

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

*January 19, 2025 Annual Meeting, Part II*



## **2024 Annual Report**

No meeting January 19th.  
Postponed until February 2, 2025.

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## 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 signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

## *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.**

**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.**

**Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Ministry Budget Plan 2024  
Year End Budget vs Actual**

<b>INCOME RECEIVED</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>
A. Regular Giving	72,000	80,713
C. Funding from Mission Endowment Fund	45,000	45,000
D. Family Service Agency - Club 55	21,850	21,850
E. Additional Gifts/Income	1,150	1,280
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>148,843</b>

<b>I. PARTNERSHIP</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>
Breakdown by Classification		
Synod Mission Support	0	0
Food Pantry Employee	9,600	8,740
Food Pantry	3,400	1,926
	13,000	10,666

<b>II. PEOPLE</b>		
Breakdown by Classification		
Employee Salaries	30,500	24,131
Payroll Taxes	6,500	9,646
Registration Fees & Hotels	1,000	0
Workman's Comp	2,000	1,724
	40,000	35,501

<b>III. PLACE</b>		
Breakdown by Classification		
Insurance	14,000	13,217
Maintenance	8,000	27,257
Office, Postage & Supplies	4,500	4,092
Outdoor Expenses	6,000	7,779
Utilities	25,000	30,103
	57,500	82,448

<b>IV. PROGRAMS</b>		
Breakdown by Classification		
Advertising	500	120
Miscellaneous	500	226
Subscriptions	200	0
Tech Support	1,500	749
	2,700	1,094

<b>V. WORSHIP</b>		
Breakdown by Classification		
Miscellaneous	600	393
Music	300	125
Organist/Piano Salary	9,000	8,120

Printed Materials	2,000	1,623
Pulpit Supply Pastor	600	0
Visiting Pastors	14,300	15,000
	<u>26,800</u>	<u>25,261</u>
TOTAL	140,000	154,970

Difference Income vs Expenses	2024	-14,970
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**Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**APPROVED Ministry Budget Plan**  
**January 1 - December 31, 2025**

<b>PROJECTED FUNDING SOURCES</b>		<u>2025 Budget</u>
A.	Regular Giving	72,000
B.	Family Service Agency - Club 55	22,510
C.	Funding from Mission Endowment Fund	45,000
D.	Other Ministry Support	490
		<u>140,000</u>

<b>I.</b>	<b>PARTNERSHIP</b>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	Breakdown by Classification	
	Synod Mission Support	0
	Northern Illinois Food Bank	3,400
	Food Pantry Employee	9,600
		<u>13,000</u>

<b>II.</b>	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	Breakdown by Classification	
	Employee Salaries	30,500
	Payroll Taxes	7,500
	Registration Fee & Hotel	0
	Workman's Comp	2,000
		<u>40,000</u>

<b>III.</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	Breakdown by Classification	
	Insurance	16,800
	Maintenance	8,000
	Office, Postage & Supplies	4,500
	Outdoor Expenses	6,000
	Utilities	22,200
		<u>57,500</u>

<b>IV.</b>	<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	Breakdown by Classification	
	Advertising	0
	Miscellaneous	0
	Subscriptions	1,700
	Tech Support	1,000
		<u>2,700</u>

<b>V.</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	Breakdown by Classification	
	Miscellaneous	0

Music	350
Organist/Piano Salary	9,000
Printed Materials	2,000
Pulpit Supply Pastor	450
Visiting Pastors	15,000
	<hr/>
	26,800

**\*\*APPROVED 12/08/2024\*\***

**TOTAL**

**140,000**

**Explanation of Budget Allocations and Assumptions:**

**Income**

- A. Regular Giving allocation is based on 2024 giving patterns. This line item will need to be watched carefully during 2025 in order to cover the proposed expenses.
- B. Family Service Agency - Club 55 annual lease income totals \$22510
- C. Mission Endowment Fund funds need to balance the overall proposed budget total \$45,000 for 2025. Just for reference, for 2024 \$45,000 MEF allocation was needed to balance our projected spending plan this year and we are on track.
- D. Other Ministry Support is for miscellaneous funds received; for example, for donations for use of our building or funding for a special project.

**Expenses**

- Partnership For Food Pantry staff coordinator salary and food purchases. Synod Mission Support is no longer a budgeted item; funds at year-end are reviewed for making a possible allocation to the Northern Illinois Synod.
- People For 2025, our People spending plan does not incorporate a called pastor. With our rotation of Visiting Pastor - Worship and Pastoral Care ministry plan currently in place, Bethlehem's biggest staffing needs are for office assistance and our office manager position.
- Place Place expenses were determined by looking at 2024 costs and needs for property insurance, maintenance and utilities to mention a few. Income from Club-55 supports Place operational costs and utilities directly.
- Programs The allocations in this category are for website support, zoom, technical support and subscriptions.
- Worship This ministry spending plan category covers Sunday morning or special worship related expenses. Visiting Pastors are scheduled and paid by the week as they serve and care for Bethlehem's people.

**Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Memorial Fund Annual Report 2024**

<b>UNDESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Bierman, Dorothy	555.00
Booth, Dave	100.00
Carey, Elmie	90.00
Coffman, Nancy	245.00
Draves, Elaine	193.01
Fischer, Anna	245.00
Hampa, Arlene	325.00
Hampa, Ellen	155.06
Hargrave, Carl	115.00
Hayes, Loren	190.00
Hoffman, Linda	180.00
Huhta, Sue	200.00
Hunt, Kathleen	1857.00
Hunt, Tom	500.00
Knuuttila, Bradley	25.00
Kuusisto, Irene	1385.00
Lundblad, Mayme	305.00
Rasmussen, Gordon	515.00
Ruby, John	55.00
<b>TOTAL UNDESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$7,235.07</b>
<b>BUILDING/FACILITIES NEEDS</b>	
Bierman, Dorothy	690.00
Haka, Dorothy & Uno, Josephine (*altar flowers)*	438.00
Riipi, Edwin "Skinny"	2,244.12
Steinbus, Ray	156.37
<b>TOTAL BUILDING/FACILITIES FUNDS</b>	<b>\$3,528.49</b>
<b>MUSIC FUND</b>	
Sunday Coffee	6.11
Huhta, Sue	20.00
Luhtala, Karen	80.00
<b>TOTAL MUSIC FUNDS</b>	<b>\$106.11</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMORIAL FUNDS</b>	<b>10,869.67</b>
<b>INTEREST (as of 12/31/2024)</b>	<b>406.62</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL MEMORIAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$11,276.29</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Perian



**Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Memorial Fund Distributions 2024**

<b>BUILDING/FACILITIES NEEDS</b>	<b>IN MEMORY OF</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Blinds - Club 55	Robert Fischer	25.00
	Ralph Hoffman	25.00
	Oscar & Mari Koski	150.00
	Lauri Koski	44.36
	Kate Koski	100.00
	Lauri & Kate Koski	250.00
	Lauri & Toini Koski	300.00
	Gordon & Virginia Rasmussen	50.00
	Doris Rauman	103.55
	Norman Schramm	65.00
	Ray Steinbus	672.59
	Harry Theisen	845.90
<b>TOTAL BLINDS - CLUB 55</b>		<b>\$2,631.40</b>
Mother's Day Altar Flowers	Dorothy & Uno, Josephine Haka	<b>62.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS FROM BUILDING/FACILITIES NEEDS</b>		<b>\$2,693.40</b>

**Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Perian**

**Bethlehem Mission Endowment Fund  
Annual Report for 2024  
As of December 31, 2024**

**ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust**

1/31/2024	Beginning Balance	371,663.05
	Interest Income	15,023.70
	Withdrawals	0.00
	Change in Market Value	27,319.70
12/31/2024		<b>414,006.45</b>

**Mission Investment Fund**

12/31/2024	Checking Account Balance	5,594.89
		<b>\$419,601.34</b>

**History of Mission Endowment Funds Used for Bethlehem Operations**

2022	Operating Budget & Feed My Sheep	\$61,000
2023	Operating Budget & Feed My Sheep	\$43,000
2024	Operating Budget & Feed My Sheep	\$45,000
2025	Operating Budget & Feed My Sheep	\$45,000

## 2024 CONGREGATIONAL LIFE REPORT

### **Baptized**

Caleb James Ewing

### **Deceased**

Elmie Carey

### **New Members**

Carol Ashmont

Michael Graddy

Karin Graddy

Kelan Graddy

Melana Graddy

Merrick Graddy

## Cut-Ups Treasurer Report 12/31/24

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>			<b>\$914.23</b>
INCOME			
19-Feb	\$120.00	Donation for 6 quilts	
13-Nov	\$630.00	From Makers & Bakers (quilt sales and donations)	
30-Dec	<u>\$130.66</u>	Deposit made in error to Quilters account. Should have been deposited in the BELC General Fund.	
	<b>\$880.66</b>		<b><u>\$880.66</u></b>
			<b>\$1,794.89</b>
EXPENSES			
19-Jan	\$26.00	Plexiglass	
2-Apr	\$57.84	Batting cost for 2 rolls was 307.84. Doris used her Thrivent donation of \$250. Doris paid balance of \$57.84. This reimburses her.	
10-Sep	\$152.50	Batting cost for 2 rolls was 402.50. Doris used her Thrivent donation of \$250. Doris paid balance of \$152.50. This reimburses her.	
14-Oct	\$50.00	Vender fee for Makers & Bakers	
30-Dec	\$130.66	Reimburse BELC General Fund for deposit made in error to this account.	
	<b>\$417.00</b>		<b>- <u>\$417.00</u></b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>			<b><u>\$1,377.89</u></b>

This year Cut-Ups took 98 quilts to the warehouse at Church of the Brethren, Elgin to be trucked to the East Coast for processing and shipping. We are fortunate that we do not have to pay a fee for this.

# FEED MY SHEEP PANTRY

## 2024 Report of Distribution

	2024 YEAR			
	# OF PANTRIES	HOUSEHOLDS	INDIVIDUALS	CHILDREN UNDER 18
JANUARY	8	420	1359	495
FEBRUARY	9	509	1715	616
MARCH	8	413	1284	372
APRIL	9	478	1459	431
MAY	9	469	1496	451
JUNE	8	528	1662	515
JULY	8	511	1590	505
AUGUST	9	600	1799	554
SEPTEMBER	8	497	1530	487
OCTOBER	10	647	1870	537
NOVEMBER	7	462	1400	422
DECEMBER	7	334	1072	326
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5868</b>	<b>18236</b>	<b>5711</b>

AVERAGE CLIENTS SERVED PER MONTH PRIOR YEARS	
YEAR	#/MONTH
2024	1520
2023	1517
2022	1244
2021	843
2020	1100

Thank you for your generous contributions of time, money, and prayer. These have deeply impacted and nourished the lives of many families in our community.

In 2024, the Northern Illinois Food Bank approved grant funding for Bethlehem Feed My Sheep in the amount of \$2,563.37. With these funds the pantry purchased two GE frost free upright freezers, two utility carts, and vinyl outdoor signage with pantry hours. They will be purchasing two dollies and a tablet with the remaining monies.

