

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
AUGUST  
2024/2025



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Lutheran Church is a dynamic Christian community that is making faith matter in a constantly changing world.

All people active in this congregation are invited to join in this celebration of God in our midst.

## **Annual General Meeting**

November 16, 2025

11:00 AM





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*Inviting, Uplifting<sup>I</sup>, Connecting, Dynamic*

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- APPENDIX A: OCTOBER 27, 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**
- APPENDIX B: 2025/2026 PROPOSED BUDGET**
- APPENDIX C: 2024/2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**
- APPENDIX D: 2024/2025 BALANCE SHEET**





# **Annual General Meeting November 16, 2025 Agenda**

1. Opening Worship
2. Children's Message
3. Call to Order
4. Appointment of Parliamentarian and Recording Secretary

Motion: Marty Wittstrom be appointed Parliamentarian and Kerri Campbell be appointed Recording Secretary.

5. Approval of the Agenda
6. Approval of the October 27, 2024 AGM Minutes

6.1 – Any business arising from the minutes

7. Reports
  - 7.1 Pastor's Report
  - 7.2 Council Connector Reports
  - 7.3 Treasurer Report
  - 7.4 Worship Report

Motion: That the reports in 7.1 through 7.4 be accepted.

8. Core Purpose Questions: Pastor Phil
9. Music & Offering
10. Prayers
11. Approval of the Budget for the 2025–2026 Fiscal Year

Motion: That the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025– 2026 as presented in Appendix B be approved.

12. Appointment of Auditors

Motion: That Dart Bryant be appointed as the Complication Engagement auditors for the Fiscal year ending August 31, 2026.

13. Election of Council Members
14. Other Business/Questions from the Congregation
15. Lord's Prayer
16. Sending Song
17. Adjournment  
Blessing



# Pastor's Report

**REV. DR. PHIL HOLCK**

I think we've had a very good year together. In January, I transitioned from being your interim pastor to your permanent called pastor. In this report, I'll review the four primary areas of ministry: Worship, Faith Formation, Inreach and Outreach. I'll then give some thought about our future life and ministry together.

**Worship** – I think our worship experience of one of FLC's strongest areas. Yvonne and the music team continue to improve the quality of the music which supports and enhances the theme for the day which emerges from the Sunday's scriptural text. Visitors often comment on how warm and friendly the congregation is which points toward a very welcoming and inviting spirit. I continue to get feedback that my messages and creative attempts (I call it "playing") provide meaning, interest and insights. We continue to welcome more participation in the supporting roles (greeting, offering, communion pre & distribution, announcements, readings). I believe that if we continue to be led by the Spirit, our worship experience will continue to be UPLIFITNG and nourish and strengthen the faith of attendees. Thanks to all those who have helped fold bulletins, prepare the communion elements, and light the candles. Thanks to our council members for stepping up to make announcements and collect the offering. I hope to continue to involve more people in worship leadership.



**Faith Formation** – We had a very strong confirmation year last year and have started another year of learning and faith building with our youth as we meet on Wednesday nights. Our Sunday Morning children's ministry has a new name: FLiCker! (PowerZone was the name of the curriculum a couple of decades ago!). Our goal is to make our children's ministry more DYNAMIC and improve the quality and experience of the children so that every Sunday is a DON'T MISS Sunday! Beginning in September, we have begun monthly dramas put on by our FLiCker! Children. The first one was on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, Paul: From Persecutor to Preacher. Sarah Shentaler completed her time as our children's ministry coordinator in May. I feel very fortunate that we now have Kaila Tang as our FLiCker! Coordinator who started in September.

Regarding Adult Faith Formation, it seems that currently our Sunday morning worship is our primary method of Bible study. Though I am thankful that worship provides this experience, it limits the formation to a "one-way" kind of event. I know that it is through conversation, questioning, and ever-deepening dialogue with others that the real breakthroughs in my faith life have happened. Many who have been able to attend Digging into the Word (our Tuesday morning Bible Study) have experienced this... but most of you work! I hope that we can get some new groups started that find times to get together that work into your schedules so that more of you can journey together in the faith.



**Inreach** – You’ve probably heard of “outreach.” Inreach is the term that is used to describe all the activities and ministries that deepen and build community... that CONNECT us so that we can support one another and experience the joys and benefits of being part of a community. Thanks to the initiative of Laura Perks, we have a Seniors Ministry to stays in contact and provides transportation and other needs of our seniors. We have become aware, however, that we don’t have an intentional structure to caring for “non-senior” members who are in crisis or who need ongoing support due to illness or the loss of a loved one. In the past, a ministry called Stephens Ministry has equipped lay people to care for others in this capacity. We need developing that ministry to effectively meet the needs of our congregation.

We held a Ministry Fair during the month of September. Thanks to all who signed up. We have a couple of new groups that were created: Memory Training and Mop & Hammer. We will continue to work at helping members find their place to contribute to our ministry. In June, we hired Elsa Sawatzky as our Office & Building Manager. She is also tasked at helping support and coordinate our volunteer ministries.

**Outreach** – In contrast to “inreach,” outreach is all the things that we do for and with people outside the congregation. Many people often hear this as “evangelizing” and get freaked out a little bit. In my mind, outreach is not about standing on the street corner and preaching at people.



For me, it is really anything that we do to have people experience the good news that God loves them! In August, we brought good news to Aspen Hill Montessori by resurfacing the playground with wood chips. Outreach begins with our neighbours nearby and extends out from there.

In addition to our tenants, we also have been participating in an ongoing relationship with our Turkish Muslim friends by participating Intercultural Dialogue Institute (IDI) events. There is a monthly gathering called Bridge Builders where we get together, usually eat, and have conversation about things like fasting, prayer, or some other element in our traditions. Bridge Builders has rebooted this Fall and has been enhanced with a Muslim-Christian retreat at Kuriakos and other community events.

During the summer we had Green Pasture Christian Fellowship worshipping with us in the gym. We were all very hopeful and excited about that relationship and partnership growing. Apparently, there are folks who did not want this relationship to grow... Rumors were spread amongst the congregation regarding our affirming and inclusivity posture which caused conflict amongst the GPCF. For the sake of the unity of their congregation, they have decided to go back to worshipping at Lakeside Community Centre. It broke my heart and the hearts of many in that congregation. Thank you FLC for the friendship and welcome you extended to them all and I continue to pray for them and their faith journey. aware that membership in most Christian denominations (including us Lutherans) have been in decline for at least a couple of decades.





I am of those who believe that the main reason is that we have lost sight of what it really means to be the body of Christ in the world. Just like the full, Christian life for a believer includes a personal relationship with Jesus, a strong connection with other disciples of Jesus, and clarity about Jesus' call to serve, so also a healthy, faithful Christian congregation includes deep spirituality, deep community, and powerful commitment and action in its neighbourhood and society. My prayer for us this year is that we may be open to God's calling and that we, together, are able to name and claim God's purpose for us so that we might powerfully move forward.

An experiment in art... last January, I requested the blessing of the council to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Alberta University of the Arts (formerly ACAD). This summer, I requested that I go to  $\frac{3}{4}$  time to ease some of the time pressure for me as I take classes. The council agreed and the reduction in salary is reflected in the proposed budget. I have begun taking my first classes: Object Design and Fabrication, Sculpture, and Drawing. FLC can expect increased creativity to overflow into my ministry.

I am thankful the partnership of the church council and the other members of the staff as we seek to work together to lead us in being the body of Christ in southwestern Calgary.

Peace,  
Pastor Phil



# **Report from Council Chair, Building and Outreach Connector**

**Brent Latimer, Council Chair**

As Chair of Council, I am very excited about where God is leading First. We have identified our values – we are an Inviting, Uplifting, Connecting and Dynamic community of faith. I look forward to our AGM when we will ask the Congregation, by reference to Scripture, to discern what is First's purpose. I am confident that clarity on our purpose, in addition to clarity about our values, will help Council lead First this year and in the years to come.

We are excited about how Pastor Phil's creativity is improving our worship experience. Who can forget our Christmas pageant and the creative ways that Pastor Phil has used cardboard and drama, with the help of our children and youth, to bring the stories from the Bible and our church history to life.

I am also very grateful to Yvonne and the worship team and how they also are making our worship experience more Uplifting and Dynamic. I have enjoyed the Jesus Radio Superstar series and the talent of our worship team and the ways that Pastor Phil has used these songs in his messages.



We appreciate the generosity of our Congregation with their time, treasure and talents. The Ministry Fair helped us match the talents and passions of our members with our ministries. I am pleased that we have found volunteers to fill our slots serving dinner at Inn from the Cold to the end of the year. The Ministry Fair has helped us create a Mop and Hammer crew (we may need a better name) of men and women who are handy and who are prepared to serve First on building and maintenance projects.

We thank Kelly for her hard work and contributions as Property and Office Manager over the past many years. We are grateful that she will continue to work with Kevin as First's Financial Manager. We welcome Elsa to our staff as our Property and Office Manager.

We see Aspen Hills Montessori and Suzuki as part of our community at First. First volunteers and Aspen Hills parents worked hard this summer to re-mulch the outdoor play space to make it more inviting for the Aspen Hills children. Council is considering ways to adapt our campus to be more inviting for members of our community.

Council dreams of making First a more inviting place for families with very small children. We would like to convert the old chapel to a crying room with a view of the Sanctuary so that parents with small children can feel part of the worship experience.



As the Outreach Connector on Council, I can report on how First, as part of the Body of Christ, is reaching out to the City and world beyond First. A number of our members and Pastor Phil have developed a relationship with the Hizmat group. We have been breaking bread together and sharing the values that unite Christians and Muslims in the Bridge Builder initiative. We look forward to hosting each other in our homes over the next year. If you are interested in being a part of this Bridge Builders initiative, please contact Pastor Phil, Marty Wittstrom or me.

We are part of the Recognizing the Stranger program under the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good, led by Pastor Ryan Andersen. We are working to see how the member congregations are acting as part of the Body of Christ and we will be organizing so that our group can be more effective in meeting needs in our community. Again, please contact Pastor Phil, Marty or me if you are interested in being a part of Recognizing the Stranger.

Congregation members reached out at the Ministry Fair in September to fill all of First's slots at Inn from the Cold. If you are interested in volunteering at Inn from the Cold to serve dinner to families at the Inn, please contact Tara Leatherdale or Tim Blackwell.

I am excited about where God is leading First and I eagerly look forward to our AGM on Sunday, November 16.

Yours in Christ,  
Brent Latimer



# Report Inreach Connector

**Leane El Haddaoui, Council Inreach**

This year, our In Reach ministries have focused on building connection, care, and community at FLC.

Hospitality – Coffee times before service continue to bring people together. We're still looking for volunteers! Contact Elsa for coffee help or Rena for other hospitality areas.

Prayer Chain – Faithfully led by Yvonne, the Prayer Chain continues to support our church family through prayer and encouragement.

Men's Lunch – Currently on hold. If you'd like to lead this group, please contact me or Pastor Phil.

Worship – Under Yvonne's leadership, the worship team continues to guide us in meaningful praise each week.

Seniors – Visits, check-ins, and fellowship led by Laura and her team help our seniors feel valued and connected. If you'd like to help with this team, please contact Laura Perks or me.

Congregational Care – This is a new group focused on helping those in need at FLC. A small team will begin meeting monthly starting November to brainstorm how this ministry will look. Stay tuned! If you'd like to join, please contact me or Laura.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers whose service and heart for others show Christ's love in action.



# Discipleship (Education) Connector Report

We've seen lots of wonderful changes to our Children's Ministry this past year! In April we said goodbye to Sarah, who had been helping us out for the previous year or so, as she returned to Camp Kuriakos full time. Throughout the summer, Pastor Phil engaged the kids with his exciting art pieces and lots of fun activities to work on throughout the services. And then in September, we were so fortunate to have Kaila Tang join the team as our new Children's Ministry Coordinator!

Kaila has brought tons of new energy and organization to our FLiCker program, and we are so happy to have her working with our children! This fall, together with Pastor Phil, the children have been putting on a drama one Sunday each month that will go along with the message. We look forward especially to the FLiCker Christmas presentation in December!

We are always looking for helpers to share their talents with our children, so if you have a special gift or talent that you would like to share with the kids on a Sunday morning, please let Kaila or Kerri know. Continued thanks to everyone who supports our FLiCker ministry through gifts of leadership and time!



# Treasurer's Report: October 2025

**Kevin Nielson, Tresurer**

I am pleased to present the financial results for First Lutheran Church for the year ended August 31, 2025.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Kelly Blackwell, our Financial Assistant, for her diligent and steadfast efforts throughout the year. Kelly has consistently demonstrated strong financial stewardship, skillfully managing our accounts and responsibilities, particularly in the context of our limited spending capacity. Her comprehensive knowledge and reports have been invaluable to the Church Council in guiding our decision making.

## **Revenues:**

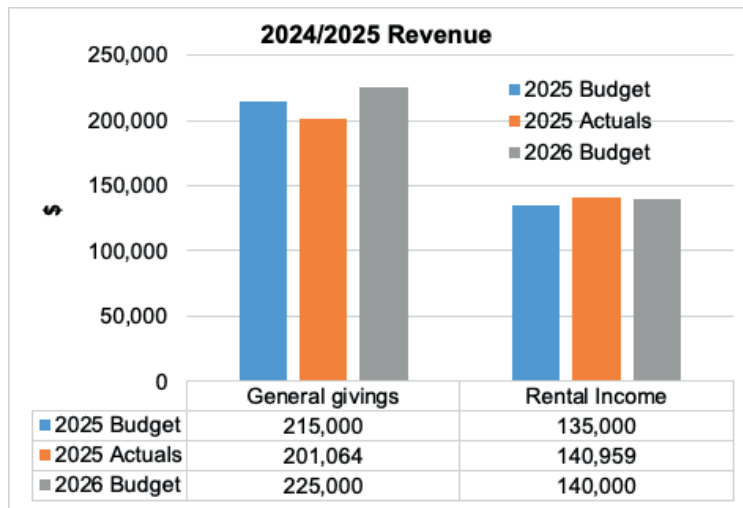
For 2024, general collection revenues total \$201k, a 6% increase over prior year and a 6.5% shortfall from our budgeted expectations, as we did not fully meet the stretch targets established in the previous year's budget. However, rental income reached \$141k, consistent with prior year and reflecting strong third-party utilization of our facilities, which exceeded budget projections by 4%. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our church community.



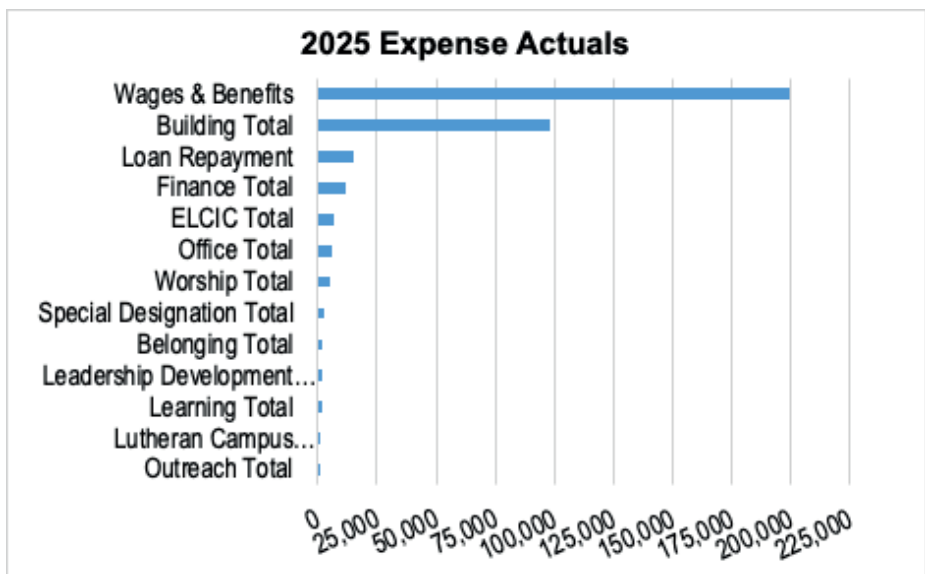
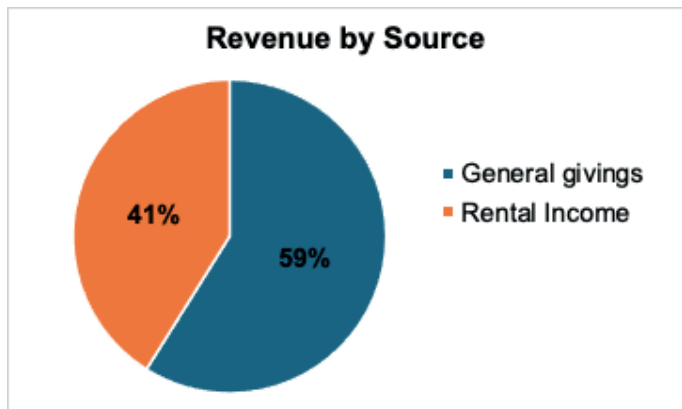
I would also like to thank our rental tenants for their continued support over the year, particularly Aspen Hill Montessori and Suzuki Music. Rental revenues constitute 41% of our total revenue and play a critical role in enabling our church to deliver programming and meet expenses throughout the year.

#### 2025 Actual Results:

The 2025 expenses, as reported, are consistent with the approved 2025 budget. We are pleased to report this and be able to effectively manage our resources while supporting our ongoing programs.







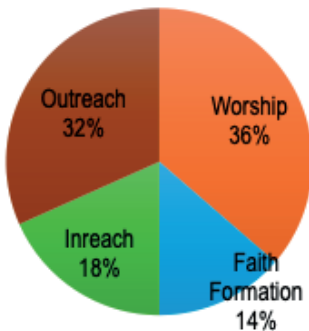


The Ministry Graphs show how our church's financial resources are shared among the four main areas of ministry: Worship, Inreach, Outreach, and Faith Formation.

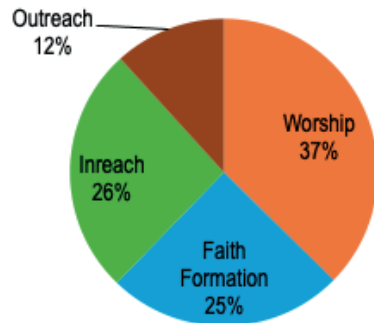
The Ministry Budget shows how the budgeted line items are divided among these areas. The Budgeted Spending by Staff graph goes a step further by also including how our staff members—the Pastor, Worship Director, Office & Building Manager, and FLiCker Coordinator—spend their time in each ministry area. This helps give a fuller picture of the resources and effort that go into each part of our ministry.

Note: Building costs weren't included in these graphs since rental income covers almost all of our building expenses.

**Ministry Budget**



**Budgeted Spending with Staff Apportioned**





# Worship Report

## **Yvonne Broadfield, Worship and Communications Director**

This is a wonderful time to be attending First Lutheran Church! It seems like every season we are trying new ideas and exploring how we can better connect and engage with each other and with our wider community. As Worship Director, my priorities are to create a fulfilling and relevant worship experience for the congregation and all those who attend, in-person and online, as well as to foster the community within our music and A/V teams. Active music team members are Jan Wittstrom, Leah Craig, Garth Christiansen, Leane EL Haddaoui, Dave Perks, and newcomer this summer Gerry Wolfe. Wayne Hoff was active with us throughout last year, but had to step back this past summer. Our sound team consists of Tim Blackwell, Kenzo Kalinga, and Rainer Tonn and our slides volunteers include Helen Earnshaw, Ben Ledene, Jayme & Jagger Leatherdale, and Tracy Ritchie. Thanks to all of you for helping make this music ministry so successful and enjoyable!

If you are interested in joining us, please come talk to myself or any team member. We hold rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 7:30–9pm in the Sanctuary for any wishing to try us out.



We have just concluded our Jesus Radio Superstar (JRS) sermon series for this year and as always, it has been such a blast. Pastor Phil brings enthusiasm and energy into the process and selected 7 songs from the list the music team brought forward, crafting sermons which took a favourite song from the radio (“secular”) and reflecting how it connects and informs our faith. This year we had a theme to guide our song selections, so the selected songs reflect the idea of Retrospective Wisdom. The songs and sermons are always very well-received and it continues to spark interest in our church and music ministry.

In October of 2024, the worship team hosted a concert in support of Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM), a faith-based support for university students at the U of C, Mount Royal, and SAIT. As is our practice, we performed a replay of all our JRS songs from that year. We were joined by the LCM drummers as well as long-time renters, Harmony West band. This year, we also planned and executed a Spring Celebration concert in May, playing favourite songs not limited to our JRS series. The whole music team enjoyed bringing forward whatever they liked in order to expand our skills and to play together more, raising funds for our music ministry program. As I write this, we are busily preparing for The Light Behind Us concert, which will be on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm, once again in support of Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Pastor Phil and I continue our outreach ministry to four local senior residences, now offering 6 worship services each month for those in our wider community. Two of these centres have members of our congregation in residence, while the other two are community outreach. We visit Signature Park, Prominence Way, Wentworth Manor and Shalem Manor. Over the course of the year, we have held over 42



services with more than 690 people in attendance. It is a rewarding time of sharing the good news with those we might not otherwise meet. This is an important outreach ministry that will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of it.

On top of leading our music ministry and helping design worship with Pastor Phil, my job title has expanded this year to reflect the Communications work I do. Through our weekly email updates, our weekly announcement slides in the sanctuary and lobby, as well as a dynamic website, my aim is to inform and connect us all with everything going on at FLC. I have also started creating a Sermon Sampler video each week from Pastor Phil's sermon to give a wider audience a 90-second sampling of what we teach and value at FLC. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram to see and share these. With continued support from staff and council I also release our quarterly newsletter to better connect and inform all those involved at FLC. If you have ideas for or would like to help us with the next issue please get in touch.

I am thrilled to be leading our Ladies Ministry, Ladies Coffee Connect on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. We have anywhere from 3-8 ladies in attendance every month. As we gather over hot drinks and a light snack, I share scripture, reflections, and prayers. We come together to share where we're at and to support each other on our way. I always enjoy these sessions and value the relationships fostered during this time. I am still developing this year's content, but we opened with Brené Brown's TED talk which introduces her research on wholehearted living. Nature walks and a visit to Edelweiss Village are extra-curriculars which our group has discussed scheduling this year.



I continue to manage our weekly Prayer List. As messages come in requesting prayer, I respond and clarify how they would like prayers handled, whether on the public or private list or both. Each Thursday the confidential prayer chain is sent to our prayer volunteers as well as to Pastor Phil. I aim to reach out for updates every two weeks to those who have submitted requests for prayer. I have found this such a beautiful ministry and one that helps deepen my own faith and commitment to this community. If you are interested in helping me lead this ministry, I invite you to please get in touch.

I helped organize our third annual Church Picnic on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Edworthy Park. This year we were fortunate to be joined by the Green Pasture Christian Fellowship, with whom we shared space and worship this past summer. It was a lovely opportunity to connect with them once more before they moved on to a new worship location. We had good weather and enjoyed sharing food, tea, conversation games and music with them.

The worship at FLC is one of our strongest assets and I invite you to get involved. Let me know what songs are on your playlist. Play an instrument or sing? We'd love to include your music in our worship services. Interested in reading/leading up front? Speak with Pastor Phil or myself on how you can assist. If you'd rather stay 'behind the scenes' come join us in the sound booth, working the slides or the sound board or helping facilitate the livestream. Training is available for all positions. We can't do this without you.

Thank you for another great year at FLC, #MakingFaithMatter!

–Yvonne Broadfield, Worship & Communications Director





# First Lutheran Church

*Inviting, Uplifting, Connecting, Dynamic*



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