

# St. Andrew Lutheran Church 2023-2024 Annual Report



**St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting June 9, 2024  
Table of Contents**

<b>Annual Meeting Agenda</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>December 2023 Annual Budget Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Major Congregational Issues and Actions</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Congregational Report</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Pastor’s Report</b>	<b>7-8</b>
<b>President’s Report</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Treasurer’s Report</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>11-12</b>
<b>Mission Endowment Committee Report</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Director of Youth and Family Ministries Report</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Commission Reports</b>	<b>15-20</b>
<b>Youth and Family</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Adult Education</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Congregational Care</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Evangelism</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Mission and Service</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Property</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Worship and Music</b>	<b>19-20</b>

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Meeting – June 11, 2023 – June 9, 2024**  
**June 9, 2024, 10:45 AM**  
**Agenda**

- I. Call to Order/Confirmation of a Quorum
- II. Opening Prayer – Pastor Jeffrey
- III. Approval of Minutes of Congregation Meeting, December 31, 2023
- IV. Treasurer’s Report –
- V. Election of Officers and Congregation Council Commission Chairs and Installation

President	Art Revueltas	2 years
Treasurer	Linda Ludwick	2 years
Adult Ministry	Kathy Mitzen	2 years
Congregational Care	Marie Jorgenson	2 years
Evangelism	Jennifer Oertel	2 years
Mission and Service	Suzanne Thompson	2 years
Stewardship	Diane Fort-Woody	2 years
Youth and Family	Sue Grana	2 years

- VI. Election of Endowment Committee member for two-year term
- VII. Election of two Nominating Committee members from the Congregation.
- VIII. Adjourn with the Lord’s Prayer

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Budget Meeting December 31, 2023**

1. Call to Order and verification of a quorum-Art Revueltas called the meeting to order and Susie Besack verified the quorum of 20 members.
2. Opening Prayer – Pastor Jeffrey led us in prayer.
3. Approval of minutes-June 6, 2023-Susie Besack and Richard Besack signed the minutes for approval. Jon Woody moved, and Suzanne Thompson seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.
4. Treasurer’s Report, Linda Ludwick presented a provisional budget for 2024.
  - a. Giving is down from last year.
  - b. Little Learners contract is renewing in January for five years with a 3% increase in lease payments.
  - c. Benevolence giving remains stable.
  - d. Staff are receiving a 3% increase in salary.
  - e. Property: Our facility has undergone some expensive repairs which we have been able to manage.
  - f. If we all can increase giving by 3% we would be in really good shape.
  - g. Motion to accept the budget as presented by Linda, seconded by Kathy. Motion carried.
5. Election of two representatives to 2024 Pacifica Synod. Diane and Marie volunteered. Moved and seconded, motion carried.
6. Adjournment-Pastor Jeffrey closed the meeting at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted, Susie Besack, church council secretary

Readers of the minutes to present to the congregation for approval.

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## MAJOR CONGREGATION COUNCIL ISSUES AND ACTIONS: July 2023 – May 2024

### July 2023

- Set up a new checking and saving account with The Bank of Whittier.

### August 2023

- New Bible Study “Through the New Testament” beginning September 11<sup>th</sup>.

### September 2023

- Council Retreat focused on goals for the coming year.

### October 2023

- Reformation Sunday on October 29.
- Little Learners received a grant from the State of California for playground and facilities improvements.
- Date for Congregation Budget Meeting for December 17, 2023.
- Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00, Christmas morning at 9:30. Advent services will be December 6, 13, and 20 with soup suppers to follow.

### November 2023

- Church mail was stolen out of a mailbox. Replaced all the checks and discussed with the bank about keeping the account or open a new one.
- Both bishops gave their okay for Pastor Jeffrey’s daughter Rebekah to have her ordination and her daughter Everly’s baptism at St. Andrew.
- The Endowment Committee updated the Council on spending \$1,000 on Fund for Leaders.

### December 2023

- Pastor Jeffrey’s housing allowance was approved.
- The offering for the ordination service went to the ELCA Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Ministries Scholarship as suggested by Bishop Bos.

### January 2024

- Looking for new air conditioning and heating units.
- Discussed support for global missionaries. Using Thrivent dollars, we have chosen Reverend Wal Reat from ELCA and Joel and Lea from WMPL Workers.

### February 2024

- Paid and replaced HVAC unit.
- New checking account with Bank of Whittier replacing account that had checks stolen.

### March 2024

- Date set for annual congregation meeting on June 9, 2024.
- Maundy Thursday service 7:00, Good Friday at 7:00, Easter service 9:30.
- Youth Easter party Saturday 10:00 to 12:00.

### April 2024

- Looking into updating our website.
- Discussion on possible First Wednesday Fellowship each month.

### May 2024

- Women’s Tea.

## Congregational Report for 2023

Baptized Members	283 Total
Baptism(s)	
Lilly Marie Mitzen	7/16/2023
Everly Lori Anderson	12/30/2023
Death(s)	13 Total
Lorraine Edith Tunberg	
Barbara LaVerne DuBois	
Kent Harlow Hurley	
Marian Dana Humphrey	
Lorraine Sue O'Brien	
Selma Levina Bergen	
Gloria Jan Morse	
Barbara Diane Church	
Earl Ben Ruschmeier	
Ken Floyd Christiansen	
Judy Gerlach	
Danny Stewart Thompson	
Cindy Berner	

**Pastor**  
**Annual Report 2023-2024**

*We always thank GOD, the FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in CHRIST JESUS and of the love you have for all GOD's people. – Colossians 1:3-4*

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

We have a great congregation, a community of people who gather because of their faith in GOD and their love for one another. GOD has indeed blessed us so that we might bless others. GOD has provided greatly and, as it has always been, it is up to us to share that provision.

Beside our faith, the greatest blessings we have are so many gifted people, both paid and volunteer. Our musicians, Randy, Matthew, and Alex, as well as the choir, praise team, and other singers, lead and enhance our worship of GOD each week. Services are overseen and shared through the technical support of people like Carina, John, Nicholas, Marie, and Debbie. And the setting and presentation of worship is overseen by the many committed members of the altar guild.

We provide educational opportunities to a variety of ages through the efforts of Elissa, Sue, Marsha, and others.

Carina and Mardie do excellent work managing our office, messaging the congregation in many forms, and relating to the larger community.

The congregational ministries are overseen by a corps of faithful, dedicated individuals on our Church Council: Art, Debbie, Linda, Susie, Kathy, Marie, Len, Isla, Jon, Diane, Suzanne, Vicki, and Sue.

And most of all there is you, the people of GOD who support, participate in, and share in GOD's ministry through St. Andrew Lutheran Church. Thank you!

St. Andrew has a long history, a legacy, of welcoming and sharing blessings with others. Many of you are part of that legacy. Doing so was easier when a steady stream of visitors came to St. Andrew. Today, that is no longer the case. Our neighborhood is now well-established with far fewer people moving in hoping to find a church home. So, fewer of GOD's blessings are shared.

The result is that we must find new ways to bring people here to experience GOD's love as so many have in the past. It also means that we, the members, must become more intentional about looking for and inviting new folks to come. Several steps are already in process to help make this happen. It can only succeed fully if we open ourselves to new ways to look around us. With the SPIRIT's leading we can expand how we live out GOD's mission to make disciples.

In CHRIST's love,  
Pastor Jeffrey

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Baptisms**

Lilly Marie Mitzen	7/16/23
Everly Lori Anderson	12/30/23

### **Deaths**

Selma Levina Bergen	6/12/23
Lorraine Sue O'Brien	8/3/23
Gloria Jan Morse	11/3/23
Nolan Berner	11/18/23
Earl Ben Ruschmeier	12/11/23
Kenneth Floyd Christiansen	2/16/24
Judy Gerlach	2/21/24
Danny Stewart Thompson	2/24/24
Cindy Berner	4/20/24

## **PASTORAL ACTS**

### **Baptisms**

Lilly Marie Mitzen	7/16/23
Everly Lori Anderson	12/30/23

### **Funerals**

Kent Harlow Hurley	7/1/23
Selma Levina Bergen	7/22/23
Marian Dana Humphrey	9/7/23
Lorraine Sue O'Brien	9/16/23
Gloria Jan Morse	11/18/23
Barbara Dian Church	12/16/23
Earl Ben Ruschmeier	12/2/23
Kenneth Floyd Christiansen	2/27/24
Danny Stewart Thompson	4/20/24



## President Annual Report 2023-2024

Thanks to all our members, especially all the Commission leaders and members for the hard work it takes to run our church. Our Commission members put in countless hours to make things happen!

Thanks to all for the financial contributions, time, and energy it takes to further the mission of St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

Thank you, Pastor Jeffrey, for your guiding leadership and patience as we navigate our future.

With all the tumult and tribulations in this world let us thank God for watching out for our little corner of our world. I believe He watches and guides us all the time, especially when we slow down to listen!

- Linda Ludwick has been doing a great job as Treasurer, she has gone through a thorough review of our processes and come up with great suggestions on policies and procedures. Please read her report.
- Our Church Council works well as a team, we have had a great deal of activities this past year and everyone pitches in to get things done!
- Stewardship- giving by our members continues to be strong and is much appreciated, but national/worldwide events which cause inflation will affect our spending and budget. Please, if you can, increase what you donate by 3 to 4 percent. Inflation has really affected our bottom line and that forces us to dip into our reserves.
- Long-term deferred maintenance issues still exist and need to be dealt with.
- Little Learners continues to be fully enrolled, and the added Infant/Toddler Program increased their enrollment to 98 students! The lease payments they make enables St. Andrew to capitalize on what used to be underused assets.
- Carina, our church secretary continues to provide us with her untold skills and talents in our office.  
Thank you, Carina!

Once again, I would like to thank our members for their support, both in person and monetarily. And, as we face the future with hope and faith, I believe the St. Andrew Church community will continue to fulfill our Mission as new opportunities for service present themselves.

God Bless,  
Art Revueltas, Church Council President

## Treasurer Annual Report 2023-2023

This last several years have been financially challenging years for St Andrew Lutheran Church for many reasons:

- The loss of Betty Dagen as treasurer.
- Settling into our finances after the pandemic.
- The loss of members/congregants who found other churches during the pandemic.
- The passing of many of our generous members/congregants.
- Inflation hitting the church's pocketbook as it has everyone's.
- The aging of our buildings requires expensive repairs and extra maintenance.
- We have been blessed with Little Learners Exploration Academy being able to get current with their payments. They are booked to capacity with their programs including infant care.
- Major expenses have cost us some of our savings such as replacing a HVAC unit, major landscaping maintenance, and more recently trying to identify and remedy an odor in the kitchen area to name a few.
- Some months our income and expenses can be close and some not so close but basically we are running over budget and need to be careful with our spending.

For the future we look forward to:

- Little Learners contract has rolled over to the next five years as they continue to pay their rent and their share of the utilities.
- We are blessed with many generous givers but can always use a little more help with giving when possible.
- We look forward to a more prominent exposure on the internet with updated web design to promote our presence in the community.

We will continue to monitor our financial situation closely this year. We pray that we do not have any more repair or maintenance issues this coming year that could tip the delicate financial balance we are maintaining.

Respectively submitted,  
Linda Ludwick, Treasurer

# Statement of Financial Position

April 30, 2024

	Year Begin Balance	Balance Last Month	Year to Date Balance	Year to Date Change
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Cash</b>				
101 ACCU Internet Checking Account	450.56	1,804.77	1,901.45	1,450.89
95 ACCU Checking Account	2,979.05	1,484.47	1,792.52	(1,186.53)
102 Petty Cash	22.22	22.22	22.22	0.00
103 PPP Loan Checking Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
106 Bank of Whittier Checking	3,498.15	(3,191.69)	5,289.31	1,791.16
107 Bank of Whittier Savings	1,027.39	1,031.76	1,038.14	10.75
109 Bank of Whittier Checking xx0185	0.00	10,086.07	(3,338.89)	(3,338.89)
105 ACCU Money Market Acct.	54,369.48	29,193.98	29,217.98	(25,151.50)
Cash Totals:	62,346.85	40,431.58	35,922.73	(26,424.12)
<b>Interfund Transfers</b>				
100 Due from/to (general)	(34,773.82)	(34,773.82)	(34,773.82)	0.00
108 Due from/to (restricted)	(22,278.93)	(22,278.93)	(22,278.93)	0.00
110 Due from/to (property)	34,525.56	34,525.56	34,525.56	0.00
112 Due to/from (endowment)	(34,950.00)	(34,950.00)	(34,950.00)	0.00
Interfund Transfers Totals:	(57,477.19)	(57,477.19)	(57,477.19)	0.00
<b>Other Current Assets</b>				
115 Deposits/Advances	(17,250.00)	(17,250.00)	(17,250.00)	0.00
116 Accounts Receivable, misc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
118 Prepaid Expenses	24.62	(1,646.38)	(2,203.38)	(2,228.00)
Other Current Assets Totals:	(17,225.38)	(18,896.38)	(19,453.38)	(2,228.00)
<b>Savings &amp; Investments</b>				
125 Thrivent brokerage (general)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
126 Thrivent Brokerage (Endowment)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
127 Thrivent Money Mkt (Endowment)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
128 Thrivent Mutual Fund (Endwmtnt)	54,488.22	56,369.45	56,369.45	1,881.23
Savings & Investments Totals:	54,488.22	56,369.45	56,369.45	1,881.23
<b>Physical Plant</b>				
180 Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
181 Sanctuary	4,214,435.53	4,214,435.53	4,214,435.53	0.00
184 Equipment	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00
Physical Plant Totals:	4,264,435.53	4,264,435.53	4,264,435.53	0.00
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>4,306,568.03</b>	<b>4,284,862.99</b>	<b>4,279,797.14</b>	<b>(26,770.89)</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current Payables</b>				
201 Pre-Tax FSA/403(b) Withholdings	(703.54)	(650.18)	(624.74)	78.80
200 Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
205 Other Accrued Liabilities	(1,973.11)	1,180.89	760.98	2,734.09

	<u>Year Begin Balance</u>	<u>Balance Last Month</u>	<u>Year to Date Balance</u>	<u>Year to Date Change</u>
202 Garnishment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
136 Federal Tax withheld Payable	0.00	169.00	0.00	0.00
137 Fed Soc Sec Tax Pay	1,453.62	827.16	1,082.58	(371.04)
139 State Inc Tax Pay	55.14	36.40	36.37	(18.77)
83 TSA Withholding	100.00	100.00	0.00	(100.00)
Current Payables Totals:	(1,067.89)	1,663.27	1,255.19	2,323.08
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>				
260 Long Term Debt LCUA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	(1,067.89)	1,663.27	1,255.19	2,323.08
<b>Net Assets</b>				
<b>Net Assets</b>				
300 Net Assets - General Fund	(140,803.07)	(140,803.07)	(140,803.07)	0.00
301 Net Assets - Restricted	(14,212.79)	(14,212.79)	(14,212.79)	0.00
302 Net Assets Property	4,298,961.09	4,298,961.09	4,298,961.09	0.00
303 Net Assets Endowment	18,568.73	18,568.73	18,568.73	0.00
Net Assets Totals:	4,162,513.96	4,162,513.96	4,162,513.96	0.00
<b>Dedicated Accounts</b>				
Without Donor Restrictions	10,951.71	9,789.76	10,152.76	(798.95)
With Donor Restrictions	134,170.25	119,201.68	116,849.02	(17,321.23)
Dedicated Accounts Totals:	145,121.96	128,991.44	127,001.78	(16,120.18)
Current Period Changes to Net Assets	0.00	(8,305.68)	(10,973.79)	(10,973.79)
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>	4,307,636.92	4,283,199.72	4,278,541.95	(29,093.97)
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets:</b>	4,306,568.03	4,284,862.99	4,279,797.14	(26,770.89)

**Mission Endowment Fund**  
**Annual Report 2023-2024**

Members: Nick Grana, Chair; David Dickerson; Marsha Ehlers; Mardie Heller, Secretary; Pastor Jeffrey Nelson

Our first meeting reviewed the purpose of the Fund as spelled out in the constitution.

Funds available for the year ending December 2022 were \$1505.29 (3% of the balance of the fund).

The committee voted to send \$1000 to the ELCA Fund for Leaders which provides support to future ministers who are attending seminary. We also voted to give 10/\$50 gift cards, to be distributed by the Whittier Area Interfaith Council, to families in the area needing assistance.

We are in the process of reviewing the Endowment Brochure and updating the information.

Grant application forms are available for requests to receive funds. Currently there is \$1600 available from the 2023 year to be used to enhance the missional outreach and ministry of St Andrew. See a member of the committee for an application.

Mardie Heller

## Director of Youth and Family **Annual Report 2023-2024**

It's been another wonderful year at St. Andrew. I truly enjoy working with the children and families at St. Andrew and I feel blessed to be a part of their lives. I am so grateful to Sue Grana for her dedication to our youth and for all the time and energy she puts into this ministry. We are proud that the youth group has remained strong throughout the years. We strive to create an environment where all the youth feel accepted, wanted, and comfortable.

Here are some of the highlights from this past year:

- Youth Group meets every other Sunday at 9:30AM.
- Sunday School meets every Sunday at 8:30AM.
- We had five students in our confirmation program this year, four of them will be confirmed in May.
- Our commission hosted a summer water day for the community. Unfortunately, it was not well attended. We had a water slide, bubbles, chalk, snow cones, and hot dogs.
- Blessing of the Backpacks went well. Five children brought their backpacks to be blessed.
- Sunday school kids had a lot of fun at their Halloween party. They played games, decorated cookies, and painted pumpkins.
- Trunk or Treat was a success! We had games, crafts, a food truck, a dessert truck, music, a cake walk, and so many decorated trunks. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible.
- Our youth had so much fun at their Christmas party. They played games, shared a meal, and did a white elephant gift exchange.
- Our Sunday school kids had a great Christmas party. They played games, decorated cookies, and made an edible nativity scene.
- It rained during our Easter event this year, but everyone who came out had a great time. We made several crafts, took pictures with the Easter Bunny, ate goodies, decorated the cross with flowers, and had an egg hunt in the sanctuary.
- Our youth had a big outing in March. They went to Anaheim Gardenwalk. They had lunch at Johnny Rockets, walked around, shopped a bit, and worked as a team to escape from an escape room.
- Our youth continue to volunteer their time helping with youth events, refreshments after church on special occasions, congregational breakfasts, and acolyting. This year our youth have decided that they want to help teach Sunday School.

We are currently planning new and exciting things for the summer. Although the congregation does not “see” our youth as much as they would like during service, our youth are there, they are active, and they attend our programs regularly.

Thank you,  
Elissa Mitzen

## **Youth and Family Commission** **Annual Report 2023-2024**

The Youth & Family Commission's areas of responsibility are to provide education and ministering to the children and youth along with coordinating family activities for the congregation.

The Sunday School meets every week. We teach Bible stories and scripture through various crafts, games, songs, and cooking activities. In addition, we had a Christmas party and Easter celebration. We continue to reach out to families and hope to increase participation.

The Youth Group meets every other Sunday and gets together for holiday parties and other outings. The Youth have really bonded and enjoy doing activities together. They serve as acolytes, help with church events, and assist with Sunday School. One of their favorite events was going to an Escape Room which luckily for us they escaped from!

This year Pastor Jeffrey had 5 students in our confirmation class. Four of them will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday – the other student will be confirmed next year.

In September we held a Water Play Day. The event was fun with a water slide, games, hot dogs, and snow cones. Although we invited the community, we had hoped for more attendees.

On October 29th, we brought back the annual "Trunk or Treat". Thanks to the many volunteers and the Boy Scouts who worked hard at the event. It was a very successful event with approximately 125 attendees.

In April 2025 we hosted an Easter Celebration and invited friends and families. The day included crafts, snacks, a visit and photos with the Easter Bunny and a Bible lesson taught by Pastor Jeffrey. We had several visitors which made for a very nice event.

We welcome anyone interested to join our commission. We are always looking for new ideas.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sue Grana

## **Adult Ministries Commission** **Annual Report 2023-2024**

The Adult Ministries Commission is responsible for encouraging the spiritual development and fellowship of adults in the congregation through education and social activities. The commission will develop, plan, promote, support, and implement classes, programs, groups, and special events.

Spiritual growth activities have been continuing through this year. A faithful group of members have participated in weekly daytime and evening Bible studies. Many thanks to Pastor Jeffrey for presenting meaningful studies and facilitating discussion of the scripture. Thanks also to Marsha Ehlers for planning and leading the Sunday morning adult class. There has been a faithful group participating in her classes as well. The Sunday class has benefited from programs provided by our Amplify media subscription.

The Commission continues to support our small group activities to encourage fellowship, education and sharing of our faith. The Men's Group meets monthly to enjoy breakfast and a devotion. A new fellowship group for single women was established based on the "Women Alone Together" group that thrived here at St. Andrew in past years. The group began in Spring 2023 and met monthly for a meal and activity. This year the group decided to expand and invite all St. Andrew women and friends. Monthly meetings have included a meal and an activity such as a tour of the Whittier Historical Museum. The highlight of the year was enjoyment of an afternoon tea this May. Many must be thanked for supporting our Women's group including Debbie Warren, Marsha Ehlers, Marie Jorgensen, Diane Fort-Woody, Isla Holmes, Mary Jo DiRuscio, Mardie Heller, Susie Besack, Sue Grana, and Linda Ludwick.

The church subscribes to a wonderful multimedia platform called Amplify. It offers a variety of educational videos that can be used for personal study, reflection, worship, and inspiration. Amplify programs and study materials are currently being used by several of our St. Andrew groups. Information has been distributed on how to sign on to our subscription at no charge to the individual and all members are encouraged to use the resources for personal growth.

Kathy Mitzen

## **Congregational Care Commission** **Annual Report 2023-2024**

The Congregational Care Commission is a great group of volunteers. We are always looking for ways to help members. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped members in need in many ways such as providing transportation, delivering food, and helping find needed medical equipment such as walkers and visiting shut ins.

The prayer chain is being sent out online with new requests almost daily. Thanks to all those on our prayer team. I also write the weekly prayer lists and prayers for Sunday morning.

Vern and Geneva DeBuhr are sending out birthday cards and also e-mailing cards for birthdays. Sue Grana is sending out praying for you cards, get well cards, and sympathy cards.

Marie Jorgensen,  
Congregational Care



**Evangelism Commission**  
**Annual Report 2023-2024**

After some 13 years on the council, I am hoping that this is the last year. However, it will not deter Don Scotvold and myself from making our weekly calls on the men and women who are not able to attend church on a regular basis. I know that all of them appreciate the visits and being able to receive communion. If you are inclined to help visit them, please let us know. Retiring this year is Madeline Thomas and I would like to thank her for all she has done. She is a special person, and we commend her for all her time and effort giving comfort to those in need.

Special thanks to Carol Sipple and Ardis Scotvold for all the time they spend and continue to spend visiting our older shut ins.

If you would like to take care of someone you know, please let me know and you will have a warm heart knowing you helped.

Len Bobier

**Hospitality Commission**  
**Annual Report 2023-2024**

This year we served refreshments every Sunday. Coffee and treats are available after service to all that come. Since October members of the congregation have signed up to bring treats. A big thank you to Marie Jorgensen, Marsha Ehlers, Grace Christiansen, Nancy Bobier, and Diane Fort-Woody for helping out.

We assisted in 7 funeral/memorial services. A great big thank you to my wonderful team, Steve and Margaret Bruhns, Mary Jo and Damon DiRuscio, Geneva DeBuhr, Susie and Dick Besack, Marianne Dickerson, Marsha Ehlers, Mardie Heller, Jon Woody and Diane Fort-Woody, and Art and Barbara Revueltas. They are always available to help with setup, serving, clean up, and laundry. They make my job so much easier.

We planned and hosted three soup suppers for Advent. They were very well received. We also organized Lenten Soup Suppers. A big thank you to everyone that donated soup or dessert to make this event a success. Due to the success of these meals, we are looking at starting a Wednesday night fellowship event, once a month, starting in June. More details to come.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Isla Holmes

## Mission and Service Commission Annual Report 2023-2024

Following is a recap of the impact we made on those in need locally and globally this past year, with generous contributions and support from our members:

### **Interfaith Food Center**

We contributed 70 lbs. of rice; 49 pounds of pasta; 61 cans of tomato sauce; 27 boxes of cereal; 27 jars of peanut butter; 8 lbs. of dried beans; 16 cans of meat/fish; 71 boxes of pancake mix; 46 cans of soup (including those contributed as part of our Souper Bowl Sunday friendly competition); 17 jars of jelly; and 41 boxes of macaroni and cheese. In addition, for Thanksgiving/Christmas, we donated 37 pounds of food, \$475 in gift cards, and more than \$1,400 in checks/cash.

### **God's work. Our hands. – two activities**

Our team of volunteers participated at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank in the City of Industry to assemble 5,638 food boxes for low-income seniors. We also collected items and assembled 60 personal hygiene kits to be distributed to those in need by the Interfaith Food Center.

### **Appreciation breakfast for La Colima staff**

We provided La Colima staff with coffee and bagels to mark the end of the first week of school.

### **Support for veterans of VFW Post #9148 La Mirada**

We held two dinners for members and donated \$300 for Thanksgiving turkeys for local veterans and other families in need; \$100 toward the purchase of a television as part of the upgrade of their lounge and hall; and nearly 500 plastic eggs filled with candy for its Easter egg hunt and car show fundraising event.

### **Bread for the World pancake breakfast**

We raised \$620 for Bread for the World to help in its advocacy efforts to end hunger at home and abroad.

### **San Juan Camino de Esperanza, Lima, Peru**

We contributed \$980 to San Juan which enabled them to continue to offer the lunches to children and youth on Saturdays consisting of oatmeal, milk, butter, sugar, and bread; to update their kitchen utensils and purchase a blender and pot; and continue to support young people with tuition and fees for higher education.

### **Donations for those in need**

Through generous contributions from our members, we donated \$859.40 to Lutheran World Relief; \$4,035 to ELCA Disaster Relief; \$900 to ELCA World Hunger; and \$597.90 to our Homeless Ministry (Habitat for Humanity).

### **Financial support to aid humanitarian crisis at southern boarder**

St. Andrew sent a \$1,000 donation to King of Kings Lutheran Church in Oceanside to help address the flood of migrants in San Diego County. The money was used to provide food and other resources for the more than 8,000 asylum seekers who had future appointments with immigration offices, and sponsors in the US who were waiting to reunite with them.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Thompson  
Chair, Mission and Service

**Property Commission**  
**Annual Report 2023-2024**

**Accomplishments:**

Replaced HVAC unit servicing rooms 5-8. They now have heat and A/C!

Installed drip irrigation system in rose bed.

Cleared water from gas line servicing Sanctuary and surrounding buildings.

Cleaned ducts in Fellowship Hall and Kitchen on recommendation of Gas Company to hopefully alleviate the ongoing gas smell. Installed an “air scrubber” in front unit of HVAC system in hall to clean air.

Our differed maintenance and upcoming issues remain the same. The buildings and property are aging and require ongoing maintenance and repairs. There are lots of “honey do” projects.

Mardie Heller

**Stewardship Commission**  
**Annual Report 2023-2024**

This year has seen less giving by the congregation. We are in a rear as far as the budget is concerned! I think because we have a paying preschool our congregation has started to depend on that more and more. We need to view the preschool as a gift and continue with a good giving pattern as we had a few years ago. I have not been very active in cheering us on to more giving this year and plan to change that. I have been active in other commissions.

Diane Fort

**Worship and Music Commission**  
**Annual Report 2023-2024**

As I reflect back on the past year at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, I can proudly say that we have come to a place of harmony amongst our members. Change is often difficult and even uncomfortable at times. However, we have come to a place of acceptance, and I truly feel that the anxiety level of the congregation has greatly decreased.

We have worked out a lot of kinks along the way and now we have a unique service that allows members from the traditional service and the contemporary service to gather and worship together in one combined service. We also have the opportunity to experience and hopefully learn to appreciate the music from both services. We are blessed to have a dedicated choir and praise team and two fantastic music directors that fill St. Andrew sanctuary with a variety of worship music each week.

I'm extremely grateful for the members of this commission that continue to selflessly give their time, support, and valuable input as we work collaboratively to make worship at St. Andrew a meaningful service that is inclusive and respectful of our diverse congregation.

This year in review:

\*We continue to offer live streaming of the service each week through our Facebook page. A huge thank you to Art Revueltas and Nicholas Reed for their commitment to ensuring that the service is livestreamed each week.

\*Nov 12, 2023, we honored Eden Ludwick Samms, Linda Ludwick's daughter, at our flag ceremony. We had a very nice turn out and the ceremony was led by the scouts and went very well.

\*Thanksgiving Eve service was lightly attended, followed by the "Pie Auction". This year we had a good number of pies for the auction, and everyone went home happy with their pies.

\*Advent services were held in the sanctuary using the Holden Evening Service. We returned to offering soup suppers prior to the services in our lounge. The attendance was good and having the soup suppers in the lounge provided a more comfortable and intimate setting to gather.

\*Christmas Eve service was one service at 6pm. The service offered both traditional and contemporary music throughout the Christmas story. The service attendance was lighter than last year. This year Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday. The Sunday morning service was held at our regular time and lightly attended also, likely due to families not choosing to attend twice on the same day.

\*There was discussion about the 6pm time for the Christmas Eve service and the Worship and Music Commission surveyed the members in order to provide a service time that would accommodate the majority of those wishing to attend next year. The results from the survey will be shared after the commission meets to discuss the results.

\*Advent services included our Soup Suppers held in the lounge, followed by a lesson presented by Pastor. The suppers were well attended, and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to gather and share a meal.

\*Palm Sunday began outside of the sanctuary followed by a procession into the sanctuary with congregants waving their palms.

\*Holy week services included: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. All the services were well planned out and well attended.

\*Mother's Day was made extra special with the presentation of individually wrapped carnations for all of the moms and mother figures.

I'm grateful for this leadership team and the commitment of this commission to work together as we continue to serve our congregation and provide a meaningful worship experience for all.

Vicki Linta- Worship and Music Commission

# END OF REPORT