



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Based on 1st Corinthians 13

L: Loving Lord, as we gather to give you thanks for your grace and goodness in the previous year,

ALL: We also look to you for guidance in the year to come.

L: Show us again, that even when we feel like we have important things to say,

ALL: Without love, we are just like a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

L: And even when we may think we understand what is best, what is right, what worked in the past,

ALL: Show us again that without love, we miss your wisdom.

L: Help us find ways to let our giving and generosity,

ALL: Also become avenues for your love to be shared.

L: For in you, Lord Jesus, we find that: Love is patient,

ALL: Love is kind,

L: Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

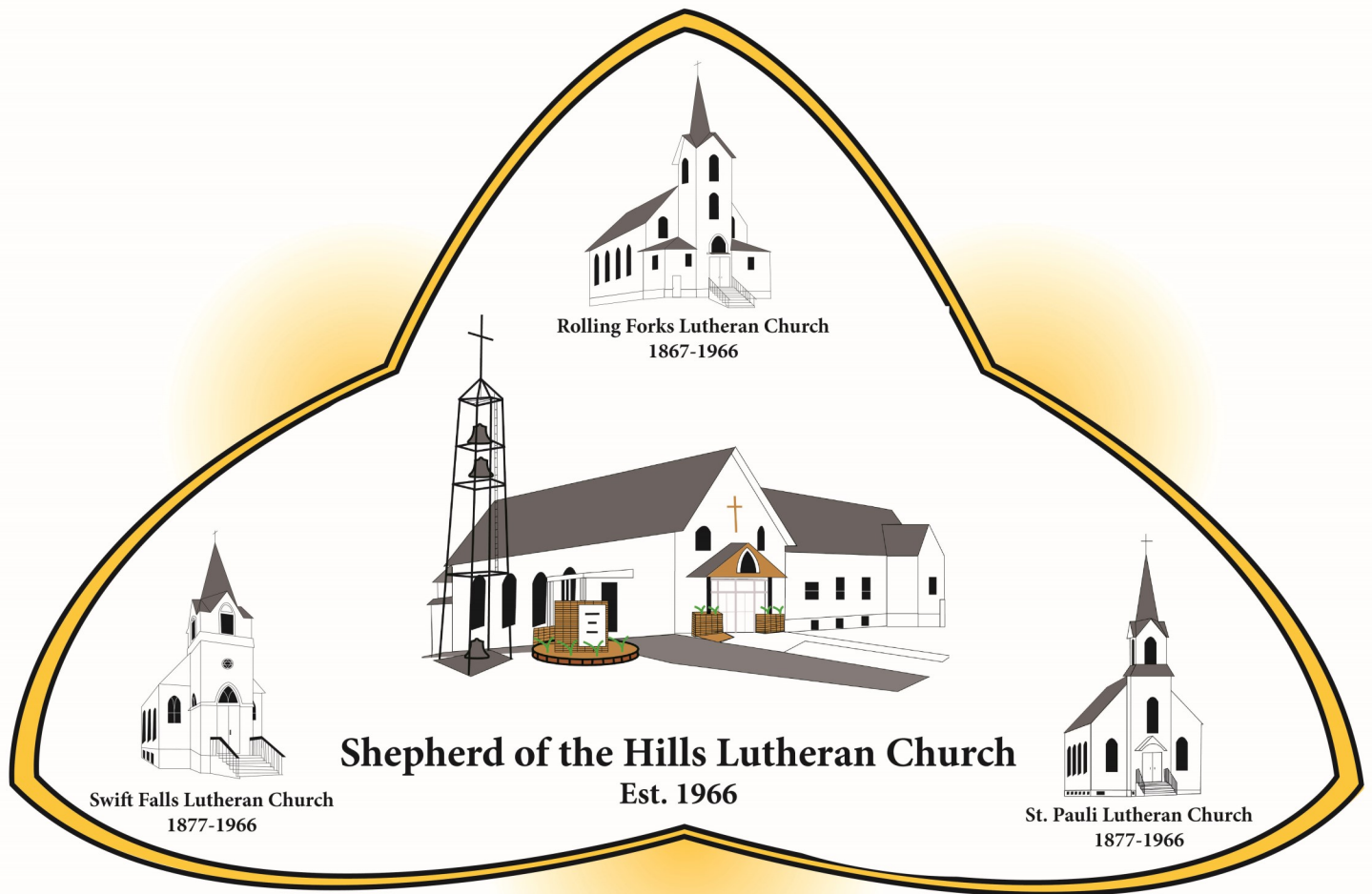
ALL: Love is not irritable, and it does not keep record of wrongs.

L: Love bears all things, believes all things, and endures all things.

ALL: In you, O Lord, Love never ends. Amen.



2023 ANNUAL REPORT
SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH



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BENSON, MN 56215
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**2022 Sunday School
Christmas Program**

2023 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

CONGREGATION COUNCIL POSITIONS

(Year = term expires in January of that year)

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

PRESIDENT

Stephanie Smith (2024)

VICE PRESIDENT

Rick Davidson (2024)

SECRETARY

Janine Ellingson (2024)

TREASURER

Jim Ostlie (2024)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Betsy Anderson (2024)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Troy Nelson (2024)

Jason Anderson (2025)

Chris Larson (2026)

BOARD OF DEACONS

Laura Ostlie (2024)

Roxanne Nelson (2025)

Paul Flaten (2026)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Melissa Wroblewski (2024)

Laura Larson (2025)

Ashley Skarsten (2026)

NON-COUNCIL POSITIONS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Keith Flaten (2024)

Jennifer Trump (2025)

Steve Nelson (2026)

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Ashley Skarsten (2024)

Debbie Flaten (2025)

Melissa Wroblewski (2026)

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Jenny Trump (2024)

Laura Ostlie (2025)

Gail Svor (2026)

CO-OP PARISH COMMITTEE

Connie Flaten (2024)

Scott Nelson (2025)

Brian Jergenson (2026)

HEAD USHER

Doran Jergenson (2024)

ASSISTANT USHERS

Ray Anderson (2024)

Rick Davidson (2024)

JUNIOR USHER

Blake Larson (2024)

GLENWOOD RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Linda Amlie (2024)

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Ray Anderson (2024)

Marge Anderson (2024)

PASTORS MESSAGE

By Pastor Steve Carmany

To all members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,

As we reflect on this past year of 2023, I am so thankful to God for all of you and for the ways God has continued to bless us, guide us, and unite us in the midst of many changes.

In 2023 we were finally able to return to many normal routines within our worship and ministry life, following the adjustments we had made in previous years due to covid concerns. However, our 'covid-year-ministries' of online worship, live-streamed Daily Prayer Time, and our weekly Zoom Bible Study, have continued to be an integral part of our current ministries. We have also recently completed the installation of new video equipment which will allow us to move our computer operators upstairs and improve the quality of our live-streamed worship services.

I have enjoyed working with a couple groups of confirmation students and some new adult members in their learning and preparation. And have loved getting to tag along during the fun week of Vacation Bible School each summer. This coming summer we will be organizing a youth adventure/service trip in the Duluth area for our middle school and high school youth.

In cooperation with our three churches, we started a new monthly Communion Ministry at Scandi Haven in Benson this year. I have also continued the monthly communion services at Holly Ridge and Minnewaska Lutheran Home in Starbuck. I have been deeply moved by the times of loss and pastoral needs we have experienced as a congregation this year, but I thank God for his gracious presence through those times.

As we move into this new year of 2024, may we continue to open our hearts and lives to God's dreams for us. and for the world around us.

In Christ – Pastor Steve

ORDER OF BUSINESS OF 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

- I. Call Meeting to Order by President
 - II. Devotions
 - III. Secretary's Report from Annual Meeting 2023
 - IV. Treasurer's Financial Report for 2023
 - V. Auditing Committee Report
 - VI. Old Business
 - VII. New Business
 - i. Approval of 2024 Budget
 - ii. Election of new Church Officers, Board Members and Committee Representatives
 - iii. Bylaw Amendment
 - VIII. Adjournment
 - IX. Closing Prayer
-

2023 ANNUAL MEETING SECRETARIES REPORT

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church February 5, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 AM by Vice President, Stephanie Smith. Pastor Steve lead the meeting in prayer.

Secretaries Report:

Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting secretary's report was read by Janine Ellingson. Jim Ostlie moved to approve the minutes with a second by Ray Lagred. No further discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Jim Ostlie presented the 2022 financial report. A couple of items to highlight is the fact that we have seen a decline in offering. We also saw some inflated income and expenses as a result of the Puerto Rico Mission trip in July that some of our youth and chaperones took part in. We were fortunate to have received a \$5,000 grant from the Robert Sonsteng Foundation which helped along with some Covid funds. Otherwise, we continue to remain status quo. Jason Anderson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Bobby Wrobleski seconded. No further discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

Continued on next page....

2023 ANNUAL MEETING SECRETARIES REPORT CONTINUED...

Audit Committee Report:

Melissa Wrobleski presented the Audit Committee Report. There were no problems or concerns reported from the audit. There was no further discussion from the congregation around the Audit Committee Report.

Old Business:

No old business to report.

New Business:

Approval of 2023 Budget. Treasurer Jim Ostlie presented the 2023 budget. The budget remains the same as the previous year, 2022, with few areas to call out for some differences in budget.

- ⇒ Heating costs: Jim wanted to point out that we are set up on a monthly budget bill for our heating expense. With the fluctuation of heating costs, we may or may not see additional expenses.
- ⇒ 2023 Pastoral Compensation: Jim Ostlie, Janine Ellingson and Pastor Steve had met with East and West Zion to discuss Pastor Steve's 2023 compensation package. All three churches agreed to an increase. Of note, we were unable to bring Pastor Steve's compensation to fair market. Pastor Steve accepted the salary increase as recommended. We are very blessed to have Pastor Steve continue his services with us.

Roy Lagred made the motion to accept the 2023 budget. Melissa Wrobleski seconded. No further discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

Election of the 2023 SOTH Officers and Committee members. The ballot was presented for the 2023 officers and committees. Jim Ostlie made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for all officers and positions. Bobby Wrobleski seconded. No further discussion. Motion approved unanimously. The Officers and Committee members are listed as follows:

COUNCIL POSITIONS:

- ⇒ President: Stephanie Smith (1 year term)
- ⇒ Vice President: Rick Davidson (1 year term)
- ⇒ Secretary: Janine Ellingson (1 year term)
- ⇒ Treasurer: Jim Ostlie (1 year term)
- ⇒ Financial Secretary: Betsy Anderson (1 year term)
- ⇒ Board of Trustees: Chris Larson (3-year term)
- ⇒ Board of Deacons: Paul Flaten (3-year term)
- ⇒ Board of Education: Ashley Skarsten and Melissa Wrobleski (1-year term)

NON-COUNCIL POSITIONS:

- ⇒ Nominating Committee: Steve Nelson (3-year term)
- ⇒ Auditing Committee: Melissa Wrobleski (3-year term)

Continued on next page...

2023 ANNUAL MEETING SECRETARIES REPORT CONTINUED...

- ⇒ Fundraising Committee: Gail Svor (3-year term)
- ⇒ Co-op Parish Committee: Connie Flaten and Brian Jergenson (3-year term)
- ⇒ Head Usher: Doran Jergenson (1 year term)
- ⇒ Assistant Ushers: Ray Anderson and Rick Davidson (1 year term)
- ⇒ Honorary Usher: Ron Blowers (1 year term)
- ⇒ Junior Usher: Blake Larson (1 year term)
- ⇒ Glenwood Retirement Village Representatives: Lorraine Amundson and Linda Amlie (1 year term)
- ⇒ Synod Assembly Delegates: Ray Anderson and Marge Anderson (1 year term)

Discussion of Cemetery Sustainability. Jim Ostlie presented the purpose of the discussion which is the importance of reviewing the sustainability of maintaining our cemeteries. We are fortunate that we have plenty of volunteers from our members to help with tree cleanup of the cemeteries. If we didn't have volunteers, our expenses would be more, so we are very blessed to have that. At our SOTH Council meetings in December 2022 and January 2023, SOTH Council had discussed challenges and what some financial options might look like.

- ⇒ Option 1 could possibly be an increase of the cost of the cemetery plots for both members and non-members by around \$300. This was the amount determined we'd need if we had the same amount of purchases every year moving forward compared with 2022, we would most likely break even with our expenses. (see page 13 of the 2022 annual report for reference of the Cemeteries Financial Report)
- ⇒ Option 2 could possibly be keeping the fees the same but charging current plot owners and new plot purchases an annual maintenance fee. This option would be a record keeping challenge.

Council is looking for suggestions from our congregation on short- and long-term options for financial resources for the health of the three cemeteries.

Annual Meeting Discussion: There were some good suggestions brought forward from a member of our congregation that prompted good discussion:

- ⇒ Fundraisers dedicated to the cemetery fund.
- ⇒ In the past, family members of cemetery plots (all 3 cemeteries) would be contacted via letter to ask for contributions/donations to help offset maintenance costs. This was sometimes difficult as family members are no longer around or no known forwarding address.
- ⇒ Advertise at funerals to suggest donating a monetary amount for cemetery expenses.
- ⇒ Put up signs at our three cemeteries to advertise for donations.
- ⇒ When putting together Living Wills, suggest people request a certain dollar amount from their estate go toward the cemetery fund.
- ⇒ Large headstones that are damaged or falling apart are a challenge for maintenance and the need to replace them with a ground level plaque. If there are no family members to help with the cost, this is an expense from the cemetery fund.

Continued on next page...

2023 ANNUAL MEETING SECRETARIES REPORT CONTINUED...

- ⇒ The Council would very much appreciate any suggestions. Please contact any member of Council if you have any suggestions/thoughts after the annual meeting today. We will be needing to make a decision soon, but it is not on the table right now.

Jim Ostlie made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Melissa Wrobleski. Motion approved unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Submitted by Janine Ellingson, Church Council Secretary

PARISH RECORDS REPORT

BAPTISMS

Waylon Daniel Lagred, son of Marshal & Lisa Lagred (February 5, 2023)

Logan William Fahl, son of Jon & Samantha Fahl (March 8, 2023)

FIRST COMMUNIONS

None.

CONFIRMATIONS (May 7, 2023)

Shelbie Anderson, daughter of Jason & Betsy Anderson

Tate Kobbermann, son of Dan & Tiffany Kobbermann

Tanner Nelson, son of Troy & Michelle Nelson

Riley Ostlie, son of Jim & Laura Ostlie

Emily Reich, daughter of Jonathan & Sara Reich

Landon Skarsten, son of Bryant & Ashley Skarsten



GRADUATES

Katelyn Kobbermann, daughter of Dan & Tiffany Kobbermann (BHS)

Hannah Rosen, daughter of Mike Rosen & Dee Baird (BHS)



PARISH RECORDS REPORT CONTINUED...

IMARRIAGES

Steve Nelson & Roxanne Carson (*September 9, 2023*)

DEATHS

Ronald Roy Blowers (June 15, 1935—October 17, 2023)

Melvin Henry Klyve (December 1, 1924—June 19, 2023)

Sanford P. Skarsten (February 10, 1935—March 8, 2023)

INTERNMENTS

SWIFT FALLS

Gary Orrill Mitteness (8/2/1951-1/22/23) Non-member

Sanford P. Skarsten (2/10/1935-3/8/2023) Member

ROLLING FORKS

None.

ST. PAULI

None

TRANSFERS/NEW MEMBERS

Trista Nelson & Cadence, Aletta & Corinna Larson from East Norway Lake Lutheran

Mathew, Melanie & Braxton Siefkes (new members)

PAROCHIAL REPORT

BAPTIZED ACTIVE MEMBERS ON JANUARY 1, 2023: 147

Members received in 2023 through Baptism: 2

Members received in 2023 through transfers: 8

Members removed in 2023 through transfers: 0

Members removed in 2023 through death: 3

Active transferred to Inactive: 0

Inactive transferred to Active: 3

BAPTIZED ACTIVE MEMBERS ON DECEMBER 31, 2023: 158

**Active membership is defined as attending worship, recorded giving and or attending church events.*

***Associate membership is defined as the members primary church is not SOTH, but they would like to remain on the SOTH roster.*

INACTIVE MEMBERS ON DECEMBER 31, 2023: 63

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: 3

TREASURERS REPORT

May God Bless you all in this new year! 2023 was financially a “good” year for SOTH. We were fortunate to take in several large donations including a \$10,300 gift to our general fund from Darrell and Dorothy Toutge, a \$5,000 grant from the Robert Sonsteng Foundation, and multiple smaller contributions from Thrivent, Raymond James and Mighty Cause Charitable Contributions where members directed giving fund allocations to the church. This really inflated our overall income for the year 2023. Outside of those special giving circumstances, we were still a bit higher in giving than in years passed, which was very welcome.

Our 2024 proposed budget is not much different than the year previous, with an exception of Staff and Ministry, which needed to increase based on the Cooperative Parish Committees recommendation to increase the pastors salary by 4%, which council ultimately approved. All other amounts proposed in the 2024 budget used the actual expenses paid in 2023. Annual projected income is always difficult to put down in writing. There are so many variables when it comes to giving, but it is included more as a goal than anything.

Our on-line giving through Tithe.ly continues to grow and is being utilized by more individuals and families. Tithe.ly allows you to connect checking account or a credit card to your giving and you can set up the amount, how often you would like to give, and it happens automatically. No need to remember a checkbook or cash! You can discontinue at anytime or amend accounts at any time.

We continue to use the ELCA’s Mission Investment Funds to allow our money to grow, but also to assist ELCA by allowing them use of our money to build congregations in other places of the world. We have four accounts. There are two accounts that are similar to certificate of deposits. One holds a small amount of cemetery dollars and that is on a two-year contract and the other is our largest, which is our Building Fund Account that is for five years. The other two are the Building Fund Demand Account and the Memorial Fund Demand Account, both which allow deposits and withdrawals (checking accounts) can be written from for major projects done in the church.

The annual report from the Treasurer looks different than in years past. I wanted to make it simple, but still give the congregation something solid to look at.

Lastly, my 13 year term as Treasurer ends in 2024 and please welcome Roxanne Nelson to the position.

God bless!

Jim Ostlie, Treasurer

2023 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT & 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

Operating Budget Expenses

	Proposed		**2022	2021	2020	2019
	2024	2023				
1100 Missions/Donations/Memberships	\$1,040.00	\$1,091.76	\$950.00	\$1,000.00	\$900.00	\$3,650.00
1200 Staff and Ministry	\$65,000.00	\$63,046.10	\$55,176.96	\$53,331.79	\$51,196.16	\$42,156.72
1300 Congregational Life	\$6,470.00	\$6,483.23	\$29,448.89	\$6,785.85	\$7,922.20	\$6,679.50
1400 Church Building/Property	\$22,030.00	\$22,424.09	\$23,377.15	\$26,413.26	\$23,622.49	\$23,002.62
1500 Fundraiser Expenses	\$700.00	\$525.60	\$701.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$566.40
Total:	\$95,240.00	\$93,570.78	\$109,654.79	\$87,530.90	\$83,640.85	\$76,055.24

Operating Budget Income

	Proposed		**2022	2021	2020	2019
	2024	2023				
Grants	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Harvest Lunch/Fundraisers	\$1,300.00	\$1,305.00	\$1,972.98	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$5,982.00
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.77	\$0.89	\$0.76	\$0.64	\$0.25
Memorials	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$615.00	\$1,997.00	\$1,480.00	\$5,080.00
Mowing	\$0.00	\$620.00	\$0.00	\$140.00	\$560.00	\$550.00
Offering-Lunch	\$500.00	\$428.00	\$521.50	\$511.50	\$318.23	\$897.19
Offering-Regular	\$87,140.00	\$90,044.86	\$71,924.60	\$75,606.99	\$66,636.14	\$66,095.59
*Other Income	\$5,300.00	\$2,753.34	\$19,645.93	\$6,381.06	\$10,150.14	\$8,148.49
Thrivent Funds/Similar	\$1,000.00	\$4,533.53	\$635.00	\$1,119.00	\$3,370.00	\$489.00
Total:	\$95,240.00	\$104,730.50	\$95,315.90	\$86,306.31	\$82,515.15	\$87,242.52

*Other Income: Includes offering given to specific operating expenses, rentals, youth programs, capital credits, etc.
 **2022 was the year Pastor took youth on Mission trip to Puerto Rico. "1300 Congregational Life" expenses and "Other Income" are higher due to payments and reimbursements for that trip.

2023 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT & 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

CONTINUED...

Mission Investment Funds

	2023	2022	**2021	2020	*2019
Memorial Fund with checking					
Deposits	\$10.95	\$11.87	\$14.64	\$24.21	\$82.81
Withdrawals	\$2,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,099.99
Ending Balance	\$127.22	\$2,866.27	\$2,854.40	\$2,839.76	\$2,815.55
Building Fund with checking					
Deposits	\$36.41	\$37.73	\$99.42	\$249.77	\$361.95
Withdrawals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,393.70	\$0.00	\$13,000.00
Ending Balance	\$9,145.53	\$9,109.12	\$9,071.39	\$24,365.72	\$24,115.95
Long Term Building Fund					
Deposits	\$1,882.39	\$1,834.68	\$1,788.19	\$1,550.20	\$1,511.19
Withdrawals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$74,282.63	\$72,400.24	\$70,565.56	\$68,777.37	\$67,227.17

*2019 - withdrawals for roofing in Building Fund with checking & new organ out of Memorial Fund
 **2020 - withdrawals for furnace and gutters

CEMETERIES REPORT

By Lori Tostenson

CHECKING ACCOUNT			
Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$32,008.15	Darlene Dergen (1 lot + 1 urn SP)	\$350.00
West Acres Water	\$500.00	Sherri & Terry Detloff (1 lot + 1 urn SF)	\$500.00
Veronica Kvam	\$50.00	Larry & Lori Thompson (2 gr sp SP)	\$400.00
In mem of Deanne Dokken	\$10.00	Cleo Knapp (urn SF)	\$300.00
In mem of Gary Mitteness	\$50.00	Brian & Laura Jergenson (I urn)	\$150.00
Don & Vi Olson	\$500.00	Rick & Jody Davidson (1 gr +1 urn)	\$350.00
Omelet Breakfast	\$771.00	West Acres Water	\$1000.00
In mem of Sanford Skarsten	\$700.00	ELCA Interest	\$47.60
Marilyn Anderson	\$200.00	Total Income:	\$10988.60
In mem of Neil Jacobson	\$100.00	Expenses:	
In mem of Tilmer Amundson	\$200.00	Lye Mowing	\$8330.00
Marshall Sondrol	\$50.00	Total Expenses	\$8330.00
In mem of Mel Klyve	\$10.00		
Betty Flaten	\$60.00	Ending Balance 12/31/23	\$34666.75
In mem of James Kalina	\$340.00		
Mowing Donations	\$1200.00	PERPETUAL CARE	
Sara & Bret Murr (1 gr r sp SF)	\$1300.00	Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$18583.51
David & Colleen Hanson (1 gr sp SF)	\$1300.00	Interest	\$18.59
Carole Schmidt	\$150.00	Ending Balance 12/31/23	\$18602.10
Kimberly Chambers	\$150.00		
Laverne & Lois Kerkeide	\$250.00		

CEMETERY FEE SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2023

MEMBER.....	\$500
MEMBER URN ON EXISTING GRAVE.....	\$300
NON-MEMBER.....	\$1500
NON-MEMBER URN ON EXISTING GRAVE.....	\$600
SECOND STONE PLACEMENT ON A PLOT—MEMBER.....	\$300
SECOND STONE PLACEMENT ON A PLOT—NON-MEMBER.....	\$600

Note:

- *All second stones must be foot stones, two stone max per plot.*
- *Family plots are not reserved until payment is made and deed in hand.*
- *Plots purchased at member rates and then transferred to non-members will incur an additional fee of the current non-member fee minus the current member fee.*
- *No additional fees if plots are transferred to another member.*

BY-LAW AMMENDMENT

By-Law Change for the 2024 Annual Meeting, Feb 4, 2024

(underlined words will be included, words with line through will be deleted)

C13.06.07 All improvements and maintenance costs shall be met from earnings of the cemetery funds (includes all cemetery monetary accounts) ~~perpetual care fund, except that, as such earnings are inadequate. The congregation shall include a subsidy in its annual budget.~~ The cemetery committee shall annually prepare a plan of operation for the ensuing year, including estimated resources, needs and expenditures. Such a plan is to be presented to the Board of Trustees in time for its preparation of the annual congregational budget in the event the congregation needs to provide a subsidy in its annual budget for cemetery operations and maintenance.

Signs that will be posted in each one of our three cemeteries.

Help us keep this cemetery looking beautiful!

Please consider a donation to keep our cemetery maintained for years to come!

We are a small rural congregation with three cemeteries to maintain.

All gifts are greatly appreciated.

Inquiries and donations can be made by calling the church office leaving a message, email, or by mailing donations/gifts directly to:

Cemetery Treasurer
201 Falcon Avenue
Benson, MN 56215

soth2008@live.com
320-843-3408
www.shepherdofthehillslc.com



Rolling Forks Lutheran Church
1867-1966



St. Pauli Lutheran Church
1877-1966



Swift Falls Lutheran Church
1877-1966

2024 CHURCH LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

COUNCIL POSITIONS

(following are 1 year terms)

PRESIDENT

Stephanie Smith

VICE PRESIDENT

Rick Davidson

SECRETARY

Janine Ellingson

TREASURER

Roxanne Nelson

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Betsy Anderson

(following are 3 year terms)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Troy Nelson

BOARD OF DEACONS

Brenda Nelson

Laura Ostlie

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ryan Davidson

NON-COUNCIL POSITIONS

(following are 3 year terms)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Keith Flaten

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Ashley Skarsten

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Jenny Trump

CO-OP PARISH COMMITTEE

Darrin Nelson

(following are 1 year terms)

HEAD USHER

Doran Jergenson

ASSISTANT USHERS (3+)

Ray Anderson

Rick Davidson

Ryan Davidson

JUNIOR USHER

Blake Larson

GLENWOOD RETIREMENT VILLAGE

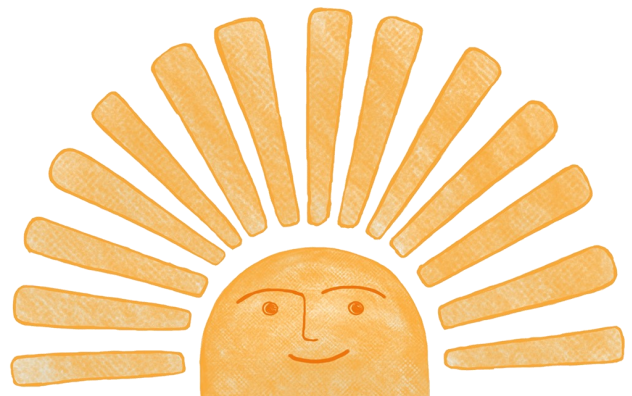
REPRESENTATIVES (2)

Linda Amlie

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES (2)

Ray Anderson

Marge Anderson



TRUSTEE REPORT

First off, a huge thank you to those that have thoughtfully plowed our church parking lot without being asked (Lynn, Chris & Blake Larson and Scott Smith). Without people taking the initiative and just doing things that need to be done, our church would not function the way it does.

In 2023, the trustees ran new wires for the TV and laptops to make live streaming more efficient. The pews in the balcony also had to be situated for the laptops to fit properly. The large amount of snow we had in early 2023 required shoveling of the carport roof, which was tremendously strained. We also had to periodically scoop snow away from back of the church to prevent water in the basement. We fixed the ceiling in the hallway going up the stairs due to water damage and a new toilet was installed in the men's restroom. Three signs were ordered for our cemeteries asking people who visit to donate for maintenance and perpetual care. They did not arrive until late 2023, so they will be mounted and installed in 2024.



If you notice anything that needs attention, please do not hesitate to contact the trustee's.

Chris Larson, Jason Anderson and Troy Nelson

LUTHERAN
MEN IN MISSION[®]
Building men for Christ

REPORT

The men's group of the church continue to offer hand made Hope Chests to all those being baptized and organize a burger/brat feed each Rally Sunday to raise funds to support the construction of the Hope Chests.

LUTHER LEAGUE REPORT



Luther League again hosted the annual Easter Breakfast this year one hour prior to the Easter worship service. We had six youth who were confirmed in 2023 (Back L-R: Landon Skarsten, Riley Ostlie, Tanner Nelson, Tate Kobbermann, Front L-R: Sophia Hanson (East Zion), Shelbie Anderson and Emily Reich). To keep expenses down, all food and beverages for Lenten Meals were donated by Luther League families and Stephanie Smith. Thank you also to Melissa Wroblewski for donating the eggs for our Easter Breakfast and Stephanie Smith for donating the cinnamon rolls. The Luther League served just over 60 people for the Easter Breakfast. We were able to make a profit of \$695.69 with our two fundraisers during 2023. This was up from the previous year.

While the National Youth Gathering takes place July 2024, our youth have elected to have an experience closer to home. With Pastor Steve’s guidance, our youth are planning a trip to the Duluth area in July. They will participate in worship, fellowship, Bible study, and service. Our goal is to help them continue to grow in faith and inspire them to live their faith in their daily lives. The Luther League will be serving only one Lenten Meal this year. The meal will be at 6:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday prior to the service. The Luther League will also be serving breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Easter morning. Thank you for continuing to support our youth ministry program.

2023 LUTHER LEAGUE FINANCIAL REPORT

CHECKING

Balance as of 1/1/23	\$2,939.81		
Income:		Expenses:	
Lenten Meals	\$284.00	Easter Breakfast Supplies	\$263.31
Easter Breakfast	\$675.00	Total Expenses	\$263.31
Total Income:	\$959.00		
Balance as of 12/31/22	\$3635.50		

SAVINGS Balance 1/1/223 - \$1,579.43 Interest Income of \$6.60 Balance 12/31/23—\$1,586.03

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

In 2023 Ashley Skarsten joined the Board of Education team. We finished out the spring 2023 Sunday school classes in April before confirmation on May 14th. There were 7 confirmands last spring: Sophia Hanson, Shelbie Anderson, Emily Reich, Landon Skarsten, Riley Ostlie, Tanner Nelson, and Tate Kobberman. We also had 2 graduates: Hannah Rosen and Kaitlyn Kobberman.

During the Summer of 2023, SOTH had a successful week of bible school hosted by Stephanie Smith and Roxanne Carson with several children attending and helping out. Sunday school began in the Fall, September 2023, where we had our Rally Sunday accompanied by the Men's Club providing a meal for all. We continued Sunday school bi-weekly on SOTHs in-person church Sundays and moved into a new 'Winter' lessons book from the materials purchased a few years ago. As always, we encourage 3-year-olds through sixth graders to attend class. SOTH did not have any third graders in the past year so we did not give out any bibles this last year but our first graders did receive catechisms. We will have a group of students receiving bibles in February of 2024.

For Christmas, we performed a skit named 'A Christmas to Believe in' found online from the Sunday-school-center.com. We had students from 3 years old to 9th graders participate in the production. They did a wonderful job again and we thank all the students, parents, and families for getting the kids to all the practices, helping out, and attending their performance. We wouldn't be able to do these programs without family and congregational support. It is all greatly appreciated!

Looking forward, we are excited to have 3 confirmands (Kale Wrobleski, Dylan Kent, Hallie Kobberman) this spring and 4 graduates (Madison Anderson, Haliee Ellingson, Lilly Ostlie, Tyler Kent).

2024 we will most likely include summer bible school and during the school year, we will continue with the existing curriculum and hope for a continued increase in Sunday School participation and learning about the word of God.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Wrobleski

Laura Larson

Ashley Skarsten

Board of Education Members



Women ^{of the} ELCA (WELCA) REPORT

2023 SOTH WELCA SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose Statement: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to Discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our calling, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

President: Gail Svor; Vice-President: Joyce Lagred; Secretary: Sherri Fahl; Treasurer: Marge Anderson; Assistant Treasurer: Debbie Flaten; Card Lady: Brenda Nelson; Historian/Librarian: Joyce Nelson; Kitchen Committee: Doreen Thompson; Visitation: Sandy Nyhusmoen and Leslie Jacobson; Glenwood Retirement Village: Lorraine Amundson and Jane Petrak.

2023 SOTH WELCA Highlights:

- Projects included: 56 school kits/backpacks for Lutheran World Relief.
- Potato Bake: Served following SOTH Annual Meeting. Raised \$429, given for church's heating expenses.
- Harvest Dinner: WELCA provided the cookies/bars that were included with these meals and held a bake sale along with the Harvest Dinner.
- Glenwood Retirement Village: Salad Luncheon raised over \$2,200. Lorraine Amundson and Jane Petrak provided the pies for GVR Pie and Ice Cream Social. We provided 45+ dozen cookies/Christmas treats for GRV Cookie Walk.

Additional 2023 activities:

- Altar Guild duties, meals for Vacation Bible School and Pastor Celiwe from South Africa and serving for funerals.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Fahl

Secretary



2023 Annual WELCA Treasure's Report

Balance as of 12/31/2022	\$1,005.38
Income	
Potatoe Bake	\$429.00
Family of Sanford Skarsten	\$250.00
Family of Melvin Klyve	\$200.00
Bake Sale	\$625.00
Family of Ron Blowers	\$400.00
Offering	\$315.00
Summer Lunches	\$359.40
Project donations	\$380.00
Total income for 2023	<u>\$2,958.40</u>
Total Income	\$3,963.78
Expenses	
Gail Svor (servings carts and table)	\$207.60
Gail Svor (Luther Crest Delegate)	\$300.00
Shepherd of the Hills General Fund (for heating expense)	\$429.00
West Central Sales (Kitchen Supplies)	\$12.23
Joyce Lagred (lilys and decorating)	\$116.00
SW MN Women of the ELCA Offering	\$50.00
Glacial Ridge W of ELCA Offering	\$75.00
Glacial Ridge W of ELCA registration	\$30.00
Flower Basket (confirmation alter flowers)	\$28.00
Domats	\$82.90
Benson Bakery (Confirmation cake)	\$32.99
West Central Sanitation (3 quarters)	\$368.55
Darolds Super Value	\$57.25
Women of the ELCA (spring and fall offerings)	\$150.00
Women of the ELCA (Memorials)	\$30.00
Pope Co. Hearts & Hands (Food Shelf)	\$150.00

WELCA Treasurer's report continued on next page...

WELCA Treasurer's report continued...

Prairie 5 CAC (Swift Co. Food Shelf)	\$150.00
Women of the ELCA	\$300.00
Glenwood RV Auxillary	\$200.00
Centra Care Benson (Swift Co. Hospice)	\$150.00
Glacial Ridge Pope Co, Hospice	\$150.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$100.00
Our Redeemers W of ELCA (kitchen use)	\$100.00
Heartland Girls Ranch	\$100.00
Safe Avenues	\$100.00
Total Expense	\$3,469.52
Ending Balance 12/31/2023	\$494.26



Balance as of 12/31/2022	\$1,229.10
Income	
Rally Sunday offering	\$352.00
Total Income	\$1,581.10
Expense	
Rally Sunday Food Expense	
DoMats	\$118.83
Brinks	\$300.00
Expense Total	\$418.83
Ending Balance 12/31/2023	\$1,162.27

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Audit Committee met on _____ to review all financial records for the church. This includes:

- Cemetery checking/savings accounts
- General Fund checking/savings accounts
- Lutheran Men in Mission checking/savings accounts
- Luther League checking/savings accounts
- Mission Investment Fund Cemetery Account
- Mission Investment Fund Memorial Fund with checking
- Mission Investment Fund Building Fund with checking
- Mission Investment Fund Building Fund (CD)
- Women of the ELCA checking/savings accounts
- Women of the ELCA savings account

After review of all accounts, we, the audit committee, find that all financial records have been recorded properly and are accurate.

Ashley Skarsten

Debbie Flaten

Melissa Wrobleski

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Weather did not cooperate for this year's Harvest Lunch so farmers were not in the field for deliveries, however council followed through with our second annual Harvest Lunch. Roughly \$1300 dollars were brought in and expenses were roughly \$500. Council is planning on continuing this event unless the Fundraising Committee would like to pursue other events during the time of the year the Harvest Lunch is held. Council has discussed this is a simple fundraiser that could also be done at other times of the year as well. WELCA did hold a bake sale along side the Harvest Lunch with much success. No other fundraising events took place by the committee, however huge shout out to the families that put on the Omelet Feed on March 19 as a fundraiser for the church!



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Harvest Lunch

Sunday, October 15, 2023
Serving from 1030AM-1230PM

Sit down at the church, pick-up at church, delivery to home or in the field!

Meal includes:
Burger/cheeseburger or brat, beans, bag of chips, treat, water & condiments all in a easy to-go container.

Pre-orders for pick-up or delivery by:

1. Texting 320-444-1114
2. Leaving a message at 320-843-3408
3. Emailing soth2008@live.com

Please indicate how many orders, burger/cheeseburger or brat a if you plan to pick up at the church or the address you want it delivered to. Walk ins welcomed!

\$10

Remember—we can deliver right to the f



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
WELCA
Scott Falls, MN

Omelet Feed

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023
FOLLOWING WORSHIP AT 930AM

All are welcome!

FREE WILL OFFERING FUNDRAISER
OMELETS, ROLLS, COFFEE, JUICE & WATER

MEMBERSHIP

<p>Amlie, Beth 8609 Zenith Road Bloomington, MN 55337 612-236-7013 bethmamlie@hotmail.com Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>	<p>Anderson, Brooke 560 110th Ave. NE Benson, MN 56215 320-843-3937 brookeanderson2103@gmail.com Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>	<p>Davidson, Ryan Camden 120 1st Ave. SE Glenwood, MN 56334 R_davidson79@yahoo.com 320-424-8052 Baptized: 2 Confirmed:</p>	<p>Fahl, Jonathan & Sherri 340 30th Ave. NE Benson, MN 56215 320-843-2701 sherrilynnfahl75@gmail.com Baptized: 2 Confirmed: 2</p>
<p>Amlie, Paul & Linda 785 110th Ave. NE Benson, MN 56215 320-843-4363 lsamlie@hotmail.com Baptized: 2 Confirmed: 2</p>	<p>Ray & Marge Anderson 470 140th Ave. NE Murdock, MN 56271 320-905-2287 (Marge) 320-905-3577 (Ray) margea@live.com Baptized: 2 Confirmed: 2</p>	<p>Dergan, Darlene 2000 Hall Ave. #210 Benson, MN 56215 320-212-7266</p>	<p>Ferry, Louise 288705 South Shore Drive Starbuck, MN 56381 320-766-3554 lferry56215@yahoo.com Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>
<p>Amlie, Tim 15107 Peteleer Lane Minnetonka, MN 55345 612-236-7013 timam@hotmail.com Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>	<p>Baird, Dee 502 River Road Benson, MN 56215 320-368-0418 nutz3975@yahoo.com Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>	<p>Detloff, Sherri Dairy Lane SW Farwell, MN 56327 dpower1001@qwestoffice.net Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>	<p>Flaten, Betty 506 River Road Benson, MN 56215 320-843-2508 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>
<p>Amundson, Lorraine 406 Glen Terrace Drive Glenwood, MN 56334 320-808-8687 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>	<p>Blowers, Leona 890 Ada Ave. Benson, MN 56215 320-314-8071 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>	<p>Ellingson, Ardis 705 19th Street South Benson, MN 56215 320-843-3004 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>	<p>Flaten, Keith & Debbie 106 Cottonwood Street Benson, MN 56215 320-843-3721 debbieflaten@gmail.com Baptized: 2 Confirmed: 2</p>
<p>Anderson, Gerald & Carrie 175 45th Street NE Benson, MN 56215 320-843-2079 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>	<p>Davidson, Rick & Jodi 31784 CR 19 Glenwood, MN 56334 320-424-1712 jrdavidson@gmail.com Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>	<p>Ellingson, Jon & Janine Hailee 1144 78th Street NE Benson, MN 56215 320-760-4412 (Jon) 320-760-1547 (Janine) jellingson@scbh.org Baptized: 3 Confirmed: 3</p>	<p>Flaten, Paul & Connie 100 Cottonwood Street Benson, MN 56215 320-843-3767 pcflaten@hotmail.com Baptized: 2 Confirmed: 2</p>
<p>Anderson, Jason & Betsy Maddie & Shelbie 560 110th Ave. NE Benson, MN 56215 320-444-2661 (Jason) 320-444-2425 (Betsy) betsyanderson3@hotmail.com Baptized: 4 Confirmed: 4</p>		<p>Fahl, Jon & Samantha Johnny & Logan 270 40th Ave. NE Benson, MN 56215 320-288-9398</p>	<p>Gades, Annette 3162 State Hwy 68 Ghent, MN 56239 507-836-8724 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1</p>

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Haverly, Frances
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Hippen, Dennis & Jodi
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**Hughes, Nathan & Erika
Aria & Hudson**
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Kobbermann, Katelyn
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Mitteness, Janet
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**ASSOCIATE
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Thompson, Scott
Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1

**INACTIVE
MEMBERSHIP**

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Baird, Dan
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Bartscher, Kristina & Jared 427 Bartscher Road Mitchell, SD 320-808-5044 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Flaten, Michael 1203 10th Ave. NE Sauk Rapids, MN 56379 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Fraser, John & Debra Jacob, Isaac, Samuel & Alexander 300 26th Ave. SW Willmar, MN 56201 320-235-1094 507 412 9081 Baptized : 5 Confirmed: 4	Lee, Everett 670 50th Ave. NE Benson, MN 56215 320-843-2857 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1
Benslay, Dixie Alexius, Heidi & Shaina 697 Belle Ave. Hancock, MN 56244 320-392-5403 Baptized: 4 Confirmed: 4	Fennell, Kristin Addison & Jacob 1037 13th Street N Benson, MN 56215 320-314-2105 Baptized: 3 Confirmed: 1	Glades, Annette 3162 State Hwy 68 Ghent, MN 56239 507-836-8724 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Lee, Grace 670 50th Ave. NE Benson, MN 56215 320-843-2857 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1
Braih, Marquitta Jesse Kiefert 201 12th Street S Benson, MN 56215 320-808-3526 Baptized: 2 Confirmed: 2	Ferry, Gregor 1450 201st Ave. NW New London, MN 56273 815-878-2919 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Goodall, Jennifer Azura 320-222-6393 Baptized: 2 Confirmed: 1	Nelson, Grant 16940 CR 7 NW Brandon, MN 56315 320-304-2836 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1
Brown, Tim & Becky Luke, Pierson Redwood Falls, MN Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Ferry, Jonathan 3839 30th Ave. SW #313 Fargo, ND 58104 701-367-1741 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Jenson, Tyler Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Nelson, Thor 3846 210th Street Montevideo, MN 56265 320-444-2578 (Stephanie) 320-226-1758 (Thor) Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1
Flaten, Andrew 1110 65th Street NE Benson, MN 56215 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Flodstrom, Colleen 720 SW 3rd Street Willmar, MN 56201 320-235-7966 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Jergenson, Collin 6508 Sheridan Ave. S Richfield, MN 55423 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Rosen, Chad Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1
Flaten, Josh 7438 Olson Memorial Hwy Golden Valley, MN 55427 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Flodstrom, Terry Isabella 810 Kansas Ave. Benson, MN 56215 320-368-0590 Baptized: 2 Confirmed: 1	Jergenson, Taylor 1745 Nevada Ave. N St. paul, MN 55106 tjergenson42@gmail.com Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Rosen, Mike 105 Cottonwood Street Benson, MN 56215 320-760-5744 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1
Flaten, Lyndsay 5101 Broadhead Road, #224 Minnetonka, MN Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1		Kolstad, Lance Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Rosen, Nicole 940 Pierce Street Shakopee, MN 55379 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1
		Lee, Hayden 670 50th Ave. NE Benson, MN 56215 320-843-2857 Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1	Rosen, Zach Baptized: 1 Confirmed: 1

Skare, Allan

Kaylee

806 Hackenberry Drive #10

Marshall, MN 56258

Baptized: 2 Confirmed: 1

Smith, Chauntel

Ayden Molnau

Atlas Orion Henderson

1150 S. Lakeshore Drive

Glenwood, MN 56334

270-850-0516

Baptized: 3 Confirmed: 1

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