



## Annual Meeting Agenda

February 8, 2026

1. Welcome/Opening Prayer
2. 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes – p. 1
3. Mission Leadership Team, Staff, Congregational, and Other Reports – p. 3
4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Summary – p. 20
5. 2026 Operating Budget Presentation and Adoption – p. 21
6. Nominations Team Report – p. 22
7. Elections
8. Adjournment/Closing Prayer

## **Resurrection Lutheran Church Annual Meeting**

**Sunday February 9, 2025**

- 9:55am Call to Order
- MLT verified that we have a quorum.
- Welcome from Greg Jeseritz (President of Mission Leadership Team)
- Opening Prayer (Pastor Brice Bloxham)
- Acceptance of Agenda & 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
  - Greg Jeseritz entertained a motion to accept the annual meeting agenda and 2024 annual meeting minutes. We have a motion for approval by Israel Olson and a second by Jay Hickey. All those in favor of accepting the minutes and agenda raise your hand. The motion passes.
- Review of Staff Reports.
  - Discussed that this past year has brought many challenges and changes but by God's grace we navigated through difficult times and arrived at this moment. Thanked Pastor Brice, staff, finance team and other MLT members for diligent efforts and the detailed reports provided.
- Review of Treasurer's Report and financial summary. Included Stewardship Discussion.
  - Brian Tri is our outgoing Treasurer. He held three informational meetings on the budget in preparation for the annual meeting.
  - Thank you to Brian Tri and the finance team for preparing and managing the budget.
  - Shared that Brent Metcalf will be taking over as Treasurer.
  - Shared: We ended 2024 with a net gain of approximately \$14,000. We earned \$15,000 in interest, and staff costs were lower due to vacancies. Without these savings, we would have ended in a deficit, as offerings were down from previous years
  - Shared: Looking ahead, we are fully staffed, and expenses are projected to increase. Our proposed budget is short by \$62,000, even with a \$30,000 matching gift. However, we have opportunities to close this gap through growth, stewardship, land use, and community strength. We will maintain clear communication about our budget throughout the year.
  - Jay Hickey shared context on why the change in our projection to make budget to now projected to be giving less. There were a few reasons for this that included people giving less than they had previously as well as families moving away. Jay also articulated why we are seeing differences in the offering line item vs. electronic giving. Sources include checks from Trusts (categorized as offering) and stock donations.
  - Entertained a motion to approve the 2025 budget. We have a motion for approval by Justin Hummel and a second by Kaleif Olson.

- Discussion was brought forward to ask others to give more than they had already agreed to.
  - There were also suggestions that we should also invite more families and focus on outreach. Woodbury is growing so how does our congregation's growth reflect the community? Greg shared that the staff is starting to work on outreach efforts.
  - Pastor Brice shared that we will need help from the congregation in the effort of increasing membership. Brice did share he's meeting with each of the interested new member families. A suggestion for a working group was made. Susan Asplund and Bruce Johnson shared they would be interested in starting a New Member Working Group.
- All those in favor of accepting the 2025 budget raise your hand. Asked if anyone opposed. The motion passed.
- **Nomination Committee Report**
  - Shared that Kaleif Olson and Greg Jeseritz will be going off of the MLT after completing our full terms. The nominating committee has brought forward two very qualified candidates to fill our vacancies. Rachel Simec and Karen Eno have been nominated to fill our 3-year terms.
  - The 2025 Nomination Committee is Andy Craig, Jenna Wertish and Trevor Greene. Noted that there is one open position.
  - Entertained a motion to approve Nominating Committee's report and recommendations. Motion for approval by Rhonda Habel and a second by Ken Kerns. There was no discussion. Voted by show of hands. The motion passes.
- **Open Discussion for New Business**
  - Justin Hummel recognized Greg Jeseritz and Kaleif Olson for their tremendous leadership and efforts on the Mission Leadership Team.
- **Closing of meeting**
  - Motion to adjourn by Andy Criag and a second by Karen Eno. Asked for discussion - none. Vote by show of hands. The motion passed.
- **Meeting Adjourn at 10:20am.**

## 2025 MLT Annual Report

Greetings, Resurrection Family. I am honored to be writing this update on behalf of the Mission Leadership Team (MLT). I have had the responsibility and honor of serving as President of the MLT this year and I am so thankful for the rest of the team: Justin Hummel (vice-president), Jenna Wertish (secretary), Ken Kerns, Karen Eno, Rachel Simac, and Pastor Brice. As I look back, I am in awe of the work the MLT completed to keep Resurrection a place where we all can live a vibrant life in Christ.

The year brought us stability in our staff, a first for me in my three years on MLT, and I am excited about all the work that was accomplished. We truly have a great staff and I thank them all for their dedicated work for God and for Resurrection. We are blessed!

One of our tasks was working on next steps for the land Resurrection has. We thank our Land Team (led by Bob Eno and Cheryl Hauch) for their continued work, expertise, and reports. We look forward to sharing the work completed in the near future.

We celebrate the work completed in conjunction with Finance and Stewardship to complete the successful Bakers Dozen campaign that brought our yearly financials into the black. We thank all those who contributed and we look forward to more successes in 2026!

We celebrate the formation of the Outreach Team and the work they have done in growing our community. Their work in year one culminates with the upcoming Comedy Sportz community event and we look forward to that.

In this past year, we also saw the one year anniversary of Pastor Brice's arrival at Resurrection. I thank God for Brice's leadership at Resurrection. I look forward to a bright future for our worshipping community under his leadership.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for the faith in and support of the MLT. It is through the people of Resurrection that we get to come together to make a vibrant worshipping community. Each and every one of you has a place here to worship in our community. I urge you to soak in the blessings of this place and when you are ready, I urge you to get involved. There are many ways to become part of the hands and feet of Jesus at Resurrection including greeting, ushering, communion server, audio/visual tech, offering counter, sunday school teacher/ sub, and the list goes on and on. If you want to plug into Resurrection, there are ways even if you do not know what that way is. Contact one of the staff or MLT and we can find ways for you to serve. We are the church and we make Resurrection great.

I am excited to see what 2026 has in store for us at Resurrection!

Grace and peace,  
Andy Craig

## Brice's Report

If there is one word that faithfully tells the story of this past year at Resurrection, it is gratitude. Gratitude has shaped our conversations, steadied us through uncertainty, and reminded us that this community is held together not by perfection, but by faithfulness. As Colossians 3:17 invites us, *"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through them."* This verse has become less a theme and more a posture, that has guided our worship, meetings, finances, relationships, and the quiet moments in between.

The year began with honesty. Early financial conversations acknowledged a projected deficit and the need to respond faithfully and transparently. Stewardship and Finance teams met with care and clarity, staff reduced expenses where possible, and the congregation was invited into open dialogue. Even in difficult conversations, gratitude remained, not because the situation was easy, but because this community chose to face it together. Over time, faithful stewardship and generosity shifted the story. The Baker's Dozen appeal and stronger-than-anticipated giving reduced the projected deficit to approximately \$14,000. With the final result being something beyond what we could anticipated or hoped for, see Brent's Treasure's report for what I mean. While challenges remain, this year stands as a testament to shared responsibility and trust.

Alongside these realities, ministry unfolded in deeply human ways. Visits with homebound members became sacred moments of connection. Communion was shared on living room tables, stories were told, and faith was reaffirmed. One member shared that after receiving communion, they finally felt connected to Resurrection again. These moments cannot be quantified, but they reveal the heart of the church. Gratitude grew in living rooms and hospital rooms, where presence itself became a form of prayer.

Relationships continued to deepen across the congregation. Intentional connection through coffee conversations, shared meals, and simple presence laid the groundwork for belonging. New member ministry evolved to include shared gatherings where stories were exchanged and staff and fellow members were met. Our February meeting, nearly fifty new members will have been recognized, a sign not just of growth, but of trust. For this widening circle of community, we give thanks.

Worship this year expanded in both form and spirit. Sunday mornings continued to anchor us, while midweek worship emerged as a meaningful space, particularly for those not regularly present on Sundays. Outdoor worship and summer services invited joy and accessibility, reminding us that God's presence is not confined to walls. Lent deepened our life together through faith practices engaging body, mind, and spirit. One

quiet moment, a confirmation student nervously sharing an unfinished drawing made in response to Scripture, revealed how spiritual formation often happens slowly and gently. Gratitude grows when we learn to notice these signs of life.

Fellowship remained a vital expression of our shared ministry. Coffee and Bagels, Grace on Tap, LAN Parties, Mom's Group, Bible Study, Summer Night Out meals, and even Fantasy Football gatherings created spaces for laughter, story, and connection. These moments may appear casual, but they are deeply formative. Around tables and in conversation, faith takes root in everyday life. For these spaces of belonging, we give thanks.

Behind every visible ministry stood the faithful work of staff and leaders. This year included confirmation retreats, evaluations, planning, and honest reflection about what is going well and where growth is needed. Volunteers gave generously of their time, from worship leadership to property care to mission support. Leadership was shared, care was extended, and trust was strengthened. Gratitude is due not only for what was accomplished, but for the spirit with which it was done.

As the year draws to a close, we do not claim perfection. There is still work to do, finances to steward, relationships to deepen, vision to discern. But we move forward grounded in gratitude. In all that we have done this year, in word and deed, in joy and uncertainty, we have sought to act in the name of Christ, giving thanks to God together. This is a story of faithfulness, shaped by gratitude and sustained by the quiet confidence that God is still at work among us. Thanks be to God.

Found with you, in Christ,  
Pastor Brice

## **Faith Outfitters Children's and Family Ministry**

### **2025 Annual Report**

#### **Deacon Marie Baker, Director of Children and Family Ministry**

Our mission as Faith Outfitters is to equip children and their families to participate in a vibrant life of faith wherever they live, work, play, and learn. We do this through learning opportunities, celebrating milestones, serving the community, and camps.

For the 2025-26 school year Sunday School (preschoolers through grade 5) has seen an increase in attendance from the previous year. All children are welcome to attend Sunday School each week and are not required to register or pay. We have a number of amazing volunteers that lead each Sunday, which includes adults as well as many High School and Middle School students! We are blessed by so many amazing Faith Outfitters who dedicate their time and energy to sharing their gifts and joining together with children on this journey of faith. As part of our faith learning we also look outside the walls of Resurrection and find ways to give and serve in the greater community, this year we have donated our Sunday School offering each week to the Friends of TASAAGA.

Guided Hands Puppet Ministry, a team of youth puppeteers, led by volunteers, is a blessing to the Resurrection community. They perform for Sunday School several times throughout the year and occasionally they perform during Sunday morning worship services.

Faith Outfitters continues to offer a series of faith-building events including Bible Expedition, Trek to the Table Communion preparation workshop, ADVENTure, Prayers and PJs, Ad-LENTure, Good Friday Experiential stations, and summer camps. Our service in the community included meal-packing at Feed My Starving Children several times throughout the year, packing snack bags and "to-go" bags for Open Door Pantry, collecting school supplies for InterFaith Action and more.

Our Vacation Bible Adventure continues to be a high-energy week that draws in many members and nonmembers and was led by more than 40 youth and adult volunteers. Our VBA offering went to Open Cupboard this year, we brought in 185 pounds of food and \$45! During "True North," we learned that Jesus is our True North through songs, games, Bible stories, skits, crafts, and snacks.

We added Four Square Camp in August this year. We had 30 students led by volunteers and Resurrection staff. It was a wonderful experience with kids learning, playing and serving together! We made snack bags for Open Door Pantry, wrote welcome cards for the neighbor, organized the school supply drive and more!

Our partnership with Camp WAPO offers valuable ministry through their multiple camp offerings. Resurrection students who attended in 2025 explored the theme “Breathe- an invitation to slow down, notice God’s presence, and take in the peace and hope the Holy Spirit brings.”

## **Youth & Family Ministry Annual Report 2025**

### **Erin Swenson-Hatzung, Youth & Family Minister**

This past year in Youth & Family Ministry at Resurrection has been marked by deep relationships, meaningful service, growing leadership, and a strong sense of belonging for our young people. Across confirmation, middle school, and high school ministries, students were invited not only to learn about faith, but to live it—through worship, service, leadership, and community.

#### **Faith Formation & Weekly Ministry**

Wednesday evening ministry remained the backbone of our program year. Confirmation and high school students gathered weekly for faith formation that emphasized faith practices, thoughtful conversation, and real-life application. Students explored scripture, prayer, service, and vocation in ways that were interactive, embodied, and relational. Feedback from students and leaders consistently reflected how meaningful these nights were, with many youth naming Wednesday evenings as a place where they felt known, welcomed, and connected.

This year, the confirmation ministry has served 28 students, supported by four dedicated adult leaders and a high school leader. Students have built community, explored the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer, and reflected deeply on their baptismal promises. Eleven ninth graders affirmed their faith at the Rite of Confirmation in October, a joyful milestone for both students and families. One-on-one confirmation conversations over the summer and fall offered sacred space for students to articulate their faith and reflect on how God is at work in their lives.

High school ministry has focused on creating a rhythm of connection, fun, and faith. Wednesday gatherings balanced games, laughter, and short but meaningful devotions—meeting students where they are while grounding them in faith. A growing **High School Leadership Team** has played an active role throughout the year, helping lead Youth Sunday School, plan events, and pilot student-led Bible studies during Advent.

#### **Service & Outreach**

Service was central to the year and took many forms—local, regional, and hands-on.

- **Disaster Relief Trip to Asheville, NC:**

Thirteen students and three adult leaders spent a week serving and learning together through food distribution, meal preparation, environmental restoration, and disaster simulation exercises. The experience helped students understand long-term recovery and reflect on how faith calls us to show up for others. The trip was deeply formative, strengthening relationships and shaping students' understanding of service, resilience, and compassion.

- **Summer Stretch:**

Fifteen middle school students and four high school leaders served with organizations such as Feed My Starving Children, Second Harvest Food Bank, Saint Therese, Global Health Ministries, and Second Stork. These experiences emphasized that service is about relationships as much as tasks, while also developing leadership skills in older youth.

- **Seasonal Service:**

During Advent, confirmation students shopped for and supported three families through Solid Ground, raising over \$1,100 with the help of Thrivent grants. High school students assembled college care packages, wrapped gifts, and wrote notes of encouragement—living out faith through generosity and care.

- **Trunk or Treat:**

One of our largest outreach events, Trunk or Treat, welcomed over 600 community members, with 25 trunks hosted and donations collected for Open Cupboard. This event continues to be a powerful expression of hospitality and connection for our wider community.

### **Community & Belonging**

Intentional community-building remained a priority throughout the year. Events like Sundae Funday, game nights, escape rooms, and shared meals created space for students to connect naturally and joyfully. These moments—both large and small—played a critical role in helping youth feel that Resurrection is a place where they belong.

Intergenerational ministry also flourished through Lent programming, family nights, Summer Recap Sunday, and worship leadership opportunities. Hearing youth share their stories in worship offered the congregation a glimpse into how these ministries are shaping faith and leadership.

### **Leadership Development**

Youth leadership continued to grow at every level. High school students planned and led events, facilitated small groups, participated in worship leadership, and stepped into mentoring roles with younger students. Summer mission trips, VBA leadership, and Summer Stretch leadership roles provided meaningful opportunities for students to discover and use their gifts in service to others.

Adult leaders and parent volunteers were essential partners in this work, generously sharing time, energy, and care. Their presence made safe, welcoming, and faith-filled ministry possible.

I am deeply grateful for the support of the Mission Leadership Team, staff colleagues, volunteers, parents, and this congregation. Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity make this ministry possible. Together, we are nurturing a community where young people are seen, valued, and invited to let their light shine—both within Resurrection and beyond.

**Director of Adult Ministries and Community Life**  
**Kristin Tranby**

What a wonderful year of ministry it has been!

- 15 small groups meet at Resurrection—with room to grow
- 20 new members were welcomed in 2025
- Over 200 volunteer hours supported Sunday morning hospitality
- A new Outreach Team was launched to strengthen connections within the congregation and the wider community
- A Prayer Card Ministry began, offering tangible prayer and support to those in need

For this annual report, I have asked our Ministry Leaders to share stories from their year of ministry. Here are some highlights!

***Stories from our new Advent LIGHT Groups:***

**\*\***The Advent Light gathering was a meaningful and joyful way to begin the season of Advent. We first came together at Culver's during the youth fundraiser, sharing a meal and supporting our young people. It was uplifting to see so many from Resurrection gathered in one place, celebrating fellowship and generosity. We then continued the evening in our home, where we shared Advent devotions and reflected on the light of Christ entering the world. Afterward, we lingered around the kitchen table, playing games, sharing stories, and enjoying one another's company. It was a blessing to begin the holiday season in faith, fellowship, joy and the true spirit of Christmas. —Chuck & Beth Wright

**\*\*** After that wonderful evening together, the group decided to continue meeting every other month for drinks and appetizers. We call ourselves The AAG—The Appetizer Advent Group. —Deb Daly (from the LIGHT group hosted by Ken & Karri Kerns)

***Stories from LAFF—Lutheran Adults in Fun & Fellowship:*** This team of five, is always on the alert for finding social events that will bring the people of Resurrection together. Over the years, new people sign-up to participate in an event that sounds like fun. We plan 5-6 events/year, and many friendships have been forged, as a result; because you get a chance to spend time with others—more than just a quick “hi” at church on Sunday.

***Stories from Women's Bible Study:*** At the end of May, 2025, we had 19 members. When we started back up in September, we added two more for 21 wonderful women. And at the end of 2025, we had a commitment from one more person, that she would be joining in early 2026. Obviously, it isn't the number of people you have in a group, but rather, it's the character of the group. This group thrives on caring for each other. They are nurturing and kind. Each person that joins this group comments on how welcome they felt, right from the beginning, which is amazing considering how many people there are in this group. It has been suggested that usually, when you get to a group this size, that it is recommended that you divide into two groups. At the mere mention of this, the women in this group, very loudly said “NO WAY!”

Activities from this past year included a Christmas brunch, as well as a Christmas party that we organized for the residents of Red Rock. It was a huge success, and they have asked us to come back next Christmas. –Deb Daly

***Stories from Meals and More:*** We decided to do our service project this year with Shobi's Table. We had 8 people travel to Christ Lutheran church in downtown St. Paul. I think that it was a surprise for them that so many people were willing to volunteer. Our group was assigned to help stuff envelopes for a mailing. Little did they know that our group had a lot of previous experience with that type of task at our own church! I think there were 500 letters and we had it completed in under an hour. They were so impressed we were asked to come back and do it again. My heart was happy that we had so many willing to help. Many of us had our eyes opened to the blessing Shobi's Table is to the community they serve. – Jennifer Murray

***Stories from Wednesday Mom's Group:*** We meet on Wednesday evenings to share stories, laugh, support one another and this year, we have been reading "Reclaiming the "L" Word" by Kelly Fryer. A highlight of the year was putting together care baskets for the new mothers in our congregation and then inviting them to have brunch with us. We got to snuggle some babies and support our new moms!

***Stories from the Prayer Team:*** Each week Pastor Brice explains the prayer request form at the bottom of our service program. But what happens with those requests? Every week the requests are emailed to the prayer chain members who then pray over those concerns from home. At other times our prayer team meets for 3-4 weeks and silently prays together over our church family, their prayers for friends and family, their joys and sorrows. It is a humbling and honoring experience. Sometimes we cannot carry our burdens alone. Know that there is a prayer team ready to help with the carrying and lifting, to bring peace and comfort.

***Stories from Senior Life:*** Sr. Life Fellowship reaches out to seniors (55+) with a warm welcome and a source of spiritual nurture. In 2025 an average of 17 seniors met twice a month to view and discuss the Alpha Talks and enjoy coffee fellowship that followed each meeting. Wonderful potluck dinners are special. A new member coming from outside of Resurrection said she was amazed how she was welcomed with such warm hospitality! A story told in a devotion at last year's Christmas Potluck gathering became the inspiration for Pastor Brice's Christmas Eve message this year.

These are just a few highlights from 2025—thank you for your faithful partnership in ministry! We look ahead with gratitude and anticipation to another meaningful and inspiring year of ministry in 2026.

## Annual Report: Shawn Vaughan

### Accomplishments

- Completed one year of music ministry at Resurrection.
- Oversaw the full liturgical calendar of worship and special services.
- Engagement in energetic worship services continue to evolve.

### Expansions of ministry

- Added midweek summer worship on Wednesdays for families travelling on weekends.
- Added many new worship volunteers to the band.
- Implemented more energetic worship instrumentation (drums, electric guitars).

### Volunteer engagement

- Focus on individual musical and spiritual growth based on unique needs, challenges, and desires (i.e. worked with Greg Lowe to discover that he is more comfortable playing acoustic and electric guitar, or that I encouraged Jared Rouk to try playing the full drum kit when needed).
- Found opportunities for young musicians and singers to be highlighted (i.e. involved the Shrader family on strings).
- Reimplemented midweek rehearsal to encourage camaraderie and excellence.

### Goals

- Develop interesting and engaging Lenten worship services
- Streamline outdoor worship setup/tear-down processes as well as further define and implement effective extreme weather communication.
- Continue to grow the worship team through active recruitment and talent development.
- Further refinement of midweek, summer worship services.
- Continue to highlight popular music with thematic and religious validity.



# ANNUAL 2025 REPORT

of the saint paul area synod

*But go, tell his disciples and Peter that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee;  
there you will see him, just as he told you. Mark 16:7*

At Easter, when the three women come to the empty tomb in Mark's Gospel, an angel gives them a surprising assignment. They are instructed to tell the others that the Risen Christ has gone before them into Galilee. I continue to ponder what the message of a God "who goes before us" means for us as a synod in this first quarter of the 21st century. Like those first disciples, we have been entrusted with a message of surprising, good news to share with others in our day.

We have found a variety of ways to join the congregations and baptized members of this synod in doing just that, being especially mindful of our mission statement and care values:

**As followers of Jesus, we are called to accompany faith communities  
and equip leaders for God's mission in the world.**

**Our core values are – authenticity, connection, compassion, and curiosity.**

Through The Planting Hope Campaign in 2025, we were able to address the seminary debt load of 16 pastors and deacons, fully retiring the debt of six and greatly reducing the debt of 10 others. We invested an additional \$100,000 in congregational vitality, complementing the funding already in our budget. We hosted 11 summer interns at a variety of work sites, offering young adults an opportunity to explore their own vocation while being immersed in a ministry site. We offered financial assistance to enable 16 youth and young adults to travel with their congregations to our global mission partners in Guatemala and Tanzania. Thank you for contributing to this common work.

As a synod, we equip leaders through training events for lay leaders, a theological conference and gatherings of the ministerium for rostered ministers, and through Zoom events on timely topics like Minnesota's new Paid Family & Medical Leave and the ELCA's Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life. This included six day-long workshops, sponsored by the Congregational Vitality team and two cohorts of pastors and lay leaders, working on increased skills for stewardship and congregational renewal. The synod also received an ELCA grant for worship renewal and hosted a day-long seminar on "Worship in an Inviting Church" in April. We know that we are all stronger when we work together on matters that impact all 106 congregations and mission starts in the synod.

Not every congregation was in transition in 2025, but the synod staff worked with 17 call processes for pastors and deacons and supplied interim pastors during those times of transition. We also supported the discernment and candidacy process for 22 individuals. We received two of those candidates back into our synod for their first call. Ordained in 2025 were Pastor Katie Hendrikson (called to Abiding Savior, Mounds View) and Pastor Lauren Mildahl (called to St. Mark in Circle Pines).

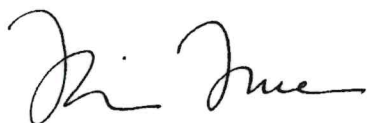
As always, I am particularly grateful for those who serve on synod committees and on Synod Council. They are the key guarantors of continuity and stability in our work. In 2025 we welcomed Matt Smith as our new synod treasurer and sent 21 voting members to the Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix.

Throughout these months, God continued to bless us financially with \$1.675 million received as mission support from congregations in 2025 toward our goal of \$1.95 million by the end of January. Your contributions funded the work noted above and a portion was shared with the Churchwide Organization for global mission, ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, advocacy, and preparation of a new generation of leaders. In addition, many of you contributed generously to the work of our global companions through our Bega Kwa Bega partnership with the Iringa Diocese in Tanzania and our work with the Igelsia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG).

Finally, as I begin my last months as the bishop of this synod and help prepare for a new bishop to lead you starting in August 2026, I am keenly aware of the many relationships that make us a healthy, growing and thriving synod. Many of you see those signs of new life in your own congregation and neighborhood. Like me, I know you also appreciate the work of the whole synod staff, who serves alongside me. They include Rachel Holsten, Mary Smith, David Roinas, Kirsten Levorson, Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer (through July), Justin Grimm, Krista Lind, Leslie Ortiz, Dawn Alitz (beginning September), Joe Lees (beginning September), and Terri Endres (beginning December).

Like the very first disciples, God continues to call us to go forward into the places where God awaits our coming. This includes all the messy places of mistrust and division in our world today. It is a privilege for me – as it is for each of you – to bear the good news of Christ to our many neighbors, who feel especially discouraged and beat down these days, and it is an added joy to share that news alongside all the ministry that happens in and through our lives.

Yours in God's service,



Bishop Patricia Lull





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## Congregational Report 2025

**Thank you for being a Partner Congregation!** We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support and dedication of so many congregations that enable thousands of individuals each year to experience community and deepen their faith at Camp Wapo, Ox Lake, and Wilderness Canoe Base. We celebrate a year full of impactful moments with campers and retreat guests, and we are thankful for the generosity of our donors, the prayers of our supporters, and the commitment of YOU - our partner congregations.

Across all three sites: Camp Wapo, Ox Lake, and Wilderness Canoe Base - we continue to see how essential this ministry remains in the lives of young people, families, and congregations. In a world that feels increasingly fragmented, our camps are still places of belonging, joy, spiritual grounding, and honest community.

God is moving powerfully through this ministry and the work happening at our sites remains profoundly impactful - forming resilient young leaders, nurturing faith in an unplugged and grace-filled setting and offering sacred experiences of creation and community that cannot be replicated anywhere else.

**Summer 2025** - This summer, we had the privilege of welcoming 4109 campers and families to Camp Wapo, Ox Lake, and Wilderness Canoe Base. Our summer staff brought flexibility, leadership, and servant hearts to every corner of camp. They met challenges head-on and helped create a community full of energy and care.

Hiring for Summer 2026 is underway! If you know a young adult who would be a great fit, we'd love an introduction. You can contact Michael (Ox Lake) at [michaelw@campwapo.org](mailto:michaelw@campwapo.org) or Hazel (Wapo) at [hazelb@campwapo.org](mailto:hazelb@campwapo.org), or Stephanie (Wilderness) at [stephaniec@campwapo.org](mailto:stephaniec@campwapo.org) or visit [lakewapo.org/employment](http://lakewapo.org/employment) to apply. Working at camp is the best work experience to include on a resume.

**Deferred Maintenance Projects** This year brought significant progress on long-awaited deferred maintenance. The new exteriors on the Lodge and Hill cabins at Wapo, the upper level addition to the chapel at Ox Lake, and the funds available for ongoing research and planning for Trailshack were all tremendous blessings. While we still have a list of deferred projects ahead of us, 2025 represented a giant leap forward, and we are grateful for the faithful stewardship that made this momentum possible.

Facility upgrades at Ox Lake have made it possible for us to bring back the High School Roots program for 2026. The upper level chapel addition is gorgeous and multifunctional. It will be a great blessing for that program and all the greatness planned for Ox Lake this summer.

**Donor Engagement** In 2025, annual giving reflected the caution many donors are feeling in an uncertain economic climate. At the same time, congregational giving and designated giving remained steady, resulting in overall contributions that look similar to 2024. This pattern reflects both careful discernment and deep commitment from those who continue to support this ministry.

We are still in the leadership phase of the **Room for More** campaign to complete the dining hall and meeting space project at Camp Wapo. Steadily, in the coming months, we will expand this effort through a congregational phase, inviting our partner churches to participate in this important next chapter. In time, we will move into a public phase for this campaign to broaden the reach and ask.

**Joel Abenth, Director of Donor Engagement**, will be working closely with congregations, individuals, and families who are discerning how best to support camp - through gifts, pledges, or other creative approaches to generosity. If you would like to explore ways to be involved, please reach out to Joel at [joela@campwapo.org](mailto:joela@campwapo.org)

**Retreats and Events in 2025.** In 2025, we hosted 7363 retreat and special events guests. All three sites offer a range of options for both programmed retreats and facility rentals if you're looking to organize your own event. Retreat opportunities can be found at [lakewapo.org/news-events](http://lakewapo.org/news-events). For more details or to schedule your retreat, please contact Ryan at [ryanb@campwapo.org](mailto:ryanb@campwapo.org). Anything from weddings to yoga, Quilters to Youth retreats! Additionally, we welcomed over 500 guests for our Memorial Day Pancake Extravaganza, celebrated the 23rd year of the Wapo Golf Tournament, and hosted over 1,200 guests and volunteers during Advent, including 8 sold out performances of the 36th annual Christmas Dinner Theater, "Star."

**2026 Theme: WONDER** *"With God all things are possible."* Matthew 19:26

At camp, we move from curiosity to calling - from *"What if?"* to *"Here I am."* Each question becomes a doorway into deeper relationship with a God who invites us not to certainty, but to awe, trust, and transformation.

Together, we stand in wonder of community, curiosity, calling, identity, mystery, and possibility. Camp is holy ground - a place to ask real questions, discover belonging, and listen for how God is at work within and among us.

We look ahead with eager anticipation and a sure sense of hope. See you at camp in 2026!



## **Worship Attendance 2025**

Average 9 a.m. attendance: 67

Average 10:30 a.m. attendance: 84

Total average per Sunday: 151

Average YouTube views: 53

Midweek Lenten services, average attendance: 53

Midweek Summer services average attendance: 30

Maundy Thursday: 68

Good Friday: 76

Christmas Eve, 3 p.m.: 291

Christmas Eve, 4:30 p.m.: 182

**Congregational Benevolence Annual Meeting Report 2025**

Benefactor	Donations	Amount	Group	Date
Open Cupboard	Food	67 LBS	First Sun. Food Drive	1/9/25
Open Cupboard	Food	544 LBS	Confirmation	3/2025
Open Cupboard	Food	100 LBS	First Sun. Food Drive	4/7/25
Open Door	Food	40 LBS	Faith Outfitters	4/2025
Open Cupboard	Food	26 LBS	First Sun. Food Drive	5/6/25
Open Cupboard	Food	46 LBS	First Sun. Food Drive	6/9/25
Open Cupboard	Food & Cash	181 LBS, \$45	VBA	6/2025
Open Cupboard	Food	79 LBS	First Sun. Food Drive	8/26/25
Interfaith Action	School Supplies	\$1600	All Church/ Four Square	8/2025
Friends of TASAAGA	Monetary	239.45	Faith Outfitters (Sunday School)	9/2025
Open Cupboard	Food	83 LBS	First Sun. Food Drive	10/7/25
Open Cupboard	Monetary	307.00	Trunk or Treat	10/2025
Open Cupboard	Food	106 LBS	Trunk or Treat	10/2025
Open Cupboard	Food	57 lbs	First Sun. Food Drive	11/3/25
Open Door	Food	30 Snack Bags	Sunday School	11/2025
Basic Needs	Christmas gifts	\$1,875	Giving Tree	12/8/25
Open Cupboard	Food	153 LBS	First Sun. Food Drive	12/9/25
Solid Ground	Christmas Gifts	\$1,100	Youth Ministry	12/2025
College Students	Care Packages	\$200	Youth Ministry	12/2025

Open Door Pantry	To Go food bags	15 bags	Children's Ministry	12/2025
New Moms	Care Packages	\$400	Mom's Group	11/9/25

## 2025 RLC Treasurer Report

### 2025 Financial Summary

RLC had an operating income of \$12,177 in 2025. Early work on the 2025 budget forecasted a significant loss of over \$100,000. A group of long-term members offered a donation of \$30,000 if there was at least that much of an increase in estimated giving was received by other members. We met that challenge and started the year with a budgeted loss of \$62,389.

At the last annual meeting, we were challenged by several members to erase this forecasted loss and as a group we did. Offerings for the year exceeded the budget by about \$52,000, most of which came in the last two months of the year. Expenses were cut by using more volunteer work from the congregation and by the staff cutting costs where they could.

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
<b>Income &amp; Expenses</b>					
Offering/Receipts	\$680,050	\$638,893	\$ 673,382	\$ 659,917	\$ 673,717
Matching Donation	30,000	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	710,050	638,893	673,382	659,917	673,717
Operating Expenses	697,873	624,806	698,644	721,668	711,491
Net Gain/(Loss)	12,177	14,087	(25,262)	(61,751)	(37,774)
Government Proceeds	-	-	-	87,848	-
Actual Gain/(Loss)	\$ 12,177	\$ 14,087	\$ (25,262)	\$ 26,097	\$ (37,774)
<b>Cash and Investments</b>					
Checking	\$ 88,382	\$ 91,262	\$ 65,035	\$ 77,080	\$ 49,059
Savings and Short-term Investme	419,637	431,547	421,373	567,976	567,960
Total Cash and Investments	\$508,019	\$522,809	\$ 486,408	\$ 645,056	\$ 617,019
<b>Mortgages &amp; Loans</b>					
Line of Credit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loan-/rooftop Units			\$ -	\$ 134,763	\$ 141,272
Mortgage-120	286,531	329,326	362,576	391,752	419,676
Mortgage-121	288,219	331,534	365,209	394,794	423,135
Mortgage-122	292,154	333,636	363,632	393,169	421,725
Total Mortgage and Loans	\$866,904	\$994,496	\$1,091,417	\$1,314,478	\$1,405,808

### 2026 Financial Outlook

**Giving-** We will not have the \$30,000 matching funds that we had in 2025. Other giving was budgeted to increase 1.5% with the hope that the congregation will continue their support and that we will have a slight increase in membership.

**Expenses-** We were back to full staffing in 2025, which was our biggest increase in 2025 expenses. We do not expect individually major increases in 2026. Total expenses are budgeted to increase about 3.5%.

**Cash Reserves-** While we have \$508,020 of cash and investments, most of those funds are restricted for specific uses, the largest being \$365,920 in the building fund. We also have \$13,980 of reserved funds for maintenance. The amount of cash and investments available for operations is \$117,852.

**Land and Building-** Our building is over 20 years old. If any major maintenance is needed, we will need to decide whether to use building reserve funds from the Oehlke estate or other means.

## Budget Comparison

	2026 Budget	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2024 Actual
<b>REVENUE</b>				
<b>400 Offerings</b>				
400.101 Regular Giving	\$ 237,540	\$ 230,000	\$ 234,030	\$ 220,926
400.102 Simply Giving	\$ 401,736	\$ 330,000	\$ 395,759	\$ 386,874
400.103 Stock Donations	\$ 18,432	\$ 35,000	\$ 18,005	
400.104 Thrivent Choice	\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ 149	\$ 790
400.105 Angel Fund	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 1,500
<b>Total 400 Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 657,708</b>	<b>\$ 596,200</b>	<b>\$ 647,943</b>	<b>\$ 610,090</b>
<b>403 Registration Fees</b>	\$ 13,855	\$ 6,500	\$ 13,362	\$ 11,229
<b>405 Misc. Donations</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,578	\$ 750
<b>440 Misc. Income</b>	\$ 13,880	\$ 13,000	\$ 16,167	\$ 1,221
<b>450 Designated Funds</b>	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,603
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 685,443</b>	<b>\$ 645,700</b>	<b>\$ 710,050</b>	<b>\$ 638,893</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
<b>501 Facilities</b>	\$ 83,970	\$ 74,880	\$ 79,389	\$ 83,479
<b>502 Office/General Expenses</b>	\$ 22,750	\$ 20,820	\$ 22,865	\$ 20,158
<b>503 Office Equipment/Technology</b>	\$ 21,150	\$ 17,700	\$ 17,952	\$ 18,369
<b>505 Worship - Music</b>	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,100	\$ 3,675	\$ 3,419
<b>506 Worship - Services</b>	\$ 13,660	\$ 16,980	\$ 9,813	\$ 16,047
<b>507 Advertising</b>	\$ 950	\$ 500	\$ 794	\$ 933
<b>508 Ministries</b>	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,503	\$ 1,367
<b>509 Education - Adult</b>	\$ 600	\$ 480	\$ 241	\$ 262
<b>510 Education - Confirmation</b>	\$ 2,400	\$ 850	\$ 827	\$ 609
<b>511 Education - Student/Compass</b>	\$ 16,155	\$ 10,500	\$ 15,266	\$ 14,854
<b>512 Education- Children/F.O.</b>	\$ 6,100	\$ 2,565	\$ 4,070	\$ 2,443
<b>515 Mission Leadership Team</b>	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 897
<b>516 Benevolence</b>	\$ 19,600	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,600	\$ 21,207
<b>520 Staff Expenses</b>	\$ 7,150	\$ 5,600	\$ 6,889	\$ 3,509
<b>521 Salaries and Pensions</b>	\$ 362,076	\$ 369,400	\$ 353,012	\$ 274,990
<b>580 Building Expenses</b>	\$ 156,438	\$ 159,814	\$ 161,977	\$ 161,718
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 719,399</b>	<b>\$ 708,089</b>	<b>\$ 697,873</b>	<b>\$ 624,806</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ (33,956)</b>	<b>\$ (62,389)</b>	<b>\$ 12,177</b>	<b>\$ 14,087</b>

## Nominations for Mission Leadership Team 2026



**Leah Krusenstjerna**

**3-year term**

Leah Krusenstjerna began attending Resurrection online during COVID and became a member in September 2022. Although her college major was Psychology, her professional background is in sales operations. She is currently in her most challenging (and also favorite) role— stay at home parent of pre-school age kids who refuse to nap. Eventually she plans to go back school to become a therapist. When it comes to our congregation, she is most passionate about inter-generational ministry, community care/service, and fostering the genuinely warm and open atmosphere that drew her to Resurrection. Her favorite Bible story is that of Lazarus; her least favorite Apostle is Paul. She resides in Newport with her husband Tyler and children Hannah (5) and Tate (2.5).

**Jerod Rauk**

**3-year term**



My wife Gina Childs and our daughter Aili Rauk have been members of Resurrection for about eight years. I have a lot of fun playing various percussion instruments in the worship band. On occasion I teach Sunday school as part of the Faith Outfitters ministry. I had the honor of co-chairing our Call Committee that led to Pastor Brice being called to ministry here. I was in direct communication with the synod as part of that process, which led to an opportunity to serve as a member of the synod's Candidacy Committee. I'm the current bent-arm hang record holder at St Louis Park Junior High School. Gina, Aili and I live in Woodbury, we love getting donuts on Saturday mornings, and I work as the Data Privacy Officer for Dakota County.