

# Bread of Life Lutheran Church 2025 Annual Report



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**AGENDA**  
**BREAD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026**

**BREAD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH** - is a fellowship of believers whose purpose is to serve God by sharing the Good News of God's love in word and action.

**AS GOD'S PEOPLE** - we will preach the gospel and administer the sacraments, nourish and strengthen each other, invite others to join our fellowship, and serve the needs of our community, and, in partnership with others, the world that God created.

**THEREFORME, WE PLEDGE** - our prayerful support and active participation in the life of this congregation so it can become an expression of God's continuing love for all people.

1. Devotions
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of last year's Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Business arising from last year's Annual Meeting Minutes
5. Acceptance of Reports
6. Election of Council Members
  - Minimum of # to be elected
  - Terms may be two or three years
  - Nominations
7. New Business
  - Approval of 2026 Budget
  - Approval of Review of financial statements rather than an audit
    - a) *In accordance with instructions from ELCIC Saskatchewan Synod, Treasurer David Bartolf to move Bread of Life have a review of 2025 financial statements, conducted by a CPA [Certified Professional Accountant]. This motion requires a minimum of 80% of voting members to pass. If this motion does not pass, an audit is required. The key difference between an audit and a review is that conducting an audit requires the auditor to obtain independent confirmation or verification of the financial information examined. An audit will require more time from the CPA and be more expensive.*
  - Approval of new Welcome Statement
  - Anglican Equity Update
8. Closing prayers
9. Adjournment

**Thank you to everyone who attended, to all who submitted and presented reports and were involved in organizing today's meeting.**

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**BREAD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025**

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**THEREFORE, WE PLEDGE** - our prayerful support and active participation in the life of this congregation so that it can become an expression of God's continuing love for all people.

Chairperson: Carrie Allen

Secretary: Rebecca Anderson

Attendance: 36, meeting our required quorum of 25.

Commencing at: 11:03 am

1. Devotions - Offered by Pastor Jerry Borkowsky
2. Adoption of the Agenda - **Alicia McEwen moves to adopt, seconded by Edwin Wushke. Carried.**
3. Adoption of Last Year's Annual Meeting Minutes - **Alicia McEwen moves to adopt the minutes as is, seconded by David Sauchyn. Carried.**
4. Business arising from last year's meeting minutes -
  - a. **Arising from minutes on Page 5: "Have we lifted up the Arcola Wellness and spoken of them in Worship?"**
    - i. The Arcola Wellness has participated in a Worship Service and has shared what they offer, but there has not been further integration.
5. Reports - **Brent Rostad moves that the reports be accepted as written in the AGM report. Seconded by Brent Langenberger. Carried.**
6. Election of Council Members - Some council member terms are up, and some are new to Council.
  - a. Kelly Vall, Doug Schneider, and Betty Lou Earl have joined Council.
  - b. Carrie Allen, David Bartolf, David Sauchyn, Wendy Milne, Dean McPherson, Barbara Musleh continue on Council as well.
  - c. Dennis Lisoway departed from Council, as did our Chair, Valerie Brown. We are currently looking for a Chair. Joanne will be departing from Council as her term is up.
  - d. Council can have up to 24 members according to the recollection of Treasurer David Bartolf.
  - e. There is no minimum number to be elected. Alicia McEwen notes that there must be eight members on Council.

- f. Call for nominations: **Larry Fry nominates Larry Schwentke, seconded by David Bartolf. Larry Schwentke allows his name to stand. All are in favor of election to Council. Pr. Boyd Molder requests that the list of Council members be included in the announcements next week. There are no further nominations.**
7. New Business
- a. Approval of 2025 Budget
- i. Due to the debt repayment campaign, BOL is in the black for net income.
  - ii. In order to remain in the black, a  $\frac{2}{3}$  salary for pastor would recommended.
  - iii. Q - what is listed for 2024, was it a budget or actuals?
    1. A - it was what was budgeted. The actuals are not currently available for this meeting.
  - iv. Note from Pr. Boyd Molder: if you put up halftime money for a pastor, Bread of Life will receive half the work for a Pastor.
    1. A - This was taken into consideration when the budget was made.
  - v. Q - Is the pastor's salary budgeted at 100% for a senior experienced pastor?
    1. A - Yes. A point was made that a less experienced Pastor would receive less.
  - vi. Q - Dave Sauchyn suggests that if the budget is approved with three possible scenarios, the Council would have room to make decisions.
  - vii. Q - Pr. Larry Fry notes that the budget was accepted last year with a major deficit and would suggest not budgeting a major deficit again as the Stewardship drive to pay off debt was communicated to givers as a one-time drive.
  - viii. Q - Can we not pay for the realtor fees?
    1. Council paid for Pr. Stewart's realtor fees as he incurred a loss moving from Estevan to Regina when selling his home. The budgeted line is for the final payment to Pr. Stewart and will be at \$0 in 2026. This would be discussed again and considered when hiring a new Pastor. If BOL does not want a deficit, giving would have to increase or have a budget for salary at approx. \$57k.
    2. A suggestion is made to approve a salary \$57k, and have lay leadership fill in as supply in order to avoid committing to a deficit.
    3. The third column is for a  $\frac{2}{3}$  time Pastor budgeted for salary and supply. There is an amount set aside for supply pastors and speakers.
    4. There are less clergy available for hiring for a number of reasons, including less enrolled in seminary and less mobility for clergy who may be married to partners who have careers in a certain location.
    5. It is suggested that there is interim period is needed for transition.

6. It is further suggested that an interim period would be valuable for discerning the call by the congregation.
- ix. Q - Based on the church's income, it is suggested that BOL consider collaboration with other Lutheran Churches for shared ministry. Has the Council been considering or in touch with other communities regarding this?
    1. Pr. Larry - there was some discussion with Our Saviour's a few months ago and there was not much movement, but there has been very recent anew discussion with Our Saviour's as they struggle with their call.
    2. It is suggested that minutes should be kept and there should be formal conversation during these meetings.
    3. Decisions must be made with the Bishop.
  - x. Q - does the budget have to be passed today?
    1. Yes, or else there will have to be another budget meeting.
  - xi. A suggestion is made to select a budget to remain in black.
  - xii. **David Bartolf moves that the  $\frac{2}{3}$  budget is removed and replaced with the break-even budget. Seconded by Brent Langenberger.** It is noted that the  $\frac{2}{3}$  time can be it does not inherently mean that the individual is working  $\frac{2}{3}$  time if they are earning less than Pr. Stewart did. A suggestion of amendment is made by Mary Vetter that there should be flexibility in the budget, and regular updates should be given to the congregation. **David Bartolf agrees it would be good to amend the motion to include "flexibility and regular updates to the congregation."** More have spoken to the need for flexibility in the budget, and it is suggested that budgeting into 2026 should also be considered for the salary moving forward.
    1. **David Bartolf moves that the third column, with  $\frac{2}{3}$  time Pastor Salary column be struck and break-even be used with regular (at least quarterly) updates for the church membership, amend the original motion, and that Council be allowed flexibility in line items. Joanne Mcleod seconds. All are in favour, none are opposed. Carried.**
    2. **Doug Schneider moves that the 2024 actuals of the budget be included in the Annual Report Package. Alicia McEwen seconds. All are in favour, none are opposed. Carried.**
    3. Pr. Jerry notes that the actuals also be included in the bulletin to ensure it is accessible.
    4. **Without Paulette (previous BOL bookkeeper), this has been challenging but David Bartolf will ensure that they are provided to the congregation.**
- b. Survey of members – it suggests that using the surveys for the gathering with Cam Harder at the end of March.
    - i. Q - What about the daycare that was interested in using the basement?

1. A - Brent Rostad notes that the possibility of the daycare is up to the organization to continue with their preparations, and it is preliminarily being discussed. The Living Spirit Centre Council is organizing this.
2. Note from member - The daycare that moved into a congregation in Saskatoon assisted the church greatly. Without formal discussions and published information, these plans lack substance. Please share more information as soon as possible.
  - ii. The meeting with Cam Harder for further discussions is on March 30. It will be via Zoom. The congregation would be in person with Dr. Harder joining on call via Zoom.
8. Closing prayer is offered by Pr. Jerry.
9. **Motion for adjournment is made by Joanne McLeod. Concluded at 12:06 pm.**

## Reports

### Pastor's Report

*Rejoice in God always! Again I say, rejoice! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. God is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7, CEB)*

It is appropriate to begin my report with this passage from Philippians because it is with great joy that I have been serving as the Interim Pastor at Bread of Life since August 1, 2025. An interim pastor is essentially a pastor who maintains the ministry of a congregation until a congregation is ready to enter the call process and call a new pastor.

As I learn more about the history of Bread of Life, particularly the more recent history from the past few years, I realize this congregation has faced a lot of challenges and is continuing to strive to overcome these challenges. I am very grateful for the ministry of Pastor Jerry and Pastor Larry who went above and beyond their role as vice pastors to facilitate Bread of Life retiring their debt, as well as offer consistent pastoral care.

The Holy Spirit is on the move at Bread of Life and I have been trying to keep up! There are many signs of hope and new life! We currently have nine youth involved in the Confirmation ministry, seven connected with Bread of Life and two connected with St. Paul's in Edenwold. We have had some new members join us through baptism, affirmation of baptism, and transfers from Trinity Lutheran Church (which closed in December 2024). Sunday morning worship attendance has been increasing!

Bread of Life is blessed to have many faithful volunteers, and one of my priorities has been to connect with the key volunteers to determine how I can support them in their ministries. I have sensed some "volunteer fatigue," and strive to ensure the volunteers are appreciated, valued, and receive the support they need and deserve.

As this is my first annual report for Bread of Life, I thought it would be helpful to share with you how I have been spending my time.

#### **Worship Leadership and Preaching**

I plan and prepare all the worship services and bulletins, as well as when we have supply pastors. I also coordinate all the supply pastors. I have a "seasonal" approach to worship planning, choosing a liturgy to be used throughout a specific church season. So a shift to a different liturgy also indicates a shift in the church "liturgical" season.

As a visual learner, I appreciate the use of PowerPoints during worship. This also reduces flipping back and forth in a hymn book (which newer worshippers find challenging). I have implemented the consistent use of PowerPoint for worship and prepare them myself (mostly from existing templates). The power points are also created to reflect the theme/colour of the church liturgical season. For example, during Advent, I made use of slides that were primarily blue. For the season of epiphany, many of the slides reflect a theme of “light,” the focus of that season.

### **Relationship Building /Pastoral Care/Home Visits**

I have been working hard to learn the names of all the people who worship at Bread of Life, which is a work in progress! I have also been connecting with key volunteers in order to determine how I can support them in their ministries. To this end, I have been successful in engaging a few new folks in varying volunteer capacities. My hope is to also connect newer people within the congregation with seasoned volunteers so they will see a familiar face when they come to worship.

With some new people coming to church, I have been striving to divide my time between orienting them to our community of faith and balancing that with visiting current members who are unable to attend church or have recently lost a loved one.

I have visited five people in hospital (or hospice), made ten home visits, and made numerous pastoral contacts as I connect with people who pop into the church. I would love to do more home visiting and am slowly figuring out a weekly rhythm to enable me to make one to two visits per week. If you would like a home visit or would simply like to pop into the church for a visit, please let me know and I will set aside time!

**Confirmation** (see the “Confirmation Ministry” report)

### **Meetings, Meetings, and More Meetings**

I attend weekly Wednesday morning staff meetings, monthly Church Council meetings, and Russell Mitchell-Walker and I meet as needed to plan joint worship services (eg. All Saints Sunday, Advent services, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve 9pm service, December 28 Lessons and Carols service, and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service held on January 25, 2026). Kathy Schwentke (Becca Anderson’s Mutual Minister) and I also meet with Becca every two months.

Although the Living Spirit Centre Council traditionally meets quarterly, I have attended eight different meetings related to LSC (council, budget, ADPA, security) in the past six months for a total of 17+ hours.

The Regina Ministerial gathers monthly from September to June. While it’s good to connect with colleagues occasionally, there are better uses of my time so I attend every other month.

## **Mutual Ministry**

I meet with Pastor Larry, my Mutual Minister, about every two months. As neither of us have done this before, we are making it up as we go along! We discussed Larry's role as being a support and an advocate. I appreciate his knowledge of the history of Bread of Life as a long time member, as well as someone who has served BOL as an Interim Pastor and as a Vice-Pastor.

## **Continuing Education**

I audited a class online titled "Leading Missional Communities" through Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon from September to December. The content was exceptional, as were the books and articles. I continue to reflect on the content of the course in order to determine what would be most helpful to Bread of Life.

## **Supporting Living Spirt Centre Ministries**

I have attended 2 LSC Women's Breakfasts, and a Daughters of Africa (sponsored by ADPA-African Descent Professional Associates) workshop. I am planning to participate in Messy Church.

## **Outreach: Indigenous Christian Fellowship**

Joe Elkerton, the new executive director at ICF, has invited me to lead devotions during ICF's morning prayer time on two different occasions, as well as invited me to participate in a baptism there in November. I also volunteered in November for BOL Saturday morning commitment.

## **Office Hours & Working ¾ Time**

I worked exclusively from the church office for the first 4 months because I think it is important for the pastor to be accessible. I discovered that the LSC is a very busy building and there are a number of distractions that prevent me from working as productively as I would like. For the past month I have been working from home on Tuesdays and at the church on Wednesdays, Thursday afternoons, and Friday mornings. Monday is my day off, and I am accessible by email, texting or calling Tuesday through Friday. Some weeks I have up to three evening commitments at the church, other weeks I have none. I typically spend Saturday afternoons finishing my sermon and the worship PowerPoint.

As you can see from the above I work full time hours for three weeks, then try to take a full week off (which usually ends up being five days). As I write this report I have worked ten additional days over and above ¾ time. Church council and I are working together regarding how I can maintain ¾ time hours.

## Looking Ahead

I am working my way through the pastoral care list that Pastor Jerry and Pastor Larry provided for me when I started. I am hoping to eventually form a “caring ministry team” where congregational members are equipped to visit, support, and provide home Communion (if requested) to members who are home bound. I established a similar ministry in my previous ministry context which continues to function under lay leadership. A ministry such as this takes time to establish as I discern the needs of those who are unable to come to church, as well as the gifts of those who may be willing to serve in this capacity.

I am also planning to update BOL’s digital church membership list. In 2024, BOL’s records indicated 968 baptized members & 719 confirmed members, yet there are 169 families who are financially contributing to the ministry at BOL. This indicates to me that approximately half (or more) of the baptized membership can likely be moved to the “responsibility/inactive” list. This will significantly reduce the national & synodical convention levy (the levy is intended to equalize the convention fees based on membership numbers so that churches with more members pay more and churches with fewer members pay less). For example, BOL levy for the 2025 national convention was over \$2,000. Updating our digital membership list will significantly reduce BOL’s levy to realistic numbers and a manageable fee.

Church Council has indicated a desire to engage in a visioning process. In response to that desire, I initiated a book study of *“Leadership in a Shrinking Church: Finding Vision in Unlikely Places”* by Rev Dr William Harrison, the president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. It is my hope that discussions from the book will assist on laying a foundation for a future visioning process and provide a common (and realistic) foundation from which to begin. Some areas in which I have some experience and education that I could share with BOL (if these are areas of interest of congregational members):

- truth and reconciliation education, experiences, speakers, and learning opportunities,
- learn more about the gender and sexual diverse community by leaning into your designation as a Reconciling in Christ congregation through workshops, speakers, and resources
- learning and experiencing different types of prayer and spiritual practices (eg. praying with scripture, centering prayer, Ignatian prayer, praying with the five senses, prayer walking, etc)

As a side note, Church Council initiated a proactive conversation with me regarding my term as interim pastor. I indicated to church council that once BOL is ready to engage in the call process, I would like to be considered as a candidate for call.

There is much evidence that the Holy Spirit is on the move at Bread of Life and we have so much to be thankful for as we experience new life and renewed engagement!

With a heart full of abundant blessings,  
Interim Pastor Lynn

## Vice Pastor Report

January 2025 to July 2025

Grace and Peace to Bread of Life faith community.

It has been a pleasure and a gift to serve as your Vice Pastors for these past seven months. Our total time was nine months. I must say that the timeline was like dough, it just kept on rising. Our hope was that it would be a good loaf, but that was for you to decide.

Larry and I continued to meet every Monday at Brewed Awakening for about an hour and a half. This was always a good time for us; it gave us the opportunity to look over the week, and then make plans as we moved forward. I think Larry and I became a good team, I saw the big picture and Larry always saw the details. I was very thankful for Larry's ability to notice them because it gave us the plan we needed to pursue.

Our primary role was to plan worship for each Sunday and to slot clergy people to preach and preside. We continued to make pastoral care visits to the members and to also do a check-in with those whom we had not seen in a while. Our hope was always to help them reconnect. We continued to support the Council as they took on the leadership of providing direction for the parish. One of the issues was that we felt it was important to be very transparent, so the congregation had a sense of what was happening.

We also began to encourage the Council to vision what they saw as some of the important strengths that would be needed in the next pastor who would lead us through some uncharted territory.

One of the areas that began to consume a lot of time and conversation was our relationship with ADPA as they were pursuing setting up a daycare in our church. Over time, it became obvious to us that the decisions that were needed became issues partly because responses on our part and theirs were not responded to as quickly as was required by the other party. As a result, it did not go forward, but it did inform us that we do need to think outside the box and be open to new possibilities.

We were very blessed to have Pastor Lynn Robertson become our Interim Pastor and we have appreciated her leadership in these past months.

I believe both Larry and I have enjoyed our journey as your Vice Pastors, but we are also thankful that we can come to church and just sit down and not wonder if there was another item we would be given the opportunity to take on.

IT WAS A JOY AND A BLESSING TO SERVE!

Submitted by Pastor Jerry Borkowsky & Pastor Larry Fry

## Bread of Life Council

We have had a busy year on council. Thanks to Carrie Allen, who took on the interim chair role from December 2024 until April 2025. As of April 2025, council members are:

Co-Chairs: Wendy Milne, Dave Sauchyn

Co-Vice Chairs: Kelly Vall, Dean McPherson

Treasurer: Dave Bartolf

Members: Carrie Allen, Betty Lou Earl, Doug Schneider, Larry Schwentke, Barb Musleh

Bread of Life had a very challenging year with Pastor Stewart's retirement in February, our bookkeeper Paulette Lashinski's resignation that same month, an Office Admin vacancy during May and June, as well as the ADPA/daycare and Anglican equity discussions. Thank you to Heather Lutes, who stepped in as bookkeeper; those who helped during the office vacancy; and Brent Rostad and Kelly Vall for taking the lead on the ADPA/daycare and Anglican discussions.

Thank you to the entire pastoral team (Pastors Jerry, Larry, David, Paula, and Boyd) for stepping in until we were able to hire an Interim Pastor. And extra special thanks to Pastors Larry and Jerry for organizing the debt retirement stewardship campaign, worship services, pastoral care, and guidance.

Thanks to Pastor Stewart for his years of service to Bread of Life. We hope his retirement is a blessing to him.

We welcomed our Interim Pastor, Pastor Lynn Robertson, who joined us in August. We are so thankful to have you with us!

A special thanks to our staff, Becca Anderson for all her help and office expertise, Joshua Hendricksen for his musical leadership, Brayden Barrett for his technical skills, and John Ashley for all his hard work as custodian of our building. Thanks also to the LSC Property and Maintenance Committee for all their hard work keeping the building in proper order.

We appreciate the many members of our congregation who volunteer quietly behind the scenes and who, just by being present, make Bread of Life such a warm and welcoming place to be.

As of January 2026, in order to maintain our Reconciling Works (Reconciling in Christ) partner commitments we needed to:

1. Clearly state in our Welcome Statement a welcome to people of "*all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions*" or "**LGBTQIA+**" and name our commitment to "**racial equity**" or "*anti-racism*".
2. *Be open to calling* LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC (Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color) Rostered Leaders.

3. Allow sanctuary/community space to be used for *LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings*.
4. Make an annual meaningful contribution to support the national RIC Program.

As a result, we will bring forward a motion at the AGM to update our Welcome Statement and add a budget line for a yearly contribution to the National Reconciling Works program.

Please prayerfully consider how you would like to see our church thrive in the future. We welcome everyone to provide input and be involved to help plan for our future.

Church Council would welcome anyone interested in joining us, please! We always need new voices and ideas, especially during this time of visioning and change for Bread of Life.

Submitted by Co-Chairs,  
Wendy Milne and Dave Sauchyn

## Treasurer

In 2025, I served for the second year in the role of Treasurer on Bread of Life Council. I thank our bookkeeper, Heather Lutes, for her ongoing work. She started bookkeeping in May. Since the summer, she has provided Council with accurate and timely financial information each month.

I thank our Office Administrator, Rebecca Anderson for her work every week, taking care of invoices and payments and working with Heather to ensure accurate tracking and retention of the tsunami of invoices, statements, payments, and deposits.

I thank Gwen Fex for her work, reviewing my CRA calculations and guiding and educating me in how to properly calculate CRA remittances.

I thank Pastor Lynn for her timely submission of paperwork and, more importantly, her encouragement to me and the rest of Council.

Finally, I thank you, our church member families, for your financial support. Your generosity allowed Bread of Life to start 2025 with a clean slate, responding heartily to Pastor Jerry's and Pastor Larry's stewardship campaign in late 2024 to pay the back dues to LSC for 2023 and 2024. These dues are for the shared expenses for our building. And, your ongoing generosity ensure BOL could pay the 2025 LSC dues and our other expenses.

- Collections through the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program accounted for 44% of our income and was the most stable source of income for the congregation, being close to the same amount each month, including summer months. The 2025 PAR, being at approximately. \$96,610, is down approximately \$1,660 from 2024 (approximately \$98,270).

- Envelope collections (eTransfers and Services Deposits) increased from approximately \$85,900 in 2024 to approximately \$115,810 this year and now accounts for 53% of revenue.
- Canada Helps (the “Donate Now” button on our website) collections decreased slightly from approximately \$5,880 in 2024 to \$5,320 in 2025 and accounts for 2% of revenue.

In total, 2025 total revenue (aside from approx. \$3,500 of designated giving of the stewardship campaign) increased 14%, from approximately \$190,510 in 2024 to approximately \$216,580 in 2025.

NOTE: To give proper context, please note that this 2025 and 2024 total revenue figures here excludes the donations to the stewardship campaign led by Pastor Jerry and Pastor Larry. At the same time, total 2025 expenses decreased by 17%, from approximately \$189,810 in 2024 to approximately \$158,770 (excluding the payment of the 2023 and 2024 LSC dues of approximately \$31,520).

Submitted by David Bartolf, Treasurer

## Music

In March-April, the Bread of Life Choir met for five rehearsals and sang during the Palm Sunday (April 13) and Easter Sunday (April 20) services. At the Easter Sunday 9:30 service, trumpet player, Stephen Folnovic, and flautist, Pecey Olafson, played for the service.

In November and December, the Bread of Life Choir met on Saturday mornings having five rehearsals. They sang during the Advent Sunday morning services of December 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. They also sang Christmas Eve at the 5:00 pm service.

Many thanks are extended to Joshua Hendricksen, our accompanist, who has been a faithful servant in accompanying the choir and is playing for every church service. We truly appreciate his time and gifts.

Gail Fry continued to direct the choir in 2025. A new choral director was approached to direct the choir for the 2025 Advent rehearsals but was unable to commit. At this time, we are not planning to have regular weekly choir rehearsals but plan to gather to sing for special occasions in 2026.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Fry

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild team is dedicated to *ensuring our worship space is thoughtfully prepared for every service*. Our main duties include setting up for and cleaning up after communion, changing paraments according to the liturgical seasons, taking care of altar and sanctuary linens, and preparing the font for baptisms. Members include Chris Arnstead, Paula Carlson, Alicia McEwan, Phil and Andria Moller, and myself, Teresa Vall.

Our communion bread bakers are Betty Lou Earl, Carla Berry, and Pat Bauer. Most recently, we have been pleased to welcome Barb Musleh to the team.

Brent Rostad has taken on making our sacramental wine.

If you are someone who takes grape juice during communion, you may have noticed that it tastes a little different. That is because it is actually apple grape juice. Pure white grape juice has not been available in stores for some time.

Our team would like to thank Pastor Jerry and Pastor Larry, and now, Pastor Lynn, for their timely communication regarding special services, personal preferences, or additional needs. This greatly helps to ensure things run seamlessly from week to week and makes our jobs easier!

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Vall

## Confirmation Ministry

We currently have 9 youth participating in the confirmation program between the ages of 11 and 16. Seven of the youth have a connection with Bread of Life and two of the youth are members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Edenwold. Pastor Wanda Walter is the current Vice Pastor at St. Paul's and asked if these youth could participate in our confirmation ministry, and I was more than happy to welcome them!

I have intentionally curated a confirmation program that incorporates education, discipleship (service/volunteering), and prayer (spiritual practices). We gather every other Thursday evening. Our focus this year is learning Bible basics and next year we will focus on the small catechism. Discipleship (service/volunteering) opportunities include volunteering at Indigenous Christian Fellowship and make sandwiches for the BOL sandwich ministry that supports Trinity Lutheran Pantry. I am also teaching the confirmation youth about different methods and forms of prayer in order to engage and nurture their spiritual lives.

The congregation was invited to join the confirmation families in watching the movie the "Nativity Story" in December. The congregation will also be invited to join us on March 5 when we will watch "The Son of God." As you may have guessed, this movie is about the story of

Jesus, from his birth to the resurrection. It's important that the youth have some visual context with which to hear the basic biblical writings.

Thank you to Larry Schwentke who created the photo collage of the confirmation students that is posted in the narthex. Hopefully this will help the congregation get to know the youth and take an interest in their lives. Building relationships with our youth and young families is very important!

Submitted by Interim Pastor, Pr. Lynn Robertson

## **Cab Ministry**

A congregational need had been identified that some members of Bread of Life were unable to drive and therefore found it challenging to get to church, so I was asked to begin a cab ministry at Bread of Life. I approached Capital Cabs because two other Lutheran churches utilized them for their cab ministries. After securing estimates for the people who expressed interest in taking the cab and bringing this information to a Church Council meeting in October, Church Council approved covering the cost of this ministry. The cab ministry officially began serving congregational members on Sunday October 19!

Three people initially expressed interest in the cab ministry, with two people regularly making use of it. People who utilize the cab ministry are invited (but not obligated) to contribute to this cost through their offerings. I am grateful to Barb Musleh who has been doing a marvelous job of contacting the people who need rides and coordinating the cab rides on Sunday mornings.

Many thanks also to Pastor Larry and Pastor Jerry who coordinate rides home for these people and to Pastor Larry in his ongoing recruitment of drivers.

In Christ,  
Pastor Lynn Robertson, Barb Musleh, Pastor Larry Fry

## **Reconciling in Christ**

Bread of Life celebrated an inspiring and meaningful Reconciling in Christ Sunday on June 8 under the leadership of Pastor Larry, assisted by Joanne McLeod.

This past fall Reconciling Works, the organization through which BOL received our "Reconciling in Christ" congregational designation, requested that we update our partner commitments with them prior to January 2026. This included a request to include a specific commitment to "anti-racism" or "racial equity" into our Welcome Statement. Wendy Milne (Church Council Co-Chair) and I used this as an opportunity to update the BOL Welcome Statement.

At the October council meeting the proposed revision of the BOL Welcome Statement was

approved by church council and it was introduced to the congregation on November 4:

*You are welcome here. Recognizing that each person is a unique child of God, created in the image of God, we celebrate diversity through all the variations of age, ability, culture, racial identity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, relationship status, family configuration, beliefs, personality, economic circumstances, your brokenness or fears. You will be honoured here.*

*As followers of Jesus, responding to God's call to Bread of Life Lutheran Church, we commit to anti-racism, social and economic justice, environmental care, and service in our community.*

This revised Welcome Statement was created through combining elements of the previous Welcome Statement, elements of the Living Spirit Centre Welcome Statement, and other sample Welcome Statements found on the Reconciling Works website.

We invited feedback from the congregation and were asked to keep the sentence: *For Christ has made us whole and Christ has set us free. Christ's daily grace enables us to live in harmony.*

Our partner commitment to Reconciling Works was updated in December. A donation was also made to Reconciling Works and a budget line was created to remind us that annually supporting Reconciling Works through a financial donation is part of our partner commitment as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Anticipating my arrival as Interim Pastor, I participated in a 6 hour "Building an Inclusive Church" workshop through Reconciling Works so that I would have a foundation regarding what BOL experienced to become designated as a Reconciling in Christ congregation. It is worthwhile noting "Step 11: We're Welcoming, Now What?" This step is a reminder that the holy work of welcome is a lifelong journey for us as individuals and as a congregation. We are invited to continue educating ourselves regarding the gender and sexual diverse community.

It is very meaningful to me to serve a Reconciling in Christ congregation and some of our newest members have joined this congregation for that reason, as well. My 20-year-old, Robin, came out as trans when they were 12 years old. Robin is non-binary and uses they/them pronouns (a male or female identity do not "fit" Robin's understanding of themselves so he/him or she/her pronouns also don't fit for them). Since Robin came out, I have been intentional regarding educating myself by reading books, taking courses, attending lectures, listening to the personal stories of gender and sexual diverse people, and engaging in and supporting gender and sexual diverse organizations in Regina. My 22-year-old daughter, Emily, was assigned male at birth and came out as a trans woman when she was 19 years old. Lee and I were much better equipped to support Emily because we were so much more knowledgeable.

Many years ago, I also took Reconciling Works "Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression" (SOGIE) training, which I would recommend to individuals and to congregational

members. There are many other resources available (books, movies, workshops) that I can recommend for further education, engagement, and advocacy in this area when BOL is interested in more deeply embracing your commitment as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

It is also worth noting that BOL is the only Reconciling in Christ church in Regina, and 1 of 3 in Saskatchewan (the others are Augustana and King of Glory in Saskatoon). This is an exceptional witness of radical welcome and inclusion!

In Christ,  
Pastor Lynn Robertson

## Refugee Ministry

Bread of Life participates in refugee ministry in partnership with Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee. We participate in two different kinds of sponsorship: one where BOL along with other partner Lutheran churches raise the funds and then provide settlement assistance for select refugee applicants, and secondly, where BOL enters into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a local community group that provides all funding and settlement support (with the administrative support and oversight of CLWR).

We currently have two families in the process of active sponsorship in partnership with the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee:

1. *The Fardous Ginawi family*. Funds, furnishings, and a local settlement committee, including several from BOL, are in place to welcome this blended family of 12 South Sudanese. The family is through all interviews; we are now past the usual time of processing applications. We expect to hear that flights have been booked for the family for travel to Canada within the coming months or weeks.
2. *The Chehade Al Talha family*. This application may be withdrawn. With the downfall of the Assad regime in Syria, many have felt safe to return or forced to return to their home country. The Committee is in the process of choosing a replacement family from our extensive list of requests. All funds donated so far for the Al Talha application will be applied to the replacement family, including those donations received during our recent October appeal (see the report from Meredith Cherland, Chair for Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee).

In the second type of sponsorship Bread of Life provides assistance in linking Canadian Lutheran World Relief with local families and community groups seeking sponsorship for family members. Bread of Life takes on no financial or settlement assistance in these types of sponsorships. We currently are involved in two such sponsorships:

1. *The Al Shatter family*. This sponsorship has been on-going for several years, with many delays and setbacks. Unfortunately, we have made little progress on this application in this past year. This is very frustrating and worrisome for the family.

2. *Mohammad Alkadri*. Mohammad's sister Muna has been our local contact. The application has been submitted and accepted by IRCC.

Yonatan Michael, who we have partnered with successfully in the past, has moved out-of-province. Thus we are left with only two MOU files at the moment.

Thank you to all who have contributed financially to this ministry, and thank you as well to our BOL members who have volunteered to help settle these new Canadians.

Submitted by Pastor Larry Fry

## **Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee**

*Bread of Life Lutheran Church, Christ Lutheran Church, New Hope Lutheran Church, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (Lumsden)*

Jesus said to us, "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; **I was a stranger and you welcomed me...** Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

**(Matthew 25: 35 and 40)**

During 2025 the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee (our group of six churches agreeing to share their financial resources and volunteers to sponsor refugees) has continued to submit sponsorship applications, and continued to welcome refugees arriving in Regina. We have worked in two areas.

### **Area #1: MOU sponsorships**

15 people arrived in Regina in 2025 through our MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) arrangements with CLWR, where family members provide the money for the sponsorship and churches provide oversight for the resettlement.

- Lina, a Syrian woman with five children who had been sheltering in Cairo, arrived on September 10. The Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee will provide oversight for their first year in Canada.
- Mhreteab, an Eritrean man, with his wife and four children, arrived from Israel on September 12. St. Mark's Lutheran Church will provide oversight.
- Kobrom and Hintsu, two Eritrean friends who have been sheltering in Israel, arrived on July 12. New Hope Lutheran Church will provide oversight.
- Bahabolom, another Eritrean man, arrived on November 13. Our Savior's Lutheran Church will provide oversight.

Refugee sponsorships last 12 months. During 2025 Eritreans Yohannes Anday and

Kibrom Woldesilase completed their MOU sponsorships with help from our churches.

Even though the IRCC did decrease the number of refugee arrivals in Canada by 31% in 2025, we have continued to submit MOU sponsorship applications to the Government of Canada (IRCC) through CLWR, with help from Bread of Life, Our Savior's, Shepherd of the Valley, and St. Mark's. We have joined the Canadian Council for Refugees in objecting to the decrease in Canada's humanitarian commitments. We can expect more refugee arrivals in the future, though not as many.

## **Area #2: Shared sponsorships**

The Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee continues to keep a list of newcomer families *without* money, people who wish to sponsor relatives with our financial and settlement help. We make an effort to choose another family to sponsor each year, although these families must wait several years for the IRCC to process their applications.

We have been waiting more than 3 years for Fardous Ginawi, a Sudanese woman with her husband, her five children, and five nieces and nephews. All their requirements for admission to Canada have been met, except for the last one (security clearance for each of these 12 people). When they all have their security clearances, the IOM (International Office of Migration) will book their plane tickets to Regina, and we will then know the date of their arrival. Our Fardous Committee is ready to go. We are ready to set up a comfortable home for them with donations of furniture and household goods from all our churches. We have the money we need for their first year in Canada. We expect them any time now.

We have also been raising money for our next sponsorship. With a matching grant from an anonymous (and generous) donor, our churches raised another \$20,000 in October 2025. We now have slightly more than \$57,000 for the family after Fardous.

But we have some uncertainty about who that family will be. We expected it would be Chehade Al Talha's family of nine. They are Syrians, and have been sheltering in Lebanon. But in 2025 they were forced to leave Lebanon by the Lebanese military, and return to Syria. They have now been in Syria for several months. CLWR has told us the IRCC visa office is not likely to approve them for admission to Canada. The war in Syria ended in 2024, and Syrians who have returned to their home country no longer meet the United Nations definition of "refugee", someone whose life would be in danger if he or she were to go home. CLWR has let the IRCC know that Chehade Al Talha and his family are living in Syria again. CLWR has advised us to wait a while before giving up hope. If we cannot sponsor the Al Talha family, we will use the \$57,000 we have raised to sponsor another family, already chosen by a selection committee in October 2024.

## **In closing:**

Special thanks to all our diligent volunteers who collect, store and distribute donations of

furniture; keep track of our finances; and help make decisions for our group.

If you would like to donate in 2026, please send your cheques to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, (3015 Queen Street, Regina S4S 2G2), or make an e-transfer to [stmarksdonations@myaccess.ca](mailto:stmarksdonations@myaccess.ca). All donations should be marked "for refugee support." St. Mark's will send you your tax receipt.

We ask that you please continue to pray for us, and for all the world's refugees. Thank you for your generous support, and may God bless you!

From Meredith Cherland, for the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee

### **Sandwich Making Ministry**

Using supplies picked up from Indigenous Christian Fellowship (ICF), Bread of Life volunteers make 120 sandwiches for TLC Pantry in the Heritage neighbourhood every Tuesday. Chris and Derwin Arnstead coordinate the program with assistance from Larry Fry, Lorna Knudson & Ray McVicar.

The freezer in the Lower Level kitchen is used for storing supplies which are then delivered to volunteers who take a turn every couple of months making 120 sandwiches at home. Sometimes sandwiches are made by volunteers who stay after church. The sandwiches are delivered to Trinity Lutheran Church on Tuesday morning by the volunteers or coordinators.

Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers Marlys & David Kaiser, Carol & Michael Rogers, Pat Bauer & Bev Campbell, Betty Lou Earl & sisters & Hab Love, Gwen Fex, Terry & Brent Rostad, Lorna Knudson & Ray McVicar, and Larry Fry. Joining us after a recent call for help are Doug Schneider and Carlee Dreger. The Confirmation class families will take a few turns also.

Submitted by Chris and Derwin Arnstead  
Sandwich Ministry Coordinators

### **Digital Strategy**

2025 engagement of our digital platforms remained steady. Facebook has continued to make updates to their platform with the hosting of video files long term. They have made the business decision to delete video files 30 days after posting.

With this change we have expanded our Bread of Life YouTube page as a location to host the video content. At the time of this report, we have 102 videos hosted.

Another addition to our regular services we host on Facebook we are starting to post the gospel reading and the sermon by the presiding pastor. The first one was posted April 27. The

engagement has been strong from our Facebook community. These posts usually are live the Wednesday morning after. These are generally shorter videos for followers to engage with and views have been strong.

Views at the time of writing are as follows –

- Average engagement on live services – 10
- Total followers joining live – 370
- Total views one week after a service – 9898
- YouTube views 858 views – Sermon and Gospel specific – 430 views

We continue to have regular engagement in the services that we have broadcasted this past year. Typically, we have 10 people watching the services live. The platform continues to provide an opportunity for members of the congregation to maintain a connection even if they are not comfortable to join the service in the sanctuary.

The website and the Facebook page have become extensions of the in-person experience for the congregation.

With the exception of four worship service this past year in 2025 all of services all others were broadcast in full.

There were no changes to the website platform since the upgrade in 2021.

You will continue to find the following information on the website:

#### **Resources Section**

- Order of Service and Hymns
  - Weekly updates are posted and cross posted to BOL Facebook Page that have the completed order of service and hymns for people to follow along with the service.
- Newsletter
  - The newsletter is back to be being posted to the website.

#### **Go Live Section**

- Worship Services
  - Immediately after the Facebook live stream started the link is uploaded to the website for viewing. This allows non-Facebook users to stay connected with the services.
  - The stream is the full service for the congregation to stay connected

#### **News Section**

- Synod Updates
  - Through the year the Synod hosted update calls with rostered and lay leaders with the focus on in person worship recommendations.

- These updates as well as links back to the Sask. Synod page were shared on the website, weekly newsletter and cross posted to Facebook.
- LSC Updates
  - When the decision was made by the LSC council to close the building for the general public this update was shared on the website, weekly newsletter and cross posted to Facebook
- In-Person Updates
  - The website was leveraged at a central location directing traffic to the In-Person registration.
- Council Updates
  - The website was leveraged to share updates from council about the In-Person worship discussions. These were shared also in the weekly newsletter.

### **Reports**

- AGM Reports
  - These are posted for previous years and will be the location the 2021 – 2024 reports will be housed.
  - The 2025 report will be saved on the website as a PDF and linked in the weekly newsletter.

### **New to Bread of Life**

- Our Team
  - The full council is now on the website with brief biographies. This will be updated after the new council members and Pastor have been called.
- Giving Button
  - The PAR form was updated to make it easier for people to complete their digital financial contribution to BOL.

Thank you for your engagement.

Submitted by Brent Langenberger

### **Mutual Ministry (Pr. Lynn Robertson, Interim Pastor)**

A “Mutual Minister” is someone assigned with supporting one of our congregational staff whose service and work we depend on. I have been pleased to serve in this capacity for Pastor Lynn in the final months of 2025. The Mutual Minister’s tasks usually include: general support – a confidential sounding board for issues and problems, and serving as a liaison and/or advocate for the staff member in relation to BOL and Living Spirit boards. The goal is to help engender a work environment where our staff can function well and flourish.

I have identified with Pastor Lynn two issues that we should pay attention to in 2026:

1. Pastor Lynn is employed for 75%. This is a significant reduction from our historic full-time pastor. This arrangement matches Pastor Lynn's current preference and our congregation's financial resources. However, we will want to ask if this arrangement meets our congregation's pastoral needs, and, make sure to safeguard Pastor Lynn's time. It would be easy for Pastor Lynn to fall into expectations where she is unfairly contributing significant pastoral work voluntarily, well over and above 75%.
2. We have employed Pastor Lynn as "Interim Pastor" with an open-ended timeline. Now that she has been with us for some months it would seem appropriate to develop a more intentional timeline. When should the "Interim" period end? One year, two years? When should we begin to discuss a longer-term pastoral call process?

Submitted by Pastor Larry Fry

### **Mutual Ministry (Rebecca Anderson, Office Administrator)**

In late March 2025, I was asked by Vice Pastor Jerry Borkowsky if I would consider becoming Rebecca (Becca) Anderson's Mutual Ministry support person. I happily took on this request and have immensely enjoyed getting to know Becca better and witness her expertise at managing the three main facets of LSC, namely Bread of Life Lutheran Church (BOL), Eastside United Church, and the Living Spirit Centre (LSC). At this time, it became obvious that Becca was struggling with workload and expectations. She consequently submitted her resignation due to work difficulties. I met with Becca just before her formal resignation and learned a bit more about her work load, some of her challenges, and frustrations. I ascertained quickly her passion for her church, her administrative work, her tech skills, her insight, and creative abilities. I believe she is very passionate about LSC and our communities futures. I believe she struggled to even submit her resignation (dated March 27th).

Her leave illustrated how important and pivotal the Office/Administration role is. I witnessed this due to my presence at LSC nearly every Tuesday morning. Becca did accept the rehire offer on June 12 with a six-month probation review stipulation, which was completed December 11, 2025. The conclusion of the probation review recommended that her employment continue.

In accordance to the ELCIC Mutual Ministry Guide, Becca, Pastor Lynn and I met formally in October. I also met formally with Becca in early December. We plan to meet formally every two months as outlined in the guide. I also continue to casually touch base with Becca nearly every Tuesday morning. Going forward, I will also be forwarding a formal report to Bread of Life Church Council on a regular basis (every two to three months), or more often if Admin Office issues arise. This is also outlined in the ELCIC Mutual Ministry Guide.

In conclusion, I believe this process has been very enlightening for all involved. I believe Becca is now feeling much more confident and supported in her role. As a result of the review process, some office tasks were off loaded to Council members (e.g. BOL Councillors have taken on the weekly offering counting and making those deposits). Becca has also been encouraged to delegate tasks and ask for help especially during heavier work seasons. For example, tax receipt

season and AGM time of the year. It has also become evident that a casual admin person needs to be trained for when office coverage needs arise, such as when Becca is away for vacation time or continuing education. I am very positively impressed with Becca's enthusiasm and her management of all administration aspects of the LSC.

In Christ's service,  
Submitted by Kathleen (Kathy) Schwentke

### **Living Spirit Centre Council**

Most of the last year the LSC Council has been busy working on relationships with other organizations that share the building with us. Some renters just make arrangements for a weekend event. Others have joined us as regular renters. We now have six groups that worship here on Sundays:

9:30 am – Bread of Life (West Sanctuary)  
10:00 am - Mary of Magdala Inclusive Catholic Community (East Sanctuary, once a month)  
11:15 am – Eastside United (West Sanctuary)  
1:00 pm - Holy Reign (West Sanctuary) including Indigenous folks  
2:00 pm - Jesus Messiah Christian Ministry (East Sanctuary) who are mostly Filipino  
4:00 pm - Ochapowace Praise & Worship Group (West Sanctuary), they are a brand-new group

There are ongoing discussions with the Anglican group that St. Phillips merged into. We have invited them to come back to our building but it is unlikely. There are ongoing discussions with the Anglican Diocese regarding the Anglican equity St. Philip's contributed before their departure.

Major discussions were held involving ADPA (African Descent Professional Associates). The bottom line is that we will probably not be making ADPA a partner at the LSC, and they won't be setting up a daycare here.

I think everyone understood that a covenant with ADPA was a very good chance to have help meeting our financial challenges and work with a group that shares our values and promotes Human Rights. The challenge was their big project to set up a daycare here. Many changes to the building would have been required. We needed more information for due diligence on the viability of the centre. ADPA had to work quickly to gain government funding. We were slow in realizing that the equity questions needed to be reviewed and approved by the boards of the two churches. The Boards did approve two motions on Aug 28. Unfortunately, this was too late for ADPA.

They have given us notice that they will no longer be considering Living Spirit Center as a location for their daycare. They chose another location. They will still be renting offices here on a month by month basis, at least until they have another location ready. We may continue to do joint events like the Anti-Racism series of workshops that we co-sponsored in November.

We felt you all need to know about this so we can all start looking for other potential organizations that could join and covenant with us. We did our best to make this one work, but sadly it did not work out.

Other work of the LSCC this year involved creating a job description for the office work we require, creating a safety policy and a Scent-Free policy, and approving right of way through our lot for equipment that needs to get into the park. We approved a new bulletin board or two in the narthex that will share some of the schedule so everyone can see the many groups that use our facility.

Submitted by Donna Lindskog, Co-Chair of the Living Spirit Centre Council

## **Living Spirit Centre - Property & Maintenance**

Members of the P&M Committee in 2025:

Brian Abrahamson – Eastside United  
Jason Bailey – Eastside United  
Doug Scheurwater – Eastside United  
Brent Rostad – Bread of Life  
Kelly Vall – Bread of Life  
Terry Mann – Bread of Life  
Ray McVicar – Bread of Life  
John Ashley – LSC Custodian

Our dear friend and colleague Terry Mann passed away on July 7/25. We miss his help and offer his family our deepest sympathies.

Thank you to all who provide their time and talents to keep our LSC operating

- Snow Management
  - Sadly, our long-time snow management operator, Rick Euteneier, passed away on November 14/24. LSC professional snow management in 2025 was handled by: Ed's Backhoe – January 11/25, Serbu & Sons – February 7/25, Independent Construction Management – December 12/25 and December 19/25
  - Thank you to the many people who shoveled snow and spread salt and sand
- Roger's Tower Project Access
  - P&M contacted Fraser Shand representing Rogers April 11/25. Received their draft access agreement May 5/25 (\$5k + \$500/year). P&M compiled comments including LSC Council's comments and forwarded to Fraser May 12/25. Have not heard from Rogers again
- UCAS Daycare Project
  - P&M helped Jackie Akareut of UCAS measure the rooms in the basement

- Brian provided the LSC building plans to UCAS for reference, compiled a list of potential Engineering/Architect firms for UCAS, and wrote a list of considerations for LSC Council to consider if the daycare proceeds
- P&M and Pastor Larry and Russell Mitchell-Walker met with UCAS and government employees to tour the building and P&M attended weekly daycare planning meetings throughout the summer
- Elevator
  - P&M and Becca worked with Access 2000 and TSASK regarding the 2025 elevator deficiency and repaired the light in the elevator. Becca applied for and posted annual elevator licenses for 2025 and 2026
  - Brian updated and posted the instructions for manually lowering the elevator
  - John put ceiling panels in the elevator in place after renters knocked them down and re-attached handle on downstairs elevator door
- Fire Alarm, Extinguishers, Smoke Detectors, Emergency Lights
  - Capital Fire Protection carried out the annual fire protection equipment and systems check. The alarm buzzer in upstairs kitchen was repaired. Three extinguishers were updated
  - LS Security completed their annual fire alarm monitoring system check
- Dehumidifier in Basement
  - P&M worked on existing dehumidifier after finding it was not working properly
  - Ray purchased a new dehumidifier and installed it in crawl space
  - John took apart the old dehumidifier and got it working
- Furnaces
  - Professional Plumbing & Heating advised that the furnaces #1 stages 1 or 2 for the West Sanctuary are not A/C or heat pump compatible
  - Professional Plumbing & Heating replaced the fan motor in furnace #1 stage 1 for the West Sanctuary and repaired the plugged condensation tubes in furnace #5 Main Hall Basement
  - John routinely replaced furnace filters as required
- Washrooms
  - John replaced winding mechanism in the paper towel dispenser, repaired the toilet fill valve in the women's washroom downstairs, adjusted vanity doors in women's washroom upstairs, secured the hand rail and reattached the toilet paper dispenser in the women's washroom upstairs, and aligned door latch in downstairs washroom stall
- Navien Water Heater
  - Professional Plumbing & Heating repaired the Navien by clearing two codes and cleaning the filter. They advised that our current internal power supply system could not support an electric water heater
- Dishwasher
  - P&M checked the downstairs dishwasher and cleaned nozzles. Brent repaired the dishwasher drain and replaced detergent, rinse agent and sterilizer tubing and products. Brent replaced a downstairs kitchen faucet wand

- Brian assisted Teresa Vall to update the dishwasher operation instructions
- Solar Panels
  - The United Church Faithful Footprints funding program is now oversubscribed. The Climate Justice Committee will need to develop a more in-depth plan to apply for a different program. Brian is keeping track of our current power and gas consumption on a monthly basis
- Yard Maintenance
  - Ray trimmed trees and collected downed branches, and completed annual lawn mower maintenance as well as spread fertilizer near the Admin door and the big sign and applied weed bar on dandelions. Ray and Mark took branches and old chairs to dump and three old chairs to Value Village
  - John applied a transition bevel between the sidewalk and concrete slab at Admin door
  - Terry asked his neighbour Gord McIntyre to build a replacement handle for the lawn mower and Ray installed the new handle
  - Pastors Jerry and Larry requested volunteers to cut grass and donate a second lawn mower. Lee Gebhardt donated her lawn mower to LSC. Thank you, Lee
  - Pastor Larry, Pastor Jerry, Kathy Schwenkie, Larry Schwenkie, Ray Latoski, Mark McVicar and Ray volunteered to do lawn maintenance in 2025
  - The grass was cut on 21 separate days and the four spruce trees along Doan Drive were watered ten times
- Building Maintenance
  - Brian continued to do the required AED inspections
  - Major soup stains were found on the East Sanctuary carpet following the rental group in the afternoon of April 26/25. Ray and Lorna rented a steam cleaner from Safeway and attempted to clean the soup stains on the East Sanctuary carpet. Later, they rented a steam cleaner for the Pastor Lynn's office and to try again to remove the soup stains on the East Sanctuary carpet. JMCM offered to steam clean and pay for cleaning the stains on the East Sanctuary carpet and did a very good job. P&M received a preliminary quote on costs of replacing flooring in East Sanctuary with vinyl planking from Flooring Superstore
  - John installed additional weather stripping to Narthex doors, repaired wooden furniture (chairs, stool, and tables), repaired the truck cart, as well as checked all the keys in the key cabinet and found the shed key matches the inside office and kitchen doors in the old building
  - Ray banked around the emergency door to prevent ground water flowing in
  - John reattached cork to the bulletin board in the large boardroom, applied ant traps throughout the building, repaired the wheels and wiring in the central vacuum power head, as well as patched nail holes in the drywall in Pastor Lynn's office, hallways, Narthex and Admin office
  - Wendy & Rob Milne, Brent, Brian and Ray painted Pastor Lynn's office, the Narthex wall patch and sawhorses. Brent, Brian and Rob Milne de-cluttered the Narthex

- John changed fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, reattached countertop in downstairs kitchen after rental, hung paintings, pictures, file holders, and plaques in the office and hallway
- John applied plastic wood where needed on exterior window frames and Ray painted exterior wooden window sills. John adjusted Admin door that was binding on concrete plate, and scraped the exterior of the Admin door. Ray sanded the exterior of the Admin door and painted it. Doug installed a doorbell at the Admin door
- Star Electric advised the costs of replacing the spotlight bulbs (up to \$2,000 for outside spotlights on the roof cross and up to \$800 for the West Sanctuary spotlights)

Submitted by Ray McVicar

### **Living Spirit Center – Visual Arts**

Chair: Holley Schuman

No other current members

Occasional helpers: Ruth Gentile and Donna Lindskog

The Advent display focused on the anatomy of the Christmas Wreath while the Christmas display utilized the elements of a nativity scene that been donated to Living Spirit Center. The display worked well and it was nice to see something different.

Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost followed previous patterns with few changes.

Over the summer I took sabbatical but returned at Thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving display was arranged at the front of the altar and on a table at the narthex.

Since I had some help with our work up until Ordinary Time, I would like to thank Donna Lindskog from Eastside and Becca Anderson for their help.

I now have some more help and thank Carrie Allen and Donna Lindskog for helping when they are able.

Respectfully submitted,  
Holley Schuman

## Statistical Report 2025

### Baptism: 2 Children

April 20                Sidney August Bonneville  
October 19            Ellie Lucy Graff

**Weddings Conducted by Pastor Jerry Borkowsky: 1**

**Weddings Conducted by Pastor Stewart Miller: 1**

**Weddings Conducted by Pastor Lynn Robertson: 1**

**Confirmation: 0**

### Funerals: 3 Members

Marjorie Moore – May 31, 2025  
Richard Bridgewater – July 17, 2025  
Keith Molder – August 21, 2025  
Elizabeth Pederson – August 23, 2025  
Carl Wagner – September 9, 2025  
*Internment of Paul Gebhardt – June 29, 2025*  
*Internment of Harold & Rose Lorenz – June 20, 2025*

Year	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals	Confirmations
2025	2	3	5 (3 mbrs)	0
2024	5	0	1	0
2023	6	2	2	0
2022	3	2	6 (4 mbrs)	0
2021	10	1	5	4

### Church Council Executive:

Co-Chairs: Wendy Milne & David Sauchyn  
Co-Vice Chairs: Kelly Vall & Dean McPherson  
Treasurer: David Bartolf

### Number of Families Involved in the Congregation:

Families with envelopes:        2025 – 130 & 40 Families on PAR  
   2024 – 128 & 41 families on PAR  
   2023 – 127 & 41 families on PAR  
   2022 – 127 & 49 families on PAR  
   2021 – 123 & 52 families on PAR

**Transfers of Families:**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>IN</b>	6	0	0	0	2
<b>OUT</b>	2	4	2	0	1

**Attendance:**

Average in-person attendance:

**January – May: 43**

**June – August: 46 (almost all Worship services were shared with Eastside)**

**September – December: 51**

Online attendance: See the Digital Ministry Report.

**Other Programs at the LSC**

**Holy Yoga-** Connie Moker Wernikowski will again be offering Christ-centred yoga classes in the fall of 2025. This session of classes will begin in mid-September and run until mid-December. Christ-centred yoga includes exercise/stretching, prayer and scripture, breathing and relaxation. A Tuesday 6:30 pm in-person class and a gentle Wednesday noon in-person class will be offered at Living Spirit Centre.

A Tuesday morning class will be offered on Zoom. All classes require pre-registration for the session. More info can be found at <https://www.bigfishyoga.ca/> or email Connie at [cmwernikowski@gmail.com](mailto:cmwernikowski@gmail.com) or phone 306-551-6933. Connie Moker Wernikowski, [cmwernikowski@gmail.com](mailto:cmwernikowski@gmail.com), 306-551-6933

**Forever...in Motion** is a health promotion initiative that helps older adults become physically active through volunteer-led physical activity groups. Due to extraordinary participation last year, four classes will take place in 2025/26:

**Monday – 1:00-2:00 and 2:15-3:15**

**Thursday – 9:30-10:30 and 10:45-11:45**

Thanks to the generosity and outreach of Living Spirit Centre, there is no cost to the program. Forever...in *motion* is so grateful for their kindness and support. For more information, contact Heather Mazurak: 306-737-4681, [hmazurak@hotmail.com](mailto:hmazurak@hotmail.com)

**The Tuesday morning Seniors Program** that operates out of the Living Spirit Centre is open to all seniors. We are specifically trying to draw seniors out that have limited access to fellowship with others.

Our program at the Centre begins on Tuesday Mornings at 9:30 am with a short Morning Prayer. Which consists of Prayers, Bible reading with a reflection and the singing of older

well-known hymns. If this is something that you think you might enjoy please join us. Nothing in our program is compulsive.

At 10:00 am we begin playing Whist, which is a very easy game to learn if you aren't familiar with it, we will gladly teach you. We are a friendly group, our reason for gathering is for fellowship and fun. We have been meeting at the Living Spirit Centre since 2014 with an average attendance of 20-30 people.

We also do some other things from time to time that you might find enjoyable. We go out for Sunday Supper the last Sunday of each month. We also from time to time will pick an event such as the Globe theatre, Regina Little theatre, or some other event and go together. Much more fun to get out with others that you know.

Don't keep yourself locked up at home, when there is a place with friendly people like yourself to enjoy some simple conversation and fun while playing some cards. Who knows, you may just find a few good friends like the rest of us have.

Program Coordinator: Rod Ashley, Phone/Text: 306-535-2877, Email: [rodashley@sasktel.net](mailto:rodashley@sasktel.net)

**Pink Potluck** - The Pink Potluck is a wonderful and welcoming event where 2SLGBTQIA+ community members come together to share delicious meals and great conversations. It's a fantastic opportunity for everyone to connect, make new friends, and enjoy a sense of belonging. We encourage everyone to bring a dish to share, and the atmosphere is always warm and inclusive. Whether you're a seasoned cook or just enjoy good company, the Pink Potluck is the perfect place to be!

**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) is a non-profit weight loss support group.** We meet in the basement every Tuesday evening with weigh-in from 6:30 to 6:45 pm followed by a meeting from 7 - 8 pm. Our doors are open to anyone interested in lasting and sustainable change to their physical, mental and emotional health. The first meeting is free and potential new members are welcome to join us just to check things out. We are a friendly, fun, non-judgmental group and enjoy fun events throughout the year.

While dietary guidance is available, we encourage members to make sustainable lifestyle changes which will lead to better health. Upon joining you will receive a step by step guide on how to get started. In addition, members start receiving our bimonthly member magazine and will gain access to the TOPS website which offers recipes, daily inspiration calendars, a health library, fitness guides and more. The cost to join TOPS International is \$70 USD annually. In addition, our club collects a monthly membership fee of \$10. For more information, see the TOPS website: [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org)

**Taoist Tai Chi** - moving meditation for health and wellbeing. Introductory sessions Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am are available to start any time.

**AA & ESSAY** - Twelve step programs are meeting at the LSC on Monday evenings. Please contact the office for more information.

**Bridge Club** - This group gathers on Monday afternoons to play Bridge. Please contact the office if you are interested in more information.

**Caring Crafters** - Do you love to quilt, sew, knit or crochet? Do you wish you knew how to quilt, sew, knit or crochet? Did your mother leave you a room filled with fabric, wool, sewing machines and thread that you don't know what to do with? Are you looking for a fun, new way to help local charities and congregations? Contact Rev. Deacon Christine Burton at [christinemburton1@gmail.com](mailto:christinemburton1@gmail.com) or by phone/text at 306-540-7903. This group gathers on select Wednesday afternoons and evenings.

### **Saskatchewan Synod Report**

Please see the attached document from the Saskatchewan Synod.

### **2026 Draft Budget**

Please see the document attached to this booklet.