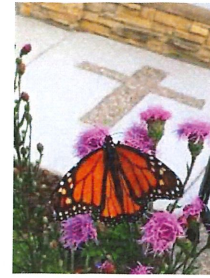


St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

2024 Annual Report

**Spread the Gospel of Jesus
Christ through word and deed.**

66th Annual Meeting, February 9, 2025



IN MEMORY

LaVerne McCumber, January 12

Larry Hoekstra, February 13

Harry Lydeen, February 15

Al Trapp, February 18

Lorna Trapp, April 5

Thomas Stewart, April 21

Michael Heath, June 14

Jeanette Flanders, September 16

Betty Barott, November 20

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms - 0

Confirmations - 0

Funerals - 9

Marriages - 3

MEMBERSHIP

as of 12/31/2024

Total Baptized Membership - 167

Total Confirmed Membership - 126

Average Worship Attendance - 31

St. Tim's serves through...

Minneapolis Area Synod

Donations were given to the Minneapolis Area Synod to support their outreach including World Hunger and Global Missions

Community Outreach

Community Dinner

SACA (Southern Anoka Community Assistance)

Meals on Wheels

Feed My Starving Children

Every Meal

Shop with a Cop Program

Sullivan Lake Park Clean-Up

Chair & Mat Yoga

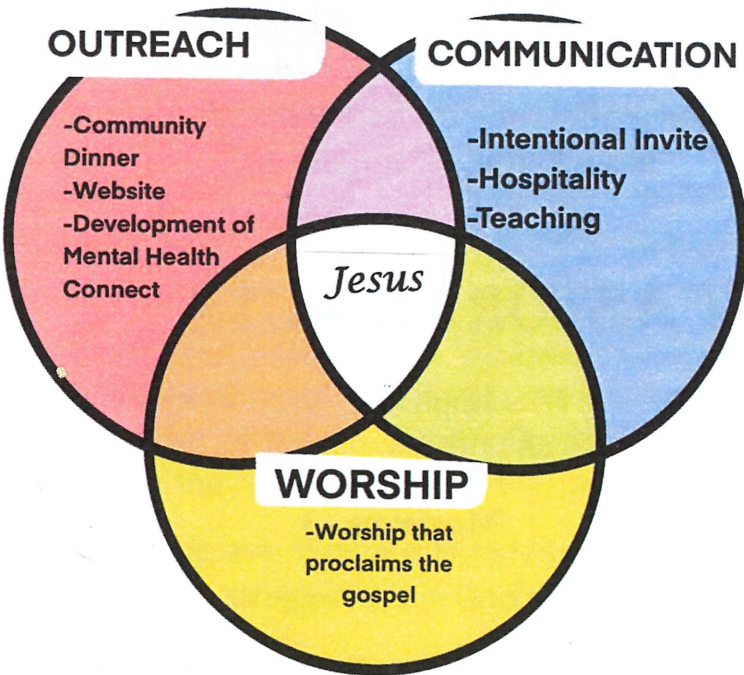
Quilt Donations

Mental Health Connect

Columbia Heights Public Schools

School Supplies

Family Mediation Center



Pastor's Report



As I look back on this past year, many moments come to mind. One particularly memorable challenge was identifying “that smell” in the west wing of the building—an underground gas leak. Quick action was taken to evacuate the children, and the building’s heat was shut off for several days, making for a very cold Sunday worship service. Once repairs were completed, we all breathed a sigh of relief.

However, the challenges didn’t stop there. Backfilling issues from the repairs, combined with heavy summer rains, led to flooding in the lower level. This required major cleanup efforts and temporarily displaced the LVMS children and staff. Just as we were recovering, our fire alarm system began to fail, ultimately requiring a complete replacement.

Despite these building issues, we remained steadfast in our mission to serve the Columbia Heights community and beyond.

In the spring, we began to reflect on our mission, asking: *What is God doing that we can join in?* To help guide this discernment, we hired Pastor Jerry Wahl as our consultant. Starting in September, we held monthly congregational town hall meetings, where we examined our strengths and challenges, learned more about our neighborhood and neighbors, and focused on what might come next.

I can’t help but wonder—are we supposed to search for God as if He is hidden from us, difficult to find? Yet, as we opened our eyes, we realized that God is all around us. This awareness led us into conversation with Hope Community Church, where we discovered a shared mission: to grow in faith, feed the hungry, care for the community, and remain open to the Holy Spirit.

To those who ask, *Where is Christ?* I reply, *In everyone.*

To those who struggle to see God’s mission, I say, *It’s everywhere.*

Instead of waiting to see where God might be calling us, what if we presume that He is calling us everywhere? Then, every encounter, every journey, and every day becomes an opportunity to see what God is doing—and to join in.

As Matthew 25 reminds us:

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison?"

May we continue to seek Christ in all things and embrace the mission He has set before us.

This report feels like a prelude to something bigger. I am going to trust the Holy Spirit and continue to give thanks for the opportunity to use my gifts and skills to serve St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church.

Blessings,

Pastor Michelene Verlautz

Council Report

The year of 2024 has been a year of maintenance and of exploration for St. Timothy's. There were major and minor repairs to our building, and we began looking at who we are now and what the Holy Spirit has planned for us in the future.

Our church buildings continue to need upkeep as they age. The occasional odor smelled in the hallway of the lower level of the west building, the Montessori area, was positively identified as gas. The pipe on the outside of the building had a leak and had to be dug up and replaced as were all the pipes inside of the building. Then the rain came! Because the soil had been moved, water entered the building in that area! It was a muddy mess, and carpet replacement was in order. A new "fire panel" replaced the old out of date one. We are again in compliance with the Fire Code.

We hired a consultant, Jerry Wahl, to help us look to the future of St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. We held 6 Congregational meetings to look at ourselves, our community and where we fit into it, and come together with ideas and suggestions that will help us move forward. We will continue to explore ideas in 2025.

We continue to share space with Little Voyagers Montessori School and ICASA de Dios.

Thank you to Pastor Michelene Verlautz for her timely sermons, Daniel Lloyd for his beautiful music, and Laura Fix and Heidi Fedje for helping us to stay in touch with our members and the community.

Thank you to the 2024 Church Council team, Joe Fedje, Laura Fedje, Barry Sanford, Sandy Sherve, and Megahnn Wahl, and to the Finance Committee team of Kari Schlotfeldt, Dick Lindman, Betty Thomas, Chris Hay, and Dustin Wahl for keeping our finances in good order. They have been dedicated to St. Timothy's and have worked hard to meet the challenges of 2025. The current leadership team, with the addition of Margaret Hanna, will stay in place for next year.

A special thank you to the faithful congregation members who so graciously contributed to the large unexpected expenses, the gas leak, the muddy water that leaked in, and the fire panel replacement. Without your gifts our budget deficit would have been so much larger than it is.

I remind all church members that they are welcome to attend Church Council meetings. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a Council Member.

Respectfully,

Kay Hay

2024 Church Council President

St Timothy's Lutheran Church
Agenda: 66th Annual Meeting Part II
February 8th, 2025

Order of Business

Call to Order

Appointment of Recording Secretary

Certification of Quorum

Invocation

Minutes from 66th Annual Meeting, Part I (December 18, 2024)

Parish Statistics

We pause in these deliberations for a time of prayer in memory of those members who have moved closer to the presence of God during 2024.

Treasure's report for 2024

Budget for 2025

Endowment Distribution

Prepared Resolution for 2025 (SACA, World Hunger, Global Missions)

Be it resolved that –

We continue to set aside the first Sunday of each month to contribute special offerings of food or money to SACA, that we set aside the third Sunday or each month to contribute to global missions, that we set aside the fourth Sunday of each month to contribute special offering money to the Lutheran Churches World Hunger Appeal.

Old Business

New Business

Call for Adjournment

Closing Prayer

Subject Annual Meeting Pt. I / Meeting at the Crossroads of Faith 12.8.2024

From Joseph Fedje <josephfedje@gmail.com>

To: Michelene V <mkverlautz@yahoo.com>

Date Today at 9:42 AM

Annual Meeting Pt. I / Meeting at the Crossroads of Faith 12.8.2024

- Kay calls to order at 10:28am
- Opening Prayer by Pastor Michelene
- Declaration of a Quorum
- Joe Fedje will be recording secretary
- Due to a technical glitch there will not be any discussion on the Annual Meeting pt. II minutes from Feb 2024
- Elections: We had come to a decision as a Council that all members will be continuing through 2025.
- Margaret Hanna has been nominated for 2025.
- Any other Council members for nominations? No nominations
- Unanimous ballot for Margaret Hanna moved and accepted
- Jerry Wahl presentation regarding the future of St. Timothy's
- 2025 proposed budget and endowment presentation
- 4th congregational meeting with Jerry
- Review Self-description of our church and our identity, as well as the previous 3 meetings
- One of the tenants of St. Tim's is that we desire to be a self-guided congregation
- Congregants would want to be a part of their own decision making, and they're own destiny
- Jerry suggests that a merger would be off the table, based on what the congregation is looking for in the future
- Golden purpose (according to Jerry): In the future, we will develop a self-sustaining ELCA, multi-cultural, multi-generational congregation in Columbia Heights
- Continue to be who we are and worship at 9:30am every Sunday
- Create a 2025 mission strategy team, a guiding leadership team that will do the following:
 - 1st: Review our current staffing, rewrite our Pastor's job description, etc.
 - 2nd: We must turn to the resources of the Mpls ELCA synod. The strategy team will lead this
 - 3rd: Secure the services of David R. who is a business consultant working with the Synod on how to maximize our opportunity with the property that we have. We have an above average facility that can be used in many ways to serve the community. The building is our biggest asset. Jerry believes that we are subsidizing both ICASA and LVMS. We need to think about 3 financial streams for the future. 1. Congregation. 2. Grants and other church support for us. ELCA funding. Mpls-area Synod funding. 3. Generate more income from the building (rent, leases, etc.)
 - 4th: The strategy team will need to go through some learning and training. Connect with other churches so that we can see what other churches have done.
- Congregational questions for Jerry after his presentation
- Kay discussing First Lutheran. First Lutheran came to us to discuss a partnership. They were going to discuss with their Council and come back to us, and we have waited for them but due to their delay we have decided to move on and look for additional avenues of growth
- Kari S. Discussing the finance reporting. Only 16 pledge cards have come back. 80+ went out.
- \$58,460 incoming for general fund
- \$520 for Every Meal
- Expenses (2024 Actual with estimates for Nov & Dec)

St.

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

Inspired by God's love, St Timothy's Lutheran Church welcomes everyone on a faith journey of renewal, growth and service.

Proposed 2025 Budget numbers:

Income:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Regular Offerings: (2025 pledged to date) | \$88,908 |
| Liturgical Event Offerings: | \$2,222 |
| <u>Rent & Misc. Income:</u> | <u>\$45,648</u> |
| Total Income: | \$136,778 |

Expenses:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Salaries: | \$104,320 |
| Taxes & Benefits: | \$16,180 |
| Office & Administration: | \$5,526 |
| Committee & Convention | \$1,619 |
| Marketing & Communications: | \$3,951 |
| Worship Materials: | \$1,673 |
| Building Maintenance: | \$10,126 |
| Building Insurance: | \$18,444 |
| <u>Utilities:</u> | <u>\$36,846</u> |
| Total Expenses: | \$198,685 |

Total Income less Total Expenses: -\$61,908