

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7

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Annual Meeting of Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 25th, 2026, at 11:30 am

AGENDA

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Call meeting to order | Kevin Eye, Council President | |
| 2. Opening Devotions | Pastor Sarah Tadé | Page 29 |
| 3. Approval of Agenda | Kevin Eye | Page 4 |
| 4. Appointment of Tellers | Kevin Eye | |
| 5. Secretary's Report | Augusta Volstad | Page 9 |
| 6. Treasurer's Report | Rich Hagen | Page 11 |
| 7. Cemetery Financial Report | Terri Thostenson | Page 14 |
| 8. Special Funds Report | Terri Thostenson | Pages 16 & 17 |
| 9. Pastor/SAM Report | Pastor Sarah | Page 6-8 |
| 10. Approval of other reports | Kevin Eye | |
| * 2025 Council Year in Review, page 13 | | |
| * 2025 Cemeteries Report, page 14 | | |
| * 2025 WELCA Report, pages 18 & 19 | | |
| * 2025 Property & Management Report, page 20 | | |
| * 2025 Stewardship Committee Report, page 20 | | |
| * 2025 Worship Committee Report, page 21 | | |
| * 2025 Parish Education Committee Report, page 22 | | |
| 11. Nominating committee | Rich Hagen | |
| 12. 2026 Elections | Kevin Eye | Pages 26 & 27 |
| 13. Elect 2027 Nominating Committee | Rich Hagen | |
| 14. 2026 Proposed Budget | Kevin Eye | Page 12 |
| 15. Old Business | Kevin Eye | |
| 16. New Business | Kevin Eye | |
| 17. Recognition | Kevin Eye | |
| 18. Adjournment & the Lord's Prayer | Kevin Eye | |

Note: Following the annual meeting, the 2026 council members will meet in the Care Center for election of officers.

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

CONGREGATION STAFF 2025

Pastor: Pastor Sarah Tadé

Synodically Authorized Ministers: Tim
Velde & Gwen Arneson

Chairperson: Kevin Eye

Vice Chairperson: Rich Hagen

Secretary: Augusta Volstad

Accompanists: Emma Gregoire, Augusta

Volstad, Elmo Volstad, Colleen Hewitt

Parish Sec./Treas.: Angie Thostenson

Special Funds Treasurer: Terri Thostenson

Cemetery Sextons: Jon & Terri Thostenson

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2025*

Megan McPhail (1st)

Teresa Oftedahl (1st)

2026*

Kevin Eye (3rd)

Vonnie Severson (3rd)

Daryl Gregoire (2nd)

Augusta Volstad (3rd)

Rich Hagen (3rd)

Gary Enger (2nd)

*Term ends at annual meeting in January of following year.

*Term ends at annual meeting in January of following year.

COMMITTEES

Worship

Connie Velde

Colleen Hewitt

Emma Gregoire

Julie Volstad

Augusta Volstad (Council)

Memorial

Carol Engel

Bonnie Oftedahl

Terri Thostenson

Parish Education

Connie Velde

Augusta Volstad (Council)

Vonnie Severson (Council)

Nominating Committee

Gary Enger (Council)

Jon Thostenson

Rich Hagen (Council)

Property & Management

Justin Torke

Gary Enger (Council)

Rich Hagen (Council)

Kevin Eye (Council)

Daryl Gregoire (Council)

Stewardship & Evangelism

Britanna Torke

Judy Enger

Carrie Jeseritz

Cindy Eye

Synod Delegates (2)

Cemetery Committee

Tom Oftedahl

Rich Hagen

Orlen Torke

Ushers

Gary Enger

Kevin Eye

Jon Thostenson

Justin Torke

Brooks Torke

Annual Report – January, 2026

Pastor Sarah Tadé

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12.27

My time with you began on May 4th when I was installed. Thank you for joining Granite Falls Lutheran for worship and celebration that day. What a good way to begin!

I have greatly enjoyed my time among you. The Council runs well. I only regret that I can't meet with you as the hour coincides with other activities. But you are well directed by your own leaders and my presence is not that necessary.

I make every effort to visit the members of YMLC on the visitation list on a quarterly basis. It is challenging, being the only pastor of the two congregations. We are blessed by the willingness of the two Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAMs) to help, taking one Sunday a month to preach, and helping on occasion with visitation and funerals.

Your Secretary/Treasurer Angie Thostenson has been great to work with, and very helpful in training me in, as has the Council President Kevin Eye. Thank you!

Thank you also for your willingness to move to the 11:00 AM worship time, which allows me the time to greet people as they leave worship in Granite Falls, collect myself, and get down the road Hanley Falls. That has made such a difference. That was gracious of this congregation.

Some highlights of my time with you was working the food stand at the Pioneer Power Threshing Show, the Thanksgiving Eve catered dinner and worship service, giving Bibles to children in the fall, the children's Christmas Program, sharing children's sermons, participating with the Bible study group, and getting to know you each a little better every week. My prayer is that we may recognize Christ in our midst, that we continue to love and serve him, and that he strengthens us in faithful living for his purposes. Let us not take for granted the privilege of belonging to this congregation, and its existence. It is something to treasure. We are blest to be the Body of Christ in this place. May we not lose courage, for God is with us.

Pastor Sarah Tadé

Annual Report – January, 2026
Synodically Authorized Minister, Gwen Arneson
Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

What a joy it has been to serve among you in this wonderful community of faith for several months while you awaited the arrival of your called pastor, Pr. Sarah Tade'! To be met with your smiles and a warm welcome is something I will always remember and appreciate. I'm grateful for the leadership and collegiality of your congregation's council and also, for the grace offered while joyfully working with your church secretary, Angie Thostenson.

Over the months, we walked together in moments of joy and sorrow together. We saw the revival of Sunday School during the year, and celebrated with many young people as they received their Bibles to use at home and in other settings that nurture faith throughout their lives. In times of loss and grief, we accompanied and comforted one another, holding fast to the promises we have through Jesus's death and resurrection. We shared in the Lord's Supper to be strengthened for this wild baptismal journey of following Jesus that we are on together, and listened to God speaking to us through Holy Scripture. We sang words that reminded us of our relationship to God, of our salvation through Jesus, and of the call we have to reflect and bring the love and light of Jesus into the world around us.

During the season of Lent we gathered for supper and then, in our midweek services to remember that we are "Grounded in Hope." In these holy moments together, our weekly themes included: "When the Dust Settles, Hope Remains"; "Hope is More than Optimism"; "Hope Blooms in a Weary World"; "Hope Builds Community"; "Hope Remembers"; and "Hope Draws Us In". Seated in a circle, we concluded our Lenten evenings with Holden Evening Prayer. I treasure these quiet and meditative times that were certainly among the highlights of my time with you.

Even though I see you much more sporadically now, it is still a blessing for me to assist Pr. Sarah by leading worship every once in a while. I hold you close in my prayers and in my heart as I think of how the Holy Spirit is working in your midst. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in the mission God has given to us to share!

God's love and peace be with you all,

Gwen Arneson

Annual Report—January 2026
Synodically Authorized Minister, Tim Velde
Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

God's grace surrounds us.

Again this past year I had the privilege of being part of a team here at Yellow Medicine Lutheran, that brought God's message forward.

Gwen Arneson and I started out last year with the shared responsibility of leading here in Hanley, and in Granite. In May Pastor Sarah Tada accepted a call and became the leader of the team.

When I say a team, I mean a team. Angie in the office, who keeps us informed and helps prepare service information.

The musicians that play and accompany the congregation on our hymns for each service.

The Church council members who volunteer overseeing and helping with almost anything that needs to be done at the Church.

The technology volunteers that keep the screens moving during our service.

The volunteer lay readers who read the lessons that help frame the message of the day.

Volunteer Sunday School teachers, altar guild volunteers, usher volunteers, the people that volunteer in the basement both setting up and taking down tables and chairs, the people that organize and serve and clean up in the kitchen, WELCA volunteers serving at funerals, quilting, food stand volunteers, etc.

It is risky to try naming and thanking the people that keep our congregation alive and thriving, so if I overlooked anyone, I apologize.

The two most important thank you's go to God for bringing us together and you, the congregation for showing up and supporting this congregation.

I look forward to serving as needed when needed as we go forward.

May God's grace continue to surround us. Tim Velde

YMLC Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 26th, 2025, following the 10:30 am worship service

30+ voting members present (both in person and via Zoom) to hold the quorum.

Meeting called to Order by Kevin Eye, Council President.

Opening Devotions led by Synodically Authorized Minister, Gwen Arneson.

Motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

Tellers appointed by Kevin Eye.

Secretary's Report was given by Augusta Volstad. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

Treasurer's Report was given by Rich Hagen. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

Cemetery Report was given by Rich Hagen. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

Special funds report was given by Terri Thostenson. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

Pastor's Report was given by Synodically Authorized Minister, Gwen Arneson. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

Approval of other reports was led by Kevin Eye. Motion was made, seconded, and approved by majority vote for all other reports, including Council Year in Review, Cemeteries, WELCA, Property & Management, Worship Committee, Stewardship Committee, and Parish Education Committee.

Nominating committee discussion was led by Rich Hagen. Augusta Volstad was elected to be on the Worship Committee, Megan McPhail and Teresa Oftedahl were elected to be on the Congregational Council. All other members were elected for another term. Jon Thostenson, Rich Hagen, and Gary Enger will all be on the nominating committee again for the coming year.

2025 Elections discussions were led by Kevin Eye.

Nominating Committee Election was led by Rich Hagen. All elections and committee reports were motioned to approve, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

2025 proposed budget report was motioned to approve, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

Old business was led by Kevin Eye.

New business was led by Kevin Eye. Narthex Heater Fund will be started with \$8500 needed.

Recognition was given to Bonnie Oftedahl and Kris Nygaard.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and approved by majority vote. We concluded by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Council members then met for election of officers, all of which stayed the same. President Chair:

Kevin Eye, Vice President Chair: Rich Hagen, Secretary: Augusta Volstad. First meeting will be Sun. 2/9 following worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Augusta Volstad, Secretary

YMLC RECORDS REPORT – 2025

Worship Attendance

In 2025 our worship attendance was an average of 32.5 for 4 Sundays in January. In February, there was an average attendance of 28.5 for 4 Sundays that month. In March, there were 5 Sundays with an average attendance of 37.4, and the 3 Lenten Wednesdays brought an average attendance of 23. 1 Lenten Sunday was cancelled. Palm Sunday in April brought 32, Maundy Thursday brought 25, Good Friday 18, and Easter Sunday brought 57. The 4 Sundays in April brought an average attendance of 37.5, and the 1 Lenten Wednesday brought 23. 1 Lenten Wednesday was cancelled. The 3 Sundays in May brought an average attendance of 29.67, 1 Sunday was cancelled. The 5 Sundays in June brought an average attendance of 22.8. July's average attendance for 4 Sundays was 32. Average attendance for the month, 5 Sundays, of August was 26.8, including the Threshing Show. September had 4 services which averaged an attendance of 30.25. October had 4 services which averaged 28.25. November had average Sunday attendance over 5 Sundays of 28.2, and Thanksgiving Eve, Granite Falls Lutheran joined us for a Harvest Meal and Service which included 86 attendees. December had 4 Sunday services with an average of 45.75 attendees. 1 Sunday in December was cancelled. A joint Choir Concert with Granite Falls Lutheran was held on Sunday, December 21st, which brought 47 attendees. The Christmas Eve service brought 83 attendees.

Communion

Communion has been offered once per month for 2025, except twice in February (Ash Wednesday), and 3 times in April (Maundy Thursday and Easter).

January—21—1 service

May—25—1 service

September—18—1 service

February—38 —2 services

June—20—1 service

October—18—1 service

March—103—3 services

July—25—1 service

November—37—1 service

April—24—1 service

August—32—1 service

December—35—1 service

Total persons receiving communion this year was 402. Communion was given at 15 worship services, with an average communion of 26.8 people per service.

Baptisms (2)

Born

Baptized

Lily Renee Littlecreek

7/25/2016

8/2/2025

Freya Stevi McCoss

9/6/2025

10/5/2025

Confirmations (NONE)

Date

Weddings (NONE)

Date

Funerals (6)

Died

Darlene Erickson

1/28/2025

Allen Bruce Torke

2/7/2025

Arlen "Wimpy" Martin

8/14/2025

Angela "Angie" Harris

9/25/2025

Gary Ellingson

10/17/2025

Robert "Bob" Hoseck

12/23/2025

Transfers In (NONE)

Transfers Out (3)

3/6/2025

Lisa Catherine Velde Rustman to Alexandria Covenant Church, Alexandria, MN

7/16/2025

Jason David Torke to Anoka

7/21/2025

Charles Hewitt to Peace Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD

Membership

Membership as of December 31, 2025, went down by 25 in 2025, and now stands at 158. This membership number reflects those who are confirmed and contributing members. 18 members were moved to the inactive list after mailing 2 letters.

2025 Treasurer's Report

<u>Balance 12/31/2024</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2025</u>
\$ 4,172.32 in checking	\$93,084.94	\$ 91,602.21	\$ 9,368.39 in checking
+ 30,755.89			+ 30,755.89
+ 12,416.87			+ 9,158.17
+ <u>103,247.27 Other Savings</u>			+ <u>102,792.63 Other Savings</u>
\$150,592.35			\$ 152,075.08

INCOME

FOOD STAND INCOME

Food Stand Receipts	13,077.50
TOTAL FOOD STAND INCOME	13,077.50

RECEIPTS

Easter Lilies	5.00
General Expense Offerings	74,056.37
Harvest Dinner	-28.35
Heater Fund	-670.86
Interest from Savings	6,286.66

Other Offerings	160.00
Other Receipts	0.00
Patronage Dividends	187.62
Poinsettias	11.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	80,007.44

TOTAL INCOME

93,084.94

EXPENSES

FOOD STAND EXPENSES

Food Stand Supply Expenses	7,801.04
Profits Distributed	4,268.25
TOTAL FOOD STAND EXPENSES	12,069.29

LOCAL MINISTRY

Federal & State Withholding	9.83
FICA-Medicare (lay employees)	1,470.33
FICA-Medicare (Pastor)	772.69
Gifts Given	986.80
Pastor's Salary	30,199.70
Staff Salaries	19,221.81
Supply Pastor Expense	180.60
Travel Expense (Pastor)	836.14
TOTAL LOCAL MINISTRY	53,677.90

OUR CHURCH BUILDING

Misc. Supplies	719.61
New Equipment & Maintenance	1,348.95
Property Insurance	3,864.00
Property Taxes	28.00
Property Upkeep - Church Building	2,135.80
Utilities & Fuel	10,543.11
Worker's Compensation	930.00
TOTAL OUR CHURCH BUILDING	19,569.47

OUR MISSION

ELCA-SWMN Synod	2,500.00
Prairie Conference, SWMN Synod, ELCA	49.00
SMSU Campus Ministries	196.00

TOTAL OUR MISSION	2,745.00
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WORSHIP & EDUCATION

e-Giving Transaction Fees	229.85
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Office Supplies & Repairs	1,779.98
Parish Education	173.36
Worship Supplies	1,357.36
TOTAL WORSHIP & EDUCATION	3,540.55

TOTAL EXPENSES

91,602.21

YELLOW MEDICINE LUTHERAN CHURCH - PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

Mission	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Proposed Budget
ELCA/Synod/Other	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Prairie Conference	\$ 50	\$ 49	\$ 50
SMSU Campus Ministries	\$ 200	\$ 196	\$ 200
SUB-TOTAL:	\$ 2,750	\$ 2,745	\$ 2,750

Property

Misc. Supplies	\$ 300	\$ 720	\$ 300
New equipment and maintenance	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,349	\$ 2,500
Property Insurance	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,864	\$ 3,864
Property taxes (church)	\$ 50	\$ 28	\$ 50
Property Upkeep - Church Building	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,135	\$ 1,500
Utilities & Fuel	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,543	\$ 12,000
Worker's Compensation	\$ 700	\$ 930	\$ 550
SUB-TOTAL:	\$ 20,250	\$ 19,569	\$ 20,764

Worship

e-Giving Transaction Fees	\$ 200	\$ 230	\$ 200
Misc. (including Green Lake Reg.)	\$ 400	\$ 0	\$ 400
Office supplies and repairs	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,780	\$ 1,800
Parish Education	\$ 250	\$ 174	\$ 250
Worship Supplies	\$ 750	\$ 1,358	\$ 750
SUB-TOTAL:	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,542	\$ 3,400

Ministry

Convention Expense	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
FICA-Medicare (lay employees)	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,470	\$ 1,500
Gifts (Pianist, Choir Director, etc.)	\$ 500	\$ 987	\$ 500
Pastoral Salary	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,200	\$ 32,000
Pastoral FICA-Medicare	\$ -	\$ 773	\$ -
Pastoral Medical & Pension Exp.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Pastoral Travel Expense	\$ 2,000	\$ 836	\$ 1,000
Pastoral Continuing Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Pastoral Technology Fee (Cell phone)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supply Pastor Expense	\$ -	\$ 180	\$ -
Total Pastoral Costs	\$ 32,000	\$ 31,989	\$ 33,000
Staff Salaries - Custodian Wages	\$ 2,800	\$ 3,100	\$ 2,800
Staff Salaries - Accompanist Wages	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,352	\$ 2,500
Staff Salaries - Secretary/Treas. Wages	\$ 14,000	\$ 13,769	\$ 14,000
SUB-TOTAL:	\$ 53,500	\$ 53,667	\$ 54,500

TOTAL:	\$ 79,900	\$ 79,523	\$ 81,414
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2025 Year in Review Report

YMLC Congregational council

Following are some highlights from our council meetings:

Gwen Arneson and Tim Velde, (as Synod Authorized Ministers), led our worship services earlier in the year. On May 4th, Paster Sarah Tade was installed as Pastor for Granite Falls Lutheran Church (GFLC) and Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church (YMLC). Gwen and Tim continue to lead worship service on a part-time basis. We are grateful for Pastor Sarah, Gwen and Tim serving YMLC.

Kevin, as President of YMLC, met with the GFLC executive church council in updating our Pastoral sharing agreement between YMLC and GFLC.

The YMLC food stand was another success at the Threshing Show in early August. Profits were nearly \$5,300. A big thank you to all members and community to your help in making this successful. Profits are used for upkeep and maintenance of our church building.

Updated our YMLC membership. Letters went out to in-active members to find out if they still want to be members or if they have transferred to another church.

Easter Sunday Service – great turnout. Big thanks to Barb and Del Bresson for preparing the breakfast following Worship services.

Started up Sunday School in October. They performed the Christmas Quiz Show on December 17th.

Thanksgiving Eve services at YMLC with members from GFLC. Prior to the service, we had a Thanksgiving catered meal. Over 70 attended the meal.

Renewed Zoom video on-line membership for virtual meetings: For YMLC annual meeting, Bible Study and Worship committee.

Discussion on doing a pictorial in 2026.

Worked on and approved to take the 2026 YMLC budget to the annual meeting.

Respectably submitted,

Kevin Eye – President, Richard Hagen – Vice-President, Augusta Volstad – Secretary

Gary Enger, Daryl Gregoire, Vonnie Severson, Teresa Oftedahl, Megan McPhail

CEMETERY REPORT

2025

Balance in Checking on 12/31/24: **\$930.66**

Perpetual Care on 12/31/24:

Savings at FIB - Hanley Falls 4,710.56

CD's at FM Bank - Granite Falls 32,822.65

TOTAL INVESTMENTS \$37,533.21

Receipts:

Cemetery Lots Sold 100.00

Donations to Perpetual Funds 2470.00

Interest Income 1,633.68

Marking Fees 0.00

Memorials Received 730.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$4,933.68

Disbursements:

Cemetery Maintenance - Mowing/Burial Expense 6,175.00

Sexton Salary 600.00

Medicare -8.70

Social Security -37.20

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$6,729.10

Perpetual Care on 12/31/25:

Savings at FIB - Hanley Falls 1,718.74

CD's at FM Bank - Granite Falls 34,447.50

TOTAL INVESTMENTS \$36,166.24

Balance in Checking on 12/31/25: **\$502.21**

Angie Thostenson

Treasurer

2025 Yellow Medicine Lutheran Cemeteries Report

The year 2025 was another busy year for mowing our lawns with all the rain we got. With the ever-increasing expenses of maintenance, please consider memorials to the cemetery fund.

We have had discussions on how to replace the trees lost in the 2022 storms and a couple of families have donated some new trees in memory of loved ones. We will look at replacing some trees in 2026 that have started dying.

The board also looked at prices of lots at our cemeteries. After talking to various funeral homes and churches, we found out we were very low on our prices and that we hadn't changed our prices for several years. After discussion, it was decided to raise our price from \$100 for a family plot (A family plot holds room for up to 4 caskets or 8 cremations) for members to \$200 and \$200 for non-members to \$400.

We will probably have a workday this Spring to fill in more skunk and badger holes and will let the congregation know when this will take place.

The YMLC Cemetery Committee

Rich Hagen

Orlen Torke

Tom Oftedahl

Cemetery Sextons

Jon & Terri Thostenson

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT 2025

Received in Memory Of:

Sent Directly to YMLC General Fund

Sent Directly to YMLC Cemetery Fund

In Memory of Alan Torke	\$	95.00	In Memory of Angela Harris	\$	160.00
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Audio Visual Fund

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>Disbursements:</u>
Balance: 01/01/2025	Balance 12/31/2025
\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00

3rd Grade Bible Fund

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>Disbursements:</u>
Balance: 01/01/2025	Bibles
\$ 258.87	(\$ 258.87)
	Balance: 12/31/2025
	\$ 0.00

East & West Cemetery Fund

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>Disbursements:</u>
Balance: 01/01/2025	Mowing
\$ 3,165.00	(\$ 1,300.00)
Memorials	Balance: 12/31/2025
\$ 4,470.00	\$ 6,335.00
\$ 7,635.00	

Church Repair Fund

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>Disbursements:</u>
Balance: 01/01/2025	Balance: 12/31/2025
\$ 1,101.94	\$ 1,101.94

Defibrillator Fund

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>Disbursements:</u>
Balance: 01/01/2025	Balance: 12/31/2025
\$ 273.99	\$ 273.99

Music Fund

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>Disbursements:</u>
Balance: 01/01/2025	Balance: 12/31/2025
\$ 392.77	\$ 392.77

Quilting Fund

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>Disbursements:</u>
Balance: 01/01/2025	Quilt batting
\$ 987.31	(\$ 151.94)
	Balance: 12/31/2025
	\$ 835.37

Sanctuary Carpet Fund

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>Disbursements:</u>
Balance: 01/01/2025	Balance: 12/31/2025
\$ 1,055.00	\$ 1,055.00

Undesignated Memorials

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>Disbursements:</u>
Balance: 01/01/2025	Balance: 12/31/2025
(\$ 6,490.05)	\$ 326.68
FM Bank CD #010025012	
\$ 6,776.73	
Memorial	
\$ 40.00	
\$ 326.68	

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT 2025 Continued

Youth Education Fund

<u>Receipts:</u>		<u>Disbursements:</u>	
Balance: 01/01/2025	(\$ 800.00)	Bibles	(\$ 984.39)
FI Bank CD #200926500	<u>\$ 12,990.00</u>	Jr. High Youth Gathering	(\$ 329.57)
	\$ 12,190.00	Bible Camp	(\$ 695.00)
		Faith Boxes	(\$ 31.98)
		Bible Highlighters	(\$ 191.70)
		FI Bank CD #5372490987	<u>(\$ 7,000.00)</u>
		Balance: 12/31/2025	\$ 2,957.36

Hognestad Estate Interest

<u>Receipts:</u>		<u>Disbursements:</u>	
Balance: 01/01/2025	\$ 3,803.61	Balance: 12/31/2025	\$ 6,589.16
CD Interest	<u>2,785.55</u>		
	\$ 6,589.16		

Hognestad Estate

01/22/2021: Four \$10,000.00 CDs at 2.05% (13 months)

01/22/2021: Two \$4,500.00 CDs at 2.05% (13 months)

01/22/2021: One \$4,000.00 CD at 2.05% (13 months);)

Total of CD's invested in FM Bank: \$53,000.00

Undesignated Memorials

01/23/2025: One \$5,236.60 at CD #010025012 at FM Bank

Youth Education Fund

07/14/2025: One \$7,067.58 CD #5372490987 at First Independent Bank

Checking Account – Balance: 1/1/2025	\$ 1,891.89
Deposits – 2025	<u>17,276.73</u>
Sub-Total	\$ 19,168.62
Checks – 2025	<u>(3,968.25)</u>
Balance: 12/31/2025	\$ 15,200.37

TOTAL OF SPECIAL FUNDS - 12/31/2025:

Checking balance	\$ 15,200.37
CDs at FM Bank (Hognestad Estate)	53,000.00
CD at FM Bank (Undesignated)	5,236.60
CD at FI Bank (Youth Education)	<u>\$ 7,067.58</u>
	\$ 80,504.55

WELCA – YELLOW MEDICINE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER REPORT 2025

BALANCE FORWARD—DECEMBER 31, 2024 \$ 925.08

RECEIPTS:

Funeral	\$ 495.00
Love Offerings	180.00
Raffle Tickets	<u>885.00</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 1,560.00

TOTAL BALANCE & RECEIPTS \$ 2,485.08

DISBURSEMENTS:

Connie Velde—(Quilting)	\$ 52.22
Memorials	50.00
Stamps	78.00
Cash Box for Raffle	100.00
Christmas Gift	200.00
YMLC Cemetery Fund	<u>1,000.00</u>
	\$ 1,480.22

End of Year Donations

YMC Food Shelf	\$ 50.00
Santa's Sleigh	50.00
Project Turnabout	50.00
Green Lake Bible Camp	50.00
Hope Harbor	50.00
Shetek Ministries	50.00
SWMN Synod	<u>25.00</u>
	\$ 325.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 1,805.22

BALANCE ON HAND—DECEMBER 31, 2025 \$ 679.86

Carol Tusberg & Jean Nelson-Anderson
Co-Treasurers

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church WELCA Report

2025 YMLC WELCA Women in action.

Tuesday morning with friends quilting. We received donations from our community and church members. Many items were given anonymously so we would like to thank you, everything donated helps our mission to service others.

This past year we made 52 quilts. Places receiving quilts were Foods shelves, Project Turnabout, Hope Harbor, Wood Lake rescue, including a Quilt for Quilt Auction at Lake Shetek. So, if you know anyone in need of a quilt let us know.

Thank you to this very talented team, Mary Nueman, Pat Cole, Colleen Hewitt, Dee Anderson, Annette Sharkey, Terri Thostensen, Toots Tusberg, Kathy Torke. Our team does make a difference in times of need. Everyone is welcome to join in. We meet every Tuesday morning starting in January and going to the end of March from 9 am to 11:30 am. We do serve coffee at 10 am if you want to join us then.

2025 Altar Guild

Our team includes Judy Ristau, Jean Nelson Anderson, Toots Tusberg. Thank you, Terri, for all the your help this past year.

We need help, so join our team. I know it's a commitment, but we all pitch in and help each other. Please consider joining us.

Baptism Faith gift.

Thank you to Colleen Hewitt and Terri Thostenson for their time and donations. We had two that joined our church family.

Lily Renee Littlecreek, August 2nd. Daughter of Skyler Littlecreek and Edwin Littlecreek.

Freya Stevi McCoss, October 5th. Stephi Fry & Garrett McCoss.

YMLC WELCA Raffle

900+ tickets sold this year, the drawing was held right after the Threshing Show Church service. Winner are: Ken Ristau-YMLC WELCA cookbook.

Rick Hewitt-\$50.00

Linda Lecy-\$50.00

Amanda Lecy-\$50.00

Sena Gjerde-charcuterie board

Rick Hewitt-Quilt

Budget:

Special notes: Please pick up your Women in Action booklet in the narthex.

When you are a team leader for a Funeral make sure you read the booklet, any question just ask.

2025 Property & Management Report

In 2025, Property and Management had a busy year. We did the following projects:

- a) Fixed the threshold on the entry door to the Narthex as they wouldn't close properly due to cement issues in front of the church.
- b) Replaced the cement in front of church that was sinking due to ground movement.
- c) Did plumbing repairs in ladies bathroom to get toilets working properly.
- d) Repaired lighting issues in the chair lift.
- e) Installed auto lighting in the fellowship hall and the kitchen.
- f) Installed new heaters in the Narthex.
- g) Purchased a new camera for streaming worship services.

We would like to thank Gary Enger, Bruce Tusberg, and Rich Hagen for mowing the church this year. We would also like to thank Steve Herigon for the excellent job he does mowing the cemeteries. We would like to thank Wayne Oftedahl and Milo Brusven for the excellent job they do with snow removal at the church. Lastly, we would like to thank Kevin Eye for spearheading most of the projects listed above.

Respectively submitted by,

Property & Management Committee

Justin Torke	Gary Enger	Rich Hagen
Daryl Gregoire	Kevin Eye	

2025 Stewardship Report

Stewardship Committee: Cindy Eye, Judy Enger, Carrie Jeseritz, Britanna Torke

The Stewardship Committee served Lenten suppers.

The Stewardship Committee helped serve the Harvest Meal.

We did a Reverse Advent Calendar in December, which resulted in a lot of food being delivered to the food shelf.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Judy Enger

Worship Committee Report 2025

We're grateful that Pastor Sarah Tadé was with us for most of 2025 to lead worship and provide pastoral care. She has been such a wonderful addition to our congregation, providing sound leadership and consistent care. We are also fortunate to have two local part-time ministers who have filled in (as well as other non-locals) when needed: Tim Velde and Gwen Arneson. We continue to pray for and are grateful for both our pastoral leadership and our ministry partner, Granite Falls Lutheran Church.

One of the biggest changes to worship this year has been the shift to the 11:00 a.m. start time, which allows Pastor Sarah transitional and fellowship time between Granite Falls Lutheran services and our own.

We are grateful for the music provided by members for our services. Emma Gregoire or Augusta Volstad play the organ or piano each Sunday, with Colleen Hewitt filling in as needed. Elmo Volstad provided music with his guitar for the Threshing Show. The pianos were tuned in December.

We continue to record and stream weekly services on our Facebook page, reaching several people live and a larger number tuning in at later times. The technology crew is also responsible for projecting the order of service on screens mounted in the sanctuary. We appreciate their service.

We had two formal committee meetings this year, one in February joined by interim minister Gwen Arneson, and a second in August with Pastor Sarah.

Worship usually takes place in the Fellowship Hall on the first Sunday of the month as well as after Wednesday Lenten suppers. The smaller space makes for a warmer and more relaxed setting. During the school year, a potluck meal often follows the service and offers a chance for fellowship.

In addition to various seasonal decorations provided by Altar Guild members, our worship space is enhanced by the beauty of lilies at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas. Thank you to all who donate.

Special worship services this year included: Wednesday evenings in Lent doing Holden Evening Prayer services with the theme of "Hope," Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services; the Threshing Show service; All Saints Sunday remembering four departed members; and services on Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve.

Worship requires many helpers, and we acknowledge with gratitude the work of the Altar Guild, ushers, those who run the technology, those who make coffee and count the offering, and all who pitch in to help with decorating and undecorating. A special thank you to Angie Thostenson who helps in ways too numerous to mention.

2026 Worship Committee Members: Emma Gregoire, Colleen Hewitt, Megan McPhail, Connie Velde, Augusta Volstad, Julie Volstad

Parish Education 2025 Annual Report

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

Sunday School was offered for youth of all ages every Sunday from January through May during the 10:30 AM worship service. Service leaders will deliver a Children's Message after the second lesson reading. After this, all students will leave the sanctuary to go downstairs for the Sunday School lesson for the remainder of the service. Parents who have volunteered to teach so far are Laura Oftedahl, Emma Gregoire, Augusta Volstad, and Ashley Jorgenson.

In the summer of 2025, one youth member attended Green Lake - Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp, sponsored by YMLC.

YMLC collaborated with Christ Lutheran Church to allow youth to attend Confirmation Classes in Cottonwood and complete Sermon notes, Acolyte, and other confirmation program requirements at YMLC. YMLC youth are also welcome to participate in Mission Possible on Wednesday evenings at CLC.

In November, a letter was sent out to start Sunday School and have a Sunday School Christmas Program, "Christmas Quiz Show." Sunday School began in November. Skyler Littlecreek volunteered to be the teacher.

On December 14th, our children presented "Christmas Quiz Show" to the congregation.

After the Christmas Program, Skyler and the Sunday School will start at the beginning of the Bible reading a chapter and then the kids will do a craft that shows they understand what was read.

Blessings,

YMLC Parish Education Committee

Augusta Volstad, Vonnie Severson, & Connie Velde



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Annual Report for 2025 Bishop Dee Pederson



www.swmnelca.org/rooted-in-redwood

Rooted in Redwood

Flowing into the Future – Bringing Healing and Hope

Perhaps you recognize this as the focus for our Capital Appeal, and that's just fine! Although this report is not an "ask" this focus describes so well who we are, what we do, and why we do these ministries. They serve as a great summary of our ministries in 2025.

Rooted in Redwood

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." – Romans 12:12-13

This is who we are: rooted in Redwood. Since 1989, Redwood Falls has served not only as the geographic center of synod ministries, but also the theological grounding for this Synod. We praise our Creator God who calls us to care for the land - God's good creation - 24/7/365. Tied to the land, our people know what it means to walk by faith and live in grace. For more than 150 years, the congregations of this area have been proclaiming the good news of grace alone, word alone, faith alone—*solli Deo gloria* - and sending out disciples of Jesus Christ to live out their baptism in their congregations and in their daily life. We give thanks for the strong foundation of faith and theology that has shaped who we are as a synod.

Who are we today? Created in the image of God, children of God, we are:

223 Congregations, including 1 strategic ministry and 2 ministry developments

94,00 Baptized members

14,700 people worshipping on-site; 12,400 people worshipping online

72 people avg. attendance on-site; 93 people avg. attendance online

147 Called Pastors and Deacons

163 Retired Rostered Ministers

13 Pastors On-Leave

0 Ordinations in 2025

14 People in candidacy process

61 Congregations in transition

38 Open call processes

25 Lay Ministers or Synod-Authorized Ministers

10 Conference Deans

24 Synod Council Voting Members, 5 Advisory

18 Voting Members to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly

389 Voting Members in person and online - 2025 Synod Assembly

I am grateful for all these leaders and for our synod staff who serve our ministries.

All of these provide the picture of how we are **Church Together**.

Flowing into the Future

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."
— Romans 15:13

Our ministries build on a strong foundation and point us to God's preferred future. This year we made a significant decision to better-steward our nearly 8,000 sq. ft. office building by welcoming Anfinson Thompson Financial to rent the east side of our building. Past and current leadership exercised wise financial management, and we are able to borrow from ourselves in order to renovate the west side of the building as office space. In August, your staff worked hard to move all of our earthly belongings into the large space that has been the resource center. Since that time, we as staff have been adapting to work in one large room together. We are grateful to Gloria Dei Lutheran for allowing us to use space for meetings.



As you as congregations and individuals consider your generosity in the coming months, please consider a gift for this Capital Appeal. We are grateful for the early gifts we have received, especially by congregational endowment funds. Please know we are grateful for any and all gifts shared. We look forward to construction work beginning late this winter. We also look forward to welcoming everyone for an open house and dedication this summer!

Bringing Healing and Hope

*"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life.....
On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit,
producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing
of the nations."* — Revelation 22:1-2

There is no doubt that our world, our nation, our communities, and our congregations need healing – the healing that only the way of Jesus can bring.

We know that life in the church will not return to the way things used to be. We understand that this new reality causes uncertainty and discouragement for congregations seeking a pastor. But the other reality that we see is the Holy Spirit raising up lay leaders who are sensing that their gifts can be used by God for leadership in their congregations. We are grateful to Wartburg Seminary and Lilly Endowment, Inc., for the grant of \$50,000 we received last year, and now \$27,600 for this coming year, for the development of a Mentor Program to support our lay leaders who will begin to serve as Synod-Authorized Ministers (SAMs). Our goal for this program is to equip people in our congregations to live out their baptismal calling in their daily lives, wherever and whatever that may be.

Your synod staff is dedicated to working with congregations and rostered ministers who find themselves in any point of transition. We are here to listen, provide guidance, and to support and encourage the work of the Spirit across the synod.



We give thanks for the leadership of youth and young adults! The Jr. High Youth Gathering held annually the weekend before Thanksgiving in Willmar continues to gather over 600 youth! The Sr. High Youth Gathering is growing back year by year post-pandemic. The LYO Board provides ever-new and refreshing leadership for these events. And our gifted Synod Youth Band leads worship for the gatherings and for Synod Assembly.

We give thanks for the revitalization of the Companion Synod relationship over the past few years. Thank you for the leadership of our long-time and previous Co-Chairs of the Companion Synod Committee, Rev. Rebecca Sullivan and Peg Hatlestad, who have retired from their roles after 20 and 15 years of involvement with our Companion Synod. We are so grateful for their faithful leadership and continued interest in this important ministry.

From Dec. 7-22, four of us had the privilege of journeying to South Africa at the invitation of the ELCA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA). Rev. Janel Kuester, Rev. Hollie Holt-Woehl, Randall Holt-Woehl, and I joined leaders from six other ELCA synods and our ELCSA companions to talk together about lay theological education and our companion relationships. These relationships are based on "accompaniment" values of mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment, and sustainability, to which this ministry remains committed. During our time in the South Eastern Diocese we were able to worship with over 650 young people, learn from some of the earliest congregations and mission stations in the SED, and celebrate the 50th Jubilee Anniversary of ELCSA. Standing out for all of these celebrations was the commitment to God's Word, and the music, joy, and dancing of worship.



As we live in this time of uncertainty and change, we give thanks for the gift of being Church Together in Jesus Christ. Thank you for your partnership. In Jesus Christ, we as the church know healing and this healing is truly a source of hope.

***"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." – Romans 15:13***



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

YELLOW MEDICINE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOMINATING COMMITTEE LIST

2026

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL – 2 yr. Term

Terms Expiring:

Kevin Eye (3rd)
Vonnie Severson (2nd)

Other Members:

Teresa Kuehl (1st)
Daryl Gregoire (2nd)
Augusta Volstad (3rd)
Megan McPhail (1st)
Rich Hagen (3rd)
Gary Enger (2nd)

CEMETERY COMMITTEE (4) 3 yr. Term

Kevin Eye

Terms Expiring

Tom Oftedahl (2025)
Allen Torke (2025)

Other Members:

Orlen Torke (2028)
Rich Hagen (2026)

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE (3)

3 yr. Term

Terms Expiring

Carol Engel (2025)

Other Members:

Terri Thostenson (2026)
Bonnie Oftedahl (2027)

WORSHIP COMMITTEE (4 + 2 council + pastor)

2 Yr. Term

Terms Expiring

Julie Volstad (2025)

Other Members:

Emma Gregoire (2026)
Colleen Hewitt (2026)
Connie Velde (2026)
Augusta Volstad (2026)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE LIST Page 2

PARISH EDUCATION (2 + 2 council + S.S. Superintendent + pastor)

<u>2 Yr. Term</u>	<u>Terms Expiring</u>	<u>Other Members</u>
	Vonnie Severson (Council)	Augusta Volstad (Council)
	Connie Velde (2025)	

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT (2 + 2 council + pastor)

<u>2 Yr. Term</u>	<u>Terms Expiring</u>	<u>Other Members</u>
	Justin Torke (2025)	Gary Enger (2026)
	Kevin Eye (Council)	Daryl Gregoire (Council)
		Rich Hagen (Council)

STEWARDSHIP (2 + 1 council + pastor)

<u>2 Yr. Term</u>	<u>Terms Expiring</u>	<u>Other Members</u>
	Britanna Torke (2025)	Cindy Eye (2026)
	Judy Enger (2025)	Carrie Jeseritz (2026)

<u>USHERS-1 Yr. Term (6)</u>	<u>Terms Expiring</u>	<u>SYNOD DELEGATES/ ALTERNATES</u>	
		<u>1 Yr. Term</u>	<u>Terms Expiring</u>
	Jon Thostenson		NONE
	Kevin Eye		
	Gary Enger		
	Justin Torke		
	Brooks Torke		
	Open		

Subs: Daryl Gregoire
Tim Stengel

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3 + 2 council)

1-Year Term,

	Gary Enger
	Jon Thostenson
	Rich Hagen

NOTES-

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

Founded on Faith

1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow' red to serve,
pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow' red to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve,
The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all,
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!
Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creation Sings, 1048

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THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.

MISSION SUPPORT

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at [ELCA.org/subscribe](https://elca.org/subscribe).

Read about Mission Support and learn more at LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.