

# Elim Lutheran Church

## Annual Report for 2025



## Contents

Opening Litany .....	3
From the Pastor .....	4
From the Council President .....	5
Program Staff Reports.....	6
<b>Children, Youth &amp; Family Coordinator – Vanessa Carpenter</b> .....	6
<b>Organist, Interim Choir Director, Bell Choir Co-Director, Media Ministry Manager – Brian Voss</b> .....	7
Office Staff Report .....	8
Worship Attendance, Membership, and Homebound Report .....	8
Finance/Stewardship Committee .....	9
Elim Lutheran Church Financial Report .....	11
Property Committee .....	15
Elim’s Scandia/Marine Food Shelf .....	15
Elim Foundation .....	16
Elim Foundation Financial Report 2025 .....	17
Elim W/ELCA Financial Report 2025 .....	20
Elim Cemetery and Columbarium Financial Report 2025 .....	21
Barton Johnson Park Fund Financial Report 2025 .....	24
Staff/Council/Board Member Lists .....	25
Scandia Preschool .....	26
Scandia Preschool Financial Report 2025 .....	27
Women’s Bible Study .....	28
Gammelgården Museum .....	28
From the St. Paul Area Synod .....	31
From the ELCA.....	33

## Opening Litany

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.**

## From the Pastor

The year 2025 was a year of tremendous growth and meaningful milestones at Elim. Worship attendance continued to rise, reflecting renewed energy, engagement, and a deepening sense of community within our congregation. Our youth ministry and Sunday School programs thrived, with strong participation, committed volunteers, and a joyful sense of learning and faith formation. We also saw new members becoming involved, more visitors walking through our doors, and an overall strengthening of our ministries across the board. From expanding mental health initiatives to revitalizing our music ministry, Elim experienced significant momentum in 2025. There is so much to be thankful for and being called to be the pastor of Elim is a fulfillment of my vocation.

The year 2025 was also an exceptionally full and demanding year in ministry. The pace of work increased significantly, and I found myself carrying a substantial pastoral workload. While the year was busy in every area of congregational life, it also proved to be rich in meaningful ministry, community impact, and spiritual growth within our congregation. I also took on numerous projects outside of my core pastoral duties. By the end of 2025 it was clear that it was time to reduce the scope of my duties and get back to basics.

A notable portion of my time early in the year was dedicated to walking alongside families in grief. The first three quarters of 2025 saw a high number of funerals. These services, while emotionally heavy, were also profound opportunities to honor the lives of beloved members and to offer pastoral care and comfort to those navigating loss. This season reinforced the importance of compassionate presence and the strength of our church community.

During Lent 2025, our congregation focused intentionally on senior mental health. Each Wednesday Lenten service included interviews with seniors, offering space for storytelling, reflection, and shared wisdom. This emphasis not only highlighted an important mental health need but also deepened intergenerational understanding and connection within the church.

Our mental health outreach expanded significantly through generous grant funding. We received a \$9,000 Washington County Opioid Settlement Grant, a \$1,500 grant from MHealth Fairview, and a \$10,000 grant from the St. Croix Valley Foundation. These funds have strengthened our ability to host meaningful mental health events, provide resources, and support the emotional and spiritual well-being of our community.

A major highlight of the year was the release of the Our Stigma podcast in May 2025. The podcast received considerable media attention and served as excellent community outreach, raising the visibility of both the church and our mental health initiatives. Its launch event—the Mental Health Faith Forum in Stillwater—was a tremendous success, supported by many volunteers from Elim and marked by excellent attendance. Following the launch, the Our Stigma Podcast discussion groups met both online and in person throughout June and July. These groups were well attended and provided safe, thoughtful spaces for conversation, reflection, and healing.

Another significant transition in 2025 was the departure of our choral director David and the expansion of Brian Voss' duties to lead all music ministry at Elim. Brian's leadership has been a tremendous blessing to our congregation. He invested substantial time and energy into recruiting new singers. As a result, our choir is now larger, more organized, and more vibrant. The feedback from the congregation has been overwhelmingly positive, reflecting deep appreciation for the excellence, joy, and spiritual depth Brian has brought to our music ministry.

I am deeply grateful for the remarkable support shown during my medical leave. Vanessa, Joan, Lisa, and Brian stepped up in extraordinary ways, ensuring that our ministries continued with care, excellence, and compassion. I am also profoundly thankful for Pastor Wilcox, whose pastoral presence and leadership were a gift to our congregation in my absence. The church council offered steady guidance, and our entire congregation showed patience, prayer, and encouragement

throughout my recovery. I am truly blessed to serve in a community that embodies such generosity, faithfulness, and love.

As we look back on 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude for the many ways God has been at work in and through our congregation. It was a year marked by growth, challenge, renewal, and faithful ministry—made possible only through the dedication, compassion, and resilience of the people of Elim. I am thankful for every volunteer, every leader, every prayer, and every act of support that strengthened our shared mission over the past year. As we enter a new year of ministry together, I am hopeful and expectant for what God will continue to do among us, trusting that the same Spirit who has carried us this far will lead us faithfully into all that lies ahead.

In Christ,

Pastor Seth Perry

## From the Council President

The Elim council looks back on 2025 with gratitude and a sense of completion. We are pleased to have our church fully staffed, with growing membership and active programs for children and youth.

The council's mission is to keep the church going and help it thrive. 2025 was a key period in a multi-year program to repair and improve the facilities. In 2024 a capital campaign was launched and enough money raised to repair the roof. The congregation continued to donate generously in 2025, resulting in the campaign now being complete. Many thanks to you all!

Now we are in good shape to finance the major rebuilding of Elim's historic organ. Built in 1930 and rebuilt in 1974, the organ needed structural repair, technology upgrades and sound improvements. It has served us well and soon will be ready for another 50 years of worship.

In February, when we were close to meeting the capital campaign goal, we reviewed the recommendations of the organ committee and voted to accept the bid from the Moe Pipe Organ Company to rebuild the organ. Our newly formed Organ Reconstruction Committee prepared a schedule of work aligned with the contract completion date of March 2027. Committee Chair Bill Strusinski and the other members are doing a great job with this complex project.

Other items of business included working with staff and with Elim's committees to manage finances and maintain the physical property.

During Pastor Seth's absence this fall, we recruited substitute speakers while the St. Paul Synod found replacement pastors. We are very glad to have Pastor Seth back on board.

Many ash trees in our region have succumbed to emerald ash borers. We paid for ash tree removal from the church and cemetery grounds.

We continue to discuss the maintenance of the old buildings at the Gammelgården Museum of Scandia, Elim's Swedish immigrant museum. The church owns this property, which is operated as a separate entity for programming and events. We hope to form a joint property committee in 2026 to deal with major repairs of these old buildings.

Also, in 2025 the council began to review the church membership roster. Our constitution specifies that this be done annually, but it has been many years since the list was updated for accuracy. Our goal is to ensure that those who wish to be connected with Elim receive newsletters and emails, while those who do not (not interested, moved away or passed on) don't. In 2026 we will continue contacting members with no recent involvement to see if they would like to remain as Elim members.

Phil Bailey  
Council President

## Program Staff Reports

### Children, Youth & Family Coordinator – Vanessa Carpenter

This past year has been a season of growth, learning, and deepening faith for our children, youth, and families at Elim. Our Sunday School year began in the fall with students learning about the Old Testament, focusing on the stories of David. Through storytelling, games, crafts, silliness, discussion, and age-appropriate lessons, students explored God's faithfulness, leadership, and grace woven throughout these foundational stories.

This year, our Sunday School program expanded into three age-based groups, allowing us to better meet students where they are. Our Pre-K class met most Sundays and was taught by Taylor Syncyn, a member of our youth group who has stepped into leadership with enthusiasm and care. Our K-2nd grade class, with our weekly youth leader Kellen Milligan, benefited from a wide range of volunteers who generously shared their time and gifts throughout the year. Our 3rd-4th grade class focused on learning how to navigate the Bible and engage more deeply with Scripture than ever before. This class is now taught by Steven Voiss, a parent of one of our confirmation students, Kristin. Kristin herself, along with fellow confirmands JoJo and Abby, has also been actively volunteering as a leader with our Sunday School students. All this has been strengthening the intergenerational nature of our ministry.

One of the highlights of the year was our Christmas Program, written and directed by Nicole Smith. The program was filled with humor, heart, and creativity, featuring church mice, a cat, the Wise Men, angels, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, kings, shepherds, sheep, an innkeeper, stars, and many of our favorite Christmas songs. Nicole dedicated countless extra hours to rehearsals and fine-tuning, and the result was a joyful and meaningful performance on Christmas Eve. We are deeply grateful to Nicole and to all the children who participated and shared the Christmas story with our congregation.

In Confirmation, students wrapped up learning about the Old Testament ancestors during the previous school year and transitioned this year into a focus on Lutheran Living—exploring faith, identity, and what it means to live as followers of Christ. Our Confirmation program for grades 5-8 has been supported by leaders John Peterson and Stephanie Pereboom. This year, we joyfully celebrated the confirmation of Taylor Syncyn and Gabe Smith. In addition, led by TJ Smith, we introduced a Youth Leadership curriculum for students who have already been confirmed. This class meets one to two Sundays a month and provides opportunities for leadership development, discussion, and practices to develop into becoming a young adult.

Our Senior High Youth Group continued to grow in both numbers and depth. With the help of leader Dan Charpentier, we worked on Bible lessons tailored specifically to Senior High students. Last spring, our youth fundraised for summer camp—many attending camp for the very first time. Thanks to the overwhelming support of our congregation, families, and friends, every youth who wanted to attend camp was able to go. This summer, 13 Confirmation students attended Summer Festival Camp at Gustavus Adolphus College, and 11 Senior High youth attended Club Castaway, a Young Life camp in Detroit Lakes. Dan Charpentier played a key role in making Club Castaway possible for our students. Following camp, we gathered at Dan's home for a camp recap night, which deeply impacted our youth. As a result, in addition to attending Sunday night youth group, many of our Senior High students now also attend Young Life on Monday nights to continue growing in their faith.

Throughout the year, our youth participated in a wide variety of fellowship and service opportunities, including a slip-and-slide party on the sledding hill at Elim, a Nickelodeon Universe trip, service projects, and hosting the Fall Festival for our community in November. Our

Confirmation students raised money for their PCYC shopping trip to Target, where they joyfully picked out Christmas gifts for others before celebrating together at dinner. The Senior High Youth Group kicked off the year with an end of summer party, planned their own youth event at a haunted hayride, and wrapped up Thanksgiving weekend with a lock-in.

This year has been filled with faith, laughter, service, and growth. I am incredibly grateful for our students, families, volunteers, and leaders who made this ministry possible. It has been a joy to walk alongside our youth as they grow in faith and community, and I look forward with gratitude and hope to what God has in store for the year ahead.

**Organist, Interim Choir Director, Bell Choir Co-Director, Media Ministry Manager – Brian Voss**

Greetings and blessings to all! 2025 came and went quickly (at least in my eyes) with a lot of activity throughout. Let's take a quick look:

### **Organist – Interim Choir Director – Handbell Co-Director**

I continue working with pastor and staff with ongoing worship planning, in which music is an integral part. This summer I was charged with leading as interim choir director and handbell choir co-director with Joan Detzler. With these new duties I looked into how these ministries can more effectively lead worship. The most obvious was to have both teams take more of a leadership role in worship. As such, whenever they participate in worship they are called upon at least twice to proclaim God's word in music. Taking on this work in addition to playing organ has been challenging but highly rewarding.

I am extremely grateful that Will Welch has stepped up to become a regular fixture as our choral accompanist. His music talent is incredible and I am glad to see him grow in this role.

### **Elim's Pipe Organ and other keyboard instruments**

The Pipe Organ Committee resumed meeting and discerning in 2025, charged with overseeing the technical side of the organ rebuild project, including electrical, lighting and other infrastructure improvements that were included with the capital campaign.

The existing pipe organ still functioning but clearly showing its age. Blower and air leakage noise is ever-present. Before the organ concert I had to pull a pipe because it was ciphering (playing constantly), a sign of failing windchests. I'm usually able to play music and overcome these issues without interrupting worship services, though it is more difficult nowadays. I am grateful that renewal is close on the horizon.

The sanctuary Steinway is holding up well. As the instrument is reaching 45 years old, it will eventually need periodic maintenance and repair for a piano of its age and frequent use. The piano could benefit from a humidification system and cover in the drier winter months. The choir room and fellowship hall baby grands continue to get periodic tunings and maintenance as needed.

The old spinet pianos are still on-site, playable but in need of expensive maintenance that is not economically feasible. They are available for removal.

### **Music & Concert Series**

Elim's Music and Concert Series continued through 2025 with a benefit concert in February, vocal concert in June and a bluegrass band offering a nice event. 2026 started off with a farewell concert for the pipe organ. Our concert series will need to be fluid as we work through the organ rebuild process.

## Livestream, Website, Social Media and Communications

Elim’s online resources continued through 2025. Our livestream ministry outreach has remained stable with minor subscriber growth. I continue to monitor and update the website and social media (Facebook) at least once weekly and occasionally update other elements of the platforms which are not directly tied to our livestream ministry. Conversation is ongoing on improving the livestream infrastructure including new cameras and equipment, and I look forward to revisiting website redesign with Pastor Seth when appropriate.

I am pleased to be a part of Elim, and I look forward to serving with you all in 2026!

Brian Voss

## Office Staff Report

Greetings from the Elim office!

As you read through this annual report you’ll find terms like *renewed energy, thrive/thriving, growth, renewal*. Elim is indeed bursting with renewed energy. Programs are growing and thriving. People are growing in faith and being renewed in spirit.

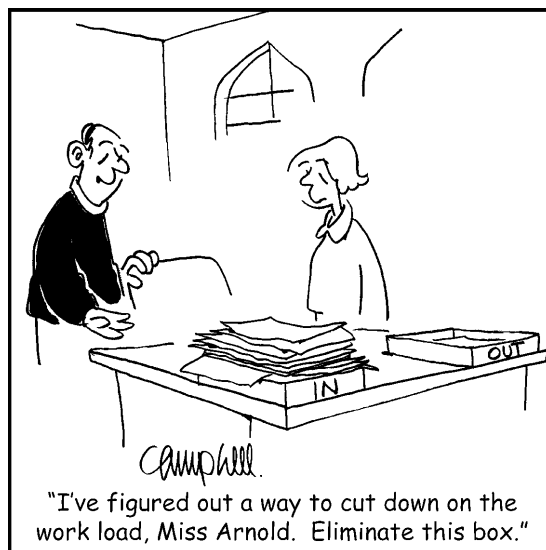
It continued to be busy in the office in 2025 as we work to provide support for staff, programs, council, committees and the congregation. We continue to ask for patience since we can’t always immediately act on your requests. While we cannot eliminate the inbox, we do have priority tasks that may take precedence over some requests.

As we move into a new year, we are always looking at our processes, looking at ways to improve them. We also want to keep the lines of communication open. The more we know, the better we can plan to ensure smooth operations.

We thank you for your support and encouragement.

*Joan Detzler, Office Administrator*

*Lisa Weigel, Financial Administrator*



## Worship Attendance, Membership, and Homebound Report

### Sunday Worship Statistics

The table below shows a comparison of worship attendance for 2025 and 2024. Overall, in-person attendance in 2025 has decreased somewhat. The total for in-person worship decreased by 5%. However, online views have increased by 27%.

Year	Total 8:00 a.m. Worship	Total 9:30 a.m. Worship	Total In-Person Worship	Total Online Views
2025	1,691	8,807	8,498	3,061
2024	2,087	6,874	8,961	2,404

## Membership

2025 Beginning Membership	798
Members Added	
Baptized	9
Confirmed	0*
New Members	26
Reinstated	0
Total Added	35
Members Removed	
Deaths	11
Removals	0
Transfers	0
Released	8
Total Removed	19
Net Change	16
2025 Ending Membership	814
*Two youth were confirmed who were baptized members.	

## Homebound Members

Below is a list of our members who, based on information we have, are homebound – either at home or in care facilities.

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LouAnn Bohn	Marilyn Roe
Robin Booren	Marilyn Rosenquist
David and Carol Elfstrand	Carol Seefeldt
Mildred Helfrich	Johanna Swedberg
Vernon and Cathryn Hollman	Ruth Thiele
Janet Jackson	Ruth Vogt
Robert Mattheisen	Hazel Walgren
Wayne Nickelson	Norma and Vernon Zierman
Dave and Marilyn Olson	

## Finance/Stewardship Committee

The current members of the Finance/Stewardship Committee are:

- Doug Thomas, (Treasurer of the Congregation)
- Tammy Peterson (Chairman of the Committee)
- Warren Zenk (At Large Board Member, Stewardship representative)
- Jeff Garritsen (member of the congregation)
- Sylvia Mills (member of the congregation)
- Rachel Putratz (Council Member)
- Alan Bakke (member of the congregation, joined committee in December)

The committee’s overall purpose is to assist the Church Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the congregation’s accounting, financial reporting and internal control systems. Our monthly agenda provides for review of the past month’s expenses and income, comparisons to budgeted expenses and cash flow review from previous periods.

This year, our committee again strived to provide more financial information to the congregation through information in the bulletin, Messenger, and at a Stewardship luncheon. For the past two years, we have not asked the congregation members to complete an estimate of giving cards. Our anticipated income for 2026 is based on actual past giving, rental income from the parsonage, and monies received from Federal ERC credit. There is also a directive in the 2026 budget to utilize \$18,215 from memorial funds in 2026 to pay for special projects recommended by the Property Committee and for continuing education for our Youth and Family Coordinator.

The Finance Committee continues to work on the internal control recommendations provided by an external consulting firm, Congregational Consulting Services. There are four remaining issues which will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and/or the Church Council in 2026. Our committee plans to repeat another internal control review in 2027.

In October, our committee partnered with a non-profit to serve a PHO (traditional Hmong soup) luncheon during the Stewardship luncheon in thankfulness and appreciation for the congregation’s service and financial support. At the annual meeting, Part I in November, our Treasurer, Doug Thomas, reviewed the highlights of the budget proposed for 2026 for both income and expense line items.

In the fall, Jeff Garritsen put together a Time and Talent Survey gathering information from approximately 50 members of the congregation. Survey results were given to Church council, committee chairs, and various members of the congregation to introduce potential new members to a new program, service project or committee within Elim.

Two budget listening sessions were held in January 2026. Since the Annual Meeting Part I, we have revised the budget and reduced expenses by \$7,000 to be in alignment with anticipated income for 2026 in addition to moving some expenses to be paid through Memorial Funds. The final budget for 2026 will be available at the Annual Meeting, Part II in February. Final results as of 12-31-2025 are below:

**Elim General Fund Cash Flow Report through December 31, 2025**

	<b>Dec. 2025 YTD</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$685,601	\$641,099	ERC payments of \$95,021 were received and included in 2025 income. A portion of those payments were utilized in 2025 and \$52,021 will be used in 2026.”
<b>Expense</b>	\$598,652	\$642,770	

Refer to pages 11 through 14 for the Elim Financial Report.

We thank the congregation for the continued support of Elim’s ministry through your monetary gifts.

Submitted by:  
 Tammy Peterson, Finance Committee Chairman  
 January 16, 2026

# Elim Lutheran Church Financial Report

Elim Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Balance Sheet

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Consolidated - December 2025

Page. 1

	Current Year
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
<b>CASH</b>	
<b>CHECKING ACCOUNTS</b>	
Security Bank-General Fd	\$190,569.60
Security Bank - CC&S	12,102.98
Subtotal Checking Accounts	<u>202,672.58</u>
<b>SAVINGS ACCOUNTS</b>	
Security Bank-Memorial Fd	470,320.97
<b>SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS</b>	
Security Bank - CDARS GF	146,000.00
Security Bank - CDARS MF	200,000.00
Subtotal Short Term Investments	<u>346,000.00</u>
Subtotal Current Assets	<u>1,018,993.55</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$1,018,993.55</u></u>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	
Fund Balance	<u>\$1,018,993.55</u>
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>1,018,993.55</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<u><u>\$1,018,993.55</u></u>

*Elim Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
**Income and Expense Statement**  
GENERAL FUND 01, December 2025

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Page: 1

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
General Fund	\$63,071.19	\$491,669.21	\$462,550.82
General Fund-Loose	1,080.76	23,867.72	46,672.26
General Fund-Special	0.00	4,360.00	10,921.00
Thanksgiving	0.00	912.00	625.00
Christmas	10,092.33	10,092.33	8,084.02
Easter/Lent	0.00	7,481.89	7,725.18
Subtotal Contributions	<u>74,244.28</u>	<u>538,383.15</u>	<u>536,578.28</u>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>			
Interest Income	1.38	22.43	31.16
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>			
ERC Income Received	0.00	121,403.44	0.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	48.00	120.00	180.00
Rent - Church	100.00	1,171.54	2,261.00
Rent-Parsonage	2,000.00	24,000.00	4,000.00
Lease - Gammelgarden	0.00	500.00	0.00
Subtotal Miscellaneous Income	<u>2,148.00</u>	<u>147,194.98</u>	<u>6,441.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>76,393.66</u>	<u>685,600.56</u>	<u>543,050.44</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>			
<b>MISSIONS &amp; BENEVOLENCE</b>			
St. Paul Synod	\$2,386.83	\$28,642.00	\$28,642.00
Luther Point Bible Camp	558.75	2,235.00	2,235.00
Lutheran Social Service	585.00	2,340.00	2,340.00
Iringa Diocese	4,605.00	4,605.00	4,605.00
Subtotal Missions & Benevolence	<u>8,135.58</u>	<u>37,822.00</u>	<u>37,822.00</u>
<b>PAYROLL EXPENSE</b>			
Salaries	23,642.38	294,298.32	258,969.81
Social Security	1,236.54	15,144.32	14,312.15
Reimburse frm Entities	-2,212.21	-19,199.39	-17,994.65
Subtotal Payroll Expense	<u>22,666.71</u>	<u>290,243.25</u>	<u>255,287.31</u>
<b>PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES</b>			
Pension, Health, & Dental	6,868.52	80,763.24	72,968.15
Auto Expense Reimbursemnt	130.20	3,120.95	1,653.12
Delegate Expense	0.00	360.00	610.00
Periodicals/Magazines	57.80	167.75	147.75
Pastoral Cont. Education	0.00	427.45	1,061.64
Yth & CEd Dir-Cont Educat	0.00	417.42	90.00
Council Retreat	0.00	285.87	532.21
Office Supplies/Postage	643.11	10,611.01	10,457.67
Subtotal Professional Expenses	<u>7,699.63</u>	<u>96,153.69</u>	<u>87,520.54</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>			
Electricity-Church	852.42	10,962.99	9,619.65
Electricity-Parsonage	0.00	-17.25	737.64

*Elim Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
**Income and Expense Statement**  
 GENERAL FUND 01, December 2025

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
Subtotal Electricity	852.42	10,945.74	10,357.29
<b>GAS</b>			
Gas-Church	961.67	13,754.43	10,812.13
Gas-Parsonage	0.00	0.00	1,576.47
Subtotal Gas	961.67	13,754.43	12,388.60
<b>SEWER/WATER</b>			
Sewer/Water-Church	0.00	8,769.16	5,310.52
<b>TELEPHONE</b>			
Telephone-Church	310.08	4,882.45	4,753.29
<b>MISCELLANEOUS FEES</b>			
Fees Paid	704.23	8,316.52	11,755.46
ERC Paid to Entities	0.00	26,382.00	0.00
Subtotal Miscellaneous Fees	704.23	34,698.52	11,755.46
Subtotal Operating Expenses	2,828.40	73,050.30	44,565.16
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
Insurance	4,198.56	53,188.01	42,156.15
Reimburse frm Entities	0.00	-11,219.12	-10,737.79
Subtotal Insurance	4,198.56	41,968.89	31,418.36
<b>DEPARTMENTAL MINISTRIES</b>			
Christian Education-Adult	0.00	3,843.90	8,128.98
Christian Education-Child	0.00	1,986.54	1,736.45
Library	0.00	0.00	53.67
Pastoral Supply	750.00	3,074.00	317.00
Membership & Hospitality	0.00	221.58	0.00
Stewardship & Finance	405.77	909.35	826.51
Youth	159.83	5,882.73	3,474.10
Campership / Scholarships	0.00	800.00	0.00
Worship & Music	1,032.96	9,589.36	10,179.06
Janitor Supplies & Maint	1,054.82	15,582.43	14,931.78
Property Maint.-Church	763.79	23,268.67	14,308.45
Property Maint.-Parsonage	41.69	508.38	2,222.90
Asset Rest.-Gammelgarden	0.00	14,000.00	0.00
Altar Supplies	0.00	0.00	40.14
Communications	0.00	2,247.48	2,403.83
Technology	197.16	3,578.47	6,034.25
Subtotal Departmental Ministries	4,406.02	85,492.89	64,657.12
<b>DISCRETIONARY</b>			
Staff	0.00	0.00	169.83
Senior Pastor	0.00	303.18	321.45
Subtotal Discretionary	0.00	303.18	491.28
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>49,934.90</u>	<u>625,034.20</u>	<u>521,761.77</u>
<b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$26,458.76</u>	<u>\$60,566.36</u>	<u>\$21,288.67</u>

## Elim Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## Accounting Fund Balances

Page: 1

December 2025

Fund	Beginning Balance	Direct Transactions	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
01 - GENERAL FUND	310,110.84	0.00	76,393.66	49,934.90	336,569.60
02 - LOGOS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03 - NOT DESIGNATED MEM. FUNDS	2,008.98	0.00	59.32	520.00	1,548.30
04 - FACILITIES IMPROV MAINT.	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
05 - ALTAR GUILD	224.00	0.00	0.00	35.98	188.02
06 - CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY	3,763.86	0.00	25.00	2,074.34	1,714.52
07 - CAMBERSHIP / SCHOLARSHIPS	664.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	664.55
08 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ADULT	1,538.48	0.00	250.00	38.26	1,750.22
09 - ARCHIVES	1,663.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,663.38
10 - ELIM MUSIC	644.60	0.00	10.00	0.00	654.60
11 - SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY	10,751.63	0.00	7,250.00	40.00	17,961.63
12 - OFFICE EQUIPMENT	20.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	30.00
14 - YOUTH TRIPS	2,834.01	0.00	0.00	336.94	2,497.07
15 - LIBRARY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16 - SPECIAL NEEDS - BUILDING	57,579.56	0.00	700.00	4,540.65	53,738.91
17 - SPECIAL NEEDS - MISSIONS	1,865.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	1,870.00
20 - QUILTMAKERS	2,158.45	0.00	0.00	90.00	2,068.45
21 - FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN	3,792.52	0.00	605.00	0.00	4,477.52
22 - TECHNOLOGY	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
24 - SUPPLEMENTARY SYNOD/ELCA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26 - MUSIC ORGAN FUND	48,625.34	0.00	225.00	0.00	48,850.34
27 - ELIM GARDEN GUILD	310.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	310.10
29 - KIVALAMO (BEGA-KWA-BEGA)	14,637.89	0.00	1,150.00	9,000.00	6,787.89
30 - CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	498,245.48	0.00	18,040.00	6,873.00	509,412.48
31 - ENGQUIST MUSIC ACCT	414.99	0.00	1,193.00	0.00	1,607.99
32 - VISUAL IMPACT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33 - SALARIES & UTILITIES	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	0.00	12,000.00
34 - ELIM GROWS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40 - FOOD SHELF	0.00	0.00	3,645.00	3,645.00	0.00
41 - ELCA WORLD HUNGER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
42 - COMM CARING & SHARING HDS	2,851.02	0.00	11,840.00	2,588.04	12,102.98
50 - CEMETERY	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
51 - FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	17,700.00	17,700.00	0.00
52 - MUSEUM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
53 - PARK	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
54 - PRE SCHOOL	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
55 - WELCA	0.00	0.00	871.14	871.14	0.00
X1 - TRANSPORTATION EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
X2 - J BOOREN S.S. EQUIP.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
X3 - SUPPLEMENTARY LSS FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
X4 - NLCC-AFRICA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>965,229.68</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>152,402.12</b>	<b>98,638.25</b>	<b>1,018,993.55</b>

## Property Committee

The property committee continues to stay active maintaining church property. The following projects were addressed in 2025.

### PARSONAGE:

- Dryer repair

### CHURCH

- Addressed and repaired rust issues on the ceiling grid in kitchen caused by moisture.
- Added three First-Aid stations mounted on the walls by the coatroom, across from the choir room and downstairs by the coat rack.
- Continued to address and repair cracks in cement walls and sidewalks.
- Contracted for removal of dead and diseased trees along the boulevard.
- Upgraded outside lighting overlooking parking lot at lower level.
- Installed a 47' gutter on the courtyard side of church to help rain overflow from flowing back into the coatroom and library.
- Helped with the interviewing for janitorial support.
- Replaced some light fixtures, receptacles and switches.
- Added a receptacle in pastor's office.
- Repaired burners on stove in kitchen.

The team's goal remains to be proactive and cost effective in reviewing maintenance issues of church property. The committee has been tracking expenditures to ensure dollars are spent wisely and provide an accurate budget to the council to meet future building needs.

### Several upcoming projects for 2026 are:

- Continue researching the need for security cameras.
- Additional janitorial support.
- Sealcoat and stripe south and lower parking lots.
- Provide support and attention to the organ rebuilding project.
- Continue to resolve lighting issues.

We have added new members to our committee and now currently have 11 active members on the committee working together, using all our resources to better serve church needs. On behalf of the Property Committee, I personally would like to thank the property committee, the congregation, all the volunteers, and the church council for their support in accomplishing these projects. These projects couldn't have been accomplished without the many hours of service from volunteers and the generous financial support of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lodien

## Elim's Scandia/Marine Food Shelf

The Scandia/Marine Food Shelf is blessed that Elim members support us each year with generous gifts.

2025 has been a very busy year. The number of people served **increased** 31% (about 1700 people) We are serving a number of new families while others have "graduated" (able to care for themselves) or have moved away. That said, our expenses were high (\$49,174, 39% higher than last year) much due to inflation.

We are continuing our food shelf donation jars at cash registers in businesses around Scandia, and although this did not generate a lot of income in and of itself, it seems to have raised awareness of our need and generated more in donations of food and money through Elim Lutheran Church. Our food shelf has only non-perishable food. The local market in Scandia where food shelf recipients were given vouchers to purchase perishables closed its doors last year, so we have replaced those vouchers with gift cards to Walmart.

We are starting a new food rescue program where our volunteers will pick up food from grocery stores and convenience stores that is nearing expiration and is typically thrown away. We will place that food in a freezer that Washington County recently gave us. We can use that food to supplement recipient's food supplies.

We also support the Green Grocery Shares Program for the Scandia Farmer's Market which helps needy people purchase fresh produce during the months the Farmer's Market operates. We also support the Caring and Sharing Fund at Elim church which provides for emergency services for homeless, transients and emergency medical and rental needs.

The food shelf was established in 1982, and the need has grown. We are thankful for the help of the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation and also the generosity of the Scandia/Marine Lions and the many caring individuals who donate cash and boxes of food.

### **Thank you for your continued support!**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy and Warren Zenk

## **Elim Foundation**

Elim Foundation 2025 – A Ministry of Generosity since 1997

2025 was the 28<sup>th</sup> year of generosity for your Elim Foundation. Thanks to memorial and legacy gifts, and a healthy stock market, the Elim Foundation saw significant growth in value, ending the fiscal year on September 30, 2025 with a value of \$1,352,671.00. Our grant distribution policy of 5% of the value of the fund gave the Elim Foundation \$67,500.00 to share. Those charitable organizations nominated by Elim members and staff number 11 domestic, 8 International and 1 scholarship for an Elim member. Looking at the graph of gifting and the list of recipients in this report underscores the impact and reach of your Elim Foundation to “minister to those who are poor, hungry, hurting, sick or in prison” as directed by Jesus. Beyond the dollar numbers are the numbers of people helped by these grant gifts... the number of people helped/served each year is far greater than the annual dollar gifts. Most importantly is the desire and action to help.

The Elim Foundation also provides gifts to those baptized at Elim who are children or grandchildren of Elim members to start post-secondary education funds. There are also opportunities for scholarship help for Elim members attending Seminary or Lutheran Colleges/Universities or vocational/technical schools.

We thank David Olson who retired from the Foundation. His wisdom and smile will be missed. We welcome Tim Newcomb to the board; both he and his wife Megan (who previously served on the Foundation Board) make them the first couple to serve on the Board ...gooooood job!

We thank you all for your prayers, resources and offering granting nominations and ideas for programs for Elim and community members. 2027 will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for your Elim Foundation.

Gratefully,

Lynne Moratzka, Elim Foundation President

# Elim Foundation Financial Report 2025

## ELIM FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT - Fiscal 2025

October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

*"Sharing the Love of Jesus Christ Through Christian Outreach"*

### Debits and Credits Overview

	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>
Starting Assets	\$1,146,686	\$1,283,144
+ Change in Investment Value	\$179,554	\$101,838
+ Donations	\$15,404	\$36,680
- Grants Paid	-\$58,500	-\$67,500
- Expenses (From Coffee Earnings)	\$0	-\$1,491
<u>Less Uncleared Checks</u>	<u>-\$150</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Ending Assets	\$1,282,994	<u>\$1,352,671</u>

### Balance Sheet

	<u>End FY2024</u>	<u>End FY2025</u>
Total Equities	\$516,990	\$634,697
Total Bonds and Bond Funds	\$732,874	\$664,570
Total Cash and Money Market	\$33,280	\$53,404
Less Uncleared Checks	<u>-150</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Ending Assets Value	\$1,282,994	<u>\$1,352,671</u>

### F2025 Grant Recipients (Paid in Q1 F2026 based on F2025 Ending Assets)

#### Domestic

Koom Recovery  
Missionary Evangelism to Corrections  
Changing Gaits  
Humble Walk Lutheran Church  
Treehouse Sandstone  
The Dwelling Place  
Timber Bay - Youth Investment Fund  
Shobi's Table  
Our Stigma Digital - Mental Health Ministries  
One Vision  
Elim Lutheran Church Food Shelf

#### International

Bethel Center of Pastoral Care Estonia - Peeterli  
Food For His Children  
International Health Partners  
Youth With A Mission - Mazatlan  
Courage Worldwide, Inc.  
Feed My Starving Children - Lakes Area  
The Brydges Center  
Africa Education and Leadership Initiative

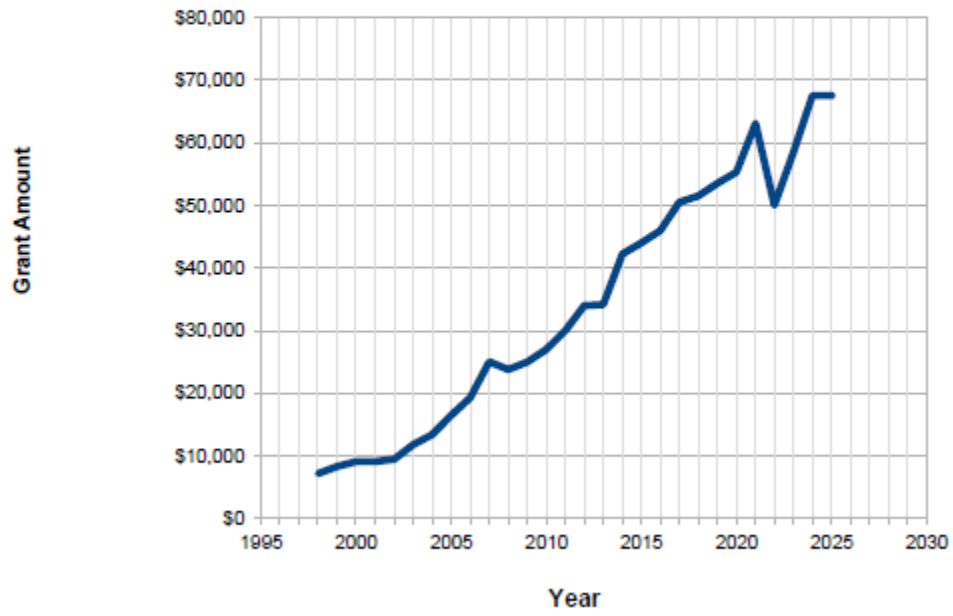
## Educational Grants

Gustavus Adolphus College - (Becka Newcomb)

### Foundation History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>End of Year Fiscal Assets</u>	<u>Grants Paid Based on Previous Years Ending Asset Value</u>	
1997	\$113,960		
1998	\$144,440	\$5,950	
1999	\$166,220	\$7,200	
2000	\$181,880	\$8,300	
2001	\$181,939	\$9,100	
2002	\$190,180	\$9,100	
2003	\$234,448	\$9,500	
2004	\$267,725	\$11,800	
2005	\$319,983	\$13,400	
2006	\$385,359	\$16,500	
2007	\$501,727	\$19,300	
2008	\$468,581	\$25,030	
2009	\$495,504	\$23,776	
2010	\$534,053	\$25,000	
2011	\$587,321	\$27,000	
2012	\$662,100	\$30,000	
2013	\$723,094	\$34,000	
2014	\$804,805	\$34,154	
2015	\$874,955	\$42,250	
2016	\$917,034	\$44,000	
2017	\$1,002,244	\$46,000	
2018	\$1,017,974	\$50,500	
2019	\$1,066,609	\$51,500	
2020	\$1,104,527	\$53,500	
2021	\$1,197,742	\$55,300	
2022	\$999,570	\$63,091	(includes Special Ukraine Gift)
2023	\$1,146,686	\$50,000	
2024	\$1,283,144	\$58,500	
2025	\$1,352,671	\$67,500	(includes special Hurricane disaster relief Pd Q1 2026
<u>2026</u>		<u>\$67,500</u>	
<b>Total Grants thru FY2025</b>		<b><u>\$958,751</u></b>	

## Foundation Grants by Year



## Elim W/ELCA Financial Report 2025

### **ELIM WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2025 TREASURER'S REPORT**

**January 1 through December 31, 2025**

Laurie Carlson, Treasurer

<b><u>BEGINNING CHECKBOOK BALANCE JAN. 1, 2025</u></b>		\$14,295.19
Receipts:		
Sunday coffee fund & offerings	1,181.14	
Donations	1,423.01	
Funerals Served	4,265.00	
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>\$ 6,869.15</u>	21,164.34
Disbursements:		
Gifts given to		
W/ELCA	100.00	
Funerals Served	2,597.09	
Kitchen/Fellowship Hall Supplies	675.43	
New Coffee Urn & Safety Ladder	4,607.75	
<i>Total Disbursements:</i>	<u>\$ 7,980.27</u>	(7,980.27)
<b>Checking Account Balance Dec. 31, 2025</b>		<b>\$ 13,184.07</b>
<i>General Fund Balance</i>	7,566.60	
<i>Dedicated Kitchen Fund Balance (future equipment needs)</i>	<u>5,617.47</u>	
<b>TOTAL W/ELCA ASSETS Dec. 31, 2025</b>		<b>\$13,184.07</b>

# Elim Cemetery and Columbarium Financial Report 2025

## ELIM CEMETERY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### CEMETERY CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning balance January 1, 2025	\$30,842.56
Total Receipts	19,525.93
Total Disbursements	<u>26,517.25</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2025	\$23,596.24

### RECEIPTS

CD Interest	\$ 567.64
Bank Interest	3.29
Interments	7,125.00
Gifts	5,500.00
Lot Sales	6,065.00
Staking Fee	<u>265.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$19,525.93

### Disbursements

Salaries – Lawn Care	\$12,321.00
Salaries – Other	985.00
Electricity	419.43
Grave Openings	6,975.00
Water	154.00
Supplies	514.82
Safe Deposit Box	45.00
Snow Removal	600.00
Perpetual Care	500.00
Stamps	73.00
Insurance	2,280.00
Brush Removal	200.00
Staking Fee	125.00
Black Dirt	<u>325.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$26,517.25

Report Prepared 1/17/26  
Sally Dalluhn, Treasurer

Verified by  
Scott Walker  
1/22/26

COLUMBARIUM ACCOUNT 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Beginning Balance 1/1/2025	\$61,667.23
Total Receipts	6,321.40
Total Disbursements	<u>492.31</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2025	\$67,506.32

Receipts

Interest	\$ 6.40
Niche Sales	5,225.00
Burials	<u>1,100.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 6,331.40

Expenses

Postage	\$ 52.65
Perpetual Care	250.00
Checks	89.66
Inscriptions	<u>100.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$492.31

Report Prepared 1/17/26  
Sally Dalluhn, Treasurer

Verified by  
Scott Walckare 1/22/26

PERPETUAL CARE CD BALANCE

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	\$105,671.55
Interest	52.77
Interest Transfers	<u>(53.77)</u>
Balance December 31, 2025	\$105,671.55

PERPETUAL CARE MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance January , 2025	\$36,443.45
Receipts	<u>705.42</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2025	\$37,148.87

RECEIPTS

Interest	\$ 55.42
Lot Sales	<u>650.00</u>
	\$ 705.42

CEMETERY FUND CD BALANCE

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	\$22,256.51
Interest	<u>133.84</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2025	\$22,390.35

Report Submitted January 17, 2026  
Sally Dalluhn, Treasurer

Verified by  
Scott Walckan 1/22/26

# Barton Johnson Park Fund Financial Report 2025

## BARTON JOHNSON PARK 2025 REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE 2025	\$19,339.85
Total receipts	5,700.19
Total Disbursements	<u>7,181.75</u>
Ending balance December 31,2025	\$17,958.20

### Receipts

Bank Interest	\$ 26.87
CD Interest	603.32
Gifts	<u>5,150.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 5,700.19

### Disbursements

Portable toilets	\$ 488.75
Lawn Care	3,730.00
Insurance	2,663.00
Salaries	<u>300.00</u>
Total disbursements	\$7,181.19

Report Prepared 1/17/26  
Sally Dalluhn, Treasurer

### PARK ENDOWMENT FUND

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	\$129,838.87
Interest Transferable	5,223.10
Interest Transferred	<u>(5,223.10)</u>
Ending Balance	\$129,838.87

Report Perpared 1/17/26  
Sally Dalluhn, Treasurer

*Verified by  
Scott Walckow 1/22/26*

## Staff/Council/Board Member Lists

### Staff

Seth Perry – Pastor  
 Joan Detzler – Office Administrator, Bell Choir Co-Director  
 Lisa Weigel – Financial Administrator  
 Vanessa Carpenter – Youth and Children’s Ministry Coordinator  
 Brian Voss – Organist, Adult Choir Director, Bell Choir Co-Director,  
 Media Ministry Manager

#### 2026 Council Member List

Elections occur in November. The term officially starts following the January Annual Meeting.

Term Expires January of 2027
Dan Sandager
Dave Trcka
Geno Tuccitto
Term Expires January of 2028
Chris Johnson
Megan Newcomb
Melinda Syncyn
Term Expires January of 2029
Phil Bailey
Anni Boyum
John Johnson
Kim Johnson
Pat Payne
Rachel Putratz

Nominating Committee for 2026 elections:  
 Laurie Carlson, Doug Thomas.

#### 2026 Foundation Board Members

Term Expires 2027
Chris Drummond
Greg Isaacson
Lynne Moratzka
Term Expires 2028
Dave Olson
Rick Sandager
Term Expires 2029
Tim Newcomb
Tracey Thomas

#### 2026 Cemetery Board Members

Term Expires 2026
Pam Gromek
Keith Hainy
Duane Johnson
Term Expires 2027
Tracey Thomas
Arnie Wright
Term Expires 2028
Joe Rettner
Gary Swanson
Scott Walcker

#### 2026 Park Board Members

Term Expires 2026
Dan Sandager
Term Expires 2027
Wendy Wojtowicz
Term Expires 2028
Greg Isaacson

## Scandia Preschool

Scandia Preschool continues to serve as a Christian Ministry of Elim Lutheran Church. Our goal remains to provide meaningful and developmentally appropriate experiences that help children grow spiritually, physically, emotionally, cognitively, and socially.

Our teaching staff includes Amy Majeski, our Teacher/Director, and Sarah Reeves, our Teacher Aide.

Our curriculum covers a broad range of early childhood concepts including colors, shapes, numbers, patterns, and letters. Each week centers around a letter theme and Bible stories, children's literature, art projects, and classroom activities all tie into that focus. Outdoor exploration also remains an important part of our program. Students may take nature walks, enjoy the sledding hill at Elim, or visit the playgrounds at Gammelgården Museum and the Community Center.

The current preschool board consists of Jackie Chaves (President), Arlene Swenson (Treasurer), Katie Thomas (Member-at-large), and Connie Jemelka (Community Member). We welcome continued involvement and encourage those interested to consider serving.

Enrollment for the 2025–2026 school year includes a total of 11 students, with 6 participating in the Pre-K add-on program (Tuesday–Wednesday–Thursday).

Tuition remains \$150/month for the Tuesday & Thursday class and \$200/month for the Pre-K add-on (Wednesday). We continue to offer scholarships to families who need financial assistance.

This year's fundraising consisted of one primary event: a Christmas-season bake sale and one hosted coffee hour. We are grateful for the ongoing support offered by our congregation and community.

The Scandia Preschool Board and staff look forward to another year of providing a nurturing Christian learning environment. Our focus for this school year is supporting each child as they strengthen their social and emotional skills while building the foundational skills needed for kindergarten readiness.

Scandia Preschool Board President  
Jackie Chaves



# Scandia Preschool Financial Report 2025

## 2025 Scandia Preschool Financial Statement

Checking Balance Forward Dec 31, 2024	\$ 787.28	
Savings/Scholarship Balance Forward Dec 31, 2024	\$ 4,569.33	\$ 5,356.61

### Income

Tuition	\$ 15,928.00	
COVID Retention	\$ 4,589.59	
Fundraising	\$ 1,000.00	
Interest	\$ 4.70	
Total Carryforward & Income		\$26,878.90

### Expenses

Payroll	\$ 19,526.90	
Supplies & Teaching Materials	\$ 355.32	
Field Trips	\$ 275.00	
License	\$ 204.30	
Total Expenses		\$-20,361.52
Balance of Accounts December 31, 2025	\$ 6,517.38	

  
Audited by: Connie Jemelka  
1/22/2026  
Date

## Women's Bible Study

We had another good year for Elim's Women's Bible Study; 45+ attendance. In the Spring and Fall we studied *Twelve Women of the Bible* from Mary the mother of Jesus to Hannah, Abigail and more. It gave us a fresh look at these women, and we learned of their strength, struggles and courage and how to apply this to our lives today. We don't talk much about some of these women, so it was great to hear some of their stories. We heard from different Biblical speakers each time.

Thanks to all who contributed to make this Bible Study a success: Trudy Lodien-our administrator and leader, Pam Gromek who is always there to help set up and clean up, our small group leaders: Anni Boyum, Jean Dreher, Vicki Mendoza and Judy Silk. Not to mention Pastor Seth who came to our last day celebration and answered lots of questions for us.

Since the women loved studying about these strong women of the Bible, we are going to continue our studies in 2026 with *12 Daring Women of the Bible* starting in the Spring.

If you haven't joined us in the past, consider it now. We would love to have you and bring a friend!

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Flattum

## Gammelgården Museum

### Visitors/Audience Attendance at Events

Total attendance during the museum's operating hours reached a record 18,681 (up from 10,218 in 2024, an 85% increase). The museum's major community events in 2025 had increased attendance numbers:

- **Season Opening Day**, in May, had 902 visitors – up from about 200 in 2024.
- **Midsommardagen**, in June, had 1,156 visitors, up from 1,063 in 2024.
- **Spelmansstämman**, in August, which focused on Scandinavian and Mexican music, dance, visual arts, and food, attracted 729 visitors – up from 703 in 2024.

### New Exhibits and Artwork

The museum had a variety of exhibits during the year:

- Fur Trade in Minnesota
- Exploring the World of Immigrants
- Birch: Art and Function
- Scandinavian Fish and Fishing
- Comparisons of Swedish and Mexican Cultures (tied into Spelmansstämman's theme for 2025)
- 1975: Celebrating 50 Years of Minnesota History (tied into the Taco Daze theme)
- Wool Production
- Swedish Folk Art and The Handicraft Movement (painted wood dolls dressed in folk dräkt of Swedish provinces)
- Beyond the Yule Goat: Exploring Goat Folklore and Mythology Across Cultures
- St. Lucia and Star Boys

There were also three exhibits featuring folk costumes and art from three provinces in Sweden. In addition, the museum's collection of Charlotte Weibull dolls, Dala horses, and artwork changed throughout the seasons.

New artwork was acquired, including a six-foot hand-felted piece by a Swedish textile artist, which was displayed from May through October. Other pieces in the collection were framed to preserve them.

### **Historic Restoration Projects**

In February 2025, two consultants examined water infiltration issues and the structural integrity of the Pastor's House. These studies were partially funded by Elim Lutheran Church. The studies have concluded that 10-12 logs on the northwest side of the building and 1 log on the southeast side of the building will need to be replaced due to excessive moisture/rot. There is a groundwater issue affecting the building, so drain tiling will be required in the future.

From July-October 2025, the museum contracted Northern Bedrock to do the removal of Nu-Wood sheathing (compressed wood wall covering) on the first floor of the Pastor's House, and assist with the evaluation of artifacts in the building since all were affected by excessive moisture for many years. Cleaning of some artifacts was performed by Northern Bedrock crews, staff, interns, and volunteers. In addition, storm windows were removed, and 11 new window screens using mortise-and-tenon joinery were built and installed for the Pastor's House.

In July 2025, a crew from Northern Bedrock removed, reglazed, and reinstalled windows on the Stuga.

### **Expanded Library**

The non-lending resource library offered a wider selection of books in English and Swedish for children, teens, and adults. Thanks to the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants (Legacy Grants) program, Gammelgården purchased 35 books on Minnesota history and immigration.

The museum also received another Legacy Grant to purchase more than 70 books on museum operations. These books will enhance the professional development of Gammelgården's staff, interns, and volunteers; and foster community engagement by making the books available for reading on site at the museum by other museum professionals and the public.

### **Volunteerism**

In 2025, Gammelgården saw an increase in volunteer hours, with 7,914 hours donated to the museum (up from 7,562 in 2024, a 4% increase). The number of volunteers decreased from 148 in 2024 to 131 in 2025 (an 11% decrease).

### **Social Media and Subscribers**

The museum increased its Facebook following to 6,637 (up from 4,974 in 2024, or a 33% increase). There were 1,226 new net followers on Facebook in 2025. On Instagram, there are 1,576 followers. Gammelgården's mailing list for its monthly e-newsletter increased to 1,985 throughout the world – up from 1,783 subscribers in 2024 (an 11% increase)

### **Membership**

In 2025, membership was 240, down from 288 (a 17% decrease). Life Members were at 98 households.

### **Staff and Interns**

In 2025, there were six part-time staff working 1-5 days per week. Staff included: Ann Rinkenberger (Executive Director), Linnea Johnson (Butik Manager), Hunter Panoch (Marketing/PR Coordinator), Erin Swanson (Caretaker), Grace Taylor (Libraries, Membership, Youth Programming, and Food Coordinator), and Sierra Moen (Volunteer and Program Coordinator, and Greeter-Receptionist from May-October). In addition, Gammelgården had three summer interns: Margot Johnson, Paige Ewert, and Maya Boo.

## **Board**

The 2025 Board of Directors included: Colleen Nora (President), Jerry Peterson (Vice President), Kristin Engman (Secretary), Chris Lundberg (Treasurer), Sandra Grunewald, Janelle Lindberg-Kendrick, Dan Lindgren, Jenny Mayer (January-July), Mary Pries-Morrison (October-December), Barb Sackmann, Mary Sandgren, and Jim Thorson.

## **An Invitation to the Elim Community**

Gammelgården is a vibrant non-profit organization that is evolving to meet the community's needs and to engage people of all ages in meaningful ways through numerous exhibits, programs, classes, and events. We hope that in 2026, the Elim community will visit Gammelgården and participate in its programs and events.

Submitted by Ann Rinkenberger, Executive Director

651-433-5053

[gammelgardenmuseum.org](http://gammelgardenmuseum.org)

[facebook.com/GammelgardenMuseumofScandia](https://facebook.com/GammelgardenMuseumofScandia)

[instagram.com/gammelgarden\\_museum](https://instagram.com/gammelgarden_museum)

## From the St. Paul Area Synod



# ANNUAL 2025 REPORT

of the saint paul area synod

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours in God's service,



Bishop Patricia Lull



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651-224-4313 | [spas-elca.org](http://spas-elca.org)

## 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

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“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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