**First**

**Evangelical**

**Lutheran Church**

ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2023

to

August 31, 2024

**Making Faith Matter**

Annual General Meeting

October 27th, 2024 begins at 11:00am

with a celebration.

All people active in this congregation

are invited to join in this

celebration of God in our midst.

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**The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation of**

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**will take place on Sunday, October 27th, 2024**

**at 11:00pm, for decisions on motions,**

**for First Lutheran Church.**

**7102 – 14 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T3H 4G7**

**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
October 27, 2024  
#MakingFaithMatter**

***First Lutheran Church is a dynamic Christian community that is making faith matter in a constantly changing world.***

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Worship
2. Children’s Message
3. Call to Order
4. Appointment of Parliamentarian, and Recording Secretary

Motion: Marty Wittstrom be appointed Parliamentarian and Kerri Campbell as Recording Secretary

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of the November 26, 2023 AGM Minutes

6.1 – Business arising from the minutes

1. Reports  
   7.1 Interim Pastor  
   7.2 Council  
   7.3 Treasurer  
   7.4 Worship

Motion: That the reports in 7.1 through 7.4 be approved.

1. Scripture & Reflection – James 2:14-26
2. Possibilities Conversations
3. Music & Offering
4. Prayers
5. Approval of the Budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year  
   Motion: THAT the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as presented in Appendix A be approved.
6. Appointment of Auditors  
   Motion: THAT Dart Bryant be appointed as Compilation Engagement auditors for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2025
7. Election of Council Member
8. Other Business/Questions from the Congregation
9. Lord’s Prayer
10. Sending Song
11. Adjournment
12. Blessing



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Calgary  
Celebration of God’s Work and Annual General Meeting   
Sunday, November 26, 2023 at 11:00am in the Sanctuary**

1. **Opening Worship**
2. **Children’s Message**
3. **Call to Order**

Leah Craig, as chair, called the meeting to order at 11:18 am.

1. **Appointment of Parliamentarian and Recording Secretary**

As there was no balloted voting, no Tellers were required.

Moved (Greg Lingelbach), Seconded (Marty Wittstrom) and Carried: That Bob Miller be appointed as Parliamentarian and Brent Latimer as Recording Secretary for this Meeting.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Bob Miller advised that there was a quorum for the Meeting and that Notice was duly sent to the Members.

Moved (Wayne Hoff), Seconded (Brent Latimer) and Carried: That the Agenda for the Meeting as circulated to Members be approved.

1. **Approval of the November 27, 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Moved (Marty Wittstrom), Seconded (Bob Miller) and Carried: That the Minutes of the November 27, 2022 Annual General Meeting be approved.

* 1. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was none.

1. **Reports**
   1. **Interim Pastor**

Pastor Phil Holck had nothing further to add to his written report.

* 1. **Council**

Leah Craig noted that both her and Janet Crawford’s terms on Council will end in May 2024 and that at least two new members are required. Those new members will be appointed by Council in May 2024 and will be up for election for a two-year term at the November 2024 Annual General Meeting. Additionally, First is looking for delegates to the Synod Convention in June 2024 and nominees to the National Convention in July 2024. Leah urged Members to assist with Powerzone, the Sound Booth, the Call Committee and the Human Resources Committee. First will be undertaking a fundraiser in the next months to raise money to repair the Church’s roof.

* 1. **Treasurer**

Kevin Nielsen drew Members’ attention to the balance sheet and income statement made available in the lobby. He noted that actual revenues exceeded budgeted revenues in the year ended August 31, 2023, largely due to rental revenues. The budget for the upcoming fiscal year includes funds for a youth coordinator. On behalf of the Board, Kevin thanked Kelly Blackwell for all of her work.

In response to a question from Patrick Wetter, Kevin indicated that the cost of the roof repair will be approximately $70,000. Kelly Blackwell advised that the work could be done at any time in the future, other than in January or February, once funds are available.

* 1. **Worship**

Yvonne Broadfield had nothing further to add to her written report.

Moved (Kelly Blackwell), Seconded (Greg Lingelbach) and Carried: That the Reports from the Interim Pastor, Council, Treasurer and Worship be approved.

1. **Scripture: Ephesians 1: 1-13**
2. **Values Exercise**

Pastor Phil invited the Congregation to undertake a Values Exercise to recognize the Spirit or Angel of First Lutheran and identify First’s values. The Congregation split into eight separate groups to conduct the Exercise to identify these values.

1. **Sacred Break/Fellowship**
2. **Music & Offering**
3. **Prayers**
4. **Approval of the Budget for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year**

Moved (Kevin Nielsen), Seconded (Tim Blackwell) and Carried: That the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 as presented to Members be approved.

1. **Appointment of Auditors**

Moved (Kelly Blackwell), Seconded (Bob Miller) and Carried: That Dart Bryant be appointed as Compilation Engagement auditors for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2024.

1. **Other Business/Questions from the Congregation**

There was none.

1. **Lord’s Prayer**
2. **Sending Song**
3. **Adjournment**

The Meeting adjourned at 1216 pm.

1. **Blessing**



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**Pastor’s Report**

Interim Pastor’s Annual Report

Pastor Phil Holck

**Priorities as Interim Pastor**

When I began serving as the Interim Pastor of First Lutheran in June of 2023, I worked with the Council to determine the priorities of my ministry here. These were the priorities:

* Worship
* Youth
* Healing

I will use these priorities as a framework to report on my ministry here in the last year.

**Worship**

Thanks to Yvonne’s musical leadership, it was pretty easy to step in to the flow of worship. As much as possible, I tried to support the continuation of worship events and traditions that were established here at FLC:

* **Jesus Radio Superstar** music and sermon series last fall;
* **Children’s Christmas Program** a couple of weeks before Christmas during worship
* The *“***Liturgical Flow”**of the service
* An **informality** regarding preaching and worship in general (no alb or stole!)

With this as a foundation, I did start introducing some things and trying some experiments in order to enhance worship and strengthen our identity as a Christian congregation:

* **Centrality of Baptism Font**– I moved the font into the center of our worship space to remind us that we are baptized, children of God.
* **Focused the worship space**– I moved the lectern down off the stage and right beside the altar to bring it closer to the congregation, brought the hanging banners closer to the screen and angled the rows of chairs in the front. This was all to bring focus to the worship space.
* **Sacred Break**– Borrowing an idea from Hillhurst United, I introduced an extended break to allow space for real conversations amongst attendees.
* **Introduced crosses and other visuals**– I used different crosses and even some banners to emphasize the different seasons of the Church year.

I have always enjoyed *leaning into* the seasons of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost) and did so this last year:

* **Advent** – Using a theme of *Arrival* (the meaning of *Advent*), used the visuals of an *Angel, Stable, Rocking Chair and Lights* to emphasize the *arrival* of *heaven, oneness, divinity and invitation.* We also put together an Advent Devotional to support people’s devotional life during the season of Advent.
* **Christmas** – The Christmas Eve services drew on the symbols introduced during Advent to tell the Christmas Story. The “message” was an extended *Children’s Message* culminating in each child receiving a battery-powered candle which then transitioned into the candlelight portion of the service.
* **Lent –** To promote prayer, I taped a *Prayer Labyrinth* on the floor of the sanctuary and provided *Compassion Prayer Beads* for everyone to carry with them. We also held *Evening Prayer* on Wednesday nights using the *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy.
* **Easter** – We began Holy Week with the triumphal procession into Jerusalem and then ended with the confirmation class helping me tell the story of Jesus’ Passion from the gospel of Mark. We marked Maundy Thursday with a meal in the Sanctuary. We continued the worship with a *Stations of the Cross* worship on Good Friday, and culminated with the story of the resurrection on Easter Morning. These services were enhanced with a wooden cross, a “resurrection” cross, and Easter banners made by the children and the confirmation class.
* **Pentecost** – This green, *growing* season of the Church was accented with a *vine cross* that the confirmation class helped make and presented on their Confirmation Sunday (#1).

During this whole worship year, many thanks to those who helped make our worship services happen: the Music Team & the Tech Team (headed by Yvonne), the greeters, those who assisted in worship (especially the youth), the communion preparers & the offering takers (Kelly & Diana), and all who attended and gave of their time, focus, and energy to allow the Spirit to move during worship.

This Fall, we are once again doing the *Jesus Radio Superstar* series and connecting it primarily with the book of James and the *Faith Practices* that are the *verbs* that Christians embody. I am very open to members who can be my partners in creating more worship art, helping lead worship, and work to have our worship be uplifting, inviting, connecting and dynamic.

**Youth**

*Youth* last year really meant *Confirmation Youth*. We (Sarah and myself) had a wonderful group of 10 youth who participated in the program with 9 of them being confirmed in June of this year and with one continuing on for his second year. There are four more who are joining him for our class this year. The program consisted of:

* **Wednesday Evening class** – We gathered weekly from 6:30-8:30 around pizza, sharing of highs and lows, prayer, Bible study, conversation, and other activities. We talked about the Bible, Luther, the Small Catechism (including Baptism and Communion), faith practices, and life.
* **Worship Participation** – It would be hard to miss their participation in worship from personing the *Tech Booth*, helping out with skits, saying prayers, telling the Passion Story, giving the message and even doing the whole service!
* **All**-**City Confirmation** – Once a month, we coordinated with the other ELCA congregations in the Area to do a combined event. FLC hosted it twice. Events included: drum circle (Campus Ministry), conversations with Muslim youth, discussion on Compassion, Indigenous reconciliation, the Prayer Labyrinth, and an end of year party.
* **Mentors** – Each of the confirmands had an older member of the congregation who was their mentor. They participated in monthly Mentor nights with the confirmation class.

From the very first meeting I had with the youth in June of 2023, I have been inspired and energized by their eagerness to learn, participate and lead… and I am still inspired and energized by them. I was very appreciative of having Sarah as a co-teacher. She made sure we had some fun and supplemented my teaching with insights from her Ambrose classes. We are now in the process of starting our youth group for these youth who were confirmed. Sarah is focused on this.

**Healing** (and ***Building community***)

In their wisdom, the Church Council scheduled a healing service for the end of June in 2023. Heading toward this healing service provided a context for my first few Sundays here at FLC. I feel like it went a long way toward allowing people to acknowledge the past, forgive (and be forgiven), and to create space for a new beginning.

In light of this service and the activities around it, I felt that we had created a healing space for people. What became clear, however, is that the congregation had never really reconnected after the pandemic. While still creating room for people to heal, much of my focus was how to get members to get to know each other and to build community within the congregation.

With this as a context, several of the changes in worship (that I have already mentioned) are part of the strengthening community effort. In my opinion, the *Sacred Break* has probably been the most effective because it allows time for people in worship to get to know the other people in worship. In addition to conversation, the other things that build community are eating together and working together.

**Priories for the coming year…**

In conversation with Council, I will continue to focus on Worship and Youth. The *Healing* priority is shifting to *deepening community*. Members are certainly starting to know each other. The work is to deepen these connections so that you become *siblings in Christ*. Another word for this *deepening* would be *discipleship*… Together growing in our ability to worship, pray, study, give, invite, encourage and serve.

**Other Comments and Observations…**

**Core Values**

Many thanks to those who participated in the *Values Card* exercise at the AGM last year and the additional work that the Council did to crystallize the congregation’s values of *Uplifting, Inviting, Connecting* and *Dynamic.* This was a huge step in helping FLC claim its unique identity in Christ. As such, it helps lay a foundation for clarifying its work, purpose and calling in the world.

**Invigorating Participation**

It has been so exciting to see so many of you in worship on a regular basis. I give thanks that God is using this time to nurture, teach, strengthen, heal and equip you for your life and ministry in your daily life. When most of the member’s primary participation at FLC is limited to Sunday morning, however, it limits what God is able to do through the congregation as a whole. To really reinvigorate the life and ministry of FLC, more members will need to discover, claim, and get in action in the areas of ministry that they are called to. As more members engage in the question, *How does God want me to contribute to the life and ministry of this congregation?*, God will use that to multiply the impact of FLC within and outside the congregation. The conversations planned for the AGM on October 27th are part of this effort.

**A *Different* Money Conversation**

As I write this, your Church Council is deliberating (or should I call it *agonizing?*) over the budget to present to the congregation at the AGM. The challenge is that if you take the amount of income for last year and plan on that for this year, it is not enough to cover the anticipated expenses. It occurs like there is a *scarcity* of money to cover our expenses. For those who have a business background (or if you’ve managed your family’s finances!), the answer is to either increase revenue/income or decrease expenses (start cutting). If you anticipate that there’s a *scarcity of money* to come in, then the only answer is to cut expenses.

This scarcity mentality wears on the soul! It tends to squash any new ministries or staff that would require any appreciable budget. It makes it really hard to think of giving money outside the congregation to support neighbourhood initiatives, the wider church or social concerns. The default thinking becomes, *How are we going to keep our congregation afloat?*

What other conversation about money is there?

How about ABUNDANCE?

We believe in an abundant God. We follow a saviour who worked miracles. We are in a long line of faithful followers—beginning with the original twelve—who didn’t have much but a faith in an abundant, loving, life-giving God made real in Jesus. They gave their all as they followed in Jesus’ way of life for the sake of the world.

If we trust in an abundant God…

If we believe that that abundant God is at work in and among First Lutheran Church…

If we began giving accordingly (i.e. invested ourselves) to support that holy work at FLC…

What might happen?

Somewhere early in life, the idea of tithing (giving one-tenth of my income to God) got implanted in my psyche. For my whole adult life, I have given 10% of my income to God (usually to the Church but sometimes to other organizations that I felt were more directly seeming to do God’s work!). When I got married, we continued to do it while we raised kids. We never had 10% left over at the end of the month that we would give to the church. We had to designate it first so that the rest of the finances had to fall in line to make it work. It forced us to continually assess what was a priority and what wasn’t. And we were blessed by it. Our son, Paul, likes to say, “I like our family. We just say YES and try to figure it out.”

I guess this is my way of saying that the next big step is for the congregation to deepen its discipline of giving. If more members take the spiritual step of entrusting more of their income to God, then they and the congregation will start experiencing the abundance of God.

What does it look like? It begins with getting in touch with the reality of what you are giving now. ..

What percentage of your income are you currently giving? (It’s called proportionate giving.)

What would it look like to take another step in giving? Going from 1% to 2%? From 3% to 4%?

How might God use this *first fruits* giving to bless you?

I would caution about trying to go too far too fast… If you are at 1%, jumping to 10% would be giving 10x what you currently are! That would be like saying, “There. I can run 3 miles. I think I’ll run a marathon tomorrow!” (Not a good idea!). Ease into developing your generosity muscle… But I encourage you take that next step. Be part of shifting the money conversation from *scarcity* to *abundance* for the sake of the congregation but especially for the sake of Christ’s ministry to the world.

Peace,

Pastor Phil





**Council Report**

by Brent Latimer & Council Connectors

Dear members in Christ,

On behalf of your Church Council, I am very excited about where God is leading the community at First Lutheran and I am grateful for the contributions of time, talent and treasure from the members at First Lutheran to our work. The Congregation has worked hard with Council to help us reach a vision of First Lutheran as an **Inviting, Uplifting, Connecting** and **Dynamic** community of faith. We have asked you over the four Sundays leading up to the AGM to identify what you would be excited to participate in to help make First Lutheran be more Inviting, Uplifting, Connecting and Dynamic. And we look forward to your input at the Annual General Meeting on which of these you are most excited to participate in.

We are grateful for Pastor Phil’s leadership over the past year. Pastor Phil’s priorities over the current year include Worship, Youth and Deepening Connection. Worship has been both Dynamic and Uplifting. Who can forget the prayer maze that he set up for Lent and Easter, this year’s Christmas pageant or the many times that the Confirmation class participated in worship.

The youth and Confirmation class will be meeting every Sunday morning from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. Our youth has challenged all of us to deepen connection at First Lutheran by getting together as small groups on Sunday morning before our service to talk about our faith and what makes us a community of believers at First Lutheran. If you are interested in getting together on Sunday mornings, please contact Kevin Nielsen.

Our music team, led by Yvonne has provided an Uplifting worship experience. The Jesus Radio Superstar series of songs has challenged Pastor Phil to preach on the subject matter of a popular song selected by a member of the music team. I remember when our youth caught one of the confirmands in a trust exercise to help illustrate Pastor Phil’s sermon on the “Trustfall” song. We enjoyed last year’s concert from the music team and we look forward to the October 26th “Hope for the Future” concert that will be raising funds for the Lutheran Campus Ministry. Pastor Margaret will join the concert with some of her students from the Universities and SAIT.

You will have already heard that the Land Committee and Council are working with Avison Young, commercial realtors, to explore selling the east half of our Church campus. We have been advised that the time may be right to sell this property. We have received an opinion of value from Avison Young and we will only consider offers that reflect the land’s fair value and that protect First Lutheran. Council will keep you updated on the progress of this transaction and at some point, we will be asking the Congregation to authorize Council to enter into a sales agreement, if we receive a fair price and if First Lutheran is adequately protected.

Council met for a retreat weekend in early March that, in addition to helping us identify our values, also developed a new leadership structure for Council under which each member of Council will be responsible as Connectors for a specific area of the work of our Church. Our Connectors have described the work that is ongoing in their area of responsibility.

**Worship (Leane El Haddaoui – Connector)**

As the Council Connector for Worship and Property/Building, I've enjoyed spending the past few months learning the ropes and figuring out my role on the FLC council. It has been a rewarding experience, and I look forward to continuing to serve the congregation in this capacity.

Moving forward, my goal is to facilitate clear communication between all involved parties and ensure that important information is shared effectively. I hope to foster greater involvement within the FLC community, wherever that may lead. Thank you for your support!

**Inreach (Brent Latimer – Connector)**

Inreach focuses on our mission to our Congregation and looks at deepening connections at First Lutheran. We thank Laura Perks as our Seniors Coordinator in reaching out to the senior members of our Congregation. Laura welcomes anyone in the Congregation who would be prepared to help her in connecting with seniors in our Congregation. Some cannot make it to our monthly Soup Social and the Seniors Team aims to get soup to those who are confined to their homes. We thank Kelly for organizing our monthly Soup Socials which are often attended by over 20 members of the Congregation.

Reena Bassit is our Hospitality Coordinator and she coordinates monthly potluck lunches after our Sunday services. We look forward to a joint potluck with members of the Turkish community on October 20th.

Yvonne coordinates our Prayer Chain and the three members of our Congregation who pray on a confidential basis. She also leads the monthly Ladies Coffee Connect on the 1st Thursday of each month.

Wayne Hoff leads the monthly men’s lunches which will be held on the 1st Thursday of the month starting November 7 at the Imperial Tap on 4th Avenue SW at 4th Street.

**Education – (Kerri Ledene Campbell – Connector)**

The Education Connector role mainly focuses on Children's Ministry as Pastor Phil has the Youth and Confirmation ministries well in hand.

Sarah spent the summer at Camp Kuriakos and has agreed to take on the role of Children's Ministry Coordinator this year. She has been in touch with our wonderful Powerzone and Children's Message volunteer leaders in putting together a schedule. We look forward to Sarah bringing some fun Camp Kuriakos energy into our Children's ministry program this coming year!

**Finance – (Kevin Nielsen – Connector)**

You will see in the Budget that we presented to the Congregation that givings for the past year 2023-2024 were significantly below budget and consequently, we were in a deficit position as of year-end at August 31, 2024. The Budget for the current year 2024-2025 assumes increased givings, but even with these, we are still projecting a deficit. Pastor Phil has done an excellent job in his report in shifting the discussion of givings to “A Different Money Conversation”. I would urge you all to prayerfully consider how we can shift our financial mindset from one of scarcity to faith in God’s abundance.

**Call Committee (Marty Wittstrom – Connector)**

As you may recall, Pastor Phil was called to FLC on a temporary basis after Pastor Kevin's departure in March of 2023. The Call Committee was formed in April of 2024 and is comprised of the following members: Marty Wittstrom (Call Committee Connector), Anne Hoff, Ben Ledene, and Janet Crawford. There are many more pastor vacancies in the Synod... and beyond... then there are pastors available. By all accounts, the call process for FLC, and any church seeking a pastor, will be a long one in the current environment. In the call process, the congregation works through the Synod office to announce the call opportunity to pastors throughout the Synod. The call process seeks to reach a pastor, through prayerful consideration, who feel they are being called elsewhere to use their gifts.

We are currently waiting for that process to play out. Plus, there has been a complete change at the Synod level of the people the Call Committee must communicates with, so that has delayed the process a bit. In addition to the Synod call announcement, it is possible for members of the Congregation to, **in confidence**, bring the names of particular pastors to the Call Committee’s attention for consideration. This must be done with extreme confidence. If you have a pastor in mind to be considered, please do not speak to that pastor directly or speak to anyone in that congregation directly

**Governance (Brent Latimer – Connector)**

I have already talked about the changes to our Council structure. We look forward to discussing where God is leading First Lutheran at our Annual General Meeting on October 27th.

All of Council’s current members are up for re-election at the AGM. Kerri and Leane joined Council in May and are up for election at the AGM. To get back to a place where Council members have a staggered term and all members are not up for re-election at the same time, we are proposing that Kerri and Leane be elected for a one-year term. Marty, Kevin and I are proposed for re-election for a two-year term, which will be our last.

We will miss Bob Miller on Council, as he has announced that he will not stand for re-election at the AGM. You may know that Bob has moved to Milo, Alberta, and we all wish him the best in his new life there. Leah Craig and Janet Crawford left Council in May. We recognize the tremendous work that Leah did as Chair of Council during a very challenging time for First Lutheran, as well as Janet’s contributions on Council.

Although a sale of the unused portion of our campus would have the potential to significantly change First Lutheran, we believe that the Congregation’s input at the AGM about where they feel God is leading us with faith in His abundance will be important for the future of First.

Yours in Christ,

Brent Latimer



**Treasurer’s Report**

by Kevin Nielsen

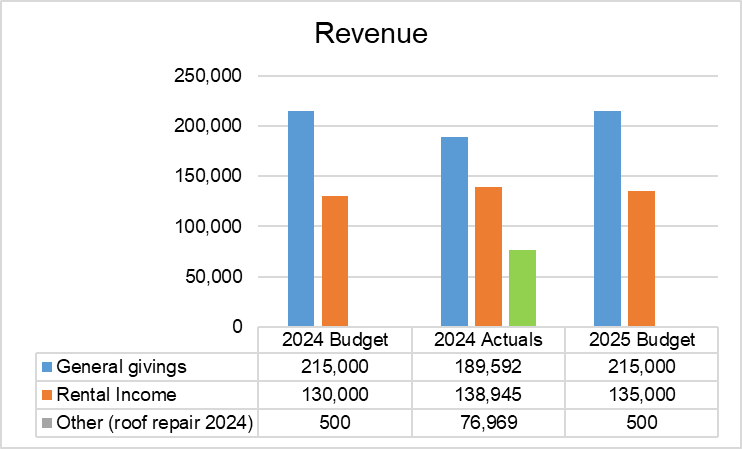
I am pleased to present the financial results for First Lutheran Church for the year ended August 31, 2024.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Kelly Blackwell, our Financial Assistant and Property Manager, for her diligent and steadfast efforts throughout the year. Kelly has effectively managed our funds and financial responsibilities while navigating the challenges associated with limited spending. Her comprehensive knowledge and reports have been invaluable to the Church Council in guiding our decision making.

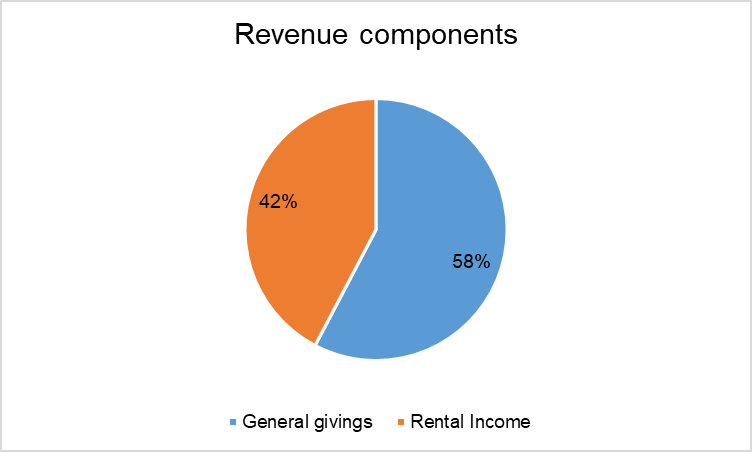
**Revenues:**

For 2024, general collection revenues totaled $190k, representing a 12% shortfall from our budgeted expectations, as we did not meet the stretch targets established in the previous year’s budget. However, rental income reached $139k, reflecting strong third-party utilization of our facilities, which exceeded budget projections by 7%. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our church community.

Additionally, I would like to highlight the special giving campaign initiated to fund the necessary roof repairs for the church. We are deeply grateful to everyone who generously contributed; we successfully raised the required funds, and the repairs are scheduled for completion in late September 2024.

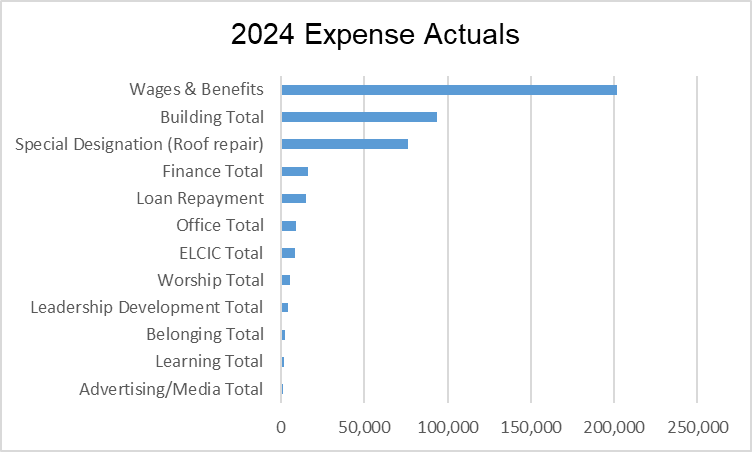


I would also like to thank our rental tenants for their continued support over the year, particularly Aspen Hill Montessori and Suzuki Music. Rental revenues constitute 42% of our total revenue and play a critical role in enabling our church to deliver programming and meet expenses throughout the year.

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**2024 Actual Results:**

The 2024 expenses, as reported, are consistent with the approved 2024 budget. We are pleased to report this and be able to effectively manage our resources while supporting our ongoing programs

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**2025 Budget:**

As we prepare for the 2025 budget year, we spent time forecasting our anticipated inflows and outflows. However, we are facing a concern with a projected deficit of $8k, which will further deplete our August 31, 2024 cash reserve of $32k. Addressing this situation will require ongoing discussions, a renewed commitment and continued generosity from the congregation to help balance our finances in 2025.

The 2025 budget is presented in detail and I will make a couple of highlights:

* **Revenues**: We are projecting an increase in general giving of about $25k to reduce the deficit and rental revenues consistent with the previous year.
* **Expenses**: Overall expenses are expected to remain consistent, with the following notable adjustments:
  + An increase of $9k in building expenses, primarily driven by rising heating and utility costs.
  + A 2% increase in wages and salaries to align with standard Synod guidelines for year-over-year staff increases. We are particularly excited to continue our partnership with Sarah as our youth coordinator, as we believe that engaging our youth is a vital aspect of our ministry.

**Financial Condition:**

Overall, First Lutheran Church has a very strong balance sheet at August 31, 2024 highlighted by:

* Ending general cash balances of $32k reflecting a decrease of $33k from prior year
* A very small bank loan of $64k against the land and building

**Year-end Compilation Engagement:**

For a number of years, we have not completed a financial audit and instead have engaged Dart Bryant LLP to complete a compilation engagement. There were no significant adjustments or findings from their year-end work. The financial results are presented as a separate document that detail the year-end results.

**Summary:**

I present this report with an acknowledgment of our improved financial condition over the past two to three years, while also addressing our current challenges, including a projected budget deficit of $8k. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the members and friends of First Lutheran Church for your ongoing support, commitment, and generosity.

As we look ahead, I encourage you to prayerfully consider your giving levels and any additional contributions that may be needed to help us balance our budget in the upcoming year. The Church Council has begun exploratory discussions on reflecting privately at a personal level regarding our giving to ensure we keep pace with inflation and evaluate where we are on a 10% tithing commitment.

We truly appreciate the congregation’s dedication as we navigate these financial challenges and strive to fulfill our mission. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Nielsen, CPA

Treasurer, First Lutheran Church

**Attachments:**

Appendix A: 2023/2024 Proposed Budget

Appendix B: 2022/2023 Unaudited Income Statement

Appendix C: Balance Sheet

**Worship**

**By Yvonne Broadfield**

It’s been an exciting year and it’s becoming clear that God is up to some great things at First Lutheran. As Worship Director, my priorities are to create a fulfilling and relevant worship experience for the congregation and all those who attend, as well as to foster the community within our music and A/V teams. Active music team members are Jan Wittstrom, Leah Craig, Wayne Hoff, Garth Christiansen, Dave Perks, and Leane EL Haddaoui. Our Audio/Visual team consists of Tim Blackwell, Kenzo Kalinga, Rainer Tonn, Jayme Leatherdale, and sometimes Jayde and Grace Dame. In August, we bid farewell, for now, to Harold Kalinga as he begins his post-secondary studies in Edmonton. Huge thank you to all of you for enriching the worship experience at First Lutheran Church.

In February, the worship team brought songs back from the past two years of our Jesus Radio Superstar sermon series and hosted a fundraising concert to support our Raise the Roof fundraising campaign. We were joined by the Suzuki Talent Education society who played several songs, as well as by Pete and Josanna Justine. Kelly also hosted a bake sale and sold popcorn during intermission. It was a successful night for all involved, helping to raise $6,867 towards our $70,000 overall fundraising goal. As I write this, we are preparing for our Fall Fundraiser, which will be on Saturday, October 26th at 7pm, in support of Lutheran Campus Ministry, faith-based support for university students at the U of C, Mount Royal, and SAIT.

We have just concluded our Jesus Radio Superstar (JRS) sermon series for this year and as always, it has been such a blast. Pastor Phil once again brought enthusiasm and energy into the process and selected 7 songs from the list the music team brought forward, crafting sermons which took a favourite song from the radio (“secular”) and reflecting how it connects and informs our faith. At our Kick-Off Sunday in September we began this sermon series with Joan Osbourne’s ‘One of Us’, and continued with songs ranging through the decades from The Association to Alanis Morissette to several musical theatre songs. The songs and sermons are always very well-received and it continues to spark interest in our music ministry. Each week I aim to foster continued enthusiasm by recording and sharing online a preview of an upcoming song. Find it in our weekly email or by following #FLCMusicMonday.

Pastor Phil and I continue our ministry to four local senior residences, now offering 6 worship services each month for those in our wider community. Three of these centres have members of our congregation in residence, while the fourth is community outreach. We visit Signature Park, Prominence Way, Wentworth Manor and Shalem Manor. Over the course of the year we have held over 56 services, with at least 595 people in attendance. It is a rewarding time of sharing the good news with those we might not otherwise meet. This is an important outreach ministry that will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of it.

In June I was fortunate to again attend a Worship Leaders retreat at Pine Lake Christian Camp hosted by Pete and Josanna Justine. It was a great chance to connect with those working in the same ministry from across Alberta and practice new skills for leading worship. During the weekend I helped co-write a worship song and I look forward to greater collaboration with those met during that time.

On top of the music and worship, my job also includes **website management** and **communications**. My aim is to inform and connect online, sharing all that we are doing as a church, as well as enriching the worship experience with custom graphics and online content. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram to stay up to date on what’s happening. We host a private Facebook group called FLC Congregation which offers an online space to share personal updates with your church community. If you would like to be connected to it, please email me at [worship@makingfaithmatter.ca](mailto:worship@makingfaithmatter.ca) to be added. I update the website every week as well as the pre-service-announcements with upcoming events and opportunities. With continued support from staff and council I also release our quarterly newsletter to better connect and inform all those involved at FLC. If you have ideas for or would like to help us with the next issue please get in touch.

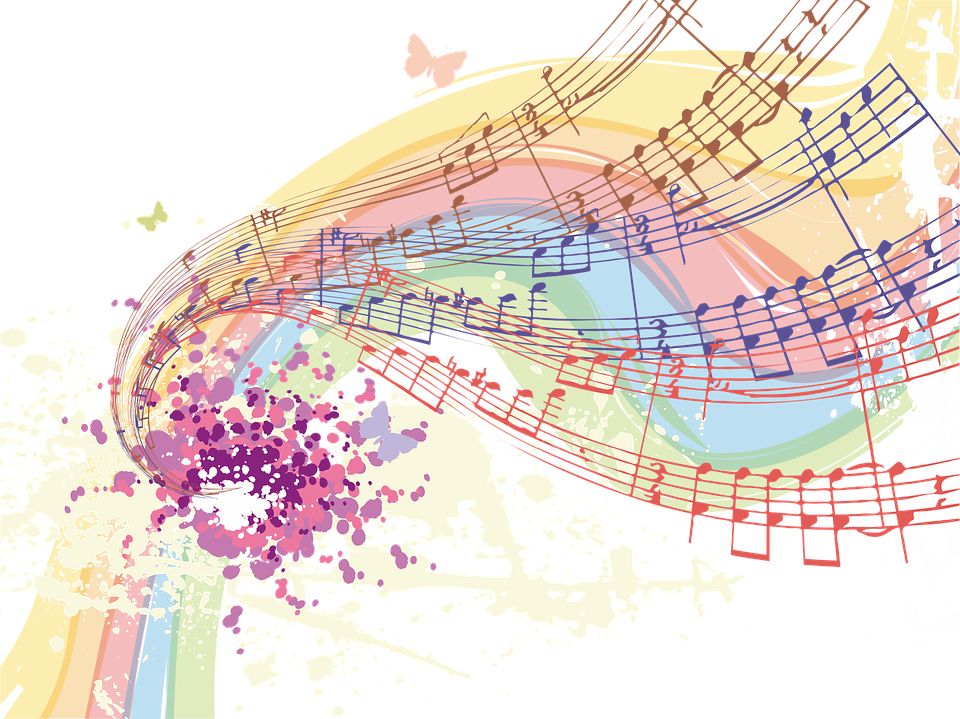
I am thrilled to be leading our **Ladies Ministry**, Ladies Coffee Connect on the 1st Thursday of each month. We have anywhere from 3-8 ladies in attendance every month. As we gather over hot drinks and a light snack, I share scripture, reflections, and prayers. We come together to share where we’re at and to support each other on our way. I really enjoy these sessions and value the relationships that are developing during this time. This coming year my focus is on Prayer (Sept.-Dec.) and being “Present Over Perfect” (Jan.-June), based on a book by Shauna Niequist. I hope to plan some extra-curricular events as well for those who cannot normally come Thursday mornings.

This year I took on another important ministry, that of our confidential and public **Prayer List**. As messages come in requesting prayer, I respond and clarify how they would like prayers handled, whether on the public or private list or both. Each Thursday the confidential prayer chain is sent to our prayer volunteers as well as to Pastor Phil. I reach out for updates every two weeks to those who have submitted requests for prayer. I have found this such a beautiful ministry and one that helps deepen my own faith and commitment to this community.

I helped organize our second annual Church Picnic on August 10th at Edworthy Park. This year we were fortunate to be joined by Suzuki Talent Education Society and shared food and fellowship with them, greatly enjoying the music they shared for their “play-in”. We had good weather and continued creating community over some team games.

The worship at FLC is one of our strongest assets and I invite you to get involved. Let me know what songs are on your playlist. Play an instrument or sing? We’d love to include your music in our worship services. Interested in reading/leading up front? Speak with Pastor Phil or myself on how you can assist. If you’d rather stay ‘behind the scenes’ come join us in the sound booth, working the slides or the sound board or helping facilitate the livestream. Training is available for all positions. We can’t do this without you ☺

Thank you for a great year at FLC, #MakingFaithMatter! **-Yvonne Broadfield, Worship Director**

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