

Being Faithful in a Political World



On Tuesday, November 5th American citizens will have the privilege and duty to vote in a national election. When it comes to elections and politics let's face it, lots of us are exhausted, disillusioned, and anxious. Politics has become increasingly divisive and sadly even violent. In the past six months there have been two assassination attempts on former president Donald Trump, there are death threats made against Vice President Kamala Harris, and of course there are the countless number of relationships from spouse to family, to friends that have dissolved because of political differences.

As Christians we celebrate and give thanks that our faith proclaims that amidst fear, division, and uncertainty the power of the Triune God is not only at work but is victorious. We proclaim Christ born, crucified, risen, and ascended which demonstrates that he is the Messiah and Son of God who has conquered the world and brought forth the Kingdom of God which will one day come in fullness. Yet what does that mean for Christians now? It means that we are called to daily proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in our words and deeds as we await his coming in glory.

That means we seek daily to love both God and neighbor and one way we can demonstrate love of neighbor is to advocate for our neighbors by voting and participating in civil life. Voting for Christians is ultimately about asking who we believe will best be a servant leader on behalf of our neighbors, communities, and country. As you prepare to vote here are what I

hope will be helpful scripture passages, prayers, and information to serve as a guide. Thank you for having hope through our Lord Jesus Christ and serving others by voting.

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Nicole

Voting and the ELCA

1. The ELCA does not endorse any political candidate or political party.
2. The Johnson Amendment, a provision in the U.S. tax code in effect since 1954, forbids any non-profit organizations (that includes churches) from endorsing or opposing any political candidate/candidates.
3. Congregations are permitted to invite political candidates to speak at their church provided candidates from both parties running for the office are invited.
4. Congregations are not to put up political campaign signs. Signs encouraging people to vote or stating that the church is a polling station are permitted.

Why Bother to Vote?

1. Voting is truly a privilege. Throughout much of U.S. history voting has not been a right for many groups of people including women, Black Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and sometimes even groups deemed a security risk (Japanese Americans during WWII). By voting you are defending access to this privilege.
2. You show respect for all those who fought hard to guarantee this right for citizens, many of whom never got to enjoy this right themselves.
3. Voting is a way to obey God's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. Voting is a way to show you care about your neighbors by using the power you must advocate for political leaders you believe will best serve them.
4. Voting is a testament to having or seeking hope. By voting you show that you refuse to just give up on your neighbors, communities, or country.

Helpful Scripture Passages

Reading Holy Scripture is essential for the life of a Christian. Here are just a few passages that I hope you find helpful as you prepare to vote.

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” – Jeremiah 29:7

These are the words of God spoken to God’s chosen people as they are in exile in Babylon. Notice how God tells them to pray for the welfare, the goodness, the wellbeing of the very city they have been forcibly taken to by King Nebuchadnezzar.

How is this applicable to us today?

It’s easy to fall into the trap of hopelessness by thinking that America is on a downward spiral towards destruction and only the political candidate or party you favor can possibly save it. Instead of that temptation to hopelessness we are called as Christians to recognize that ultimately the Triune God alone is in control and no matter who wins the Kingdom of God has come near and the world will not end unless God wills it. God is not waiting on an election, political party, or candidate to bring the completion of the Kingdom. God is waiting on his own time and will.

“Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up,[h] as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. 31 Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” – Ephesians 4:29-32

St. Paul, or someone who was a follower of Paul, wrote these words to the Christian community in Ephesus during a time when there was division among members.

How is this applicable to us today?

It’s important to remember that no matter how passionate you are about a candidate or political party there will be congregations’ members who disagree and will vote for the opposite person / party. No matter how passionately you disagree with them, they are still someone created in the image of God, redeemed by Christ in baptism, and joined together with you through baptism into the mystical body of Christ. When the temptation to criticize,

slander, or say something rude about a candidate remember that you are also slandering and degrading a member of your community of faith.

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” – John 13:34-35

Jesus speaks these words in the Gospel according to St. John just before he is betrayed and handed over to suffering and death. He calls his disciples to love one another by modeling for each other the love they have received from Christ. This means serving one another without counting the cost, forgiving one another, being involved in the joys and difficulties of one another’s lives, and moving forward together.

How is this applicable for us today?

Politics can be divisive but for Christian communities it does not have to be. We can have real differences and not have to let them divide us. It’s OK to think differently than one another on matters of politics, it’s OK to discuss them with one another in healthy respectful conversations. This is one way we can show love for one another by loving someone enough to listen to their thoughts on important political matters like abortion, immigration, government finances, etc. How is this love? Because if you really care about someone you want to truly know them and that means knowing what they think and how they feel on deep matters like politics. Imagine how this kind of behavior glorifies God when people outside the Church, people with only stereotypes about Christians, see people of vastly different political beliefs showing respect and compassion for each other.

Tips for Engaging Someone on Politics

1. Ask honest and respectful questions about why someone feels the way they do about a political issue and then LISTEN and let them tell their story. Thank them for sharing when they are done.
2. Don’t make assumptions about someone based on how they vote. Stereotypes and assumptions do not build up anyone in holiness.
3. If you feel yourself getting anxious, upset, or stressed when discussing a topic, it’s OK to be honest about that! Respectfully ask if you can resume the conversation later after you have had time to process what you have discussed, how you are feeling and why, etc.

4. Political conversations about having honest and open discussions about complicated and difficult topics that don't have simply "magic bullet" answers.
5. It's OK to not change your opinion! You have your own unique identity and that means you are not always going to agree with someone or change your viewpoint (or theirs). That's OK and does not mean anyone "failed" in the conversation.
6. Remember no matter how different your viewpoints that you always have things in common with the other person. You both breathe air, you both have favorite foods, you both have hobbies, you both are dependent on the goodness and mercy of the Triune God, etc.

Prayers for Voting

It's always a good idea to pray and invite God into your daily living!

"Lord God, you call your people to honor those in authority. Help us to elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life, and serve our neighbors in local communities. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen." – ELW p .77

"Almighty God, our heavenly Father, bless the public servants in the government of this *state / province / city / town* (here say their name/names), that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Help them use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." – ELW p.77

"Holy God, I thank you for the privilege and blessing of voting. I thank you for the lives and sacrifices of all those who fought hard to ensure this right for myself and all the citizens of this country. Send me your Holy Spirit, the spirit of wisdom and counsel, as I prepare to vote. Grant me the grace to remember that whoever is elected you alone are Lord, Savior, and Redeemer of this world. I ask this through Christ your Son. Amen." – A Prayer for Voters created by Pr. Nicole



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In this Issue:

When is the Right Time?

When Change Comes...

Papua New Guinea

2025 Synod Assembly

Upcoming Events

Congregations in Transition

When is the Right Time?

I have always tried to keep my promises, but after much thought I have made the decision to retire from full-time ministry on November 30, 2024. I originally told Bishop Satterlee I would stay to the end of this term in the summer of 2025; however, many things have happened over the years that influenced my decision to move that date forward.



Since 2010, Sue and I have each lost both of our parents, my sister and her husband, Sue's younger sister, and her older sister's husband. We have also experienced the COVID pandemic and the birth of our only grandchild. I now share ownership of the family home in South Carolina, where my younger brother lives. He recently had heart valve replacement surgery and so I work with him to maintain the property and have a place to hang out during the depths of winter.

Life seems to be slipping away. Our grandchild just started first grade and is already reading at a third grade level. Soon he will be a teenager and grandparents may not seem so cool. I started to teach him how to fish and he wants to be my fishing buddy. I want to be a memorable part of his life. Sue and I celebrated 48 years of marriage this summer and on September 7, I will celebrate 44 years of ordained ministry. The week after that, I will turn 69. It is time to slow down and redirect.

In consultation with Sue, my family, and our financial advisor, I broke the news to Bishop Satterlee a few months ago of my retirement date and since that time he has been supportive and has begun to plot how the transition will happen. I am not moving anywhere. At the permission of Bishop Satterlee, I will continue some of the things I am passionate about including Disaster Response, Living Water Ministries Board, the You Are Witnesses Retreats, and the Response Team. I am sorry if this puts extra burden on the staff and others and will do whatever I can to help when I can.

In my ministry so far, I have served St. Thomas, Trufant Michigan; Calvary, Northwood, Ohio; Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio; Christ the King, Gladwin, Michigan; and the North/West Lower Michigan Synod and ELCA. It has been an honor and a privilege that God has called me to serve in these many different ways and I look forward to what God has in mind for this next chapter of my life.

The Rev. David E. Sprang
Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

When Endings Come...

Ending is coming to a ministry that is important to me. Each summer from 1988–2024, the ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program gathered an ecumenical cohort of preachers from across the United States, Canada, Sweden, and several other countries—along with leading teachers of preaching—for three weeks of classes in Chicago. The students then returned home and, working with a group in their congregation, integrated what they learned into their preaching. I served as dean of this program from 2002–2014. I loved both the work and the people I worked with. Ending my service was hard.

In June, this program held its last summer residency and will end after graduation in 2025. Even though I've been away for more than a decade, I was stunned when I received this news. Learning ending is coming to something in which I had so invested myself was hard. Part of me wanted to stop ending from coming. I considered attending the closing celebration. Thankfully, the bishop in me counseled the former dean in me that my presence would not be helpful. The last thing the program's current leaders needed was me showing up feeling sad or mad or as if I still had a say.

Even more thankfully, a friend who would attend the celebration telephoned and invited my remembrances and reflections. I recalled cherished friendships. I was able to express that the program was important to me. I acknowledged the work we did was meaningful. I admitted I'm sad the program is ending. And I declared my support for the leaders who made the decision to end. Then, to my surprise, another friend sent me a coffee mug from the closing celebration, which I will cherish, at least for a time. When endings come, we grieve. We grieve even harder when we are powerless to stop endings from coming. So, we do our best to express our grief rather than attack, blame, or undermine others.

Ending is coming to a partnership that is dear to me. My friend David is retiring as Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop in November. David and I became partners in November 2013 and made our partnership official in January 2014. David loves the work and loves the people with whom he works, by which I mean David loves this synod. I expect David will find ending his service hard. I expect that, in the coming years, David will have to watch from the sidelines as ending comes to things in which he invested himself. We can do as my friends did for me and invite David to remember, reflect, and grieve.

I am curious what retirement will look like for David. I give him 15 minutes rocking on his porch before he is on to something else. In reality, David is moving into the next chapter of his life. This will be inconvenient, disruptive, even scary for our synod and for us. We can either bless David or resent David. I recall sitting at my desk in Chicago the day after I was elected bishop. One after another, people filed in to express their dismay that I was forsaking my call to teach preaching, which came from the whole church, to serve a single synod as bishop. Boy, was I feeling guilty because I was deserting my post. Thankfully, a colleague sat down across from me and said, "Craig, you are an excellent preaching professor. You were built to be a bishop." On my last evening in my office, as I was picking up the last box, putting my keys in my desk drawer, and closing my locked office door behind me, another colleague stepped up and quietly thanked me for my service and assured me that God was calling me to be bishop. When endings come, we bless. We thank. We keep our disappointment and resentment to ourselves, or we find someone safe with whom to share it. We will bless and thank David on November 2 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Gladwin. Please plan to join us and RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/3MCCDu8>

Of course, when endings come, we panic. We want to know what comes next. We want to know that everything will be okay. We want answers to questions that no one has the answers to yet. Pastor David, Pastor Chrisy, and I will work together to develop a plan in which David deliberately relinquishes responsibilities in the course of the next three months. I am hoping for a step down rather than a sudden stop. We will keep you posted as the plan unfolds. We will undoubtedly miss something, so we ask for your patience and understanding.

After all, when endings come, some moments are simply jarring. A couple weeks after I was elected bishop, the faculty called a meeting to which I was not invited. It was jarring to be excluded from a meeting of the faculty to which I'd belong for 13 years when there were still three months before I began serving as bishop. It's hard to live in that in-between space—gone from where you are and not arrived at where you are going. David will

Continued from page 2

Basically, this DEM will consult and keep us informed of everything churchwide wants us to be informed of as Pastor Chrisy and I do the work on the ground. We will begin the process of calling our next DEM and Assistant to the Bishop either in June or October, depending on the outcome of the bishop election in May. If we begin in June, we might expect the position to be filled in September; if we begin in October, we might expect the position to be filled in January.

Most important, when endings come, we trust. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26). Jesus does not keep endings from coming. Jesus' life ended on the cross. And from that ending came a new beginning, as Jesus rose to bring new life as Easter dawned.

When endings come, we can bury our heads in the sand and hope that they will pass us by. We can raise our fists and shout in an attempt to scare endings away. Or we can stand on the rock that is Christ, look endings squarely in the face, acknowledge through our tears that endings are coming, prepare for the endings that will come, and trust Jesus to bring new life.

I know from congregational leaders that I am not alone. Endings are coming to ministries that are important and partnerships that are dear to many of us—in our synod, yes, and also in congregations. Endings are hard and we will grieve. Jesus is with us and will bring new life. I am eager to accompany you on this journey. Please invite me to come alongside whenever I can be helpful.

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop

experience this—and so will we. When endings come, we therefore endeavor to be understanding and tender with one another.

When endings come, we wait. From December through May, we will be assisted by what churchwide calls "a phone-a-friend DEM" who will advise us "in case you [Bishop Craig] get in over your head." David and I smiled.

Continued on page 3

Lutheran Campus Ministries: Sharing a Little Jesus

With the start of fall, our campus ministries are welcoming students back with open houses, dinners, gatherings, worship, and by being visible at campus events. Our campus ministry in Mt. Pleasant recently shared how they engaged students at the college's welcome back event. They set up a booth and handed out mini Jesus figures that were very popular at this year's ELCA Youth Gathering. As the volunteers greeted students and handed out figures, they experienced the students' excitement at taking home a little Jesus. Throughout the event, volunteers heard the students say:

- "I need a little Jesus!"
- "I'm going to put Jesus next to my bed."
- "Should we get one for Johnny? He really needs Jesus!"
- "Can I take Jesus to my sick friend?"
- "Little Jesus is the best hand out of the day."

In being present, open, and fun, these campus ministry volunteers were able to engage students in an exciting and casual way. As our campus ministries continue their important work of providing a safe, welcoming, and loving place for students, it's important for all of us to remember that sometimes sharing a little Jesus is all it takes.

If you know a college student on the territory of our synod, please share our campus ministries with them! We have active Lutheran Campus Ministries in four locations, which serve seven college campuses:

- **One Community** – A ministry of University Lutheran Church in East Lansing, serving Michigan State University.
- **Immanuel On Campus** – A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant, serving Central Michigan University.
- **Matrix** – A ministry of Trinity and Lutheran Church of the Savior in Kalamazoo, Prince of Peace in Portage, and Trinity and St. Peter in Battle Creek. They serve Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College.
- **United Campus Christian Fellowship** – A joint effort between ELCA, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches that serves Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Community College, and Kendall College of Art and Design.

To learn more about Lutheran Campus Ministries visit: <https://www.luminelca.org/>

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday in the Mitten Synod

Members of Feast of Victory in Acme (ranging in age from 5 to 85) visited and led a joyful time of singing, dancing, and rhythm instrument playing with neighbors at Autumn House (formerly Samaritas Senior Living).



Members of Prince of Peace, Portage packed health kits and backpacks and tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The health kits and backpacks will be sent off next month. Some of their young people also worked in the Jubilee Garden harvesting turnips and learning about planting and watering from their master gardener.



God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

Members of Saron in St. Joseph prepared teaching items for preschoolers at the Readiness Center, sorted school supplies, and volunteered at the Boys & Girls Club.



Members of Peace in Gaylord participated in a variety of projects including the highway cleanup of two miles of road near the church and packing backpacks and assembling over 80 health kits for Lutheran World Relief.



Members of St. Peter and Trinity Lutheran in Battle Creek joined together to package home baked cookies for school bus drivers and first responders, write notes to those who are incarcerated, cut out used stamps to be sold to collectors with the money going to buy school supplies for elementary schools, packed "blessing bags" with personal care products for those in need, and made beaded cross jewelry to be distributed.

2024 Companion Synod Consultation in Papua New Guinea: Crashes and Floods

Pastor David E. Sprang, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

Papua New Guinea is a country of contrasts. The cities are full of traffic jams and cellphones while the villages do not always have running water or electricity and folks primarily live on subsistence farming. In the cities, people dress in business casual while in the villages many men and women wear traditional lap-lap skirts. Worship in the cities is in English with contemporary worship songs, while worship in village churches are in Tok Pisin, one of the local languages, feature traditional hymns with men and women seated separately. New mission congregations are being formed in the far reaches of the country while the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea just celebrated 130 years of the arrival of Lutheran missionaries. The church supports three seminaries and three colleges. For the first time in ten years, a new ELCA missionary family has arrived in Lae. Rev. Andrew and Meredith Ronnevik and their children will serve a five year commitment with Andrew teaching at Martin Luther Seminary and Meredith teaching English.



From August 11-25, representatives from the four ELCA synods that relate to Papua New Guinea (North/West Lower Michigan, North Carolina, Virginia, and Central States) traveled to Papua New Guinea for the periodic partner church consultation. The group was accompanied by ELCA Service and Justice/Global Mission Staff. The trip takes 28 hours of flying and a large amount of time spent in airports. Pastor David Hueter and I were our synod representatives. I have represented our synod numerous times in consultations and Pastor Hueter was born in Papua New Guinea and has a family heritage of mission work there.

When we arrived in Australia, we learned our hotel had a helicopter crash on the roof. The damage delayed our much needed showers and changes of clothes by a few hours, but eventually all was resolved. Our group then traveled to Lae and received a festive welcome. The consultations were held at Martin Luther Seminary which has become part of the new ELC-PNG National Lutheran University, which includes Ballob Teacher's College, a nursing school in Madang, and a church college in Mt. Hagen. The seminary students organized a traditional welcome called a sing-sing, dressing in traditional costumes and singing from different regions of the country. During the consultation there were presentations on partnership, mutual support, issues facing the churches in both countries, and ways we can be the church together. On Sunday morning, the group worshiped with the seminary community in the chapel before each group traveled to their respective companion district.



Pastor Hueter and I traveled to Port Moresby, our synod's companion district, where we visited cultural sites including an orchid garden and wildlife park. On Tuesday, we met with local Lutheran pastors and gathered with the National University Lutheran Student Congregation for a lively discussion with the students. We then traveled to Karema, a distant mission congregation where no one from the ELCA had ever visited before. The congregation there was very grateful that international visitors would visit with them and hear of their evangelism work.

The Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea is alive and growing. They are fluent in sharing Jesus and the love of God with friends, neighbors, and even strangers. We have much to learn from their enthusiastic evangelism. We agreed to pray for each other, continue visits, and give thanks to God for the variety of God's church in the world. The trip ended with about half of the group stranded in Lae for a few extra days because the bridge on the road to the airport washed out due to monsoonal rains. Fortunately, we were already in Port Moresby and so our travel plans were not delayed. Papua New Guinea is a fascinating place to visit and do mission. One never knows what will happen next.



Luther Seminary Lay Ministry Program

Linda Wicander, member of Synod Council and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mt. Pleasant

I graduated from our synod's Lay Ministry Training Program (Equipping Leaders for Mission and Ministry) and Luther Seminary's Lay Ministry Training Program. Both programs gave me wonderful Bible education, good insights into church life and church programs, and connections with interesting and exciting people of faith. I am very excited that Luther Seminary is offering a new Lay Ministry Training cohort starting on October 12, 2024. I am so excited about the new curriculum that I am considering participating in it again. Yes, it's so good that I know I would benefit from taking it a second time!

This is a 12 month online, on-demand program that allows participants to complete the monthly materials, videos, and activities at their own pace. The group meets once a month for a live three-hour session (via Zoom) that consists of worship, group interaction, and discussion of the session topics. Don't worry if you can't make the live cohort meetings, the sessions are recorded and you can access them at your convenience.

The curriculum is designed specifically for the Luther Seminary Lay Ministry Training Program. Although most participants are members of an ELCA congregation, it is an ecumenical group with participants across a variety of denominations. The group facilitator is Rev. Marianne Ell who is an Episcopal priest with years of ecumenical experience.

In addition, the cohort peer group is very supportive. I think interacting with people of faith from a variety of settings (large and small congregations, rural and urban locations) opened my eyes to the struggles and rewards we experience as we share our faith. I strongly encourage anyone interested in this program to take the plunge and join it! Information about the program is available at <https://bit.ly/4d0dwME>. If you have any questions, please contact me at wican11c@cmich.edu.

When Overwhelmed, Just Gotta Throw...

Pastor Paul Busekist, Environmental Stewardship Task Force

Years ago, when I was training for ministry in a hospital setting, a chaplain colleague threw something out there. Literally. She was talking about what to do when you're overwhelmed and just can't seem to muster the gumption to get into that hospital room and say something (anything!) to a patient in emotional, physical or spiritual distress. "Sometimes, when you're staring paralyzed at the dart board, you just gotta throw a dart."

That was it. The advice was simple. *Too* simple. Yet how many times have we witnessed or experienced the effects of poverty, hunger, financial strain or a warming climate and said to ourselves, "What can just one person do – this problem is *too huge* for me to make an impact." And if it was just up to a single person, that statement might be true. Yet people do make a difference when an action becomes a movement. For every recyclable item that goes back into circulation, every tree planted, every solar array installed, or every hybrid/plug-in hybrid or electric vehicle (EV) purchased, carbon is taken out of the atmosphere—a "dart" lands squarely. And the chance to slow down a warming atmosphere is kept alive through actions and hope.

Hope can become collective change, spreading and bringing life to entire communities, nations and the world. Hope, as the apostle Paul writes, is one of the "top three" agents for the gospel to flourish and for the impossible to be made possible through God's work (and our hands!) with faith and love, of course, the "greatest of these" (1 Corinthians 13.)

This month, I invite you on behalf of our synod's Environmental Stewardship Task Force (ESTF) to circumnavigate the noise of the world's skepticism and find one (just one!) way to help this planet. Then embark on that journey. Track your effort and embrace the way it has changed the rhythm of your life. Your new faith practice will be a way to give back to God's green and blue planet. I promise to do the same. In the meantime, I will pray the words of the 8th psalmist: "What are humans, that you [God] are mindful of us?...You have given us dominion over the works of your hands."

Please embrace the challenge and share your story with me at paul.busekist@bethlehemntc.org. Please also consider attending our Solar Faithful Webinar on October 17: <https://bit.ly/3XCbtfl>.

Caring for the Lord's Earth

Bishop Emeritus John Schleicher, Environmental Stewardship Task Force

“The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it” (Psalm 24:1a)

Sitting in a taxi in Munich on February 17, stuck in traffic, John Kerry wrestled with an idea. The U.S. climate envoy was in southern Germany to attend an annual security conference. In a few hours, the former Secretary of State would receive an award named in honor of a well-known Nazi resister, Ewald von Kleist. As he ruminated on his remarks, he worked to connect what he called the 'echoes of the 1930's' in today's geopolitics with the need for unity on climate action.

That night he found the words: “On climate, on Ukraine, and on so much more, the whole world needs to come together...We stand next to another abyss. It is the test of our own times, a test as acute and as existential as any previous one” (TIME, 4/8/24 p.53).

As we again approach another Earth Day, we are experiencing first hand (literally for Phylis and me in the recent storm that toppled trees in our backyard) weird weather patterns unlike any we've known before. Who of us has not wondered this winter and spring about the destiny of cherries and apples and grapes, hitherto growing so abundantly in our state.

We are not without hope. Rob Rafson, head of Chart House Energy, a Muskegon based company working hand in hand with organizations like Michigan Interfaith Power and Light, has helped birth Solar Faithful, people of faith standing together “next to the abyss” during perhaps the greatest test of our time. Already in our synod family, Solar Faithful has enabled First Lutheran in Muskegon Heights, Faith in Okemos, and Bethlehem in Traverse City to install solar arrays (with substantial rebates or no cost to the congregations). With new governmental incentives it is truly possible that in the next six or seven years a majority of our congregations could stand together next to the abyss utilizing solar power, creating and/or supporting community/rain gardens, and voting our faith in the months and years ahead as a bold stewards of the LORD's earth

In many ways the future for the earth looks very bleak. According to the United Nations, two-thirds of the world is desertifying and the world's remaining topsoil will be gone in 60 years unless we find a way to save our soil. We have yet to come close to reducing our emissions enough to mitigate rising mean temperatures. Yet, for us, trusting day by day in the power of Jesus' death and resurrection, we will stand together, working the rest of our lives to honor and cherish this precious planet and all that is in it.

Synod Finances

	March	Year to Date
Unrestricted-Undesignated Fund		<i>(Feb-Mar)</i>
Mission Support Revenue	82,958	187,637
Synod Assembly Revenue	0	0
Other Revenue	14,027	17,779
Total Revenue	96,984	205,417
Churchwide Proportionate Share (50%)	41,479	93,819
Synod Assembly Expense	0	0
Other Expenses	68,047	71,717
Total Expenses	109,526	220,190
Net Change to Fund Balance (Revenue - Expenses)	(12,542)	(14,774)
Beginning Fund Balance	144,508	146,740
Ending Fund Balance	131,967	131,967
Other Fund Balances		
Unrestricted-Designated		1,006,203
Temporarily-Restricted Endowment-Related*		868,120
Temporarily-Restricted		316,830
Permanently-Restricted		1,035,547
Total - All Funds (as of 3/31/24)		3,358,667

*Mission Support received March 1-31 was \$25K less than prior year. We believe this is related to the timing of mail delivery.

*March 31 ELCA Ministry Growth Fund Account Statements were not available at the time of publishing this summary. The amounts shown here reflect balances as of 2/29/24.

Tax-Exempt Status

Occasionally we receive requests from congregations for information about tax-exempt status and/or federal employer identification numbers, aka FEINs.

Congregations should have their own FEIN and questions about tax exempt status should be sent to 501c3@elca.org.

Mission Support Memo

The April 2024 Mission Support Memo is now available! This month's memo inspires us to wonder how God might be calling us into ministry and shares an opportunity to learn best practices in creating and empowering stewardship teams.

This month's Mission Support Memo and previous Mission Support Memos are located on the ELCA website: <https://bit.ly/3Of7waL>

Congregations in Transition

Note: We include congregations on the public list when the called pastor or rostered leader completes her or his ministry in the congregation. Thus, congregations in which the pastor has resigned but is still serving are not listed here. We also do not post calls that are accepted until Bishop Satterlee signs the Letter of Call.

Bay Conference	Pastor Emily Olsen-Brandt, Dean	Kalamazoo Conference	Pastor Joan Oleson, Dean
Prince of Peace/Rose City	Pastor David Sprang, Administrative Pastor / Supply Pastors / Discerning Future	Stony Lake Conference	Pastor Sarah Samuelson, Dean
Capital Area Conference	Pastor Neil Brady, Dean	Sunrise Conference	Pastor Megan Crouch, Dean
Grace/Lansing	Pastor Brian Schneider-Thomas, Interim	New Life/Alcona County	Supply Pastors / Seeking candidates
Greater Grand Rapids Conference	Pastor Julie Schneider-Thomas, Pastor Kate Van Valkenburg, Co-Deans	St. Paul/Alpena	Seeking a part-time assistant pastor
Trinity/Grand Rapids	Pastor Dennis Smith, Interim Senior Pastor / Seeking candidates	Trinity/Barton City	Discerning Future
Bread of Life/Hudsonville	CALL ACCEPTED: Pastor David Beese, Term Call through 2029	Traverse Conference	Pastor Jonathan Reid, Dean
Peace/Sparta	Supply Pastors / Interviewing	Advent/Lake Ann	Pastor Rosanne Anderson, Administrative Pastor / Supply Pastors
Zion/Woodland	Supply Pastors / Seeking candidates	St. Paul/Reed City	Supply Pastors / Call Extended
		Messiah/Roscommon	Took first vote to disaffiliate from the ELCA

WHERE TO GET UNBIASED VOTING INFORMATION

Want info on candidates before you vote? The League of Women Voters has this site you can go to: www.vote411.org/Michigan or, to get a personalized list of ballot proposals, www.vote411.org/ballot They publish the results of candidates' answers to survey questions and only edit for profanity and spelling. For info on the environmental stance of candidates, try the Sierra Club website. (They obviously have a bias toward candidates that favor the environment.)

THE LEAVES ARE NOT REALLY "TURNING" COLOR

During the fall, lower temperatures and shorter daylight hours signal tree leaves to stop making chlorophyll. The color you see depends on which pigments are most present in the leaves underneath the chlorophyll. Reds and purples are from pigments called anthocyanins (also present in red and purple flowers).

Oranges and yellows are from carotenoids (also in carrots and squash). Which of these is present depends on the variety of the tree and its location. Rainy, cool springs followed by mild summers and cold fall nights tend to be the best recipe for fall colors. And by the way, deciduous trees drop their leaves as protection to keep the weight of heavy snow and ice from breaking the branches. Isn't our Creator God marvelously inventive?

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Chris Edwards, a meteorologist that specializes in climate change, and is a very engaging speaker, will be speaking at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lansing on October 24 th . Watch for a flier with more info coming soon to the narthex boards.

SOLAR FAITHFUL WEBINAR OCTOBER 17 TH

A repeat of the August Solar Faithful Webinar will be held from 7-8 p.m. on October 17 th . If you have a commitment on Thursdays and cannot make this, let Pat Vance know and she will send you a recording of the August webinar.

Solar Faithful is an organization that helps churches and nonprofits install solar arrays through a variety of financing methods, some of which are entirely free for the church or non-profit. They help analyze the church's needs, and design how the church can go about achieving clean energy. One church in Detroit started simply by making their parking lot lights solar. They then went on to install a solar array on their roof, and are now planning how to finance enough battery storage to make their building a community resource during power outages.

The synod Environmental Stewardship Task Force is sponsoring these webinars in an effort to convince churches to consider alternative forms of energy for their buildings. The group believes that we need to be good stewards of the earth, good examples to our community, and leave a sound legacy for our grandchildren.

We are currently investigating the possibility of having a watch party at the church for the October webinar. Watch the bulletin and the October newsletter for more information, but mark your calendars now!

HUMAN TRAFFICKING ON OUR AREA



In collaboration with the Ransom District Library, Hope is bringing a very knowledgeable speaker on human trafficking to Plainwell. Her name is Barbara Hazlett, and she has been specially trained to speak on this topic. Barb is particularly excited to come to our town because, she says, word has it that there is a very active human trafficking cell in our area. The program will be held at the library on Tuesday, October 29th, from 6:30-8:30. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Parents of teens: – Barb strongly suggests that your teens attend this program with you!

EARTH TIPS

Fall is a wonderful time to get out and enjoy the colors and splendor of creation, especially in Michigan. Here are some tips from the Gather Magazine of Fall, 2022, courtesy of Pr Jennifer Ginn.

1) Walk the same path (or sit on the same bench) in the same direction

- for several days. Focus on a different sight or sound each time
- 2) On another walk, pay attention to textures and scents in the vegetation you pass. Feel the bark of trees, the surface of leaves (no poison ivy!), the texture of mosses. Smell the different plants.
 - 3) Devote one day to prayer. As you walk, whisper a prayer for trees, for rocks, for waters, for vines ...
 - 4) Recall music that praises God's good creation. Hum familiar tunes on your walk.

Live in awe of the world around you!

Welcome to Hope, Bryan!

On Sunday, September 8th we were excited to welcome Mr. Bryan Fields to Hope as our new church musician / choir director. We are very thankful for all the talent, enthusiasm, and joy he brings, and we look forward to the wonderful ways he will help us to praise and give thanks to God in worship. Here is a short biography from Bryan to help you get to know him better.



Bryan is a first-year master's student at Western Michigan University, studying piano performance. He is originally from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and received his bachelor's degree at Furman University. He has experience playing in churches in Wampee, Greenville,

and Taylors, South Carolina. When he's not at the piano, Bryan enjoys watching WMU football games, playing basketball, and taking scenic drives around Lake Michigan.

Pet Blessing Service



Saturday, October 5th, weather permitting, at 11:00 a.m. Hope will host a short outdoor pet blessing service in the church parking lot. The service will include scripture readings, prayers, and a blessing of pets. For the safety of others, pets must be appropriately leashed / muzzled, crated, or remain in your car.

Council Highlights

- Council did not meet during the summer months, but will resume meeting monthly beginning Tuesday, September 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Education Room.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AT HOPE

Prayer Chain - this Prayer List is for Urgent or Special requests for prayer. This list is confidential. **In Our Prayers List** - this list is for general or on-going needs for prayer. It is published in the eBlasts, worship bulletins, and the Together Newsletter. They are also read out loud during worship. **Tuesday Bible Study Prayer List** - The Tuesday Bible Study Group meets at Hope at 9:30 am and prays for various prayer requests.

Prayer requests are coordinated by Judi Gage.

Giving to Hope Lutheran Church

At Hope we seek to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ and to share the good news of Jesus Christ in our community and world. Thank you for your generosity in helping support our missions and outreach!

Give by Check

Checks made out to Hope Lutheran may be safely sent to:

Hope Lutheran Church

290 12th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080

Need Giving Envelopes?

Contact Keith Gage

Give Online

Give safe and securely with PayPal! Simply scan the QR Code below and you will be directed through making an online donation to Hope. You can also schedule

recurring giving!



Christian Neighbors

Items We Always Need Are:

- Oatmeal
- Jelly
- Pancake Mix
- Pancake Syrup
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Applesauce
- Canned Fruit
- Snack Items (chips, pretzels, granola bars, etc.)
- Canned Ravioli
- Women's Deodorant



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

August Financial Report

THE MONTHLY REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY		AUGUST 2024		
GENERAL FUND	THIS MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	LAST YEAR TO DATE	CHANGE
GENERAL FUND	\$6,442.50	\$48,949.27	\$48,551.55	\$397.72
LOOSE OFFERING	\$5.00	\$221.33	\$187.34	\$33.99
GENERAL FUND TOTALS	\$6,447.50	\$49,170.60	\$48,738.89	\$431.71

DESIGNATED GIVING	THIS MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	LAST YEAR TO DATE	CHANGE
ADMINISTRATING EUCHARIST	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
BASEBALL TICKETS	\$0.00	\$32.00	\$0.00	\$32.00
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	-\$50.00
COMMUNION WINE	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$140.00	-\$70.00
FLOWER FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	-\$10.00
FUNERAL FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$143.00	-\$143.00
KITCHEN FUND	\$0.00	\$481.00	\$0.00	\$481.00
LEAF BLOWER	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MEMORIAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,615.00	-\$1,615.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$0.00	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$35.00
PASTORAL VISITING	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
RETREAT	\$0.00	\$670.00	\$100.00	\$570.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHRISTIAN EDUCATIO	\$0.00	\$47.37	\$31.54	\$15.83
STAFF GIFTS	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$270.00	\$130.00
STUDYING EUCHARIST	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
TORNADO RELIEF	\$0.00	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
ZOO TRIP	\$20.00	\$516.25	\$0.00	\$516.25
DESIGNATED GIVING TOTAL	\$420.00	\$3,326.62	\$2,359.54	\$967.08

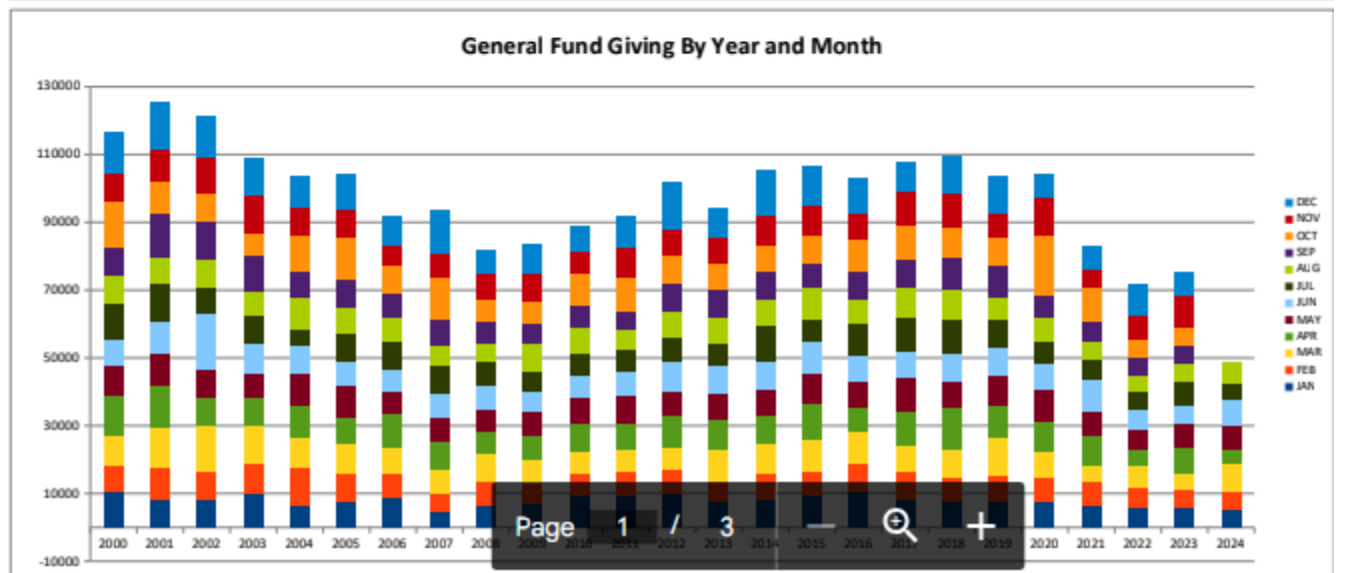
EXTERNAL MINISTRIES	THIS MONTH	2587.87	LAST YEAR TO DATE	CHANGE
CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS	\$200.00	\$2,785.87	\$2,296.05	\$489.82
ELCA FUND LEADERS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	-\$10.00
GOOD HANDS PLAINWELL	\$40.00	\$320.00	\$210.00	\$110.00
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$0.00	\$55.99	\$50.42	\$5.57
PROJECT HOPE XICHIUAN (GSF)	\$0.00	\$350.56	\$575.00	-\$224.44
SEMINARY FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SYLVIA'S PLACE	\$40.00	\$320.00	\$175.00	\$145.00
SYNOD DEBT ASSISTANCE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	-\$12.00
WINGS OF HOPE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	-\$12.00
EXTERNAL MINISTRIES TOTAL	\$280.00	\$3,832.42	\$3,340.47	\$491.95

6.80% PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GIVING DESIGNATED FOR EXTERNAL MINISTRIES

OTHER REVENUE	THIS MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	LAST YEAR TO DATE	CHANGE
REFUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$203.29	-\$203.29
THRIVENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NON GIVING TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$203.29	-\$203.29

GRAND TOTALS	\$7,147.50	\$56,329.64	\$54,642.19	\$1,687.45
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	General Fund Giving Past 12 Months:	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	
	\$75,823.27	\$6,318.61	\$1,458.14	
TOTAL NUMBER OF DONATIONS	50	433	452	-19
NUMBER OF DIFFERENT DONORS	26	43	56	-13



General Giving (Non Designated) By Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2000	\$9,537.00	\$7,422.00	\$9,843.00	\$12,217.00	\$8,516.00	\$8,056.00	\$10,577.00	\$8,272.00	\$8,306.00	\$11,281.00	\$8,453.00	\$12,368.99	\$116,788
2001	\$8,108.00	\$9,615.00	\$11,418.00	\$12,982.00	\$9,479.90	\$9,176.04	\$11,092.00	\$7,790.00	\$13,072.50	\$9,414.00	\$8,288.00	\$13,888.25	\$125,296
2002	\$8,658.09	\$7,701.00	\$13,880.00	\$8,212.00	\$7,778.00	\$13,164.84	\$7,502.24	\$8,303.00	\$11,111.88	\$8,517.37	\$10,384.52	\$12,288.84	\$121,340
2003	\$9,888.86	\$8,653.00	\$11,717.13	\$8,365.38	\$7,113.00	\$8,459.72	\$8,585.80	\$6,621.54	\$11,000.75	\$6,124.01	\$11,518.96	\$13,642.91	\$109,090
2004	\$6,578.00	\$10,345.88	\$8,338.00	\$9,435.48	\$9,728.87	\$7,721.40	\$4,813.63	\$9,397.69	\$7,715.00	\$10,642.78	\$8,387.00	\$9,213.00	\$103,738
2005	\$7,712.00	\$8,417.34	\$8,583.34	\$8,055.00	\$9,042.36	\$7,173.48	\$8,622.48	\$7,210.06	\$8,306.34	\$12,860.00	\$8,343.82	\$10,631.46	\$104,077
2006	\$8,877.80	\$6,916.00	\$7,674.00	\$10,177.82	\$6,616.00	\$6,340.00	\$8,366.83	\$6,829.00	\$7,360.65	\$8,424.24	\$5,955.00	\$8,343.00	\$91,514
2007	\$4,721.29	\$3,130.58	\$7,138.34	\$8,335.00	\$7,072.71	\$7,230.00	\$8,308.50	\$6,005.40	\$7,260.00	\$12,501.50	\$7,374.99	\$12,430.00	\$93,695
2008	\$6,519.00	\$6,858.64	\$9,073.50	\$7,018.38	\$6,334.00	\$7,347.00	\$6,821.26	\$5,680.00	\$6,599.86	\$6,099.80	\$8,136.90	\$6,559.00	\$81,722
2009	\$7,142.80	\$3,880.00	\$7,128.00	\$6,738.00	\$7,658.00	\$5,547.00	\$5,678.00	\$8,151.30	\$6,422.89	\$6,343.88	\$8,875.72	\$8,700.14	\$83,468
2010	\$9,244.00	\$6,615.05	\$6,673.00	\$8,255.30	\$7,844.00	\$6,103.13	\$6,875.80	\$7,170.00	\$6,524.25	\$9,793.00	\$6,541.00	\$7,395.00	\$89,132
2011	\$9,537.00	\$6,696.00	\$8,481.00	\$8,243.00	\$8,335.00	\$6,562.00	\$6,802.42	\$6,026.00	\$5,139.00	\$9,686.00	\$8,196.00	\$9,161.00	\$91,844
2012	\$10,257.00	\$6,828.00	\$8,413.44	\$9,216.00	\$7,588.46	\$8,881.00	\$7,216.80	\$7,258.82	\$8,649.00	\$8,695.00	\$7,885.00	\$13,780.00	\$102,072
2013	\$7,563.28	\$6,374.00	\$8,982.00	\$9,068.00	\$7,626.35	\$8,076.00	\$6,788.00	\$7,407.00	\$8,434.00	\$7,383.00	\$7,811.42	\$8,842.00	\$94,525
2014	\$8,302.00	\$7,489.50	\$8,714.00	\$8,571.00	\$7,816.00	\$8,350.00	\$10,124.00	\$7,913.56	\$8,135.00	\$7,617.00	\$8,886.00	\$13,655.20	\$105,272
2015	\$9,591.22	\$7,186.00	\$9,201.25	\$10,580.00	\$8,603.00	\$9,334.00	\$6,990.00	\$9,112.00	\$7,586.00	\$7,826.00	\$8,777.00	\$11,534.00	\$106,381
2016	\$10,874.00	\$7,751.00	\$8,356.00	\$7,314.87	\$7,884.52	\$7,477.28	\$9,593.77	\$6,811.00	\$8,221.24	\$9,746.43	\$7,360.00	\$10,529.00	\$103,008
2017	\$8,295.19	\$7,953.21	\$8,012.00	\$9,961.15	\$9,778.44	\$8,175.12	\$9,327.78	\$9,211.28	\$7,799.00	\$10,421.00	\$8,773.00	\$8,781.17	\$107,890
2018	\$7,668.00	\$7,122.00	\$8,117.00	\$12,354.05	\$8,122.00	\$7,916.82	\$10,077.00	\$8,499.19	\$9,887.00	\$8,624.00	\$10,165.16	\$11,878.44	\$109,731
2019	\$7,988.00	\$7,712.00	\$10,669.00	\$9,868.00	\$8,370.00	\$8,505.00	\$8,301.89	\$6,715.00	\$9,355.00	\$8,501.00	\$6,886.30	\$10,980.00	\$103,638
2020	\$7,616.00	\$7,173.00	\$7,385.00	\$9,391.34	\$9,065.00	\$7,725.00	\$6,490.00	\$7,100.00	\$6,784.40	\$17,264.90	\$11,545.60	\$6,904.00	\$104,458
2021	\$6,758.00	\$6,715.00	\$4,896.00	\$8,553.70	\$7,461.00	\$9,278.00	\$5,531.00	\$5,415.00	\$5,740.91	\$9,820.00	\$5,611.37	\$6,495.00	\$82,808
2022	\$6,171.19	\$5,399.00	\$8,291.00	\$5,278.00	\$5,741.54	\$5,658.00	\$5,775.00	\$4,395.00	\$5,485.00	\$5,360.00	\$6,911.63	\$9,270.00	\$71,514
2023	\$5,715.00	\$5,229.00	\$4,987.00	\$7,891.15	\$6,826.48	\$5,575.00	\$6,647.00	\$5,679.00	\$4,940.00	\$5,570.00	\$8,613.00	\$6,761.00	\$75,425
2024	\$5,231.00	\$5,279.06	\$8,073.66	\$4,538.00	\$6,982.25	\$7,550.80	\$4,896.80	\$6,442.50					\$75,425

Highest Month: \$17,264.90 October 2020
 Lowest Month: \$4,395.00 January 2007 & August 2022

2000's GENERAL GIVING BY YEAR

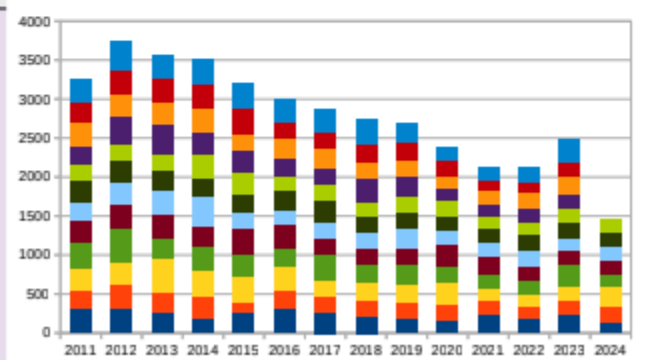
Year	Total	Change from Previous Year
2000	\$116,788.99	
2001	\$125,296.69	7.28%
2002	\$121,340.95	-3.16%
2003	\$109,090.26	-10.10%
2004	\$103,730.73	-4.91%
2005	\$104,077.72	0.33%
2006	\$91,510.44	-12.07%
2007	\$93,695.53	2.39%
2008	\$81,722.34	-12.78%
2009	\$83,468.93	2.14%
2010	\$89,132.73	6.79%
2011	\$91,844.42	3.04%
2012	\$102,072.72	11.14%
2013	\$94,525.05	-7.39%
2014	\$105,272.26	11.37%
2015	\$106,381.47	1.05%
2016	\$103,009.11	-3.17%
2017	\$107,890.34	4.74%
2018	\$109,731.86	1.71%
2019	\$103,639.99	-5.55%
2020	\$104,450.24	0.78%
2021	\$82,800.98	-20.73%
2022	\$71,516.36	-13.63%
2023	\$75,425.55	5.47%
2024	\$48,949.27	-31.56%

Current Pace For This Year (General Giving): \$73,423.91

Last Month's Attendance

August 4, 2024	43	Last Month's Total Attendance:	167
August 11, 2024	41	Last Year Same Month:	157
August 18, 2024	40	Year To Date Attendance:	1452
August 25, 2024	43	Last Year to Date Attendance:	1592
		Change From Last Year:	-140
Average Per Week:		Year To Date:	44.0
Last Month:	41.8	Last Year To Date:	45.5
Last Year-Same Month:	39.3	2023 Year Average:	46.8

Total Attendance By Year



For offering envelopes, contact Keith Gage (kmgage1968@gmail.com)

Newsletter Information

Published 12 times per year
 Do you want information in the next monthly newsletter?

- Email media.hopeplainwell@gmail.com
- Deadline: October 15, 2024

Feel free to email pictures, announcements, or any other information you would like to share with the congregation in next month's newsletter!

October Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10:30am Worship	30	Oct 1 9am Coffee with Vets 9:30am Bible Study 3pm Men's Bible Study	2	3	4 Feast of St Francis of A	5 11am Pet Blessing
6 10:30am Worship	7	8 9:30am Bible Study	9	10	11	12 10am Foam Recycling
13 10:30am Worship	14 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day 11am Feeding America	15 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am News Articles D 6pm Council meeting	16	17	18	19 10am Game / Craft Day
20 10:30am Worship	21	22 9:30am Bible Study	23	24	25	26
27 10:30am Worship	28	29 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Human Traffickir	30	31 Halloween	Nov 1 All Saints' Day First Day of American	2 All Souls' Day

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

- Sunday School (all ages) 9:15 A.M.

- Worship 10:30 A.M.

290 12th Street

Plainwell, MI 49080

Phone: 269-685-1348

Office email: office.hopeplainwell@gmail.com

Pastor Email: hopelutheranpastor@gmail.com

Webpage: hopeplainwell.org

Hope's Facebook page: Hope Lutheran, Plainwell, MI

Hope's YouTube channel: Hope Lutheran Church, Plainwell, MI

Office Hours: Tuesday 9-noon; Wednesday 1;30pm-3:30pm & Thursday 4:15pm-7:15pm