry	\$ 5,503.56	\$ 5,503.56	\$ -	\$ 4,252.57	D \$ -
Total Program Support	\$ 115,341.98	\$ 115,341.98	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 139,161.58	\$ 3,600.00
Mortgage	\$ 10,135.23	\$ 10,135.23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Property Management**	\$ 15,623.53	\$ 15,623.53	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,151.73	M \$ 5,000.00
FEMA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Janitor	\$ 739.96	\$ 739.96	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 897.87	\$ 2,000.00
Oil	\$ 8,691.39	\$ 8,691.39	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,832.82	M \$ 8,000.00
Water/Sewer	\$ 1,524.21	\$ 1,524.21	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,639.70	\$ 1,600.00
Electricity	\$ 3,298.83	\$ 3,298.83	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,627.70	\$ 3,500.00
Garbage	\$ 2,181.51	\$ 2,181.51	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,739.60	\$ 2,700.00
Snow Removal/Driveway	\$ 5,105.00	\$ 5,105.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,622.28	M \$ 7,000.00
Insurance	\$ 5,462.00	\$ 5,462.00	\$ 9,800.00	\$ 6,134.75	\$ 9,000.00
Columbarium	\$ 23,363.37	\$ 23,363.37	\$ -	\$ 29,437.17	D \$ -
Driveway	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,150.00	D \$ -
Master Facility Plan/Playground	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,542.91	D \$ -
Total Center for Ministry	\$ 76,125.03	\$ 76,125.03	\$ 39,600.00	\$ 90,776.51	\$ 38,800.00
Total Expenses	\$ 348,589.50	\$ 348,589.50	\$ 196,339.00	\$ 394,232.03	\$ 200,714.00
General Fund balance (non obligated funds+carry forward)	\$ 13,753.63				
Designated Fund CF	\$ 10,023.46				
Remaining Des. Fund	\$ 98,824.11				
TOTAL Des. Fund Balance	\$ 108,847.57				
*D Indicates expenses paid for with designated funds.					
*M Indicates expense 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

Stewardship often makes people cringe a little because it feels like we're going to automatically ask for money. I don't know about you, but this last year of financial requests for political candidates left me a little burnt out.

Blessedly, stewardship is not about giving more money. I like the [dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) definition - "the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving"

Part of our faith is living with the perspective that we are stewards and not owners. We are given the gifts of time, creation, health, finances, relationships, talents and they all take tending to. When we try to hold on too tightly, then we tend to idolize or suffocate gifts and turn them into burdens.

Council invites you to spend time reflecting on your stewardship.

Time: Are you taking time to rest? Are you investing time in what matters and is meaningful for the community? Are you mindful of how precious moments are?

Creation: Before COVID, as a church we tried to get rid of single use plastics, including plastic water bottles. We are returning to this objective. The heat pumps have reduced our oil use and we are discussing a charging station as part of the new parking lot work. How can we reduce our consumption of resources and increase our enjoyment of the gifts we are given?

Health: Our bodies are a huge gift and responsibility. Are you walking twenty minutes a day? Drinking enough water? Eating food that is nourishing?

Finances: Stewardship is about being generous and consistent in your giving to the mission of the church, but it is also about how we make our money, how we spend it, how we invest it, and how we save it. What do your finances reveal about your character and priorities?

Relationships: How are you tending your friendships, family relationships, and intimate relationships? They all take work and time. We try to create spaces where people can play and be together.

Talents: You have something to offer and we have lots of ways for people to serve at church. Please take a moment to fill out the survey, but you can also offer your talents in lots of ways throughout the week. We have 97 people who volunteer at least once a quarter. Thank you for offering your talents so generously.

We get to see and live in eternal love. That is definitely worth caring for and preserving.

Your commitment of time and finances have been invaluable and allow SOV to continue with many wonderful ministries.

❖ Glory Hall meals – Thank you for your financial, food, and time donations. Thank you Roger and Mindy for your faithfulness.	❖ Family Promise – Thank you for your financial donations, hosting and patience as changes happen.
❖ Summer Lunch – Thank you all for providing a safe place for kids to receive a nourishing meal as well as a place to feel worthy and loved.	❖ AWARE and Seafarers gifts and food – Thank you to everyone who helps with this for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas!
❖ Nigeria – Thank you for your monetary donations and support after the flood	❖ Glory Hall hat and sock tree – Thank you for your generosity and spreading warmth for all.
❖ Food Pantry – There are too many to name but thank you for your time picking up, bagging and delivering food.	❖ Mom’s Group – Continues to be a blessing to many – thank you!
❖ Worship/Music – a huge thank you to choir and the beautiful accompaniment throughout the year from Misuri Smyth and Helen Mehrkens	❖ Glacier Bible Camp – Thank you for supporting and assisting with this great experience that has a positive impact on our youth!
❖ Prayer Shawls – Everyone with the talent to make these rock!	❖ Gardening – Shout out to Elfrida Nord for beautifying our grounds and Pat McLearn and Lisa Lindeman for working on the gardens
❖ Parenting classes and Our Whole Lives Parents and Caregivers as Sexual Educators. We are a place that is equipping parents with the skills needed to be as healthy as can be.	❖ Faith Formation – thank you teachers and mentors for finding creative ways to stay connected!
❖ Master Facility – Thanks to your financial donations and Austyn Schmidt for helping complete the columbarium. A huge thanks to Mark Landvik for his work!	❖ Newsletter – Thank you to the Gates family for preparing it for mailing; thanks to Becky for putting it together and thank you to all who contribute!

The general offering for 2024 came in over \$180,000. There was also over \$111,000 received for designated, this included member donations as well as the grants for the playground.

We rely on automated giving through Tithely or Vanco for general fund. The special offerings have been a huge gift as we were able to give close to \$2000 to the food pantry, AWARE, Housing First, and Meals on Wheels.

SOV Scholarship Fund

In 2024, scholarships were awarded to Denny Corson and Sophie Harvey. Thanks to both for their outstanding leadership at camp.

The clothing drive held in the fall contributed \$2,000.00 to this fund.

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 \$3,601.82 invested in an ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

Worship

The duty of the Worship and Music Committee is to provide for an active and meaningful worship life for the congregation giving special attention to the liturgical year.

Committee: Katherine Andrews, Alice Gates, Helen Mehrkens, Misuri Smyth, Kirt Stage-Harvey, and Pastor Tari 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 out for college or vacation, or for those in town but unable to attend in person.

The liturgy used in worship changes with the seasons of the church. They are chosen by Pastor Tari. Hymns are chosen by different people throughout the year, rotating monthly. This year's hymns were chosen by the worship committee. If you are interested in choosing hymns for worship, please contact a member of the Worship & Music Committee.

This past year our worship piano accompanist was Misuri Smyth, with Helen Mehrkens and Edgar Higgins filling in; and Kirt Stage-Harvey on guitar. Xandor Beck also helping with guitar, and he and Jack Kellar leading the kids with percussion. There were a few others who stepped in on occasion. Thank you ALL for helping us make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

We have had very good response to gathering an impromptu choir for special events. We sang for Palm Sunday, Easter, Advent, Christmas Eve, and Willie Anderson's Memorial services. 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 accompany (when she is in town), as is Misuri Smyth. Please contact the church office to schedule.

Worship continues to be fulfilling with Pastor Tari leading the way but also because of all the members who contribute each Sunday and for special services, including readers, lay assistants, ushers, acolytes, and those who bring flowers. Thank you to Bob Williams for his children's messages. Thank you also to those who have stepped up to share faith stories or lead services throughout the year during Pastor Tari's absences. We are especially grateful for the abundance of children in worship. This is especially rewarding after some years with few young ones in attendance. We appreciate those who have been providing childcare during the sermons.

Our goals for the coming year include continuing to offer Zoom for those who are unable to attend our Sunday Services. We also will offer acolyte training for a little more orderly beginning and end to our worship services.

Altar Guild

Kristin Wright, Alice Gates, Katherine Andrews, and Mindy and Roger Birk form the Altar Guild Committee and work to make the sanctuary an inviting place to worship.

We focus on giving special attention to the liturgical year. As Shepherd of the Valley celebrates the church festivals throughout the year, our emphasis is setting up communion each week, keeping banners and paraments in sync with the colors of the liturgical seasons, keeping the eternal flame candle burning, and baptismal water ready. We go beyond that, though, by decorating the sanctuary to make it more meaningful when celebrating special church holidays like Advent, Christmas, Easter, and All Saints Day. This year we added banners for Reformation Sunday featuring our favorite quotes of Martin Luther. We also completed the set of banners for All Saints Day.

Our main goal for the coming year is to continue to make the sanctuary an inviting place to worship. As always, we strive to add to our banners and paraments collection, especially for Pentecost Sunday and Normal Time. We will also continue to find a reliable source for Kings Hawaiian, our favorite communion bread.

Fellowship Committee Report 2024

Mea Culpa if any events were missed here. The Fellowship Committee traditionally serves snacks along with coffee and tea after Sunday morning services. In addition to these regular contributions, the group held these events in 2024:

In January we had our 2nd Bunco game night, which was filled with boisterous fun, as we helped chase away the cold and post-holiday doldrums. February brought an early Fat Follies (early Lent/Easter season), where we had an after-worship event. For Easter we held a festive Sunday brunch. June saw us doing a more guy-centric brunch for Father's Day. In August we did an Auke Bay picnic to celebrate Pastor Tari's 25th ordination. In October, we provided a light charcuterie luncheon to honor our friend, Willie Anderson. We ended our Fellowship functions by providing one of the four Advent brunches in December.

We encourage you all to support our efforts by providing any type of snacks *you* enjoy, savory or sweet; healthy or indulgent; leftovers or freshly prepared; store bought or homemade – all are very welcomed!

If you have any questions or would like to join our fun group, just talk to any of us: Linda Landvik, Helen Mehrkens, Alice Gates, Katherine Andrews, Mindy Birk, or Sue Trivette.

God's Blessings,
Sue (subbing in for Linda)

P.S. In addition to the usual kitchen duties above, we do meet regularly at a restaurant for breakfast planning sessions where we fellowship together and catch up on our lives. Yay, no kitchen clean-up involved!

Property Management 2024

Thank you to everyone who help maintain our church. From mowing the lawn, to changing light bulbs, to cleaning bathrooms, to shoveling and now snow blowing and to sanding the sidewalks. We all maintain the property.

Here are some of the highlights of property management from 2024.

- Snow blower purchased. Thanks to Roger Birk and Scott Hinton for researching and purchasing the snow blower.
- Mark Landvik got rid of the moss on the roof.
- Kirt Stage-Harvey did a much-needed refurbishment of one side of the outdoor SOV sign on the west side of the fellowship hall. Mark Landvik finished the other side.
- Michael Ross installed flood lights for these signs as well as built the oil tank screen.
- We had spring and fall work parties.
- Thank you to Jon Gates for his weekly cleaning.
- Thanks to Mark and Austyn for their work on the columbarium, it looks great. Austyn also decommissioned the old driveway.
- We had Clark's Tree Service cut down several trees, even Tari's favorite mountain ash trees, in preparation of groundwork for the playground as well as some that were leaning toward the church.
- After the trees were down, men's group got to play with their chainsaws and splitters and stacked up 3.5 cords of wood, which we gave away to families needing wood.
- Eagle scout gaga pit was installed.
- Thanks to Sven Rasmussen and Travis Ross for mowing this summer.

Looking ahead

- We received a FEMA security grant and hope to upgrade the parking lot lights, install security cameras, add a sign at the front of the driveway and internet security.
- And as always, better parking lot drainage.

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 Committee 2024 Report

Jeff Jenkins, Theresa Ross, Elfrida Nord, Dan Corson, Chuck Orsborn, Linda Thompson, Pastor Tari (plus columbarium committee)

Columbarium-

The columbarium is coming along nicely, there are some final touches that need to be completed. Thank you to Austyn Schmidt for his work. A huge thank you to Mark Landvik for creating the meditation bench and polishing so much of the columbarium. Mark also arranged the name bricks from the original sanctuary donors.

The plan for spring is to add landscape boxes, stone face for the bench and lighting.

Storage building-

The committee is also working on a long-term plan for a storage building and addressing what we would like that to look like and where it will be placed on the property. We need to consider any electrical limitations we may be looking at regarding service.

2024 Nonprofit Security Grant

We received a federal grant for \$103,000. This grant will cover signage, lighting (parking lot and building), doors/windows, cyber security and security cameras. This will be a couple year project and we are excited to get the process started. Theresa Ross, Gail Fenumiai, and Pastor Tari are the coordinators for the grant. Thank you to Teresa Kissel for putting together the huge binder needed to track expenses.

New entrance off Keegan-

We are in the process of looking at signage and adding a mailbox. The adjacent property fence has created challenges with visibility for both coming and going. We are trying to address that issue with the grant we have received which includes signage and a conical mirror.

Playground –

We are currently working on securing a contractor to perform site prep for the playground equipment that is already on site. CBC from Sitka submitted the attached bid. A huge thank you to Chris Gianotti for volunteering his engineering expertise and to Chuck for surveying the site for construction. We will rely on everyone's help in the spring as part of a community build. Surfacing remains the final expense.

Submitted by Theresa Ross and Pastor Tari

Parish Education 2024

Opportunities to grow your faith abound at Shepherd of the Valley. These opportunities don't always look like your traditional "Sunday School" classes, but they are no less meaningful and allow our folks to grow their faith at different times and with different activities to meet their needs. The council gives thanks to the many in the SOV community who teach and attend these gatherings.

The Monday Book Club has been led by Eileen Hosey and has spent time exploring a number of eye-opening faith-based texts.

Friday Morning Devotions gets together for tea/coffee and a lively discussion on a variety of Bible based topics.

Discipleship Academy attempts to meet 1-2 times per month with Pastor Tari for an in-depth discussion of Scripture. After a deep dive into the Old Testament, they are currently working through The Gospel of Matthew.

The SOV Book Club chooses a secular book each month to read and meets at a brewery for discussion and community.

The ever-growing Sunday Morning Men's Group is, by all accounts, a place of faith exploration and mutual support, with a hot breakfast thrown in once a month.

And let's not forget our Sunday Faith Formation classes.

Talea Kellar and Michelle Weaver have bravely taken on the preschoolers- working on wonderful art projects that make learning about the Gospel fun.

Meagan Hinton and I are leading the elementary kids through a video series titled "What's in the Bible," and are beginning to explore The Lord's Prayer and Sermon on the Mount.

Pastor Tari and "friends" are sharing "The Bible Project" with high schoolers.

Linda Landvik and Glenn Mitchell are also offering "The Bible Project" for adult learners.

Phew! What an active group we are. Thanks to everyone who shows up shares in the exploration of the good news.

Submitted by Lisa Wallace

Social Concerns Report - 2024

What a wonderful year it was being Loved by God; Loving Others. Fed by God; Feeding Others!

So much generosity (financial and time) from SOV to many organizations and people in town! The Food Pantry continues to be a popular and thriving ministry. In 2024, there were 1,114 visitors which accounted for feeding 3,364 people. There were 237 households that received deliveries, accounting for 545 people. If you are interested in helping with this ministry (picking up from the SE Alaska Food Bank or helping on Saturday), let Gail know. A big thank you to Ed Flanagan, Corinne Orsborn, and the Birks for helping with Food Bank pickups. And a huge thank you to Elfrida Nord for her unwavering faithfulness stocking those supplies weekly and preparing the bags for home deliveries. The end of the month Saturday breakfasts continued throughout the year. There are many opportunities to get involved in this ministry - food bank pickups, Saturday monitors, as well as shopping, cooking, and serving the monthly Saturday breakfast.

The Glory Hall delicious meatloaf meals were served all year. A big thank you to Roger and Mindy for cooking most of the meals. Thank you to all who served and donated food. The tree at Christmas was filled with warm socks, hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves.

Beginning in September, loose offerings received were designated to local non-profit organizations. September funds (\$508) went to our food pantry. October funds (\$458) went to AWARE. November funds (\$441) went to Housing First. December funds (\$458) were sent to Meals on Wheels in early January.

This year, after discussions with the folks at AWARE, in lieu of food and gift cards, we provide gift cards. These cards could be used for food at Thanksgiving and food or presents at Christmas. Gift cards for Thanksgiving totaled \$385 and Christmas totaled \$1265. Thank you to Alice Gates for spearheading this ministry.

SOV continued to participate with Family Promise. In 2024, this involved hosting families and providing companionship and meals. Family Promise helped 116 families, which included 177 children and a total of 314 individuals. In 2025, Family Promise is looking to continue growing programs and working toward a significant milestone: developing a static site shelter. Thank you to all who supported Family Promise during 2024.

This year, SOV participated in the Christmas-at-Sea project through Seafarers International House. This is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants. There were twelve satchels containing a sweatshirt, socks, t-shirt, knitted winter cap, nuts/candy/snack bar, and holiday card. Thank you to the knitters and everyone who participated. Extra items were taken to the Glory Hall.

After years of dreaming, the “Caring Canteen” food truck ministry became a reality in late April of 2024. This ministry involves many of the churches along “church row.” In addition to SOV, 7th Day Adventist, St. Brendan’s, Aldersgate, Church of the Nazarene, St. Paul’s/Knights of Columbus rotate each Tuesday to prepare and serve a meal. Big thanks to Breakthrough for participating during the start up. The food truck is loaned to this ministry from The Salvation Army and parked in the Aldersgate parking lot. The first meal was served on April 30 and a whopping 2,187 meals were provided for the residents in the Chinook Apartment area. This is another meaningful opportunity to serve our community. Our next date is January 28, if you are interested in helping on that date or any future times, let Gail know.

Thank you for your generosity in fulfilling our mission statement (Loved by God; Loving Others. Fed by God; Feeding Others). Reach out to Gail or the office if you are interested in helping with any of the wonderful ministries or have questions.

Thank you,
Gail Fenumiai

” For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35

Communications and Social Media 2024

SOV is moving closer and closer to being comfortable in the 21st century!

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

We continue to keep up with our use of this platform. Through this modern technology, 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 - Tithely" 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

Please peek at the prevention tips to the right. Scammers are out there and have tried to get information from SOV too. Stay vigilant and if you ever have questions about something "sent" from SOV, ask the church office.

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 2024

Submitted by Teresa Kissel and Pastor Tari

Live Generously — our *Thrivent* t-shirts say it, and this summer was a great time to watch folks from our congregation and our community live generosity out 5 days a week for 9 weeks!

In October 2023, SOV hosted a Summer Lunch Sampler Event raising funds for the playground with a matching gift up to \$5000. The event highlighted our playground plan with the community, excited youth and gave them ownership of the play area. The children remain excited for the playground to be set up and often asked about the timeline.

Thank you, Benito and Frances C. Gaguine Foundation and many other folks who financially support feeding kids, throughout the summer months — your support goes far beyond the food.

Thank you, Jemima Verebasaga and Ambar Henriquez and twelve youth staff who joined the Summer Lunch team, to welcome and engage children. Thank you, Teresa Kissel who shopped and kept in touch, with volunteers.

Bike Rodeo continues to be a great experience. We gave out 45 bikes donated by Juneau Freewheelers. The Flying Lions led the bike safety course and the new teen staff welcomed youth and played games with them.

Eagle Scout Bruno Malecha built a Ga Ga Ball Pit that was a huge hit with the youth while waiting for the playground to be built.

Over 150 different children attended with an average of 45 children per day
7 youth first-job experience with 5 returning guides. Our teen guides reflect the diversity of the youth we serve and that has been significant.

12 youth obtained a Food Handlers Card

29 volunteers helped cook, prep, serve, wash dishes, recycle, and garden

Children's favorite things about Summer Lunch?

- Seeing my friends.
- Playing with friends.
- The Food.
- Lunch.
- Everything.
- Arts and crafts.
- Crafts and food.
- The workers.
- Fruit
- Ping Pong
- I meet new friends and love the food.



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 LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.

