

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2025



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ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION
FOR THE YEAR 2025

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude—for the Spirit that moves among us, for the grace that sustains us, and for each of you who make this church a living, breathing expression of God’s love.

2025 was a year of gathering, growing, and giving. We worshipped together in joy and sorrow, learned from one another across generations, and served our neighbors with open hands and open hearts. Whether through Sunday morning worship, midweek meals, fellowship activities, outreach ministries, or quiet moments of prayer, we witnessed Christ alive in our midst.

At Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, we continue to embrace the radical welcome of the Gospel. We are not defined by sameness, but by our shared purpose: **To Make Christ Known to All** through lives of compassion, courage, and connection. In a world often divided, we choose to be a community of belonging—a place where questions are honored, differences are celebrated, and grace is freely given.

We give thanks for the legacy of faith that brought us here, and for the vision that leads us forward. As part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we stand in solidarity with millions across the globe who proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Locally, we remain rooted in Oak Forest, committed to being a light in our neighborhood and a voice of hope in uncertain times.

To every member, visitor, volunteer, and friend: thank you. Your presence matters. Your gifts matter. Your story matters. Together, we are the church—not perfect, but faithful. And together, we step into the future with trust, humility, and joy.

The information in this report is the information that is on file in the church office, and is reported in good faith by all parties. If you find an error, please let those involved know, or contact the church office at 708-687-2170. We strive for accuracy and transparency in all our endeavors.

COUNCIL & STAFF

2025 COUNCIL & STAFF

Synod Authorized Minister (SAM)	- Minister Lorin Kirksey (August 2025 - Present)
President of the Congregation	- Patti Tregoning
Vice President	- Bob Downen
Treasurer	- Dan Tregoning
Council Secretary	- Tracey Fabing
Ministry of Discipleship	- OPEN
Minister of Proclamation	- Kathleen Domzalski
Ministry of Capital / Finance	- Taina Collins
Ministry of Mission & Outreach	- Tania Downen

NOMINATING TEAM

Shirley Harm
Marietta Sullivan

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

Marilyn Bill
George Butler

OFFICE MANAGER

Leni Shandou

MEDIA / PROJECTION

Stan Sowa, Leni Shandou, Dan Tregoning, Bob Downen, Tania Downen

Thank you for your service!

OPENING PRAYER



Gracious and loving God,

As we open this report and reflect on the year behind us, we pause to give thanks—for the breath of life, the gift of community, and the grace that carries us through every season.

Bless this congregation, O Lord:

Each heart that worships, each hand that serves, each voice that sings, each soul that seeks.

Bless the stories told within these pages, and the ones still unfolding.

Bless our joys and our struggles, our celebrations and our quiet prayers.

May your Spirit continue to guide us—

To welcome boldly,

To love deeply,

To serve humbly,

And to proclaim your Gospel with courage and compassion.

Let this report not only recount what has been, but inspire what is yet to come. In all things, may we make Christ known— In our homes, our neighborhoods, our work, and our worship.

In your holy name we pray, Amen.

AGENDA

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 25, 2026

OPENING DEVOTIONS

RATIFY QUORUM PRESENT

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2025 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS

- MINISTER'S REPORT & PASTORAL ACTS
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT
- TREASURER'S REPORTS (BALANCE SHEET, P&L, STATE OF RESURRECTION)

2026 BUDGET & MOTION

2026 CONGREGATIONAL ELECTIONS & EXPLANATION OF TERMS

- SLATE OF OFFICERS
- NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

ACCEPTANCE OF MINISTRY REPORTS

- MINISTRY OF CAPITAL & FINANCE
- MINISTRY OF MISSION & OUTREACH
- MINISTRY OF PROCLAMATION
- PRESCHOOL REPORT

LCR'S 2026 STEWARDSHIP FOCUS

FINAL REPORT OF TELLERS

MINISTER LORIN LCR VISIONING AND CLOSING PRAYER

2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES Sunday January 26, 2025 - 11:00am In-Person and Online

CALL TO ORDER: 11:04 AM in the Sanctuary of The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Patti Tregoning, Dan Tregoning, Taina Collins, Kathleen Domzalski, Tania Downen, Bob Downen, Tracey Fabing, Leni Shandou via Zoom (Office Manager)

RATIFY QUORUM PRESENT: Yes, 19 members were present

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS: Kathleen Domzalski, Lorin Kirksey

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN: Shirley Harm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to accept Shirley Harm **SECOND:** Tania Downen
APPROVED

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2024 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES:
Motion to approve Minutes from 2024: Tania Downen **SECOND:** Shirley Harm
APPROVED

ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS:

·LCR'S REPORT & PASTORAL ACTS -

·PRESIDENT'S REPORT -

- We have been approved by the Synod to be a SAM site.
- Lorin Kirksey has accepted the SAM position and should be able to start in a few months.

·TREASURER REPORTS (BALANCE SHEET, P&L, STATE OF RESURRECTION) -

- Dan Tregoning reported that he put \$40,000 into a 3-month CD with Edward Jones at a rate of 4.2%.
- The new roof cost us \$64,000, but the roofer was very accommodating with not charging us for fixing a window, a cover for the chimney, and made a \$1000 donation.
- Because of the new roof claim, our insurance dropped us. We were paying \$6000/year but signed with a new company for \$10,000/year with no wind and hail damage coverage. We should be ok since the roof is new.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

·TREASURER REPORTS (BALANCE SHEET, P&L, STATE OF RESURRECTION) - Continued

- Currently we have approximately \$54,000 on hand.
- Currently we have a \$3000 deficit in the budget per month. We close the gap with pierogi and bake sales.
- We have 2 ½ years left to pay on our mortgage.
- HVAC is about 20 years old, usually lasts for 30 years. We will need to replace it soon.
- He found a 15" x 15" hole in basement furnace room. The hole was plugged in for now but will need to be re-bricked in spring/summer.
- The Preschool donations, lay preachers, and volunteer money and service donations help save us around \$32,000/year.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ANNUAL REPORTS: Tania Downen SECOND: Shirley Harm
APPROVED

2025 ANNUAL BUDGET & MOTION:

- Taina Collins reports that the banking industry is moving toward charging per check that is deposited. Please try to use Zelle or automatic withdrawal to avoid check fee.
- Please fill out pledge sheets if you need to change your pledge amount for 2025.
- There is no report for Capital & Finance due to sight issues of the Chairperson. If you have specific questions, please ask the individuals in that group. Ex: Grounds, Treasurer, etc.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE 2025 BUDGET: Tania Downen SECOND: Shirley Harm
APPROVED

2025 CONGREGATIONAL ELECTIONS:

NOMINATIONS:

- Discipleship (VBS, Sunday School, Bible Study) – Noone volunteered
 - Nominating Committee for next year – Shirley Harm and Marietta Sullivan
 - Synod Assembly Attendees – Female: Marilyn Bill Male: George Butler
- Our President (Patti Tregoning) would like to thank everyone for patiently enduring without a Pastor.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINISTRY REPORTS:

- MINISTRY OF CAPITAL & FINANCE** – Taina Collins reported that we have less offering collected in 2024 and yet we find more ways to close the financial gap. Making pierogis is a large component of our income and provides great fellowship. Costs continue to be saved by volunteers' gifts of supplies and labor. We have saved thousands of dollars on repairs with members giving up their time and talents. The preschool has also helped close that financial gap by paying some of our everyday expenses.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

·MINISTRY OF MISSION & OUTREACH - Tania Downen accepted the position in June 2024. In that time, she organized Bunco and instituted game nights where we play LCR (Left Right Center). Ladies Breakfast turned into Babes that Brunch. We have had Tailgate Parties to cheer the Bears on. Our Fall Fest/Craft Show has been resurrected. She started a "Night Out on the Town". Fun was had by all with the Christmas Craft and Movie event. We also partnered with Together We Cope to brighten the holidays for children in need.

·MINISTRY OF PROCLAMATION - Kathleen Domzalski reported on the coordination of the Lenten and Holy Week services. Also, the Thanksgiving and Christmas services were well coordinated as well as every Sunday throughout the year with the scheduling of Supply Pastors and lay preachers. New microphones were purchased. A Native American flutist performed on the service on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We have had the pleasure of having the same Supply Pastors (Pastors Johnson, Olson, Trygstad, and Mendis) throughout the year. Visitation of the homebound or institutionalized occurred regularly each month.

PRESCHOOL REPORT - Our director, Jen Harkenrider, and teacher Jenny Montgomery have done a wonderful job of providing each child with a strong foundation to ensure success as well as teaching the preschoolers that they are treasured children of God. Leni Shandou manages their social media and substitutes. Lorin Kirksey leads the weekly Chapel Time. Some highlights include a field trip to United Gymnastics Academy, watching caterpillars turn into butterflies, monthly librarian visits, a visit to the Children's Farm, and a visit from Santa to name a few.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINISTRY REPORTS: Tania Downen SECOND: Shirley Harm
APPROVED

LCR's 2025 STEWARDSHIP FOCUS "SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS"

·VOLUNTEER/DONATION SAVINGS - We save around \$32,000/year by being blessed with members that volunteer their time and talent, as well as the donation of various supplies.

·COLLECTION OF COMMITMENT CARDS -

FINAL REPORT OF TELLERS ·18 Ballots received

·Nominating Committee - Shirley Harm and Marietta Sullivan, 17 yes ballots

·Synod Assembly Attendees - Female: Marilyn Bill, 18 yes ballots Male: George Butler, 17 yes ballots

CLOSING PRAYER: The Lord's Prayer

ADJOURNMENT: 12:37 PM

MINISTER'S REPORT

With great JOY, I find myself extremely grateful to be serving with all of you.

Your gifts, that you bring to our church are amazing and I find myself feeding on your desire to share Christ with others from this place we call home (LCR).

Although God does not allow us to physically see him, I'm reminded of a song by the Christian artist Leanna Crawford. Below are the lyrics to her song "How Can You Not":

I see the sunrise in the morning
And a million stars at night
I hear the birds they can't stop singing hallelujah

I see His goodness when I fall down
And His grace that picks me up
Every day I can't stop singing hallelujah

How can you not see God
In every little thing in every little moment
How can you not feel loved
(How can you not how can you not)
He's in the middle of
Every little thing and every little moment
How can you not see God
How can you not how can you not

I see the sunset and I wonder
If You paint it just for me
Nobody else could make a world so beautiful

How could I question His love when It's everywhere I go
Wherever I look I find another miracle

Everything is evidence
Showing me that You exist
All creation's singing hallelujah

I see God in everything we do at LCR! I'm looking forward to a great 2026 as we together find new ways to share the love of God that we find in Jesus.

MINISTER'S REPORT

Within the 1st four months of becoming a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM), I was gifted with the opportunity of officiating the marriage of George B. and Marilyn B, I was beside myself to have the opportunity to baptize Olivia and Hannah D. We are in the process of working on a time for their family to become members. I was blessed with the opportunity to provide funeral services for a non-member. I was blessed to have the opportunity to visit our homebound and last, but surely not least, I was invited to bless Shirley's dog Kellie and yes, I found myself blessed to do so. Additionally, we held our 1st New Year's Eve prayer vigil last year. It was simply beautiful. Although we only held it from 11pm to midnight, next year we'll open the church for most of the day.

I completed two more of my seminary classes last year and I have three more to complete my Master's in theology degree. There is also a yearlong internship that I will need to complete as a requirement for ordination. And like always, there are Synod approvals along the way that need to take place as well. I am somewhat confident that the Synod will support my mission as they walk along side of me and all of you through this journey.

I have been invited by the Bishop to extend my service as a SAM for 2026 which I gladly accepted!

We as a church do a lot of great work and much of it is outside of our community. I find myself wanting to learn what our community needs from us and I look forward to the challenges on how to fulfill those needs if we possibly can. I'm reminded that with God, all things are possible and if we seek to share His love with others, how can it not happen.

Blessings to each and every one of you, today, and every day that follows.

Minister Lorin

Synodically Authorized Minister LCR

PASTORAL ACTS

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2025-2026

Received by Baptism

- Hannah David
- Olivia David

New Member

- George Butler

Returning Members

- Pam Wood

Released through Death

- Margaret Keng

Released by Request

-

Moved to / or Remaining Inactive/Homebound

- Linda Jurinek (h)
- Barbara Peterson (h)
- Walter Gerhardt (h)
- Fran Hoffbauer (h)
- Anna McCoy (h)
- Reynold & Betty Moniak (h)

Active Military Service

- Joseph Rodriguez

To be released from membership

-

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2025 has brought some changes to LCR! We started the year working with the Synod to become a Synodically Authorized Ministry site. Lorin Kirksey also worked with the Synod to become a Synodically Authorized Minister. This finally came together in August with a celebration service on the 31st to make it official! This was the solution to the desire to have Communion twice a month and a consistent spiritual leader. He is not a Pastor until he finishes seminary and is ordained. He is working on that! Having Lorin in his new position means we will not need supply pastors in 2026 unless an emergency arises. Lay leaders as well as Minister Lorin will continue to deliver the message and lead services.

LCR previously explored the Synod program, "Three Pathways" which offered ways to keep a church going. One of the pathways was Continuation through Transformation. Having Minister Lorin is the transformation which came about because of communication with the Synod and the support of LCR's Congregation. What a blessing!

We now have God's True Way Ministries worshipping in our building on Sunday afternoons. They reached out to us because the church they were meeting at voted not to continue being a church. They were a homeless congregation! We had a beautiful combined Thanksgiving Worship Service followed by a Thanksgiving Feast on November 23rd. Everyone felt the Holy Spirit as we gave thanks, praised God and shared fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ!

Another option from "Three Pathways" was Community Through Partnership. This opportunity of space sharing with another Christian Congregation is truly a blessing and another way to Make Christ Known to All! We look forward to partnering in future combined events as we both do God's work! Together we can create a new vision and pathway into the future.

Resurrection continues to make pierogis and have our bi-annual sales along with our bake sales. Making pierogis has created a wonderful fellowship experience for members and non-members. We almost miss the down times between sales! But we have other opportunities to gather. Our game nights, tail gate events, craft and movie times etc. are also opportunities for members to invite others for a time of fun and fellowship. Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSALMS) continues to meet and make shawls and prayer cloths for those in need of prayers and comfort. Again, this is a group of members and non-members doing ministry together!

I would like to thank so many people doing God's work at LCR. Too many to name! Consider this an invitation to find a ministry you would like to be part of. I've mentioned a few but there are endless opportunities to be involved in God's work at LCR.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Share your gift of music, either singing or playing an instrument, so Michelle and Ron don't have to do it alone! Help out with our media needs. You can learn a lot and Stan won't have to juggle everything by himself. Our cleaning is done by volunteers. Lorin does a great job but he may want company! Altar Guild sets up the worship space and communion and cleans it up after worship. This is done by volunteers and you could learn a lot from Claris by helping. Worship assistants such as ushers/greeters, readers, Communion assistants, etc. are always needed. Kathleen and Shirley are scheduling champions, they can find a spot for you too! Providing goodies and making coffee on Sunday mornings is done by volunteers. Sign up for a day or partner with someone else! We often speak of the "Maroon Army"! This is a group of volunteers at LCR that show up and help with events. Many things to do and many hands are needed! If you ever thought, "I wonder what I could do?" please talk to me and we can find something that's a good fit and will make you happy too! God loves a cheerful giver. That doesn't just mean money...it means time and talents too!

A special thanks for the person that we don't see on Sunday, but she is still working to get our worship service out on social media for our online community to see. She prepares our scripts and bulletins each week. She reminds us every Wednesday about what is going on each week in RezNews. She assembles our CrossTalk monthly news letter and constantly reminds us to make sure we get our articles and information to her in a timely manner! She gets our events on social media and to proper news outlets to make sure the community knows what's going on at LCR. Leni does all this and so much more! Even when she is half way around the world, she is on top of everything going on at LCR. Thank you for all you do Leni! We couldn't do it without you!

I am grateful to have served alongside my fellow Council members!

Bob Downen - Vice President

Tracey Fabing - Secretary

Dan Tregoning - Treasurer

Kathleen Domzalski - Proclamation

Tania Downen - Mission and Outreach

Taina Collins - Finance

Thanks to the Congregation of LCR! You are all Blessings that I am grateful to God for!
May we continue to **Make Christ Known to All** together!

Faithfully,

Patti Tregoning

President, LCR Council

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends and fellow Congregants,

This has been a busy year at LCR. The Properties Team, with Dan T., has been busy inside and out. New outside lights installed, the parking lot seal coated, sump pumps installed, and the start of refinishing the tile floors. The gardens outside have been revamped, with the goal to keep the beauty of the flowers while reducing the workload.

I have continued to take the food to St. Stephen's Food Pantry. I also help with the pierogis, the many events that need setting up and taking down and sometimes helping Stan at the sound board.

I am here to help in any way I can, and if you have any suggestions for me, please see me.

Thank you to all who help out, in any way, here at LCR.

God's Blessings,

Bob Downen

Vice President, LCR Council

PROFIT & LOSS

	Jan - Dec 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
BUILDING MORTGAGE FUND INCOME	
Pledged Mortgage Reduction Fund	12,860.00
Total BUILDING MORTGAGE FUND INCOME	12,860.00
Fund Raisers/Special Events	
Clothing Recycle Bins	1,875.00
Craft Fair Crafts	271.00
Craft Fair Kitchen	323.00
Craft Fair Pierogi	770.06
Fall Fest	775.00
Fall Fest 2025 Craft	60.00
Food 4 Less Cash Back	12.20
GYP Paint Event-Bows	20.00
GYP Paint Event-Kitchen	329.00
GYP Paint Event-Raffle	192.00
Pierogi 11/2025	8,513.00
Pierogi 4/2025	10,095.50
Pierogi April Bake Sale	2,508.50
Pierogi Bake Sale 11/2025	1,545.50
Pierogi Crafts 11/2025	31.00
Pinwheels	68.00
Preschool Donations	6,182.34
Preschool Tithe	2,394.25
SMP Profit	324.46
Thrivent Contributions	684.00
Total Fund Raisers/Special Events	36,973.81
OPERATING FUND INCOME	
Church Use	
GTWM Church Usage	3,000.00
Church Use - Other	2,240.00
Total Church Use	5,240.00
Festival	170.00
Flowers	84.00
Gifts in Kind - Goods	850.69
LCR Member Contributions	47,868.00
Miscellaneous Income	20.00
Plate	2,086.25
Total OPERATING FUND INCOME	56,318.94
Total Income	106,152.75

PROFIT & LOSS

January through December 2025

Expense		
Contract Services		
Musicians		6,995.00
Supply Pastor		4,910.78
		<hr/>
Total Contract Services		11,905.78
Ministry Costs		
Community Life		
Fellowship		27.99
		<hr/>
Total Community Life		27.99
Proclamation		
Worship/Music		1,635.84
		<hr/>
Total Proclamation		1,635.84
Trustees		
Facilities and Equipment		
Maintenance		499.99
Mortgage Interest		2,374.71
Facilities and Equipment - Other		4,274.37
		<hr/>
Total Facilities and Equipment		7,149.07
Total Trustees		<hr/> 7,149.07
Total Ministry Costs		8,812.90
Miscellaneous Expense		299.23
OPERATING FUND EXPENSE		
Employee Payroll Expenses		
Minister		1,095.00
Payroll Processing Expense		635.74
Secretary		29,402.42
Employee Payroll Expenses - Other		2,333.06
		<hr/>
Total Employee Payroll Expenses		33,466.22
Operations		
Alarm System		720.00
Disposal Service		796.64
Electric		3,888.74
Gifts in Kind - Offset		850.69
Natural Gas		1,806.78
Telephone, Telecommunications		1,919.28
Water		422.71
		<hr/>
Total Operations		10,404.84
Total OPERATING FUND EXPENSE		<hr/> 43,871.06

PROFIT & LOSS

January through December 2025

Other Types of Expenses	
Insurance - Liability, D and O	11,507.80
Metro Synod Tithe	600.00
Preschool Payroll (SP)	0.00
Preschool Payroll Taxes (SP)	0.00
	<hr/>
Total Other Types of Expenses	12,107.80
Travel and Meetings	
Synod Assembly/Retreats	598.00
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Total Travel and Meetings	598.00
	<hr/>
Total Expense	77,594.77
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Net Ordinary Income	28,557.98
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Income	1,690.67
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Total Other Income	1,690.67
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Net Other Income	1,690.67
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Net Income	30,248.65
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BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2025

	Dec 31, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Chase Bank - Checking	9,761.53
Edward Jones CD	40,000.00
Edward Jones Money Market	11,536.56
ELCA FCU	25.00
Mission Investment Demand Acct	522.84
Total Checking/Savings	61,845.93
Total Current Assets	61,845.93
Fixed Assets	
Church Building	373,401.51
Total Fixed Assets	373,401.51
TOTAL ASSETS	435,247.44
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
DESIGNATED FUNDS	
Designated-W&M Bequest Fund	1,403.00
Grants-Synod Dec 2022	625.47
Memorials	1,026.00
Total DESIGNATED FUNDS	3,054.47
Total Other Current Liabilities	3,054.47
Total Current Liabilities	3,054.47
Long Term Liabilities	
Notes Payable - Mortgage	40,106.57
Total Long Term Liabilities	40,106.57
Total Liabilities	43,161.04
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	22,199.55
Unrestricted Net Assets	339,638.20
Net Income	30,248.65
Total Equity	392,086.40
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	435,247.44

STATE OF RESURRECTION

STATE OF RESURRECTION 12/31/2025

Income (What's been donated)

Cash on Hand (Chase)	\$9,761.53	
Edward Jones CD	\$40,000.00	CD Matures on 2/10/2026 Rate is 3.9
Edward Jones Money Market	\$11,536.56	
Mission Investment Fund	\$522.84	
ELCA Credit Union	\$25.00	

Total Income	\$61,845.93	
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Future Allocated Expenses

Synod Grant	\$625.47
Memorials	\$1,026.00
W&M Bequest Fund	\$1,403.00

Total Future Expenses	\$3,054.47
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Income Minus Expenses	\$58,791.46
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CAPITAL & FINANCE

2025 was a good year, we received gifts shared from many resources. We have adapted to fellowshiping together in an untraditional way, being led by lay people, who are members, and supply pastors. We ended the year with a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM).

Usually every year, we find ourselves with less offerings collected and more challenging ways of closing the financial challenges to keep our ministries going forward. Last year our offerings collected was about the same as the prior year and we did acquire more ways of bringing in more income to grow our ministries. It is obvious to me that God wants our mission to be successful. Our congregation is maturing; we have stepped up to share some more of our abundant talents. We continue to receive gifts and memorials which LCR is grateful for.

SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANT GIFTS:

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED AND HE IS ALWAYS ON TIME. Year after year, I continue to see this happen with His church. In 2025, we were blessed by having very successful fundraisers. We were also blessed by being given the opportunity to share our fellowship space with another church, God's True Way Ministries (GTWM).

Friends and families of LCR continue to bless us with talents and gifts. We have improved exterior lighting at the church and resurfaced the parking lot. Even though we had experienced the preschool flooding after heavy rain, no time was lost in keeping the preschool open. We can thank those with the talents to get the issue resolved quickly. Financially we were able to invest in CDs and return to financially supporting the Synod.

We have been blessed with having people to work on some of the tasks that are needed to keep us going. The pierogi fundraiser and new fundraiser opportunities have provided a means of fellowship, and the profits are a large component of our income. Cost continues to be saved by volunteers' gifts of supplies and labor; we saved thousands on repairs with members giving up their time and talents.

I would like to thank those who continued their giving and who gave gifts in kind. We have seen an increase in giving electronically. Thanks to those who participate in electronic giving, it helps to lower the cost by reducing the cost of processing checks. Financially we are in a good place, and we are hopeful that we can do more in 2026.

CAPITAL & FINANCE

WHAT ABOUT 2026?

As we share our abundant gifts, we will enjoy doing the activities and missions God entrusts us to participate in. I am hopeful that we will continue to find ways to grow others spiritually. I am both concerned and grateful for our volunteers while we grow our congregation. The budget for 2026 has been adjusted in several areas: staffing expense, spending increase for insurance, adjustment for transitioning from supply pastors to a Synodically Authorized Minister.

I would like to thank you in advance for increasing your giving for 2026, please include the gifts of time, talent and treasures.

Looking forward to 2026 and the plans God has for LCR.

Taina Collins

Minister of Capital & Finance

PROPERTY TEAM

2025 was a busy year for the properties team. God has blessed us with a beautiful building and a great location, along with a lot of land. With that come a lot of items that need to be maintained each year.

Inside requires weekly cleaning. Cleaning is taken care of by our LCR members. A special thanks to Minister Lorin Kirksey who has been the primary LCR cleaning team. Bob Downen fills in when Lorin can't make it. By LCR taking care of the cleaning, we save probably about 10,000 -12,000 dollars a year by not having to hire someone.

Outside tasks include grass cutting, edging and weed whacking. We are lucky to have TruGreen to minimize our weeds. This service is paid for by one of our members.

The gardens around the building were mulched in 2024. Volunteers are always needed to help with weeding.

Keeping the gardens maintained has been a struggle with limited resources. The south end has been reduced down. There is still additional work to be done to finish that area, including adding grass and moving the line of rocks back. We are looking at some other areas also to redo.

This spring brought on a lot of rain which caused the basement to flood several times. Thanks to Minister Lorin, Bob Downen, Dan, Patti and Jen Harkenrider, these cleanups were able to happen. A power outage also happened which did not help the situation.

One of the two sump pumps was replaced with a more powerful pump. We also had the ejector pump fail which handles the sewage ejection from the basement out to the street, which we were able to replace ourselves. A special thanks to preschool for covering the costs of the pumps and supplies!

Near the end of the summer, we had our main sewer line to the street get blocked by roots in our sewer line. Simon plumbing was hired to rod the line which resolved that. Preschool covered the cost of that also.

Over this past summer our parking lot was sealed and striped. Thanks to Bob Downen for coordinating that project. Preschool donated \$1,000 towards it.

PROPERTY TEAM

Outdoor lighting has been added on the east side of the sanctuary. We are looking at adding additional lights over the front door area to increase visibility.

Over preschool break Bob Downen and Dan Tregoning were able to strip the floors downstairs and wax them. It was definitely needed and looks great. Jen and John Harkenrider helped out by moving all the preschool equipment from one side to the other and put it all back together so preschool could resume after Christmas break.

Plans are being made to strip and wax the conference room, kitchen and sacristy.

We have a very talented group that helps with repairs around the building which has almost eliminated us having to bring in vendors to do our repairs.

Our team is very small and if you are interested in helping with property maintenance, please contact Dan Tregoning at 708-595-5754, or dantregoning@gmail.com.

Dan Tregoning

Properties Team

FUNDRAISING TEAM

Celebrating a Deliciously Successful Year – and Looking Ahead!

Thanks to the incredible dedication of our fundraising team and the enthusiastic support of our community, 2025 was a banner year! Together, we raised \$19,378 through our delicious pierogi sales and an additional \$4,054 from our Spring and Fall bake sales.

Looking forward to 2026

We're already planning more tasty fundraisers around Easter and Thanksgiving. Each event continues to grow in popularity, and we're eager to keep that momentum going.

We need YOU!

Whether you're a pierogi pro or just curious to lend a hand, we're calling for volunteers to join us as:

- Makers
- Cookers
- Packagers

No experience needed – just a willing spirit and a love for community!

Special thanks to our generous donors, and to Franks Kraut and Thrivent Financial, whose support for supplies ensures that every dollar raised goes directly to our mission. This is truly a 100% fundraiser, powered by love and service.

From all of us on the fundraising team: thank you for your continued support. Let's make 2026 even more impactful – together, we'll keep sharing the joy and continue our mission to **"MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL!!"**



PRESCHOOL

We had another great year! Our Director/Teacher Jen Harkenrider and Teacher Jenny Montgomery have gone above and beyond for the students and their families! The children are learning and preparing for kindergarten. Leni Shandou helps with our social media presence and is a substitute teacher when needed. The children enjoy weekly Chapel Time with Mr. K. (Lorin Kirksey). They learn Bible stories while doing crafts, songs, and other activities! Dan Tregoning covers custodial and maintenance responsibilities with backup from Bob Downen. We are grateful for the dedication of our team!

Some highlights from this year include:

January 2025 - In January, we explored the ice & snow INSIDE the classroom! The children loved it! We then spent some time cooking and baking some yummy treats, before shifting to a theme around dinosaurs!

February 2025 - We celebrated Valentine's Day and our 100th day of school this month. The children really worked on showing their love and kindness towards family & friends.

March 2025 - In March, we took a field trip to United Gymnastics Academy where the preschoolers tumbled and played the morning away! We spent a lot of time this month exploring the ocean, talking about spring, and St. Patrick's Day activities.

April 2025 - April was full of Easter fun, plus we had the opportunity to watch our classroom caterpillars turn into butterflies!

May 2025 - In May, we revisited some of the students' favorite themes and reviewed all of our letters and numbers, before graduation and moving-up ceremonies.

The 2025-2026 school year highlights:

September 2025 - A new school year begins with a full classroom ready to learn! Our daily class time was extended to noon giving us another ½ hour of fun & learning. We started off the year with monthly librarian visits, weekly chapel time with Mr. K, and learning class rules and routines. The children were excited to meet all the new friends in our class!

October 2025 - We took a visit to the Children's Farm, where children picked out their own pumpkins, lots of fall fun, and learning about our Community Helpers with a visit from the Oak Forest Fire Department

November 2025 - November went by fast! We spent a lot of time talking about our families and learning about being thankful. We ended the month with a Thanksgiving feast!

December 2025 - December was packed with fun - Pajama Day, Grinch Day, a Christmas party, our annual Christmas program, and even a visit from Santa!

PRESCHOOL

The Preschool continues to tithe to LCR and contribute to monthly internet services. We pay for yearly fire alarm testing and fire extinguisher inspection and certifications. We pay half the cost of plowing and salt in the winter months. We pay all upkeep and maintenance for the downstairs area. We contribute toward utilities and insurance costs. We contributed \$1,000 towards the cost of resealing and restriping the parking lot.

Spring Showers brought Spring Flooding! The Preschool flooded several times due to the extreme rains and power outages. Thanks to Jen for helping to clean up and for setting up the preschool each time we flooded! Also, thanks to Bob Downen, Lorin Kirksey, Dan and Patti Tregoning for helping move things and wet vac and squeegee the water out each time. Since the pumps could not keep up with the torrential rains, we paid to replace the sump pump with a more powerful one. We also had the ejector pump fail, which handles the sewage ejection from the basement. Luckily that too was able to be replaced by our maintenance men, and we covered the cost of pump and supplies.

Amid the summer drought Dan noticed an extremely wet spot in the grass on the west side of the building. It was determined that the main sewer line to the street was blocked by roots. Simon plumbing was hired to rod out the line which resolved the issue. Preschool paid the bill for this service. Thankfully we remain functional and dry!

We are grateful for the support from the LCR Congregation! We share in the mission of providing Christian Based Early Childhood Education to the children of Oak Forest and the surrounding communities! Working together to Make Christ Known to All!

Thank-you!

Resurrection Preschool Board

Secretary - Diana Mickow

Treasurer - Sandy Sneed

President - Patti Tregoning



MISSION & OUTREACH

What an amazing and blessed year we have had here at LCR! We have continued our Outreach events, opening the doors to host our usual Seasonal Bunco nights, as well as continuing the monthly Game Nights. We have had more participants from outside our church, than members from our own congregation. I would love to see more of our LCR family coming to these events.

The **Babes That Brunch** seemed to have a lengthy hiatus, due to our pierogi making schedule. We'll start up again in January and make an effort to schedule our other obligations around the brunch. It is always so nice to be able to sit and chat with each other while having a delicious meal.

We only hosted one Tailgate Party for our **Chicago Bears**, but we must have sent them some great vibes seeing how they are in the Playoffs! Hopefully the next football season will give us a few more opportunities to gather together and cheer on our team.

We had a fabulous Paint Night event with Glitter Your Pallet. We provided the space, food, and drinks, and GYP handled the registration of the participants and all the crafts. We had nothing but compliments, and requests to do it again. I am working on hosting another paint night in the future.

A week later we had our **Fall Craft Fair**. We had a full house inside and several crafters outside. The Church Ladies, led by Michelle, made crafts to sell at the Craft Fair. We split our time between crafting and pierogis. The Maroon Army came out in force to help set up, take down, sell crafts, pierogis, and work in the kitchen. **Another job well done!**

We only had two "Night Out On The Town" events. We saw John Devlin at Ed & Joe's in Tinley Park. We also went to Sake Bob's to listen to a friend of Tracey F.'s. Great music, great food. We are always looking for suggestions for places to go, and performers to see.

Our **Christmas Craft and Movie** afternoon was great fun. We watched Home Alone, had hot chocolate and cookies and snacks, and made some beautiful Christmas Trees, Snowmen, and decorated cookies. We had 24 people of all ages signed up.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Our Christmas Mission this year was helping a mental health crisis center in Orland Park, The Living Room. We collected toiletries and items of clothing, and will continue to do so throughout 2026. They were so very appreciative for our help.

We are truly a loving family/congregation. Working together, brainstorming together, laughing and celebrating together, we are a force to be reckoned with! Much love and thanks to everyone, and especially to Michelle, Stan, Shirley, Patti, Dan, and Bob. And to Leni who continues to create beautiful flyers for our events, and to get the word out.

Here's to a year of successful Mission & Outreach events, and to a new year filled with even more.

God's Blessings,

Tania Downen

Ministry of Mission & Outreach

PROCLAMATION

The Proclamation Committee (formerly known as Worship and Music) met 11 times in calendar year 2025. Many thanks to Committee members Lorin Kirksey (Services and Visitation), Stan Sowa (Media), Claris Okon (Altar Guild) Michelle Sowa (Music), Shirley Harm (Worship Assistants and Ushers) and Marietta Sullivan (Visitation) for their time and talent. At each meeting there is an agenda that includes Old and New Business, plus reports from Media, Ushers, Music, Altar Guild, and Visitation. Recently- completed specialty services are evaluated for future improvement opportunities as well. Meetings are closed with prayer.

In general, all scheduled services were held on Sundays, save for one service that was cancelled due to power outage and flooding in August. Three supply Pastors were present for Communion services but the use of Supply Pastors was phased out between September and December, since Lorin is now the SAM. Throughout the year, when necessary, we were able to secure the services of returning substitute musician Craig Lanigan.

Attendance at Sunday services ranged between 15 and 30, as we continued to have the occasional visitors. We also hosted two memorial services for non-members – one in September, one in December.

Winter - most planning and activity centered around Lenten and Holy Week services. During those services, each lay preacher for the day assumed the identity of a character who witnessed the Crucifixion and gave that character's perception of that event during the "Reflection" portion of the service. It was well-received by the congregation. We had intended to invite St. Stephen's congregation to those services but there was a pastoral transition at the time and St. Stephen's decided to have their own services. Council decided that the 2025 Christmas Candlelight service on 12/24 would instead be a Christmas Day service on 12/25.

Spring – A joyous Easter service occurred on April 20th with good attendance of 40. (No Seder service was held in 2025 due to dwindling attendance at previous Seders) In May and June, Mothers and Fathers received a token of blessing on their designated days. Also in May, a Children's Sermon was added to the order of service; a new family of 6 began attending and there are 2 small children in that family. They also wish to become members and have the children baptized but there are family issues related to scheduling.

PROCLAMATION

Summer – In June, the congregation was familiarized with the NRSV Updated Edition of the Bible (NRSVue), which was put into place on July 1st. Usual Sunday services continued during the summer months, with attendance averaging around 17 each service/. Visitation occurred at least monthly to those in need, save for one member not answering phone calls.

Fall/Winter - November's All Saints Sunday honored the souls of those called home to God in the previous year. The Thanksgiving service was a blend of LCR and GTWM and was followed by a brunch. God's True Way Ministries (GTWM) were invited to and attended both the blended service and the brunch, which was well-received. Advent, Hanging of the Greens, and Christmas services were scheduled. Reaction to the Christmas service was highly positive – it featured Ron Altman playing both keyboard and French horn and 2 guest guitarists; there were also 2 baptisms, Holy Communion, and an ensemble presentation which the audience joined in singing. A new feature closed the year on December 31st when the church was opened for prayer from 11pm to midnight.

Looking forward into 2026, the continuing needs are additional volunteers to act as greeters, ushers, readers, communion assistants, and preachers for Service of the Word.

In addition, the many requests made for congregational input into service format and features went largely unanswered; absent that input and given low attendance at some special and evening services, adjustments may need to be made in 2026. Also note that the media area will be overhauled and improved in 2026.

2026 challenges: Scheduling of service attendants; evening service scheduling, continuance; sufficient preaching staff,

It has been my pleasure to serve the Lord and this congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Domzalski

Minister of Proclamation

STAFF & MEDIA TEAM

Adaptation & Resilience: Reflecting on a Year of Innovation

As we close one chapter and open another, we find ourselves standing in a sacred space between reflection and renewal. This past year has been a testament to the creativity, flexibility, and unwavering commitment of the LCR Staff and Media Team—who've worked behind the scenes and on the front lines to keep our ministries vibrant, accessible, and connected.

Innovation in Worship

From the early days of pandemic uncertainty to today's hybrid worship model, our team has embraced every challenge with grace. What began as pre-recorded services has evolved into seamless livestreams across Facebook, YouTube, and our website—bringing the sanctuary into living rooms near and far. Whether you're seated in a pew or curled up on your couch, we've worked to ensure that worship feels personal, meaningful, and beautifully crafted.

A Splash of Color & Clarity

Last year, we upgraded our printing system—transforming our bulletins from monochrome to full-color reflections of our vibrant community. Event flyers now pop with personality, distributed both in person and online to invite new faces and familiar friends into our shared life.

And when clarity matters most, we've added closed captioning to our sermons—especially helpful when guest pastors bring unique voices and styles. It's one more way we're making worship inclusive and accessible for all.

Buzzing with Connection

Our social media platforms have become digital gathering spaces—where announcements, reflections, and celebrations are shared daily. From event highlights to spiritual encouragement, we're building community one post at a time. If you haven't joined the conversation yet, now's the time. Like, share, and help us spread the joy of LCR far and wide.

Looking Forward

We're not just keeping up—we're leaning in. With ongoing tech upgrades, creative outreach, and a heart for connection, our team is committed to making LCR feel like home, wherever you are. Keep an eye out and see how we re-vamp our media space!

We welcome your ideas, your feedback, and your partnership. Let us know how we can continue to grow, improve, and serve you better.

With gratitude and excitement,

Leni Shandou & Stan Sowa

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking Ahead: Stepping Boldly into 2026

As we move into 2026, we do so with gratitude and hope. The coming year brings new chances to deepen our faith, grow our ministries, and strengthen our community.

We're excited to:

- Welcome new faces and remain a spiritual home for all.
- Expand outreach—from community engagement to elder care.
- Foster dialogue and learning across generations.
- Celebrate diversity and ensure everyone feels seen and valued.
- Build partnerships for justice, compassion, and peace.

Shared Space, Shared Spirit

We're thrilled to be able to continue to share our space with "God's True Way Ministries", who began worshiping in our building on Sundays at 12:00pm back in August. This partnership reflects our commitment to hospitality and shared ministry.

A New Chapter in Leadership

We also celebrate the appointment of Lorin Kirksey as our new Synodically Authorized Minister. Welcome Minister Lorin!

We know the road ahead may bring challenges—but we walk it together, trusting in the Spirit's guidance and the promise of renewal. With each step, we recommit ourselves to being a church not only of welcome, but of transformation.

May 2026 be a year of bold faith, deep joy, and abundant grace—for our congregation, our community, and the world we serve.

2026 BUDGET

INCOME	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Variance	2026 Budget
Giving Income				
Offering, Benevolence, Festival	50,000	48,038.00	1,962	50,000
Preschool Donations	1,000	6,182.00	(5,182)	5,000
Church Usage	2,000	2,240.00	(240)	1,700
GTWM Church Usage		3,000.00	(3,000)	7,200
Miscellaneous Income Reported	100	80.00	20	100
Flowers		84.00	(84)	
Plate	500	2,086.00	(1,586)	
Total Giving	53,600.00	61,710.00	(8,110.00)	64,000.00
FUND RAISERS				
Thrivent Contributions	1,200	684.00	516	700
Fall Fest		835.00	(835)	
SMP Gift Cards	400	324.00	76	300
Clothing Recycle Bin	2,500	1,875.00	625	2,500
Pierogi & Bake Sales		23,433.00	(23,433)	
Food 4 Less Cash Back	50	12.00	38	25
MISC-GYP, Craft Fair		1,135.00		
Preschool Tithe	1,700	2,394.00	2,500	2,600
Total Fund Raisers	5,850.00	30,692.00	(20,513)	5,425.00
Building Mortgage Fund Income				
Mortgage Reduction Fund	12,000	12,860.00	(860)	12,000
Total Building Fund Income	12,000	12,860.00	(860)	12,000
Total Income	71,450.00	105,262.00	(29,483.00)	81,425.00

2026 BUDGET

EXPENSES	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Variance	2026 Budget	
Minister Salary		1,095.00	(1,095)	8,000	
Musicians	6,600	6,995.00	(395)	8,200	B
Secretary	29,200	29,402.00	(202)	31,200	A
Supply Pastor	6,000	4,911.00	1,089	2,000	
Payroll Taxes & Fees	2,700	2,969.00	(269)	3,500	
Evangelism Committee	600	-	600	600	
Social Action.Outreach Committee	500	-	500	500	
Stewardship Committee	400	-	400	400	
Fellowship		28.00		100	
Worship & Music Committee	2,000	1,636.00	364	2,000	
Facilities and Equipment - Maintenance	1,000	4,774.00	(3,774)	1,000	C
Synod Assembly	600	598.00	2	700	
Metro Chicago Synod Tithe	600	600.00	-	600	
Miscellaneous Expenses	500	299.00	201	300	
Utilities (Gas, Gbg.,Elec., Water, Telephone, Internet, Alarm)	9,500	9,555.00	(55)	10,000	
Insurance	10,500	11,508.00	(1,008)	12,000	
Mortgage Principal And Interest	26,556	26,556.00	-	26,556	
Total Expenses	97,256	100,926.00	(3,642.00)	107,656	
Surplus/Deficit	(25,806)	4,336.00	(25,841)	(26,231)	

Notes

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| A | 18.75 /hr Today 1.25hr Raise |
| B | Increase Ron \$10 per service |
| C | New Tables and Sealing of Parking Lot |

CAPTURED MEMORIES

FALL CRAFTS



GLITTER YOUR PALLET EVENT



CHRISTMAS CRAFT & MOVIE



NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL



2026 ELECTIONS

The following slate for 2026 Church Council is forwarded for consideration to the congregation by the 2025 Nominating Committee:

PLEASE FILL IN YOUR NOMINATION FROM THE FLOOR OR CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE FOR ALL POSITIONS

EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Executive Team will consist of the following members:

2026 TERMS	CHAIR OR NOMINEE	NOMINATION FROM FLOOR
President – 1 st year of 3yr. term	Patti Tregoning	_____
Vice President – 2 nd year of 3yr. term	Bob Downen	_____
Secretary – 3 rd year of 3yr. term	Tracey Fabing	_____
Treasurer – 2 nd year of 3yr. term	Dan Tregoning	_____

MINISTRY TEAMS

Proclamation – 1 st year of 3yr. term	Shirley Harm	_____
Mission & Outreach – 2 nd year of 3yr. term	Tania Downen	_____
Capital & Finance – 3 rd year of 3yr. term	Taina Collins	_____
Discipleship – 3 rd year of 3yr. term	NONE	_____

NOMINATING TEAM

	YES	NO
..... (Nominations from the floor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
..... (Nominations from the floor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Synod Assembly Representatives (June 5 & 6 2026)

	YES	NO
..... (Female Nomination from the floor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
..... (Male Nomination from the floor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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..... (Nominations from the floor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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..... (Female Nomination from the floor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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