

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2023 Annual Report



*A Christ-centered community called to
gather, grow and give together in Grace*



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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Grace Lutheran Church 2023 Annual Report

A New Year is here! New things are happening! The Lord is constantly presenting us with new opportunities! Our spirits are being renewed as we serve God!

The pages that follow provide a brief review of the ministry at Grace during the past year. It gives a snapshot of how we strived to realize our vision to become a Christ-centered community that: gathers, grows, and gives generously. It is only a small portion of the story that unfolded in 2023. As you read through this report, be reminded of how God is working in our midst and prayerfully consider what God is calling us to do in 2024.



*See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*

Isaiah 43:19

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." -*Colossians 3:15*

These are the words that remind me of Grace. This past year we have seen God at work in countless ways. I consider it one of the great blessings of my life to be your pastor.

This report helps us better understand the ways God has blessed those near and far away. We have been a community that has grown by welcoming new members and helping them understand the call God has placed on their lives. Through the gift of technology, we can reach people across the world with online worship services and podcasts.

We have served our neighbors. A neighbor, according to scripture, is not just someone close to us, but anyone in need. From local food pantries to children in Kenya and many places in between we have provided people with food, warm clothes, and most importantly the gospel.

We are a place that values community. One of the great aspects of a healthy church is that people of different backgrounds can come together for the sake of the gospel. We welcome people who may be different from us with the sole purpose of loving Jesus and loving one another.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude for the support you have shown my family. Being your pastor has made me a better husband and father. I am grateful to be in a community that not only shows me love and support but my family as well.

I look forward to what God has in store for us this next year. I pray that we will continue to follow and trust His will above our desires. Knowing that "He makes all things good for those who love him and are called according to His purpose." -*Romans 8:28*

In Christ,

Pastor Andy



A SNAPSHOT OF 2023

GATHERING to develop and foster Christ-centered relationships

Softball



Choir



Golfing



Trunk-or-Treat



WELCA



*Outreach Café
Easter Breakfast
Adopt-A-Highway
Adopt-A-Garden
Coffee Hour*

GROWING through faithful and inspiring
Bible-based worship and learning

First Communion



Sunday School



Confirmation Class



First Bible Class



Youth Sunday



Vacation Bible School



*Baptism Class
Sunday Worship Services
On-line Worship Service*

*Lenten Bible Study
CPR and AED class*

Giving Generously *through meaningful opportunities* *to serve and share the love of Jesus*



- ♦ PADS Homeless Shelter (mchenrycountypads.com)
- ♦ Feed My Starving Children (fmcs.org)
- ♦ Spring Grove Helping Hands, Genoa City and Richmond-Spring Grove Food Pantry

- ♦ Keeping Families Covered (keepingfamiliescovered.org)
- ♦ Habitat for Humanity of McHenry (habitatmchenry.org)
- ♦ Veterans Clothes Closet (midwestveteranscloset.org)
- ♦ Veterans Path to Hope (veteranspathtohope.org)



- ♦ Lutherdale Bible Camp (lutherdale.org)
- ♦ Good News Kenya (goodnewskenya.org)
- ♦ Prison Fellowship Angel Tree (prisonfellowship.org/about/angel-tree)
- ♦ Salvation Army Angel Tree (centralusa.salvationarmy.org/northcentralillinois/angel-tree-chicagoland)

- ♦ Casa Jackson Hospital in Guatemala (godschild.org/services/guatemala/casa-jackson)
- ♦ Make A Wish Foundation (wish.org)
- ♦ Fellowship of Christian Police Officers
- ♦ Lutheran Disaster Response (elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response)
- ♦ Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services (lirs.org)
- ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous
- ♦ Rapid Urgent Emergency Medical Response in Israel (Israelrescue.org)



DID YOU KNOW...

- * There 150 area children enrolled in the **Early Childhood Development Center**
- * The **Endowment fund** accrued enough interest to provide meaningful support for 7 missions and ministries of Grace



- * Grace assisted the **Helping Hands Food Pantry** by contributing toward their rent and provided volunteers to help staff the pantry
- * Grace helped the **Cub Scouts** in obtaining their "Duty to God" badges

- * The youth cleaned up a one-mile stretch of Route 173 as a part of **Adopt-A-Highway**
- * Grace's youth and their parents worked to package over 33,000 meals, enough to feed 90 kids for a year, through **Feed My Starving Children** (fmhc.org)



- * **Alcoholic Anonymous** holds weekly meetings at Grace
- * The Veterans Golf Outing raised \$695 for **Veterans Path to Hope** (veteranspathtohope.org)

- * The community joined Grace for a fun evening of games and food at **Trunk-or-Treat**, and donated to the **Richmond Food Pantry**
- * Grace participated in the **Salvation Army Angel Tree** and the **Prison Fellowship Angel Tree** programs providing 100 gifts for families in need
- * **Outreach Café** raised over \$4,200 in free-will offerings in support of the many missions of Grace



- * VBS raised \$421 for the **God's Child Project** in Guatemala (godschild.org)
- * In honor of Veterans Day, Grace collected clothing to support **Midwest Veterans Closet** (midwestveteranscloset.org)
- * **WELCA** held several bake sales to raise funds for the church



- * The **Fellowship of Christian Police Officers** meets at the church every week
- * Sunday school children held two service projects this year collecting washcloths and candy for residents of **PADS** shelter and 2863 diapers for **Keeping Families Covered** to help those in need



- * Members of Grace participated in the 2023 **Habitat for Humanity of McHenry County's Women's Build**
- * Grace is part of the **ELCA** and serves through the **Northern Illinois Synod** (nisynod.org).

LEADERSHIP

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Andrew Tyrrell, Pastor
Nancy O'Connor, Children's Ministry Director
Tara Singer, Music Director
Sue Fosdal, Secretary
Callie Arizzi, Nursery Attendant
Kristi Peterson, Custodian

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER STAFF

Sue Kubic Executive Director
Pauline Kohl, Richmond Site Director
Donna Dennis, Twin Lakes Site Director

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sue Dubs, President
Jason Folbrick, Vice President
Julie Ford, Secretary
Jon Petersen, Treasurer
Michelle Bayer, Member at Large
Bryan Johnson, Member at Large
Shannon Johnson, Member at Large
Judy Olson, Member at Large
Jeffery Stark, Member at Large

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Debbie Beagle
Heather Jarvis
Thorey Ellis
Chad Mihevc
Steve Salemi

STATISTICS

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms – 7
Confirmations – 7
Funerals and Memorial Services – 8
Weddings – 3

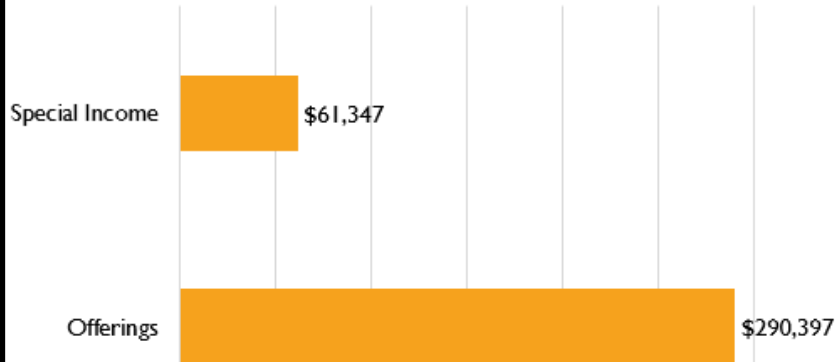
MEMBERSHIP

Total Baptized Members – 584
Total Confirmed Members – 425
Average Weekly Attendance Onsite – 116
Average Weekly Attendance Online – 50

MONEY MATTERS

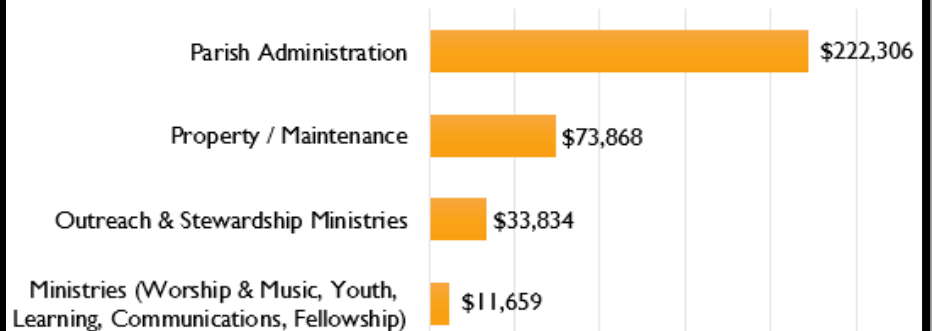
General Fund Income

\$351,744 total



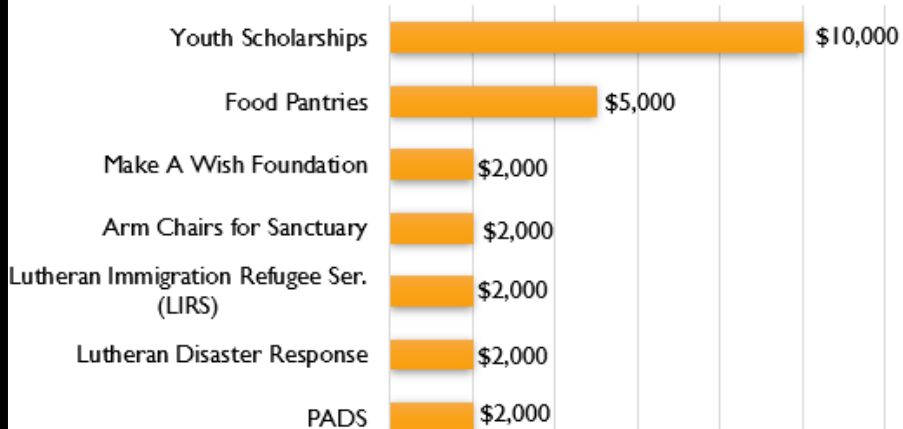
General Fund Expenses

\$355,489 total



Endowment Fund Distributions

\$25,000 total



REPORTS

WELCA 2023 YEAR-END SUMMARY

WELCA continues to meet monthly, September through May. In 2023 we held spring and fall bake sales and hosted some coffee hours between the Sunday church services. WELCA gave Children's Bibles to baptized little ones. We donated to veterans and a needy family at Christmas. At the end of the year we began again hosting funeral luncheons.

WELCA has been saving money in a "pew fund" for reupholstering the church pews. The monies in the pew fund may instead be used for cleaning the fabric as reupholstering is so very expensive.

Submitted by Nancy Kepple



Mission Statement

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Childcare centers have certainly been in the news recently. Topics have ranged from the lack of Government funding, deficiency of childcare openings for parents to enroll their child and mostly for the lack of qualified staff. Here at Grace, we have faced all those issues and today it appears we are slowly coming to the other side. There have been some hard times with the struggle of hiring staff but with staff leadership and the dedication shown by Donna Dennis, the Site Director at our Twin Lakes center and Pauline Kohl at the Richmond center, we are surviving. Both have encouraged and inspired staff to enhance their education and take classes to become teacher qualified. We recently had 4 members of the team at Richmond become accredited and advanced to head teachers and in Twin Lakes, 2 more staff are currently undergoing the process of accreditation. Kudos to them and to their staff!!

Our current enrollment at the Richmond Center is 82 and at Twin Lakes it's 68. We currently employ 40 staff, (which sounds sufficient but most work part time). We are still in need of staff, so please spread the word!

The basis of our program includes tools and methods that introduce children to understand the concepts that children will encounter throughout their educational experiences. Our individual curriculum opportunities for cognitive, motor, social and emotional development that encourages hands on learning times as well as structured play. As Fred Rogers said and I quote-*"Play is often talked about as if it is a relief from serious learning. But for children it is serious learning. Play is really the work for childhood."* We are looking forward to enhance our opportunities that will continue to offer the children a carefully planned learning experience as well as a safe and healthy environment.

Thank you for your continued support. *Sue Kubic, Executive Director*



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday School: Sunday School classes have been meeting September through May during the 9:30 a.m. Worship service. Children are in Worship until after the children's sermon and return to Worship prior to Communion. Class length is approximately 30 minutes. Ages four years old through fifth grade meet together for a song and video Bible story. Then they split into two age groups for the Bible lesson, art project and snack. As far as attendance is concerned, every Sunday is different. The largest group was 18. The smallest group was 4. Average attendance has been 11 per Sunday.

Baptism Class: Five Baptism classes were completed.

Winter Service Project – McHenry County PADS Homeless Shelter: In January we collected washcloths and candy for residents of the shelter. We decorated and filled 45 gift bags with the candy and kind notes that the children wrote. Over 100 washcloths were collected.

First Bible Class: Our first ever First Bible Class was held on February 5th. Seven children and their families participated. Children received their Adventure Bibles during the 9:30 a.m. Worship service on February 12th.

Valentine's Day Service Project – Burr Oaks Manor: In February we made Valentine's Day cards which were delivered to the residents at Burr Oaks Manor in Genoa City.

First Communion Classes: First Communion class was held on April 16th. Ten children and their families participated. Children received their first Communion during the 9:30 a.m. Worship service on April 23rd. A second First Communion class was held on November 12th. One child participated and received first Communion on November 19th.

Lutherdale Camp: On April 30th a representative from Lutherdale Camp presented information to the congregation about programs that they offer.

Vacation Bible School: Vacation Bible School was held July 31st through August 4th. Approximately 70 children participated. \$421 was raised for The God's Child Project in Guatemala.

Trunk-or-Treat: Our annual Trunk-or-Treat community event took place on October 21st. Eleven trunks were decorated for the event. Several large boxes of food items and \$140 were collected for the Richmond Food Pantry.

Fall Service Project – Keeping Families Covered: We collected 2,863 youth and adult diapers together with 7 packages of wipes for the Keeping Families Covered organization in McHenry County. Since this project, we have continued to receive donations.

Children's Christmas Program: The annual Children's Christmas Program was performed for the congregation on December 17th during the 9:30 a.m. Worship service. Participation was open to all children who wished to be a part of it. The children worked very hard and the performance was outstanding.

Children's Library: A children's library containing a variety of books pertaining to God, Jesus and faith is maintained on an ongoing basis in the Children's Ministry office at Grace. Children and their families may borrow these books to take home and read at any time.

Submitted by: Nancy O'Connor

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment committee is composed of five elected members of the congregation and is charged with the administration of the Endowment Fund. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to enhance the benevolent mission of this congregation apart from the general operation of the congregation.

The Endowment Fund principle is made up of memorial donations, bequests and gifts made directly to the Endowment Fund. The committee is responsible for the investment of these gifts and the distribution of the income from the funds.

At the June Congregational meeting, the congregation voted to change the by-laws removing restrictions on the percentage of funds that can go to the various categories of recipients. This allows the congregation to respond to the moving of the Holy Spirit rather than the strict percentages previously listed in the by-laws.

In 2023, the committee authorized the distribution of \$25,000 of interest income as follows:

- \$2,000 for chairs for the sanctuary for those needing the assistance of armrests to sit/stand.

- \$10,000 in scholarships to Lutherdale or other fellowship youth camps.

- \$5,000 to local food pantries (Genoa City, Richmond, and Spring Grove)

- \$2,000 to the Make a Wish Foundation

- \$2,000 to Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services (LIRS)

- \$2,000 to Lutheran Disaster Relief

- \$2,000 to PADS Homeless Shelter in McHenry County

As of December 31, the Endowment Fund Balance was \$350,654.

The committee meets quarterly. The congregation is invited to submit charities to the committee for funding consideration.



AUDIT COMMITTEE'S FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Audit Committee consisted of three members of the congregation and was tasked with reviewing the procedures used in handling and accounting of the funds and assets of the congregation. The committee's members are not financial professionals. In order to ensure a thorough review, the committee utilized the guidelines provided by the ELCA and engaged the services of a financial professional to analyze the data. Based on the findings, the committee reported the following:

A random check of donors found that donations to Grace were accurately recorded

A survey of families using the Richmond and Twin Lakes Daycare Centers indicated that there was no discrepancy between the amount owed and that actually paid.

Bank account balances and bank reconciliations were verified. *The Committee recommended (a) that the Council request End of Year Balances and verification of signatures for all accounts; (b) the church create a central file for all bank account signature cards and authorized signatures and; (c) a clear process for identifying and tracking signatories be created to expedite identification.*

A random selection of invoices and checks used for payment showed all checks were accounted for. Jon Peterson, Treasurer and Sue Kubic, Daycare Director approved their corresponding payments. *The committee recommended that paid invoices with verbal approval should be signed by the approver.*

The process used for weekly/special offerings and the preparation of weekly deposits was reviewed. Currently one person counts the donations and prepares the deposit. *The committee recommended that the standard practice of two counters be implemented to prevent discrepancies and to protect employees and/or volunteers from suspicion.*

Insurance coverage for the Church and Day Care was verified. *The committee recommended that the insurance coverage be reviewed to ensure sufficient coverage in light of the increases in material and labor costs.*

The balance sheet preparation was reviewed and cash balances verified with bank statements and reconciliations. No issues were reported.

The payroll process was reviewed and no issues were identified.

Credit card transactions were reviewed and no issues were noted.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Our congregation has been blessed to be financially strong and debt free. It is our fiscal responsibility as the Church Council to do everything we can to ensure a strong financial future that will assist in the ability of the church to continue to grow, provide support to our congregation, community and selected missions as well as care for our physical facility.

The main portion of our church building is fifty-five years old and the “new” addition including the kitchen, bathrooms, child development center, and large meeting room is thirty years old.

We have received a professional reserve study of the building by a reputable inspection company. This reserve study is a physical and financial analysis of our property that determines what components of our property will eventually require either major repairs or restoration, or complete replacement. The main purpose of the plan is to reduce the need for large, one-time contributions (special fund-raisers or capital campaigns) by adopting a plan that provides for smaller annual contributions. The physical analysis determines the existing quantities, conditions, useful lives and costs of the components. The financial analysis determines the existing financial situation of our property and the reserves necessary to offset the future expenses.

We have established a capital reserve account to prepare for future anticipated and unexpected building expenses. The plan should eliminate the need for emergency fund-raisers or bank loans for any large repairs through the upcoming years. We will be putting dollars aside into this capital bank account each month to build a capital fund for the expenses.

As we have been blessed with sound finances during the past few years, it is prudent for us to prepare for the future of Grace Lutheran Church so that we are ready during the next generations to be able to deliver our Gospel message. We believe this is the wisest stewardship preparation that we can undertake at this time.

Thank you for your support, your prayers and encouragement as we continue our mission which is to be an open, loving, learning, and caring faith community that invites and welcomes all to come home to Grace.

Submitted by Jon Petersen and Sue Dubs



YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Activities

Church General Fund

December 31, 2023

Account Shortcut and Description	Annual Budget	Current Month Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income				
Offerings				
400 Members Envelopes	259,354.00	26,912.78	273,144.60	259,354.00
401 Loose Plate Offering	2,200.00	799.00	5,180.00	2,200.00
402 Building Fund	3,000.00	265.00	2,375.00	3,000.00
403 Special Offerings	6,500.00	2,618.00	9,697.00	6,500.00
Offerings Totals:	271,054.00	30,594.78	290,396.60	271,054.00
Special Income				
404 Initial	0.00	8.00	8.00	0.00
406 Reimbursements	400.00	451.00	1,127.62	400.00
407 Non-Member Giving	6,000.00	1,509.02	12,032.71	6,000.00
408 Day Care Rent Transfer	46,800.00	3,900.00	46,803.94	46,800.00
409 Good News Kenya	0.00	0.00	265.00	0.00
412 Good News Kenya	0.00	125.00	1,110.00	0.00
413 Transfer from Designated Reserve	17,759.00	0.00	0.00	17,759.00
Special Income Totals:	70,959.00	5,993.02	61,347.27	70,959.00
Income Totals:	342,013.00	36,587.80	351,743.87	342,013.00
Expense				
Outreach Ministry				
501 Supplies/Program	800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00
502 Helping Hands Food Pantry	3,600.00	300.00	2,400.00	3,600.00
Outreach Ministry Totals:	4,400.00	300.00	2,400.00	4,400.00
Stewardship Ministry				
504 Supplies/Program	900.00	19.00	1,428.56	900.00
505 Mission Support	23,656.00	3,140.62	30,004.99	23,656.00
Stewardship Ministry Totals:	24,556.00	3,159.62	31,433.55	24,556.00
Youth Ministry				
508 Supplies/Program	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00
557 Youth Convention/Trips	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Ministry Totals:	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00
Communications Ministry				
511 Supplies/Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
514 Website/Email Services	1,200.00	202.48	1,040.60	1,200.00
Communications Ministry Totals:	1,200.00	202.48	1,040.60	1,200.00
Parish Fellowship				

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

CONTINUED

Account Shortcut and Description	Annual Budget	Current Month Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
515 Supplies/Program	400.00	0.00	279.85	400.00
516 Softball Team	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parish Fellowship Totals:	400.00	0.00	279.85	400.00
Learning Ministry				
518 Church Schools	2,000.00	148.29	1,515.65	2,000.00
519 Cradle Roll	500.00	0.00	647.76	500.00
520 Vacation Church School	2,000.00	0.00	1,730.41	2,000.00
522 Confirmation - ALPHA	350.00	0.00	321.45	350.00
524 Adult Education Materials	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Learning Ministry Totals:	4,950.00	148.29	4,215.27	4,950.00
Properties Ministry				
527 Utilities	20,000.00	1,196.99	17,148.02	20,000.00
528 Services	2,500.00	234.00	2,800.29	2,500.00
529 Grounds Maintenance	12,000.00	192.50	9,006.50	12,000.00
530 Supplies	1,000.00	0.00	797.65	1,000.00
531 Hazard Insurance	15,000.00	2,662.12	24,165.92	15,000.00
532 Janitorial Service	7,304.00	702.30	7,303.92	7,304.00
533 Repair/Maintenance	18,000.00	1,127.50	12,087.25	18,000.00
535 New Equipment	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
536 FICA - Janitorial Service	559.00	53.72	558.72	559.00
588 Project Work	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Properties Ministry Totals:	76,663.00	6,169.13	73,868.27	76,663.00
Worship & Music				
539 Bulletins/Inserts	1,000.00	101.98	698.33	1,000.00
540 Candles	200.00	87.00	87.00	200.00
541 Wine/Wafers	250.00	55.16	313.58	250.00
542 Decorations/Banners	200.00	0.00	618.00	200.00
543 Communion Cards/Envelopes	0.00	0.00	54.18	0.00
546 Guest Musicians	600.00	175.00	475.00	600.00
547 Booklets/Devotionals	300.00	77.50	433.60	300.00
548 Parament Cleaning/New Robes	150.00	0.00	542.25	150.00
549 Music	500.00	0.00	709.75	500.00
550 Worship Aids	1,000.00	61.51	691.93	1,000.00
551 Nursery Expense	2,000.00	0.00	1,500.00	2,000.00
Worship & Music Totals:	6,200.00	558.15	6,123.62	6,200.00
Parish Administration				
555 Salary/FICA	46,843.00	3,903.58	46,842.96	46,843.00
556 Insurance/Pension	37,915.00	3,340.19	40,082.28	37,915.00
558 Professional Reimbursement	2,000.00	121.96	2,586.69	2,000.00
560 Musician's Salary	16,222.00	1,351.83	16,221.96	16,222.00
561 Secretary's Salary	40,054.00	3,337.83	40,053.96	40,054.00
562 FICA - Parish Administration	5,559.00	463.20	5,618.04	5,559.00
563 Supplies	3,000.00	471.02	3,342.54	3,000.00
564 Telephone	3,100.00	284.91	3,405.91	3,100.00
565 Synod Assembly	700.00	0.00	359.01	700.00
566 Workman's Comp Insurance	2,300.00	0.00	1,738.08	2,300.00

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

CONTINUED

Account Shortcut and Description	Annual Budget	Current Month Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
567 Auto Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
568 Postage	1,000.00	142.24	1,195.93	1,000.00
574 Northeast Conference Dues	61.00	0.00	0.00	61.00
580 Housing	35,510.00	2,959.16	35,509.92	35,510.00
586 Pulpit Supply	300.00	0.00	175.00	300.00
587 Software License Fee	2,200.00	2,224.00	4,387.00	2,200.00
537 Copier Lease	3,000.00	481.63	4,007.19	3,000.00
569 Children's Ministry Director	16,380.00	1,365.00	16,380.00	16,380.00
592 Professional Services	200.00	0.00	400.00	200.00
Parish Administration Totals:	216,344.00	20,446.55	222,306.47	216,344.00
Miscellaneous Expense				
575 Bank Debits	1,000.00	1,193.00	1,400.00	1,000.00
576 Transfers/Benevolent Receipts	0.00	363.00	5,746.75	0.00
577 Good News Kenya Transfers	0.00	125.00	1,375.00	0.00
584 Pastoral Discretionary Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
590 Building Capitol Improvements	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
591 Transfer to Designated Reserve Fund	5,200.00	500.00	5,300.00	5,200.00
Miscellaneous Expense Totals:	6,200.00	2,181.00	13,821.75	6,200.00
Expense Totals:	342,013.00	33,165.22	355,489.38	342,013.00

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 = \$20,180.67

7 MONTH CD = \$20,269.84