



**CHURCH ON THE CIRCLE  
ST. ARMANDS KEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

**St Armands Key Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda**

**Sunday, February 22, 2026. 10:10 a.m.**  
**(In person and via Zoom Participation)**

**Call to Order** **Steve Gunderson**

**Opening Prayer** **Pastor Blyth**

**Note: Minutes of previous Congregation Meeting Approved by Council**

**Election of Council** **Debra**

**Buttaggi**

Remaining on Council: Steve Gunderson (term ends in January 2027); Lynda Menez (term ends in January 2028); Lois Robinson (term ends in January 2028); Ryan Smith (term ends in January 2028); Ann Walborn (term ends in January 2027); and Chris Williams (term ends in January 2027).

Leaving Council: Doug Engebretson, Judy Matthies, Tom Siegfried, Ernie Smith.

2026 Council Nominees:

- Roger Arnholt, for a first term ending in January 2027
- Allyn Armour, for a first term ending in January 2029
- Gayle Galloway, for a first term ending in January 2029
- Don Resler, for a first term ending in January 2028
- Kris Soderman, for a first term ending in January 2029
- Grover Trask, for a first term ending in January 2029

Floor Nominations, if any; Closing of Nominations and Vote.

**Finance:**

- Audit Report Mike  
Armour
- Treasurer's Report Barbara Hilt

**Presentation of FY2026 Budget:**

- Revenue Projections and Proposal Paul Holland, Chair Finance Comm.

- General Operations Budget

Alan Graf, Chair Budget Task Force

Discussion, and Motion to approve the FY2026 Budget

**Nominating Committee for 2027:**

Debra

Buttaggi

(Constitution requires 5 members, 2, if possible, are retiring Members of the Council)

- Laura Berger
- Doug Engebretson
- Steve Gunderson
- Judy Mathies
- Debra Buttaggi

Floor Nominations, if any; Closing of Nominations and Vote

**Other Business:**

Steve Gunderson

**Closing Prayer:**

Pastor Blyth

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Steve Gunderson

2025 Minutes  
St. Armands Key Lutheran Church  
**Congregational Meeting**  
February 9, 2025

A meeting of the Congregation (“Congregational Meeting” or “Meeting”) of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church (“Church”) was held at 10:07 A.M. on February 9, 2025 at the Church located at 40 N. Adams Drive, Sarasota Florida 34236. The Congregational Meeting was called pursuant to written notice given at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting and also announced at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays (“Notice”). Mr. Ernie Smith, President of the Church Council (“Council”), presided at the Meeting. An Annual Report for 2023 (“Annual Report”) containing an agenda for the Congregational Meeting and other reports and information was available on-line in advance of the Meeting and hard copies were available at the Church in advance of the Meeting.

**Call to Order and Quorum; Compliance with the Constitution**

The President of the Council called the Meeting to order and declared a quorum for the Meeting based on the presence of more than twenty (20) voting members of the Congregation including both on-line and in-person, including Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth and Mr. Michael Bodnyk, Minister of Music and Director of Operations. Pastor Blyth led an opening prayer. The President of the Council reviewed the constitutional and procedural requirements for the Meeting and affirmed that prerequisites had been satisfied.

**Minutes of Prior Meetings**

Mr. Smith informed the Congregation that minutes of previous congregation meetings held on February 4, 2024 and June 9, 2024, copies of which were included in the Annual Report, had been approved by the Council.

**Purpose of the Congregational Meeting; and Discussion**

The Agenda for the Congregational Meeting was included with the Annual Report. The Annual Report also included the following materials in addition to the Agenda: Message From the Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Minutes of the Congregational Meetings held February 4, 2024 and June 9, 2024; Pastor’s Report; Treasurer’s Report; Budget Committee Report along with the Proposed SAKLC Budget for 2025; Two Letters from the Audit Committee; Membership Statistical Report; President’s Report; Music Ministry Report including Operations Highlights; Community Service Ministry Annual Report for Year End 2024; Christian Education Report; Stewardship

Report; Women’s Ministry Report; Refugee Ministry Report; Launching the SAKLC Tech Training Report; 25 North Washington Property Sale Task Force Report; SAKLC Foundation Report; Quilting Report; and Pilgrimage of Faith, A History of SAKLC, including Stepping Stones of Faith.

### **Nominating Committee Report; Election of Council Members and Nominating Committee**

Ms. Kris Soderman, Chair of the Nominating Committee, placed the following names in nomination for service on the 2025 Council:

Mr. Kevin Randolph to complete a term ending January 2027

Ms. Lynda Menez for a second term ending January 2028

Ms. Lois Robinson for a second term ending January 2028

Mr. Ryan Smith for a first term ending January 2028

The President then requested nominations from the floor, and none being received, the President called for a vote on the motion and the nominees were elected without opposition.

Ms. Soderman placed the following names in nomination for service on the 2025 Nominating Committee: Mr. Roger Arnholt, Ms. Debra Buttaggi, Mr. Doug Engebretson, Ms. Marge Jeffers, and Mr. Karl Kaminski.

The President then requested nominations from the floor, and none being received, the President called for a vote on the motion and the nominees were elected without opposition.

### **Report of the Finance Committee**

Mr. Mike Armour and Mr. Doug Engebretson provided the audit report and treasurer’s report, respectively, on behalf of the Finance Committee. Mr. Armour reported on the detailed audit procedures undertaken by the audit team and informed the Congregation that despite challenges presented by the loss of certain materials as a result of flooding, the audit team was able to conclude that the financial statements included in the Annual Report fairly reflect the financial position of the Church. Mr. Engebretson reported that the Church ended the year with a budget surplus despite having faced challenges during the course of the year primarily related to flooding as a result of Hurricanes Helene and Milton budget surplus from 2024 had been transferred to capital reserves He informed the Congregation that the financial results were favorably impacted by generous giving from the Congregation.

### **Presentation and Approval of the 2025 Budget**

Mr. Paul Holland, Chair of the Finance Committee, described 2024 as having delivered better than expected revenues and that the 2025 Budget is conservative in that revenues projected are slightly less than 2024. Mr. Holland described the devastating financial impact of the hurricanes in that expected remediation and restoration costs are estimated to be \$1.9 million. He advised that the Congregation has been overwhelmingly generous in contributing approximately \$940,000 toward the total cost which together with approximately \$320,000 received from insurance and a \$56,000 grant received from the Foundation, leaves an approximate shortfall of \$590,000. He advised that while additional insurance proceeds are expected, the Church has total reserves of approximately \$730,000 that could be available if needed to cover the shortfall.

Mr. Graf, Co-Chair of the Budget Task Force, presented the 2025 Budget and informed the Congregation that while the Church exceeded income projections for 2024, it was deemed prudent to present a conservative budget for 2025 given the impact of the hurricanes and expenditures related to recovery. He advised that the insurance premium amount for 2025 is unknown and that other costs are relatively fixed, making expense savings difficult. Mr. Graf informed the congregation that the music ministry had made certain expense cuts and that the Mission Support expense would be reduced by 75% in 2025. He further advised that while a minimum capital reserve contribution is included, it is far less than the approximate \$180,000 annual contribution needed with the caveat that many things will be new given the reconstruction in 2024-2025. Mr. Graf advised that sufficient monies had been raised to pay for the new organ, including insurance and necessary building repairs. Mr. Graf, the President of the Council and Pastor Blyth all answered questions that arose concerning the expense cuts and 2025 Budget and questions related to restoration of the Meditation Garden.

After discussion on the Proposed 2025 Budget, the President of the Council called for a vote on the approval of the 2025 Budget as presented. The President determined that, based upon the vote, that the 2025 Budget as presented, was approved by the Congregation.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Gunderson and pastor Blyth extended thanks to Mr. Ernie Smith for his service as President of the Council over the last 2 years. Pastor Blyth extended thanks to Mr. Bodnyk and Mr. Siegfried for their service in connection with remediation and restoration activities at the Church.

## **Adjournment**

Pastor Blyth delivered a concluding prayer. There being no further business to be conducted by the Congregation and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the President adjourned the Congregational Meeting at 10:45 A.M.

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Ellen Kelleher, Secretary  
St. Armands Key Lutheran Church  
Church Council

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Date of Approval

## **Pastor's Report to the Congregation**

“Behold, I make all things new” says Jesus in the Book of Revelation. This has become something of a mantra for me – a word of promise on which I lean in times of struggle and challenge. It was a promise that guided me, and this congregation, through the difficult years of the Covid pandemic. It was a promise that made each day of hurricane recovery bearable. It was a promise made and kept as we emerged from those two great calamities not unscathed (we have our scars and bruises, to be sure) but faithfully asking ourselves “How can we serve our awesome God?”

As we step into this new year, the many reports contained in this document give a clear picture of a congregation on the march; not content to simply maintain, but to thrive and grow. You can see this focus on growth in all that these reports look back on, and all that they describe and point to in the months ahead. As you read those reports, please pause to give thanks for the hands and hearts of each of your fellow congregants engaged in those ministries. And, as you read of future plans, hopes and dreams, prayerfully consider how you can support those efforts – how God might be calling you to share your hands and hearts, your time and talents, in our Gospel-centered ministry.

As we step into God's future, made new in Christ Jesus, I offer some thoughts and reflections as your pastor.

Funding, Staffing and Growth are three aspects of Church life about which you will hear much in 2026. This is neither the time nor the place for a deep dive in each of these issues. However, a wee overview might be helpful:

1. **Funding.** As the commercials for financial services and products often say, “Past results are no guarantee of future performance.” This is also true of congregational finances. Which is why, in 2026, you will hear of several steps that can be taken, adjustments made, and opportunities shared, which are designed to ensure that SAKLC remains financially able to engage in Christian ministry now and into the future.

2. Staffing. We are not a small congregation, yet we have a small number of staff. So the question arises: How do we structure existing staffing, and add additional staff, in a way that best serves the needs of our existing members and helps them grow in the faith; while bringing new members into our Church family?
3. Growth. As you might expect from your pastor, this is an issue to which I have given considerable thought. My philosophy of congregational growth is akin to a three-legged stool:

1. Deepening the life of faith, worship and service of the community of faith.
2. Enriching a sense of community & interdependence within the family of faith.
3. Drawing others into the assembly of faith.

I often hear folks describe Church as a company selling a product – a saving relationship with God in Christ Jesus. However, I find this analogy to be a wee bit off-the-mark. We are not selling a product; instead, we are recruiting folks onto our sales team. In this more accurate analogy, growth comes when:

1. The sales team receives consistent, effective training and career development.
2. The team develops a high level of teamwork and employee satisfaction.
3. As a result, recruitment and retention levels are consistently high.

**Consistent and sustained growth is only possible if there is a simultaneous deepening, enriching and drawing.**

We have been through a lot together. And here we are, turning a page in the history of this special place, and this special church family. Each of us must prayerfully consider what we will write on that page. Let the Holy Spirit guide you in that consideration. And, let each of the reports in this Annual Report spark your imaginations, your creativity, and your willingness to faithfully declare, “Here I am Lord. Use me!”

Pr. Blyth

## **Growth Committee Report**

### Membership

#### **2025**

Karen Randolph (chair); Kevin Randolph (*ex officio*); Jane Wittlinger; Austin Rentsch; Bob Stobaugh, Pr. Eric Wogen; Pr. Ken Blyth (*ex officio*); Michael Bodnyk (*ex officio*).

#### **2026**

Pr. Ken Blyth (chair); Donna Emley; Steve Gunderson (*ex officio*); Bob Stobaugh; Jane Wittlinger; Michael Bodnyk (*ex officio*); Chris Sturm; Alan Garf; Susan Graf; Pr. Eric Wogen; Doug Engebretson.

The growth Committee's ministry was inhibited by the hurricane recovery efforts during 2025. The committee was reconstituted in the opening weeks of 2026 and will make a full report of labors at the next annual meeting of the congregation.

Our congregation's focus in 2025 was rebuilding our church. Now we can focus on outreach, events, and engagement that focus on people — our members, our visitors, and our community.

St. Armands Key Lutheran Church  
**Balance Sheet**  
Jan 1, 2025 through Dec 31, 2025

Account	Balance As Of Jan 1, 2025	Balance As Of Dec 31, 2025	Current Year Change	Percent Change
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**Fund 01 - OPERATING FUND**

**Assets**

Major 10, CURRENT ASSETS  
Minor 00, CURRENT ASSETS

01 - CHECKING ACCOUNT	147,111.93	27,576.97	-119,534.96	-81.25%
07 - MONEY MARKET BOA	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
08 - PAYPAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
09 - INVESTMENT ACCOUNT	750,813.06	1,664,941.26	914,128.20	121.75%
11 - INVESTMENT ACCT-ORGAN FND	504,766.29	38,554.77	-466,211.52	-92.36%
12 - INVESTMENT-HURRICANE	717,856.17	0.00	-717,856.17	-100.00%
Minor 00, CURRENT ASSETS	<b>2,121,547.45</b>	<b>1,732,073.00</b>	<b>-389,474.45</b>	<b>-18.36%</b>

Major 99, Ded. Receivable  
Minor 99, Ded. Receivable

99 - Dedicated Funds Receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Dedicated Funds Receivable	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Total Assets	<b>2,121,547.45</b>	<b>1,732,073.00</b>	<b>-389,474.45</b>	<b>-18.36%</b>

**Liabilities**

Major 00, Group 00  
Minor 00, Group 00

01 - CREDIT CARD PAYABLE	0.00	14,311.78	14,311.78	0.00%
Minor 00, Group 00	<b>0.00</b>	<b>14,311.78</b>	<b>14,311.78</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Major 99, Ded. Payable  
Minor 99, Ded. Payable

99 - Dedicated Funds Payable	2,121,547.45	1,717,761.22	-403,786.23	-19.03%
Dedicated Funds Payable	<b>2,121,547.45</b>	<b>1,717,761.22</b>	<b>-403,786.23</b>	<b>-19.03%</b>
Total Liabilities	<b>2,121,547.45</b>	<b>1,732,073.00</b>	<b>-389,474.45</b>	<b>-18.36%</b>

**Fund Balance**

Totals for Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Fund Balance/Equity	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Total Liability and Fund Balance	<b>2,121,547.45</b>	<b>1,732,073.00</b>	<b>-389,474.45</b>	<b>-18.36%</b>

## 2026 Budget Worksheet

	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>			
<b><u>Major 10 Envelopes</u></b>			
Regular Offering	\$945,000.00	\$857,036.74	\$955,000.00
Misc. Envelope	\$6,000.00	\$5,250.00	\$6,000.00
<b><u>Loose Offering</u></b>	<b>\$90,000.00</b>	<b>\$125,459.74</b>	<b>\$125,000.00</b>
<b><u>Endowments:</u></b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$25,932.56</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
<b><u>Misc. Receipts</u></b>			
Flowers	\$5,000.00	\$7,529.66	\$5,000.00
Parking	\$32,000.00	\$38,750.00	\$37,000.00
Investment Income	\$30,000.00	\$43,128.53	\$65,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$8,000.00	\$1,804.81	\$8,000.00
Rental Income	\$5,000.00	\$5,105.00	\$5,000.00
Music Income	\$45,500.00	\$31,990.21	\$73,000.00
Fellowship Income	\$2,000.00	\$1,411.00	\$2,000.00
Christian Ed (Reserves)			\$15,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,193,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,143,398.25</b>	<b>\$1,321,000.00</b>

<b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>	<b><u>2025 Budget</u></b>	<b><u>2025 Actual</u></b>	<b><u>2026 Budget</u></b>
<b><u>Staff</u></b>			
Pastor's Salary/Housing	\$140,000.00	\$141,865.92	\$145,600.00
Pastor's Benefits	\$45,263.00	\$45,640.79	\$40,000.00
Pastor's Car Allowance	\$5,000.00	\$4,200.00	\$5,200.00
Pastor's Continuing Ed	\$2,000.00	\$1,944.99	\$2,100.00
Pastor's Prof. Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$2,793.79	\$3,200.00
Pulpit Supply	\$2,000.00	0.00	\$2,100.00
Min. of Music Salary	\$125,000.00	\$130,956.66	\$130,000.00
Min. of Music Benefits	\$26,786.00	\$25,322.86	\$27,900.00
Support Staff Salaries	\$132,080.00	\$139,080.00	\$249,600.00
Support Staff Benefits	\$8,320.00	\$16,995.09	\$14,700.00
Admin Professional Exp	\$6,500.00	\$331.37	\$6,800.00
FICA Employer Share	\$19,214.00	\$17,161.98	\$27,000.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$515,163.00</i>	<i>\$526,638.67</i>	<i>\$654,200.00</i>
<b><u>Mission Support</u></b>			
Synod	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$28,000.00
<b><u>Worship and Music</u></b>			
Instrumentalist/Vocalist	\$22,700.00	\$29,767.66	\$35,200.00
Music Materials/Maint.	\$5,000.00	\$13,305.29	\$13,000.00
Music Workshops/events			\$4,200.00
Worship Materials	\$5,300.00	\$3,640.10	\$5,300.00
Choral Scholars	\$50,000.00	\$48,200.00	\$52,000.00
Flowers	\$12,500.00	\$6,954.20	\$10,000.00
Substitute Musicians	\$4,000.00	\$10,950.00	\$500.00
Special Concerts	\$24,900.00	\$21,873.12	\$54,900.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$120,400.00</i>	<i>\$134,690.37</i>	<i>\$175,100.00</i>
<b><u>Technology</u></b>			
Audio/Visual Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$10,700.25	\$5,000.00
Tech Support	\$80,000.00	\$56,437.50	\$70,000.00
Website Support	\$7,000.00	\$19,208.61	\$17,000.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$92,000.00</i>	<i>\$86,346.36</i>	<i>\$92,000.00</i>
<b><u>Mission</u></b>			
Outreach	\$5,000.00	\$864.40	\$5,000.00
Education	\$7,000.00	0.00	\$15,000.00
Advertising	\$15,000.00	\$9,021.11	\$15,000.00
Stewardship	\$1,000.00	\$1,943.97	\$1,000.00
Communications	\$1,000.00	\$1,636.18	\$1,000.00

Fellowship	\$7,000.00	\$5,178.30	\$7,000.00
Fellowship Events	\$8,000.00	\$1,705.33*	\$8,000.00
Christmas on Circle	\$5,000.00	\$4,605.09	\$5,000.00
Health & Wellness		\$500.00	
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$54,000.00</i>	<i>\$25,454.38</i>	<i>\$57,000.00</i>
<b><u>Administration</u></b>			
Office Supplies	\$17,000.00	\$16,318.60	\$17,000.00
Printing/Postage	\$8,000.00	\$4,166.90	\$8,000.00
Convention/Travel	\$5,000.00	\$2,387.20	\$5,000.00
Office Equipment Main	\$10,000.00	\$6,015.25	\$10,000.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$1,000.00	\$1,212.26	\$1,000.00
Payroll/Bank Processing	\$3,000.00	\$3,281.93	\$3,000.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$44,000.00</i>	<i>\$33,382.14</i>	<i>\$44,000.00</i>
<b><u>Insurance</u></b>			
Insurance	\$115,700.	\$101,095.07	\$115,700.00
<b><u>Property Management</u></b>			
Building Repairs/Maint.	\$30,000.00	\$32,568.50	\$28,000.00
Cleaning Services	\$15,000.00	\$16,204.00	\$15,500.00
Air Conditioning Services	\$13,000.00	\$2,972.51	\$5,000.00
Landscape Maintenance	\$32,000.00	\$20,991.50	\$25,000.00
Fire Alarm/Security Sys.	\$5,000.00	\$2,841.50	\$4,000.00
Pest Control	\$5,000.00	\$2,994.36	\$4,000.00
Special Projects	\$5,000.00	\$1,980.61	\$4,000.00
Sunday Morning Security			\$13,200.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$105,000.00</i>	<i>\$80,522.98</i>	<i>\$98,700.00</i>
<b><u>Utilities</u></b>			
Gas & Electric	\$28,000.00	\$23,259.42	\$28,000.00
Telephone/Cable	\$6,000.00	\$7,144.85	\$8,000.00
Water/Sewer	\$5,000.00	\$25,140.20	\$11,800.00
Non-Ad Valorum Taxes	\$6,000.00	\$7,224.94	\$8,500.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$45,000.00</i>	<i>\$62,769.41</i>	<i>\$56,300.00</i>
<b><u>Transfers to Reserves</u></b>			
	\$77,237.00	\$71,468.87	0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$1,193,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,143,398.25</b>	<b>\$1,321,000.00</b>

## **Budget Committee Report**

1. Envelope giving is forecast to be at the 2025 budget level despite 2025 actual giving falling short of budget. The forecast assumes that 2025 giving was restrained by recovery spending due to the 2024 hurricanes.
2. Investment income will increase in 2026 due to earnings on higher reserve levels.
3. Security expenses were added.
4. 4% salary increases have been included.
5. The budget provides for the hiring of a Growth and Engagement Director as reflected in support staff salaries.

The Council and the Finance Committee have reviewed and approved the 2026 budget request.



**CHURCH ON THE CIRCLE  
ST ARMANDS KEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

30 January 2026

Dear Finance Committee Members of SAKLC,

On January 30th, the audit committee (Michael Armour, Barbara Dzumela, Jan Voigt, and Barbara Hilt) reviewed the financial records of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church Foundation for the year 2025.

The review process consisted of the following:

- We reconciled all accounts at year end to be sure internal records matched third party account statements.
- We randomly sampled donations and grants and verified board approval
- We reviewed foundation holdings to be sure holdings are consistent with the Foundation's policy statement.

Based on our review, we believe that the financial statements accurately reflect the financial position of the foundation as of December 31, 2025.

We would like to thank Denise Watermeier for her help and dedication to the church throughout the year.

Very truly yours,

**Michael Armour**  
Audit Committee, Chair

**Barbara Dzumela**

**Jan Voigts**



**CHURCH ON THE CIRCLE  
ST ARMANDS KEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

30 January 2026

Dear Finance Committee Members of SAKLC,

On January 30, 2026, the audit committee consisted of Michael Armour, Barbara Dzumela, Jan Voigt, and Barbara Hilt. They reviewed the financial records of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church for the year 2025.

The review process consisted of the following:

- We discussed all procedures and controls currently in place (collections, payments, etc.)
- We reconciled all accounts at year end to be sure internal records matched third party account statements.
- We randomly sampled invoices and vouchers across each month to be sure all payments were properly documented.
- We traced dedicated receipts throughout the ledger.
- We randomly selected weekly cash and check donations and online donations (restricted and unrestricted) and traced them through the books and bank statements.

Based on our review, we believe that the financial statements accurately reflect the financial position of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church for 2025.

Financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2024 will be distributed in advance of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Very truly yours,

**Michael Armour**  
Audit Committee, Chair

**Barbara Dzumela**

**Jan Voigts**

## Hurricane Helene & Hurricane Milton Recovery at SAKLC



Dear SAKLC Family and Friends,

So many have asked, “How much does the church still need?”. Due to the time it has taken for our insurance claims to settle, as well as all our final expenses coming in, we have only been able to complete the picture over the past month.

The total amount of expenses incurred by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton were \$ 2,041,395. This is inclusive of all remediation, restoration, and replacement of many damaged items (including church seating, flooring, new hurricane barriers, office furniture and equipment, etc.)

In addition to these damages, per the Sarasota County Appraiser, the church’s property at 25 N. Washington Drive incurred a loss in property value of \$ 486,800 in 2025.

SAKLC has been fortunate to receive a total amount of \$2,790,238 in funds towards our expenses. This includes:

\$1,661,789 million from our insurance claims

\$ 517,586 in contributions from our SAKLC congregation and our friends

\$ 500,000 as a single anonymous donation

\$ 56,500 grant from The SAKLC Foundation to cover our new office and conference room furniture and shelving systems.

\$ 47,928 contribution from a member for our hurricane flood barriers

\$ 6,435 from SAKLC’s CSM committee to cover kitchen equipments, as well as an in-kind drive to restock the kitchen

Early on, we were projecting an approximate \$200,000 *deficit* that would have required a major capital campaign; successful negotiation with the insurance companies resulted in significant increases in insurance coverage, providing us the projected surplus.

We are sincerely grateful for the generosity from so many members and friends - both for your monetary gifts and your many volunteer hours. At the beginning of our recovery, we had no idea of what our insurance would cover, and our reserves were quite low.

Your early financial contributions were crucial and allowed us to begin the necessary cleanup and restoration work right away. Because of your support, we were able to return to worship on Reformation Sunday in October (which was a miracle!) and we had our Sanctuary looking beautiful for Christmas Eve services when many other area churches were still waiting on permits and repairs.

Until late this summer we were unsure of our total needs; our insurance claims have only just been finalized and paid. Now that we are at the end of the recovery process and the majority of all expenses have been paid, pending any additional costs, \$748,843 will be transferred to our capital reserve account. This fund has been underfunded for several years. Per our recent capital reserve study, at the conclusion of 2025 we should have \$544,524 in capital reserves; we currently have \$229,686. This transfer will strengthen our capital reserves significantly, but be aware the same reserve study calls for reserve balances of \$1,270,916 in 2029 and then to over \$2,000,000 in 2038 — and there will certainly be many expenses paid from the account over this time. Additionally, our general operating reserves are currently \$474,013 which is lower than is recommended by nonprofit standards.

As you know, the hurricanes destroyed the majority of our landscaping around the church campus. We made the restoration of the Meditation Garden a top priority, but held off replacing any other areas until we had better clarity on the final financial picture. As we have been able to replenish our capital reserves, Church Council has decided to finish off the rest of the church landscaping restoration; this will hopefully be complete before Christmas and everything will look beautiful!

We are aware that so many members of our church community and friends have also been dealing personally with their own recovery efforts from these storms. We remain grateful to all for your continued and faithful support of SAKLC's ministries and programs. Please know that we are taking every feasible effort to protect our church

property from future storms. As we continue to work to secure our church campus and financial security, we look forward to even more growth and impact in the years to come!

With sincere gratitude,  
SAKLC Church Leadership

## **SAKLC Church Council Nominating Committee**

Report to the Congregation February 22, 2026

SAKLC's constitution establishes a Nominating Committee to identify and recommend individuals for service on the Church Council. The recommendations are forwarded to the church's Annual Meeting for approval by the congregation. For many months during 2025, the following met to deliberate potential candidates to serve:

Nominating Committee: Roger Arnolt, Debra Buttaggi, Marge Jeffers

Advisors: Pastor Ken Blyth, Michael Bodnyk, Steve Gunderson

As a reminder returning Church Council Members:

Steve Gunderson

Lynda Menez

Lois Robinson

Ryan Smith

Ann Walborn

Chris Williams

Nominations are:

Allyn Armour

Roger Arnolt

Gayle Galloway

Don Resler

Kris Soderman

Grover Trask

Background: Our church is at a unique and very positive place. Thanks to technology, dedicated staff and the generosity of members and friends, we have survived the COVID pandemic and two devastating hurricanes and now are beginning to thrive in ways that position us for the next chapter of sharing Christ's love with each other – and beyond our congregation family.

Over the past two years SAKLC has managed our work and our finances effectively while creating a beautiful infrastructure. We properly focused our time, talent and treasures on our church home.

This brings us to the present. Now SAKLC must focus on the design and delivery of programs that both serve our membership and reach out to the wider community (broadly defined) in service – and hopefully growth:

- Growth in our personal and collective experience of God’s grace and affirmation;
- Growth in expressing that grace and affirmation in our daily living at home, at SAKLC and in the community;
- Growth in those who find out church family a blessing and join us in our mission;

SAKLC will create this new chapter through the sustaining leadership of both Pastor Blyth and the Minister of Music, Michael Bodnyk. Our official governing body – the Church Council – will govern our work with half of its members being elected in 2026. (This is a result of regular terms concluding and some vacancies caused by resignations as folks move on to other ministries at SAKLC.)

Along with returning members, the Council will create the vision of our future and develop the programs, personnel, and procedures that make the vision a reality. There has probably never been such a unique opportunity since the very first Council created our congregation in 1968.

Note it is also the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to recommend the slate for the 2027 Church Council Nominating Committee.

Recommended:

Laura Berger

Debra Buttaggi

Doug Engebretson

Steve Gunderson

Judy Matthies

Respectfully submitted,

SAKLC Church Council Nominating Committee

## SAKLC Membership Statistical Report - 2025

	Full	Seasonal	Associate	sub-total	TOTALS
<b>Members as of 1/1/2025</b>	427	20	52		499
<b>Members Gained in 2025</b>					<b>43</b>
<i>Received as Member/Affirmation of Faith</i>	19	7	7	33	
<i>Transfers</i>	9	-	-	9	
<i>Baptisms</i>	1	-	-	1	
<b>Members Lost in 2025</b>					<b>(20)</b>
<i>By Death</i>	(6)	-	-	(6)	
<i>By transfer</i>	(9)	-	-	(9)	
<i>For Other reasons</i>	(3)	(2)	-	(5)	
<b>Statistical Adjustments from Prior Years</b> <i>(Prior Year roll updates made in 2025)</i>	(1)		(10)		<b>(11)</b>
<b>MEMBERS 12/31/2025</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>49</b>		<b>511</b>

Members of the congregation who died in 2025: Margot Eagleton, Alfred Eunice, Lois Habib, Thomas Jeffers, Bruce Lapina, Herb Mohlenhoff

Marriages in 2025.....	<b>6</b>
Baptisms in 2025.....	<b>4</b>
Confirmations in 2025.....	-
Total Sunday Attendance in 2025 .....	<b>12,298</b> *
<i>Average Attendance by Date</i> .....	<b>216</b>
<i>Average Attendance by Date - In Season</i> .....	<b>281</b>
<i>Average Attendance by Date - Off Season</i> .....	<b>111</b>

\* These attendance numbers are not inclusive our significant online attendance and participation throughout the year, and contain estimates for missing 9 dates where attendance data was not recorded.

\* Attendance numbers for the first quarter of the year were impacted by damage that occurred from Hurricanes Helene and Milton in late 2024. Re-dedication of the church occurred April 27, 2025.

# **Annual Report**

## **from the Council President**

**Steve Gunderson**

Over my professional career I've done a lot of writing – and that includes introductory letters to Annual Reports. This is the most difficult, simply because it is almost impossible to put into words the work of SAKLC in 2025. We celebrated Christmas a year ago on a cement floor. We introduced multiple Christmas trees simply to cover all the holes in the walls! The church building simply was not a functioning place for staff, members or visitors.

Today we convene for an annual meeting in a beautiful facility, with the sounds of a new pipe organ, and the management of our rebuilding in ways that enabled us to both pay all the construction/rebuilding costs and also designate some funds to our reserves. What an amazing and incredible year. Thanks be to God! And a special thanks to everyone of you reading this report!

Pastor Ken often used the words of Revelations 21:5 which read, “Behold, I am making all things new.” With God’s help we have done that. We have rebuilt our facility in ways that are better and more beautiful than ever before. Now, in 2026 we will build new programming that uses our facility to share God’s love with an even larger audience.

You will remember that in late 2025 the Church Council conducted a one-question survey of the congregation. The results were incredible – a higher percentage response than ever anticipated in a survey. The congregation’s responses will serve as the foundation of the Council’s important work in 2026.

1. **Community Service:** In a tribute to the hearts of the people who belong, you have asked that we build and expand even further our community service programs. We plan new conversations between our Community Service Ministry, our Foundation leadership, and the Council to identify ways in which we can expand our work and our impact through complementary support across the entire church.
2. **Fellowship:** This congregation loves fellowship – sometimes beyond our current financial and personal volunteer support systems. Our goal in response to requests for additional fellowship is to establish a full-year fellowship plan in

ways that will enable us to do more and serve more. Through a full year strategy for fellowship we hope to identify current gaps, and new possibilities.

3. Expanded Bible Study: When this congregation speaks, Pastor Ken listens. We are now in the process of offering significant new educational programs. These programs are shorter, more diverse, and thus easier for people with busy schedules to participate. If the current plan is completed, 2026 will be the year of greatest educational offerings ever.

4. Young Adults: One of the wonderful surprises of 2025 has been the growth in young adult families at SAKLC. A small group of young adult leaders have taken up the mantle of leadership in how best to serve their own needs. They are looking at both educational and social programs for young families and their children.

5. Additional Worship: Perhaps the most challenging of all requests in the survey is how to create and deliver additional worship options for those seeking an alternative to the current Sunday morning worship services. So much time and effort has already been invested in this goal. But we will persevere until we identify what might work best here. Just know that we heard you, asking for additional options.

As part of this annual meeting, we will elect a large number of new Council members. Almost half of our Council will be new members bringing new ideas and new leadership to our congregation. In March the new Council will gather for a leadership retreat that seeks to identify our vision and mission for today's SAKLC, in today's world. Just as we spent 2025 rebuilding our church facility, we will spend 2026 expanding our work in sharing Christ's love with all of us in this congregation, and many others beyond our current walls and membership.

Behold, we are making all things new!

On behalf of the Church Council we extend our deepest appreciation for all you have done over the past year. We now invite you to join us in a new journey in 2026.

Sincerely,

Steve Gunderson  
Council President



## Music & Worship Report

As our congregation moved through 2025 together, a Psalm passage often came to my mind — “The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy” (Psalm 126:3). Indeed, our church has been blessed richly this year in so many ways. Our hurricane restoration was completed with the combined efforts of so many hands, we welcomed the installation of our new pipe organ, and we continue to reach out into the community in so many ways. One way we are able to engage with the community is through our vibrant Music Ministry.

Once again, The Kings Brass ensemble opened our annual music series in January. This group never fails to bring excitement, energy, and joy to their programs. Although the sanctuary was not yet fully restored, we made the concert work and it was wonderful; we had a packed audience! Thanks go out to Christine Ortiz for preparing a wonderful meal for the musicians, and also to all our SAKLC members who provided overnight accommodations for the players — without this assistance, this program would not be possible.



Dixieland Sunday is always a favorite at SAKLC. We were glad to welcome back the Lido Beach Commodores on February 23. I love looking out from the organ bench to see the smiles, swaying, and tapping toes of the congregation!

On February 24, the installation crew from the Schantz Organ Company arrived to begin assembly of our new pipe organ! This was a very exciting moment in the life of the church. Thanks to all our SAKLC volunteers who came to help unload the pipes and all



the materials and equipment. As the various pieces and components were laid out in the sanctuary, everyone was amazed at just how many pieces there are to an organ!



The Schantz team worked for several weeks, following two weeks of voicing. We were thrilled to be able to use the organ for the first time in worship on March 24th - and it was ready to go for Easter Sunday!

I want to thank everyone who played a role in making this project a reality. I am especially grateful to Pastor Blyth and the members of the Church Council, who embraced the vision for this project; to the many generous donors whose financial support made the new instrument possible; and to the skilled craftsmen at Schantz who built this magnificent pipe organ.



In a special way, I want to thank Tom Siegfried for the countless hours he devoted to coordinating with various trades, preparing for, and overseeing the critical work that had

to be completed prior to installation. I would also like to thank Dr. John Behnke who served as our organ project consultant through the entire process.

Although a special Dedication Concert for the organ is planned for March 2026, the instrument was used for an Easter hymn festival on Sunday, April 27th led by Dr. Behnke, one of the country's most well-known Lutheran church musicians. The program included our SAKLC musicians, brass quintet, and timpani. It was a wonderful, festive event!

Thinking about our new instrument, I want to pay tribute to SAKLC's longtime musician, Lois Habib, who passed away on February 22. I know she would have loved the organ. Lois faithfully served the congregation for over twenty five years and was involved in so many aspects of the life of the congregation. As a tribute to her musical leadership, the musicians of SAKLC commissioned a special choral anthem in her memory. Dr. John Behnke wrote a stunning setting of Psalm 118, "This is the day", for choir, brass, and organ. The work premiered on Easter Sunday during our worship services. Later in the year, we found out the piece was chosen for publication by MorningStar Music Publishers, one of the country's largest church music publishers. This is the second commissioned piece SAKLC has published during my tenure - it is SAKLC's opportunity to participate in God's ongoing creative work and ensure the church's voice remains alive and relevant.



In March, we hosted concerts for two community groups. The Sarasota Bay Chamber Orchestra presented a lovely concert on March 21 featuring J. S. Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto 3*, W. A. Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, and Johann Pachelbel's *Canon and Gigue*. I was honored to serve as the guest conductor for the concert. For the encore, I sang "Ombra mai fu" from Handel's *Xerxes* with the orchestra.

We also hosted a special concert for the Key of Sea chorus. This volunteer choral group for women rehearses from January through March and performs regularly at area nursing homes and assisted living facilities. SAKLC has several members who sing with the group and we were happy to host them!

Over the summer months, we hosted our 2nd annual *Midsummer Night Music Festival* with four featured performances. Realizing that so many of Sarasota's arts organizations take breaks during the summer, and also being aware there are more and more full time

residents in the area, we are trying to provide music opportunities in the "off season". This year we hosted Yurii Padkovsky & Andri Padkovsky, two extraordinarily talented young Ukrainian musicians, the Classern Quartet, the Klassika "Popera" ensemble, and the Sarasota Piano Trio. Each of the programs were very well attended; we also chose to live stream the programs this year so people could tune in from outside Sarasota. We look forward to this coming summer's third festival!

It was a special treat to find out that violist from the Classern Quartet is the granddaughter of SAKLC members, John and Marvel Godin. They were in Sarasota and were able to attend the concert!



Reformation Sunday was truly festive - we had a wonderful, joyous worship service with choir and brass – and new this year, our Oktoberfest celebration immediately followed worship. There was a terrific meal catered by Grandpa Schnitzel and some fun, traditional German music in the courtyard!



Later in the fall, as part of the Legacy Society's inaugural dinner event, we welcomed Gavin Klein, an exceptional young artist from Holy Cross College. Before the evening meal was served, Gavin played a short recital for us on the new Schantz organ; during the meal, Gavin spoke about his own musical journey and the importance of encouraging young musicians. One of the Music Ministry's goals for the next year is to establish an annual scholarship competition for young musicians – we want to be part of cultivating the next generation of young musicians. You will hear more details about this in the weeks to come!

Later that month, SAKLC was chosen to host the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. We put together a choir of singers from the various houses of worship on Longboat Key and St. Armands - they all did a marvelous job. Special thanks to Jane



Hoffman for playing flute, and especially to Gabriel Welch, our tenor choral scholar, for so beautifully singing (and playing on guitar), "If not now".

December is always a busy month!

Thanks to all our singers who came out for our annual *Christmas on the Circle* celebration. Along with the brass quintet, we provided carol singing throughout the evening. It was a wonderful night.

Our SAKLC choir led our annual Advent Bach Vespers beautifully on December 9th. This year, they presented Bach's challenging cantata "*Schwingt freudig euch empor*" (BWV 36). The work was accompanied by a chamber orchestra - we are grateful to all those musicians for making time for us in their busy December schedules. I was so proud of all our musicians! Thanks also to Pastor Blyth for his help leading this liturgy. It is important to realize, most churches our size cannot even dream of executing programming like this – we have an amazing, dedicated group of singers and players ... and I am *profoundly grateful* to get to work with them!

Later in the month, on Gaudete Sunday, we were thrilled to welcome the Sarasota String Quartet to our 11am worship service. This is the Sarasota Orchestra's annual gift to SAKLC in loving memory of Virginia Toulmin. That same Sunday, we were grateful to host musicians from Strings Con Brio who accompanied our choir anthem - Henry Purcell's *Bell Anthem*. Thank you to Monica Sirocchi and Strings Con Brio for coordinating this!



Christmas Eve was glorious. It truly is the "most wonderful time of the year!". Our singers and instrumentalists provided beautiful music at all three of our worship services. We were glad to welcome back our SAKLC Ringers handbell choir - the first time they have played since the hurricane damage. They were awesome!

After our Christmas Day (morning) worship, I was pleased to offer a special concert. This was an experiment; I wasn't sure what would happen. Recognizing we have many in our community who may not have family in town for the holidays, who may have lost a loved one, or who may just be looking for something festive to do on Christmas Day, I

decided to offer a program. It was very simple – me at the piano, singing and playing Christmas favorites. To my happy surprise, we had about fifty people show up. Thanks to my mom, Sandy, for providing the special holiday treats we enjoyed afterwards.

On the last Sunday of the year, December 28th, our SAKLC musicians led a beautiful Lessons and Carols service. They are troopers!

In 2025, we welcomed three new choral scholars - Michelle Giglio (soprano), Zoe Trumble (soprano), and Jesse Martin (baritone). We are so proud to have these wonderful singers as part of our family here at SAKLC.

Also in 2025, a member of the church donated a third timpani to our collection. It made its debut performance on Easter Sunday and has been used several times since. This third instrument allows our timpanist to be able to play more of the notes included in the instrumental parts, and also adds a greater depth to the sound. We are so thankful for this treasured gift!

In closing, I need to offer sincere gratitude to Kris Soderman. Our Music Ministry would not be able to do what we do without her. Certainly, she is immensely talented. More importantly she is so warm and caring - and consistently goes above and beyond to help us out. Outside of Sunday morning playing (which she does for BOTH services), Kris also served as the accompanist for our Interfaith Thanksgiving service, and learned the keyboard/continuo part for our Bach cantata ... and so much more than I cannot list here. I am so blessed to be able to work with her!

Lastly, although I have said it in other places, thank you to all our SAKLC musicians – to all our Sunday Singers (many of whom sing for the whole calendar year), our SAKLC Ringers, Kevin Randolph (who plays solo handbells and bass guitar), Bengt Lindblad (guitar), Dave Morgan (percussion), and Jane Hoffman (flute). They are the ones who make the music. It is a true joy and pleasure to work with these people on a weekly basis - we are a true musical family.

There will be some wonderful programs and events to look forward to in 2026 - I hope you will join us. Thank you for your continued support of our Music Ministry here at SAKLC!

**Michael J. Bodnyk**

Minister of Music

**St Armands Key Lutheran Church**  
**Community Service Ministry (CSM)**

**Annual Report 2025**

**Our Mission:** To connect with people following Jesus' call to love our neighbors. We do this by supporting specific community organizations, building relationships and providing opportunities to positively impact those around us.

The year in summary:

Thanks to the combined efforts of the CSM team and the generosity of our congregation, we achieved much toward fulfilling our mission statement in 2025. Despite the disruption caused by the hurricanes of 2024, CSM was able to carry on and minister to those in need.

Highlights from 2025 include:

1. Launch of **Heart Warmers**, an outreach to members and acquaintances of our church community, to provide contact through cards, phone calls and visits to those in need of comfort. In coordination with Pastor Blyth, members of this team have reached out to 40+ individuals.



2. Monthly preparation of a warm meal for clients of **Resurrection House** (serving the homeless in Sarasota) and the **Youth Shelter** (serving homeless youth in Sarasota).



3. Quilts boxed and delivered to Lutheran World Relief in February. The packing of **Lutheran World Relief** personal care kits was cancelled due to flood damage to the church.

4. Cash donation was given by CSM to purchase a new refrigerator and freezer for the church kitchen.

5. Raised \$6456 in additional funds to help equip the church kitchen



through the sponsoring of a **Kitchen Shower** which culminated in a breakfast celebration on May 4 for the reopening of the kitchen. Breakfast was paid for and prepared by CSM.

6. Backpacks filled with back-to-school supplies for the benefit of **School House Links** (serving homeless children) in August.



7. Delivered needed supplies to various agencies gathered through in-kind drives for cleaning supplies (March), baby supplies/books (May), new underwear/socks (June), food for food banks (September), warm clothing (October), Angel Tree/**Lutheran Social Services** serving elderly (November), Christmas cards/gifts for residents of **The Pines** a local elder care facility (December).

8. **Kids Against Hunger** food packing event held in November. Over 120 volunteers gathered in Fellowship Hall to pack 20,000+ meals which were distributed to six area agencies and to Jamaica following the 2025 hurricane damage.



9. Generous anonymous donation of previously used gym equipment worth thousands of dollars filled a need to equip a new recreational space at Harvest House. CSM presented this gift to **Harvest House** on behalf of SAKLC.

10. Gift cards (\$50) for students in the **Youth Shelter** program were given upon graduation from high school in May. Gift cards (\$50) for 54 youths in the Shelter program were given at Christmas along with a container of cookies for each child.

11. Trays of Christmas cookies were baked and delivered to 11 **Second Heart Homes** as a gift to the residents who were previously homeless.



## CSM Financial Report:

The costs associated with funding the activities during 2025 are projected to be \$37,576 by year end. Funding for Community Service Ministry comes from a variety of sources including the St Armands Key Lutheran Church Foundation, giving through envelopes, and generous one-time gifts.

The projected spending plan for 2026 is for \$35,200. This includes increased funding for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits and Kids Against Hunger.

## **Community Service Ministry Members/Liaison roles 2026**

Gayle Galloway/ Chair

Tammara Williams/ Vice Chair, Communications coordinator, Lutheran World Relief

Don Anthony/ Financial Liaison, Harvest House (We thank Don for 27 years of service on CSM) \*

Diane Bruce/ Harvest House, Nourish to Flourish

Jane Conrad/ Angel Tree, Second Chance Last Opportunity

Joan Elder/ Lutheran World Relief

Kristin Gehrke/ Financial Liaison for 2026

Marge Jeffers/ Secretary, Angel Tree (We thank Marge for serving CSM for many years!) \*

Kathy Kussy/ Kids Against Hunger

Stacy Musel/ Second Chance Last Opportunity

Christine Ortiz/ Youth Shelter & School House Links, Second Heart Homes, Resurrection House head cook

Bonnie Resler/ The Pines

Karyn Hawksley Smith/ Secretary, Chair of Heart Warmers

Ernie Smith/ Secretary, Church Council liaison

Cheryl Speaker/ The Pines

Beth Way/ Resurrection House

Michael Bodynk/ Administrative liaison

**\*Retired members from CSM**

After careful consideration and discussion, the following agencies will no longer be served by CSM in 2026 - Baby Basics, SPARCC (Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center), Habitat for Humanity, All Faiths Food Bank. These agencies were primarily served through in-kind drives. It was the decision of CSM members to focus on fewer agencies where the impact of our work would be significant.

**Conclusion**

The works and accomplishments of SAKLC Community Service Ministry come because members of our committee and countless members of our church community give of their time, talents and resources. Thank you isn't a big enough word to capture the significance of what we collectively can do to follow Jesus' call to love our neighbors.

A special word of thanks goes to Maggie Dougherty whose administrative support is sought and needed throughout the year.

*“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’.” Acts 20:35*

Submitted by:

Gayle Galloway, Chair

December 2025

## **Christian Education Committee**

**Members: Beth Way, Steve Gunderson, Hannah & Ryan Smith, Louise Hauser, Bob Schaefer, Pastor Ken.**

After a pause in 2025 due to hurricane reconstruction, a new education team was formed. Working with Pastor Ken, the team developed an education program for the 2026 season using a new approach. Rather than offering a few classes, each running several weeks, the new model offers a greater number of topics with fewer sessions. Also, the days of the week and times of the day are varied, topic by topic, so as not to exclude potential participants whose schedules might clash with a fixed program.

The 2026 curriculum is as follows:

**How the Bible Was Formed: Who decided what was in and what was left out; and what is Holy Scripture anyhow?**

January 6 & 13th, 10:00am-11:30am.

*Many Christians only know the Bible as the complete holy book we have in its current form. But how did this collection, written over several thousand years, by multiple authors, come together? Who decided what was in and what was out? And when was this decided? Besides which, what makes a document Sacred Scripture rather than just an interesting piece of writing?*

**The Council of Nicaea: An introduction.**

January 22nd, 6:00pm-7:30pm.

*This is an introduction to the council that gave us the Nicene Creed, which we confess in our worship services. (2025 was the council's 1700th birthday.) This class will examine why the Emperor Constantine called the council into session; what controversies it sought to settle; and what it ultimately decided about Jesus.*

**A Guide to the Christian Year: Its seasons, symbols, holy days, and colors.**

January 29th, 6:00pm-7:30pm.

*Every so often the banners in church change colors, and the liturgy changes a wee bit. And while some holy days fall on the same date every year, some move around quite a bit. Ever wonder why? This class offers an explanation and an overview of the Christian year.*

### **The Early Church: The first few hundred years**

February 9 & 16th, 1:30pm-3:00pm

*While thinking of Church history, it is tempting to move from Jesus directly to the Reformation and then straight into the modern era. However, that means skipping over a crucial and formative period known as the Early Church. This class will provide an overview of our history from the resurrection of Jesus to the Council of Nicaea in 325AD.*

### **Lutheran Belief and Practice: from Father Martin to Pastor Ken.**

March 12th, 6:00pm-7:30pm.

*This class will take participants on a fast-paced journey through Lutheran belief and practice from the Reformation, through inter-Lutheran conflict, into Lutheran Orthodoxy, through Pietism, a wee look at Evangelical Catholicism, and then to the North American Lutheranism of today.*

### **A History of Lutherans in America**

March 17th, 24th & 31st, 1:30pm-3:00pm

*Over three sessions, we will take a deep dive into the history of Lutherans in North America. We will trace our ancestry in Reformation Europe and Scandinavia; explore the streams of Lutheranism which led to the ELCA and the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod; discover how the Civil War affected our interpretation of Scripture; and begin to understand who we are today.*

### **Hot Topics by The Cooler: Refreshing conversations over refreshments**

Beginning January 25th/SAKLC Meditation Garden/4:30pm-5:30pm

(This gives you the opportunity to have dinner on the Circle afterwards if you wish.)

*Join us in the SAKLC Meditation Garden on the last Sunday of each month as we dare to tackle topics other congregations avoid. (A wet/cold-weather alternative inside SAKLC will be available.) Bring a cooler with your favorite beverage and a camp chair, and sit awhile as we discuss such topics as:*

- *Christian Nationalism. What is it? Why is it controversial?*
- *The Role of the Church in a Polarized Nation?*
- *The rise and decline of mainstream Protestantism in America.*
- *Why the ELCA's Churchwide expression in Chicago has become controversial among its own membership.*

- *What the Lutheran World Federation actually is, and why it does/doesn't matter to us.*
- *Challenges in moving towards Christian unity.*

## Additional Programs

### **GriefShare Grief and Loss Support Group**

Every Wednesday from 1:30 - 3:00pm, in person only

Runs for 13 weeks starting January 7 until April 1st

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. The group is open to those experiencing grief anew, as well as those whose grief is longer standing. A GriefShare workbook will be supplied, as will refreshments each week.

Pastor Ken, and SAKLC member Donna Emley will lead the group.

### **3rd Annual Jewish Christian Conversation Series: A collaboration between SAKLC and Temple Beth Sholom**

Led by Pastor Ken Blyth and Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

*Meets in person and on Zoom. Zoom link to follow. An opportunity to explore each tradition's worship rites and rituals; seasons and holy days; religious understandings of birth, childhood, marriage, divorce, and love; life journeys through aging, illness and death (mourning rites, afterlife, etc.); as well as our approach to religious conversion.*

*On the following Tuesdays from 2:00-3:30pm:*

- *January 20--at SAKLC*
- *January 27--at Temple Beth Sholom*
- *February 3--no class*
- *February 10--at SAKLC*
- *February 17--at Temple Beth Sholom*

*Pr. Blyth*

## **Mutual Ministry Committee**

**Members: Ladd Skelly, Paul Tomass, Kris Soderman, Rick Fetherston, Joyce Hart, Tammara Williams, Pastor Ken.**

In 2025, a new Mutual Ministry Committee was formed. The mission of the team is to support the ministry of the pastor by:

1. Offering a safe space in which the pastor can share his joys and sorrows, and examine his successes and challenges.
2. Provide feedback to the pastor in a supportive and encouraging manner, so that the pastor can receive affirmation and critique in a constructive manner.
3. Support the professional and pastoral development of the pastor.

*Pr. Blyth*

## **Stewardship Committee**

**Members (2024-25): Pastor Ken (chair), Michael Bodnyk, Ernie Smith (ex officio), Doug Engebretson (ex officio), Jan Voigts, Karyn Smith.**

As detailed in last year's report, "In 2024 the team explored and analyzed the financial and budgetary needs of the congregation as well as giving patterns both current and historic, and began to develop a 2025 Stewardship campaign/focus. By early 2025 it became clear to the committee and to the Congregation Council that it would be counterproductive to run a traditional campaign while restoration costs and funding were still being fully established. It was agreed that even a relatively brief pause in implementing our plans would allow the picture to become clearer, our needs to be better identified, and a single and well-focused approach to the congregation be made." This "brief pause" extended through 2025, until it became clear that a capital campaign would not be necessary in 2026.

The stewardship model designed by the 2024-2025 committee members will be implemented in 2026 by the pastor, director of operations, and other staff members.

Pr.Blyth

## 2025 WOMEN'S MINISTRY REPORT

The mission of the Women's Ministry is to serve the women of SAKLC by providing social opportunities to grow friendships and community, to provide opportunities for women to become more involved in the life of the church, and to grow faith and fellowship through reading and studying the Bible and how it applies to our lives. Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, the Women's Ministry will seek ways to support our mission as well as other SAKLC ministries.

Judy Matthies, the leader of the Women's Ministry for many years, created a vibrant and active community of faithful women, seeing the group through the challenges of COVID-19 and the devastating hurricanes of fall 2024. In the spring of 2025, Judy passed on leadership of the Women's Ministry to Laura Berger. Judy continues to be a tremendous help and resource; I am so grateful for and blessed by her support.

Beginning in January and continuing through mid-April, the Women's Ministry meets every Tuesday at 10:30 AM. The third Tuesday of each month is set aside for Book Group and lunch. The Women's Ministry meets on the other Tuesdays of each month for the Women's Ministry Bible Study. In the fall, the Book Group meets on one Tuesday in October to discuss the summer read and on one Tuesday in December to discuss the December read.

Opportunities to grow our social networks are through the Women's Ministry Book Group meetings and through the Advent Brunch and Spring Tea.

Selections for the Women's Book group generally include one book in which an animal plays a significant role, one biography, a seasonally appropriate book for either Advent or Lent, a selection of historical fiction, as well as an uplifting/thought provoking work of contemporary fiction. Longer books are sometimes read over the course of two months. Among the books read in the past are *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, *My Dear Hamilton, A Novel of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton* by Laura Kaye and Stephanie Dray, *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawson, *One in a Million Boy* by Monica Wood, *The Nurse's Secret* by Amanda Skenadore, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, and *Christmas Bells* by Jennifer Chiaverini. All women who enjoy reading and talking about books are welcome! Discussion is wide ranging- focusing on not only the general quality of the writing and story, but more importantly we talk about how the topic/theme may challenge us or is

relatable to us as women. Book discussion is then followed by an opportunity to continue conversations with lunch at a local restaurant or a potluck meal at SAKLC or someone's home.

The Women's Tea and Advent Brunch grow Women's Ministry fellowship and community in various ways. These special events bring together SAKLC women with friends from our broader communities to expand our social circles. Through volunteering, our members, who work with such care and creativity to host a successful event, are blessed with the camaraderie that comes from working on a worthwhile project. In 2025 over seventy women attended each of these events! Monies from ticket sales will support future Women's Ministry activities/other SAKLC ministries.

At the Spring Tea, Judy asked members to share ideas for future activities or ministry focus at SAKLC. We have seen one of those suggestions, the return of in-person exercise classes already come to fruition! Marty Piatt, who will teach the classes, is also active in the Women's Ministry.

This year's Advent Brunch included a presentation by Dr. Irma-Louise Wright, director of music ministry at Maximo Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, who shared the story of Gian Carlo Menotti's famous Christmas opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. In addition, all in attendance were given a Christmas card to sign in support of the Community Service Ministry's Pines Nursing Home Christmas card collection project.

A desire to grow in fellowship and faith is an aspect of all Women's Ministries activities, but most specifically our Women's Ministry Bible Study serves this purpose. Our Bible study meets at 10:30 AM (or earlier for coffee and conversation) on the first, second, fourth and fifth (should there be one) Tuesday of each month from January to April. In spring 2025, Judy led a study that focused on game changers of the Bible, the individuals who stepped up or were called to act to fulfill God's plan for His people.

This year the Women's Ministry launched a newsletter; its purpose is to maintain contact with our members during the summer months and provide information throughout the year about upcoming Women's Ministry events, weekly activities, and other SAKLC events. The newsletter is called The Vine - a play on the phrase, "I heard it through the grapevine," and a reference to Jesus's words to his disciples, "I am the vine; you are the branches," John 15:5. Current issues of The Vine may be found on the SAKLC Website under the Women's Ministry Tab.

All women are welcome and invited to attend any or all events. For information or to receive The Vine please contact Laura Berger at [lauraberger.wm@gmail.com](mailto:lauraberger.wm@gmail.com).



*Spring 2025 Bible Study*



*Spring 2025 HospitalityTea!*



*Fall 2025 Book Group enjoying lunch and conversation.*



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*Women's Ministry Advent Brunch 2025*



*Women's Ministry Advent Brunch 2025*



*Women' Ministry Advent Brunch 2025*

## **Refugee Annual Report**

Our mission stays the same to help all legal refugees as much as possible. This year has been a very difficult year for the refugees and for the Refugees Ministry . In January, we were able to accept three four families and then by the end of January all refugees from any country were stopped by this administration. We have had a couple families moved from being with friends to independent living so we were able to help them. The people who came in under the “ parole the “parole “program have been stopped from working in about September and therefore they have no means of support even though their employment cards were legal and active. The only goal we have at this point is to give out as much food as possible to help all those who are struggling. We had three units of storage of which we cut down to one and we gave 38 families all the extra supplies that we had at that point. For Christmas the congregation gave 120 toys and the Refugee ministry added \$600, and we gave away 60 bags of food plus much fresh produce and we had a total of 75 families and 200 kids, get gifts. It was a wonderful time. We do not know what the future holds, but we will continue doing whatever we can and we will continue giving out as much food as possible.

**Nona Arnholt**

Refugee committee, chair

## AV REPORT

Hi, everyone! This is Andrés, happy to provide you with the first AV report since I officially started in August of 2024. It has been my pleasure to provide my expertise with the audio visual at Saint Armands Key Lutheran Church.

This past year we have a few highlights I would like to go over.

- **The new hearing aid system** has been up and running for the past year and has received positive feedback. The infrared hearing system has become a dependable solution for our parishioners during the services. We understand that each hearing solution is different for each person so if you need assistance please don't hesitate to talk to us.
- The **TVs at Fellowship are operational** during the Sunday services in case you need to step out for a second during the masses. Additionally, **the Ceiling speakers** throughout the church are now working once more so you can always keep track of the service while on the go.
- When it comes to online viewership, our virtual services reached a lot more people in 2025 than in 2024. Total views increased from 4,355 to 5,636—about a 29% jump—driven largely by strong growth on Facebook, which went from 2,398 views to 3,331. YouTube also saw an increase, rising from 2,254 views in 2024 to 2,735 in 2025, with a noticeable spike in December. *One thing to note:* these analytics reflect viewership on the day of the livestream, and the total number of viewers continues to grow over time as people watch the recordings later.

## The SAKLC Tech Training Program Expands

In 2024, St. Armands Key Lutheran Church launched the SAKLC Tech Training Program by developing the Training to Go series, which is a collection of short, self-paced tutorials for congregants who are new to and uncomfortable with technology. The program was expanded in 2025 by adding two new Zoom tutorials. Along with the tutorials, tech guides were introduced to address everyday technology skills. Tech guides are how-to guides that provide information and instructions on using and understanding technology, ranging from basic computer skills to troubleshooting simple problems. In support of both learning aids, reference sheets were developed to assist the learning.

As a result, all these aids focus on SAKLC technologies that promote a better understanding of and provide access to online information, live and recorded worship services, meetings, and events. The program includes the following.

### Training to Go Tutorials

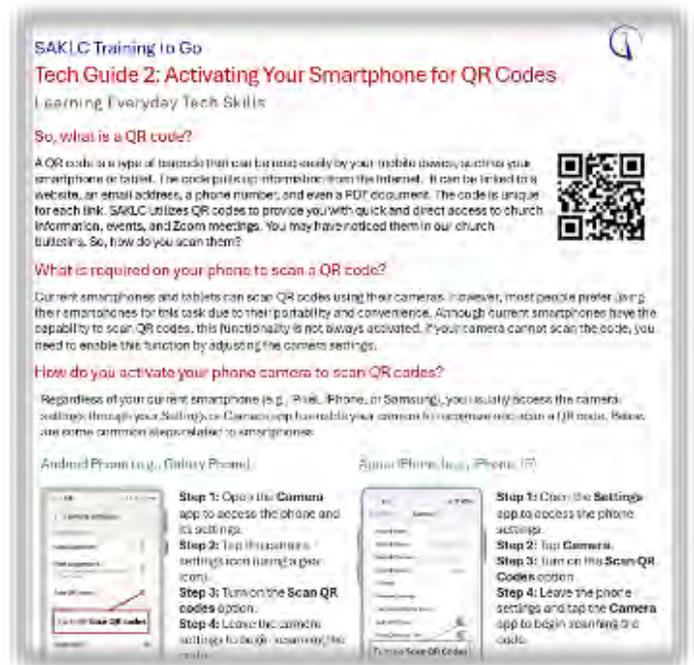
- Tutorial 1: Using QR Codes to Access Online Information
- Tutorial 2: Accessing Live Worship Services Using the SAKLC Website
- Tutorial 3: Accessing Live Worship Services Using Social Media
- Tutorial 4: Accessing Past Worship Services and Events
- Tutorial 5: Zoom for Beginners (revised)
- Tutorial 6: Navigating the Zoom Dashboard (new)

### Tech Guides

- Tech Guide 1: Deleting Browser Data
- Tech Guide 2: Activating Your Smartphone for QR Codes

### Reference Sheets

- Reference Sheet: Navigating the Zoom Dashboard
- Reference Sheet: Deleting Browser Data



To expand access to these learning aids, they are available both on-site and online. First, they are readily available in print at the new Training to Go station on the wall opposite the office. Second, they are available anytime, anywhere through the newly revised SAKLC Training Hub. The hub is an e-learning module that provides information about the training program, learning aids, and general resources, along with easy access to all training components. You can access the hub via the SAKLC website under Education and Resources, or directly via its URL.

§ SAKLC URL: [www.saklc.com](http://www.saklc.com)

§ SAKLC Training Hub URL:

<https://www.slslearningoptions.com/saklctechtraining>

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SAKLC will continue to review and offer additional training opportunities, based on newly introduced technologies and the congregants' needs. We would like to thank the SAKLC staff and the congregants for their support of this training program.

-Ladd Skelly



## **SAKLC ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

### **LEGACY SOCIETY**

In the Spring of 2025, the church leadership recognized the need for support and guidance for legacy giving. As a result, a group of the Church Council and Foundation members met and formed the SAKLC Legacy Society under the leadership of Fred Wittlinger.

The first order of business was to determine the vision, purpose and goals of the Legacy Society. Items of discussion included defining legacy giving, determining what these gifts specifically support, where the legacy gift could come from, and how legacy giving is different from your regular Sunday offerings. They are summarized below.

**VISION** – Recognition of generous planned giving through gifts or pledges

**PURPOSE** – These planned charitable gifts allow donors to support the continuation of the spiritual experience of SAKLC beyond their lifetime and to leave a lasting impact on the work of this church.

**WHAT IS A LEGACY GIFT?** – It is a gift that creates a long-lasting impact through one’s personal actions. It is different from regular Sunday offerings. Rather, it is a planned path connecting one’s generous charitable donations with creating a long-term future for SAKLC and its programs.

**WHAT DOES THIS GIFT SUPPORT** – The gifts will support the General Church Support Fund, the Community Impact Fund of the Foundation, the Church Support Fund of the Foundation, the Organ Enrichment and Music Education Special Purpose Fund, other Special Purpose Funds, or if undecided, you may allow the Foundation or Council to allocate the gift where needed most.

**WHERE CAN A LEGACY GIFT COME FROM** – Gifts may come from wills and estate plans, charitable trusts, gift annuities, life insurance, individual retirement accounts, one-time gifts, or a planned gift over a period of time.

A new “Special Purpose Fund” was created through a collaboration between the Legacy Society and SAKLC Foundation to support both the fundraising and implementation of a special program. The first such fund, approved by the Foundation Board, is the Special Purpose Fund for Organ Education and Outreach. This fund seeks to provide ongoing resources to implement plans for organ scholarships, education programs and other initiatives as recommended by the Minister of Music, Michael Bodnyk.

Several key initiatives evolved from the early stages of developing the Legacy Society. They included a brochure to define its goals, vision, mission, and purpose which was introduced to the congregation on Sunday, November 16. In addition, a dinner event was planned for November 15 to introduce the Legacy Society as well as the Special Purpose Fund that will support the new organ's outreach and education programs. This dinner featured an organ concert by Gavin Klein, a junior at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA where he serves as an organ scholar.

The next phase of the Legacy Society is to plan and provide future workshops and information sessions to guide individuals in making a meaningful gift to leave a lasting impact on the work of this church for future generations. In addition, the Legacy Society will host an annual gathering of Society Members who have made commitments to SAKLC to provide fellowship and recognition of their common interest. Members of the Legacy Society Committee include Fred Wittlinger (Chair), Pastor Ken Blyth, Michael Bodnick, Doug Engebretson, John Forstrom, Steve Gunderson, Marge Jeffers, Ernie Smith, and Jura Zibas.

## SAKLC Foundation Annual Report 2025

The Trustees for the 2024 year were: Jeffry Olesen (Chair), Mike Armour, Sandy Bodnyk, Doug Engebretson, John Forstrom, Steve Gunderson (ex officio), Joyce Hart, Marge Jeffers, Lee Krompart, Don Resler, Ladd Skelly, Ernie Smith (Vice Chair), Rick Tonn, Denise Watermeier (Treasurer), Marie Watts, Joanne Will-Kaminiski (Secretary), Fred Wittlinger, Jura Zibas, and Pastor Ken Blyth (ex officio).

The Foundation uses our Foundation Fundamentals document for guidance. The Foundation's two missional roles, both of which emanate from our theological heritage and our acknowledged responsibility as God's earthly stewards, are (1) to receive and manage funds for use in proclaiming and extending the reach of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and (2) to distribute those funds to or for the benefit of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church and to other qualifying organizations on behalf of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, to promote charitable and religious purposes. The Trustees are guided by the Missional Plan of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church.

To implement our mission, the Foundation receives and manages financial gifts placed into three endowment funds, the Community Impact Fund, the Church Support Fund, and a new fund initiated this year, the special purpose fund in support of Organ Engagement and Education. The Foundation makes grants annually from the earnings of each endowed fund according to its purpose.

The **Community Impact Fund** was established concurrently with the Foundation in 1978. Grants from the funds are awarded based upon requests received, reviewed and recommended by the Foundation's Grants Committee and approved by the Trustees. Grants are made to SAKLC ministries, other ELCA Lutheran ministries, and established non-profit organizations that are local, state, national or international in-service location. The selection process focuses on organizational "capacity building" addressing humanitarian needs.

The **Church Support Fund** was established in 2011 to enable church members to create an on-going legacy that endows a perpetual continuation of their stewardship to support the church's ministry in the future. Donors to this endowed fund can have confidence that the earnings from the invested funds will support an annual grant that can only be given to SAKLC. Grants to SAKLC from the Church Support Fund are unrestricted and can be used for any purpose as authorized by the SAKLC Church Council.

The **Organ Engagement and Music Education Fund** was established this year, 2025, to help the church with the long-term maintenance costs of the magnificent new pipe organ and its use in anchoring a scholarship program to develop the next generation of church musicians.

Grants awarded during 2025 totaling \$60,590 from both funds were as follows:

Habitat for Humanity Sarasota Inc.,	\$5,000	Critical Home Repair Program
St. Paul Lutheran Church Early Childhood Learning Center, assistance	\$5,000	Scholarship and tuition
Saint Armands Key Lutheran Church	\$29,490	Furniture
Meals on Wheels Sarasota	\$5,000	Volunteer Recruitment
SAKLC Refugee Ministries	\$4,000	Grant for Legal Refugees
Association for Campus Ministry	\$2,100	Fund Student Intern
Safe Children Coalition Inc.	\$10,000	Furnishing new Youth Shelter

During the four years of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, a total of \$342,580 was awarded from the Church Support and Community Impact funds by the Foundation.

The Foundation strives to respond to the present needs of the Church and community as it aggregates and invests funds to respond to their future needs. Congregation members and others are encouraged to contribute to the endowment fund(s) of their choice through their legacy estate gifts, significant benevolent gifts, memorial gifts and other gifts.

This year, a Legacy Task Force under the leadership of Fred Wittlinger created a Legacy Society to recognize generous planned giving through these gifts and pledges

The work of the Foundation is only possible with the continuing support of the SAKLC congregation members. The Trustees sincerely thank all who have supported the Foundation with gifts in 2025 and in previous years of the Foundation's existence.

Financial information regarding both endowment funds can be found in the Foundation Treasurer's reports that follow. The SAKLC website ([saklc.com](http://saklc.com)) has additional

information about the Foundation (look under the “ministries” menu) with links to make a gift or submit a grant request.

Jeff Olesen, Chair, SAKLC Foundation



## Church Support Fund

	Full Year 2025	Full Year 2024	Full Year 2023
<b>Income and Expenses</b>			
Income:			
Dividends/Interest	\$ 7,258	\$ 7,687	\$ 7,547
Donations	18,480	48,909	1,152
Total Income	<u>25,738</u>	<u>56,596</u>	<u>8,699</u>
Grants & Expenses:			
Grants	(25,000)	(36,250)	(24,000)
Administrative Expenses	(1,362)	(736)	(171)
Total Grants & Expenses	<u>(26,362)</u>	<u>(36,986)</u>	<u>(24,171)</u>
Net Income	(625)	19,610	(15,473)
Market Value Change	34,201	53,069	(72,372)
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	562,674	502,261	464,665
Ending Fund Assets	<u>\$ 596,250</u>	<u>\$ 562,674</u>	<u>\$ 502,261</u>
<b>Assets by Type</b>			
Cash/Money Market Funds	\$ 37,050	\$ 26,803	\$ 14,150
Money Market Funds	-	-	5,000
Bonds/Fixed Income	177,045	162,945	147,380
Equities	382,155	372,926	335,731
Ending Fund Assets	<u>\$ 596,250</u>	<u>\$ 562,674</u>	<u>\$ 502,261</u>
<b>Assets by Availability</b>			
Corpus	\$ 429,476	\$ 410,996	\$ 362,087
Earnings	166,774	151,678	140,174
Total Assets	<u>\$ 596,250</u>	<u>\$ 562,674</u>	<u>\$ 502,261</u>

Note: Grants Plan for 2025 \$25,000.

1/9/2026



## Community Impact Fund

### Income and Expenses

	Full Year 2025	Full Year 2024	Full Year 2023
Income:			
Dividends & Interest	\$ 26,738	\$ 28,459	\$ 28,370
Donations	38,548	19,399	6,446
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>65,286</b>	<b>47,858</b>	<b>34,816</b>
Grants & Expenses:			
Grants	(60,590)	(89,000)	(87,000)
Administrative Expenses	(1,362)	(1,294)	(1,515)
<b>Total Grants &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>(61,952)</b>	<b>(90,294)</b>	<b>(88,515)</b>
Net Income	3,334	(42,437)	(53,699)
Market Value Change	110,647	128,256	168,157
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	1,851,698	1,765,879	1,651,420
<b>Ending Fund Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,965,678</b>	<b>\$ 1,851,698</b>	<b>\$ 1,765,879</b>

### Assets by Type

Cash/Money Market Funds	\$ 97,364	\$ 33,224	\$ 15,934
Money Market			25,000
Fixed Income	574,200	526,995	549,990
Equities	1,230,936	1,228,300	1,111,776
<b>Sub Total Schwab</b>	<b>1,902,500</b>	<b>1,788,519</b>	<b>1,702,700</b>
Certificates of Deposit (ELCA)	57,179	57,179	57,179
Checking Account	6,000	6,000	6,000
<b>Ending Fund Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,965,678</b>	<b>\$ 1,851,698</b>	<b>\$ 1,765,879</b>

### Assets by Availability

Corpus	\$ 1,199,001	\$ 1,160,453	\$ 1,141,054
Earnings	766,678	691,245	624,824
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,965,678</b>	<b>\$ 1,851,698</b>	<b>\$ 1,765,879</b>

Corpus assumes that the 2008 year-end Fund balance was 100% Corpus.

Grants 2025 Plan is \$88,000.

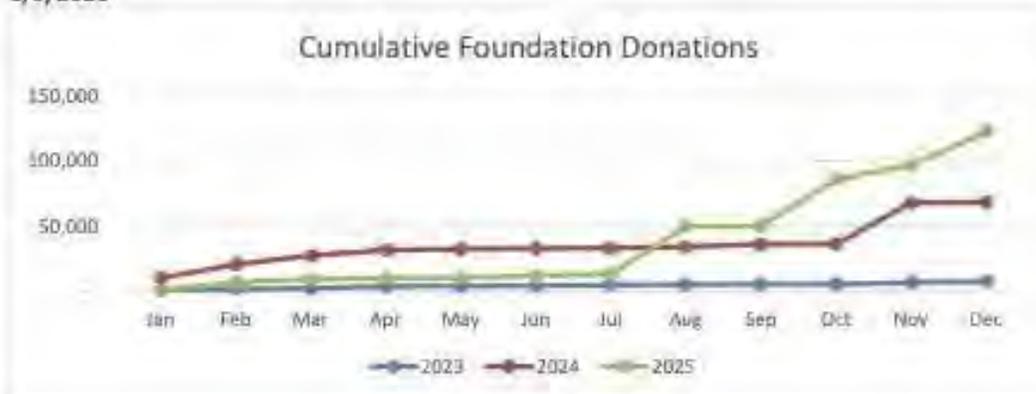
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### Donations by Category

	Full Year 2025	Full Year 2024	Full Year 2023
<b>Community Impact Fund</b>			
Anniversary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250
Birthday Blessings	-	-	618
General	13,348	19,199	3,838
Memorials	200	200	1,740
Bequests	25,000	-	-
<b>Total Community Impact Fund</b>	<b>38,548</b>	<b>19,399</b>	<b>6,446</b>
<b>Church Support Fund</b>			
Anniversary	-	-	-
Birthday Blessings	50	-	-
General	17,035	47,451	648
Memorials	1,395	1,458	504
Bequests	-	-	-
<b>Total Church Support Fund</b>	<b>18,480</b>	<b>48,909</b>	<b>1,152</b>
<b>Organ Fund</b>			
General	65,400	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 122,428</b>	<b>\$ 68,307</b>	<b>\$ 7,598</b>

1/9/2026





## Organ Fund

	Full Year 2025
<b>Income and Expenses</b>	
Income:	
Dividends/Interest	\$ 344
Donations	65,400
Event Income	
Total Income	<u>65,744</u>
Expenses:	
Organ Maintenance	
Event Expenses	
Administrative Expenses	
Total Expenses	<u>-</u>
Net Income	65,744
Market Value Change	-
Ending Fund Assets	<u>\$ 65,744</u>
<b>Assets by Type</b>	
Cash/Money Market Funds	\$ 65,744
Money Market Funds	
Bonds/Fixed Income	
Equities	
Ending Fund Assets	<u>\$ 65,744</u>
<b>Assets by Availability</b>	
Corpus (50% Donations)	\$ 32,700
Other	33,044
Total Fund Assets	<u>\$ 65,744</u>

1/9/2026

## PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH A HISTORY OF SAKLC

St. Armands Key Lutheran Church is 58 years young in history, but already rich in heritage. Our ministry began as a Mission Church with seven interested couples and vacationers on Lido Beach. Dr. Hermann Siefkes was invited to minister to the Mission during the winter months of 1966-67. Services were held in the Lido Beach Casino. Attendance at the first service was 34. It was known as Lido Key Lutheran Church. In November 1967, a parsonage at 504 Boulevard of the Presidents was purchased for the Siefkes family, that also served as an office for church administration.

St. Armands Key Lutheran Church was organized on Palm Sunday, April 7, 1968 at the Casino on Lido Beach. Dr. Gordon Huffman of the ALC officiated at the installation of Dr. Siefkes and the first Church Council. The text of his sermon was “Ye are the Light of the World”. Sixty-two (62) members were received. Attendance was 143.

North Adams Drive would be the site for a new church building. The Blix family donated two lots on Ringling Boulevard and additional lots were purchased on Adams Drive. Plans for the church were approved and a groundbreaking service was held on August 4, 1968. Dedication of the new church was held on February 2, 1969 with 407 in attendance.

Pastor Siefkes retired in April 1969 and The Reverend Paul Disbro was installed as Pastor on November 2, 1969 and served through 1972. In 1973, The Reverend Jul Quello assumed leadership of a growing, vibrant church. The congregation purchased two lots on Ringling Boulevard extending our property to Washington Drive. Promissory notes were issued to members and the response was amazing. Not only was the building debt repaid, but also enough additional funds were received to enlarge the Sanctuary, add Ogram Fellowship Hall, and redecorate the interior and exterior of the church. Dedication of the renovation was held on February 25, 1976. From this date, we have been known as the “**Church of the Lighted Cross**”.

In June 1980, Pastor Quello resigned, and The Reverend William Nies was installed as Pastor on December 7, 1980. In 1988 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was formed. Under Pastor Nies’ able leadership, a major renovation/expansion building program was launched which included an enlarged sacristy, choir loft, music room, 63 Rank Allen organ, educational building, and Columbarium/Memorial Chapel.

Pastor Nies retired in April 1990, having served the congregation for 10 years and having completed 40 years of ministry.

On December 30, 1990, The Reverend Robert Zimmer was installed as Pastor. Through his leadership, Promissory Notes on church property were retired, the Washington Drive conference/guest house was purchased, and a contemporary worship service was formed.

On March 22, 1998, a worship celebration was held for the groundbreaking of a new sanctuary. Dedication of the new church facility was held on March 21, 1999.

Pastor Zimmer retired on June 30, 1999 and The Reverend Eric P. Wogen began his ministry at SAKLC on April 9, 2000 and was installed on July 9, 2000.

Under Pastor Wogen's leadership, a Meditation Garden was developed on the empty lots east of the sanctuary. A Health Ministry was formed, and a Parish Nurse position was established. The congregation grew in membership and as a part of the 40th Anniversary celebration an Outreach Ministry partnership in the Newtown area was established. The neon cross on the steeple was lit again, and a new (Diane Bish Signature Series) Allen Renaissance Quantum Organ was installed. The windblown pipes and festival trumpets were added in 2008.

Pastor Wogen retired on June 30, 2008 after serving the congregation for 8 years and having completed over 40 years in the ministry.

The Reverend Mark A. Bernthal began his ministry at SAKLC on September 1, 2009 and was installed as pastor at SAKLC on October 18, 2009.

On December 8, 2011, the Church Council voted to approve a call for an intern from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC for a period of one year.

Seminarian Student, Ms. Marilyn Beyer, began her role as SAKLC's first Vicar on Sunday, July 1, 2012.

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary student, Aretha Ernst, from Suriname, shared a six-month internship between Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice and SAKLC. Her role of Seminarian began at SAKLC on September 1, 2012.

Our second Seminary Student, Vicar James Henricks, began his pastoral internship at SAKLC on July 8, 2013.

On Sunday, August 17, 2014, SAKLC welcomed Seminarian Student, Drew Ingram, our third pastoral intern, and his wife Leigh.

Seminarian Student, Kyle Bates, began his role as SAKLC's fourth Vicar on August 17, 2015. Kyle's wife, Andrea, also a Seminarian Student at Lenoir Rhyne/Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, served as the first pastoral intern at Faith Lutheran Church, our sister church in south Sarasota.

In June 2016, Pastor Mark Bernthal notified the congregation that he had accepted a call to join a staff ministry team at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Vero Beach, Florida.

Under Pastor Mark's leadership, God's table is set, and the Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at both worship services. SAKLC teamed with our sister congregations of the Mid Gulf Conference to do a "Luther Build" with Habitat for Humanity, and in 2015, a major facility restoration/renovation project was completed that included new roofing and flooring, new storage closets in Fellowship Hall, along with many other improvements. The Foundation established a second fund in the congregation's endowment for donors to give perpetual offerings to the church. We were privileged to witness Pastor Bernthal's commitment to the church-wide Fund for Leaders, which provides for Seminarians of the future, through the Vicar program he initiated at SAKLC.

Sunday, June 26, 2016, was Pastor Mark Bernthal's last Sunday at SAKLC. A celebration to honor Pastor Bernthal's ministry and the gifts he brought to SAKLC during his seven-year tenure was held immediately following worship.

On July 9, 2017 the congregation voted to extend the call to serve as Pastor of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church to The Rev. Dr. Kenneth C. Blyth. A service of Holy Communion and the Order of Installation of Pastor Blyth was originally scheduled for Sunday, September 10, 2017; however, all services, including the regular morning service, were cancelled that day due to the arrival of Hurricane Irma. The Rev. Dr. Kenneth C. Blyth was installed as pastor at SAKLC on November 5, 2017.

Under Pr. Ken's leadership the congregation embarked on discerning a new Mission Statement and Ministry Plan. Using the materials and outcomes of conversations that were held during the interim and following up with an off-site retreat, new initiatives were identified and a refreshed ministry organization was introduced.

In March 2018, the congregation held a special meeting to extend a call to serve as Deacon at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church to Kimberly Heindl. Kimb began ministry in 2017 under contract during the time of interim. On April 15 she was installed for the ministry of Word and Service. Dcn. Kim's call ended on July 14, 2019 with a Sending Service.

On September 1, 2018, Michael Bodnyk became SAKLC's first full-time Minister of Music, assuming responsibility for a new and exciting approach to music at SAKLC - both in worship and in concerts, and musical outreach to the community.

In 2020, From March 13th through Pentecost, in-person worship and in-person meetings at SAKLC were cancelled, due to the world-wide Covid-19 pandemic. From Pentecost onwards, in-person worship resumed, with attendees wearing face masks, and observing

social distancing. In-person activities, gatherings and meetings resumed slowly over several months. Worship services and meetings were held via Zoom videoconferencing, as were some fellowship events, funerals, and classes.

On September 26, 2024, our area suffered significant impacts from Hurricane Helene, a Category 4 storm. Just a few days later, on October 9, 2024, Hurricane Milton, a Category 3 storm, made landfall near Siesta Key. There was significant flooding on St. Armands Circle after both storms. Our church took on several inches of water after each one resulting in a significant loss of our contents. Through the generosity and hard work of our congregation and community, our restoration began right away. We were thrilled to be able to welcome our congregation back to in-person worship on Reformation Sunday, October 27th, 2024. We look forward to the next chapter in our church's history!

Even though the church campus suffered significant damage, the combined efforts of many dedicated hands allowed us to remain on schedule for the delivery of our new pipe organ. The congregation was thrilled to welcome the installation of the instrument in February 2025.

A few weeks later, on March 4, 2025, our new sanctuary seating arrived from Ohio. An incredible team of church members formed an assembly line to unload the chairs and carry them into the sanctuary.

On Sunday, April 27, we celebrated the completion of the restoration process with a joyous rededication service. Rev. Blyth led the service, joined by Rev. Zimmer, Rev. Wogen, and Rev. Rose (assistant to the Bishop).

Our congregation is blessed by many people with open hearts and willing hands to do the work to which God has called this community.

Our Pilgrimage of Faith keeps going and growing as we lift high our Lighted Cross and commit ourselves to St. Armands Key Lutheran Church's Mission.

## STEPPING STONES OF FAITH

July 1966	American Missions, Minneapolis, approved action for Mission Church on Lido Key
December 18, 1966	Dr. Hermann Siefkes conducted the first winter service in Lido Beach Casino. Attendance was 35
Fall 1967	Dr. Siefkes returned. Steering committee organized.
October 8, 1967	Articles of Incorporation for Lido Key Lutheran Church were signed
November 1967	Purchased first parsonage at 504 Boulevard of the Presidents
February 18, 1968	Lots on Adams purchased — Blix family donated lots 3 & 4 on 11/10/68.
April 6, 1968	Organizational Meeting held at St. Armands Palmer Bank
April 7, 1968	Installation of Dr. Siefkes at Lido Beach Casino. Congregation accepted the name St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, received 62 members, installed charter members and first Church Council.
August 4, 1968	Ground Breaking Service at new property on Adams Drive
November 3, 1968	First Annual Meeting of Congregation
January 1969	Final service in Lido Beach Casino
February 2, 1969	Dedication of the new church building. 407 were present
April 6, 1969	Pastor Siefkes completes his ministry

May–Nov. 1969	Interim ministry of Reverend Theo Lynn
November 2, 1969	Reverend Paul Disbro installed
September 30, 1972	Pastor Disbro completes ministry
Oct. '72–Feb. '73	Interim ministry of Reverend Theo Lynn
February 4, 1973	Reverend Jul Quello installed
November 18, 1973	Congregation purchased two lots on Ringling Boulevard. Entire debt of ALC Mission Board of Missions was paid off
February 25, 1976	Renovation of Sanctuary & new Ogram Fellowship Hall dedication
January 1978	Church steeple was blown down
June 1980	Pastor Quello completes ministry
June–Dec. 1980	David Olson interim ministry
December 7, 1980	Reverend William Nies installation service
October 22, 1989	Dedication & renovation/expansion including new organ, choir loft, music room, classrooms, multi-purpose room, and Columbarium
April 22, 1990	Pastor Nies completes ministry

April 23–Dec. 1990	Dr. Herbert Mayer interim ministry
December 30, 1990	Reverend Robert Zimmer installation service
October 1991	Church Constitution ratified to conform to ELCA Constitution. All promissory notes retired
December 1994	House on Washington Drive purchased for conference/guest house
February 26, 1995	Reverend David McCoy called as Associate Pastor
March 22, 1998	Ground breaking for new sanctuary & 30th anniversary celebration
September 30, 1998	Pastor McCoy leaves to assume another call
March 22, 1999	Dedication of the present church sanctuary
June 30, 1999	Pastor Zimmer completes ministry
June–Dec. 1999	Reverend Dr. Lavern Franzen interim ministry
Jan.–April 2000	Reverend Dr. Priit Rebane interim ministry
April 9, 2000	Reverend Eric P. Wogen begins ministry
July 9, 2000	Pastor Wogen installation service
April 6, 2008	40th Anniversary — one service

June 30, 2008	Pastor Wogen completes ministry
July 13, 2008	Reverend Dr. Mark Hillmer interim ministry
September 1, 2009	Reverend Mark A. Bernthal begins ministry
October 18, 2009	Pastor Bernthal installation service
July 1, 2012	Vicar Marilyn Beyer begins one-year internship
September 1, 2012	Seminarian Aretha Ernst begins three-month internship
July 8, 2013	Vicar James Henricks begins one-year internship
August 17, 2014	Vicar Drew Ingram begins one-year internship
August 17, 2015	Vicar Kyle Bates begins one-year internship
June 30, 2016	Pastor Bernthal completes ministry at SAKLC
August 2016–17	Reverend Dr. Keith Copeland interim ministry
August 21, 2017	Reverend Dr. Kenneth C. Blyth begins ministry at SAKLC
November 5, 2017	Reverend Dr. Kenneth Blyth installation service
April 8, 2018	50th Anniversary festive worship service

April 15, 2018	Deacon Kimberly Heindl installation service
September 1, 2018	Michael Bodnyk joins SAKLC as first full-time Music Minister
July 14, 2019	Sending service for end of Deacon Kimberly Heindl's call
March 13, 2020	In-person worship and gatherings end due to COVID-19 pandemic
June 14, 2020	In-person worship resumes with health and safety measures
February 6, 2021	Lois Habib retirement celebrated after 26 years of music ministry
February 1, 2021	Michael Bodnyk becomes Director of Operations (in addition to Minister of Music)
November 2022	Special concert celebrates Fellowship Hall renovation
July 30, 2023	Purchase and installation of new Schantz pipe organ approved
October 27, 2024	Reformation Sunday — return to in-person worship after hurricane damage
February 2025	Installation of the new Schantz pipe organ begins
March 4, 2025	New sanctuary seating arrives from Sauder Worship
April 27, 2025	Festive rededication service celebrating completion of hurricane restoration

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**