

PALM VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

March 20, 2024, 8 pm, Conference Room

G.R.A.C.E.

Grow in Faith
Reach the Community
provide **A**we-inspiring Worship
Connect in Small Groups
Exceptional Serving

Call to Order

Approve Agenda

Devotion – Jason Dufner

Consent Agenda

| | |
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| Spiritual Life | |
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Other Reports

Executive Administrator & Financial 21

Old Business

1.

New Business

1. Cultivating Generous CongregationsCarolyn Koehn
2. Endowment Grants 24
3. Create Working Groups
 - a. Fundraising Guidance
 - b. Rental Income
 - i. Weddings
 - ii. Reimbursement Rates
4. Executive Administrator Transition

Other Business

1. Strategic Ministry Plan Development - Who Do We Want To Become?

Information

1. Next Month's Sunday CIC: Early: Jason Dufner Late: Keith Outlaw
2. Next Month's Council Member for Devotions – Vince Brunssen

Adjourn

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2024, 1:30 pm, Conference Room

Present: Susan Ames, David Beck, Vince Brunssen, Carolyn Koehn, Tom Dove, Linda Dufner, Jason Dufner, Stephen Loyd, Tammy Oetken, Keith Outlaw, Linda Reed, Sue Rue, Rick Salvo, Dave Smith and Nancy Wojnarski

Ex-Officio Member: Pastor Dave Koppel

Staff: Alan Dunn and Intern Pastor Steven Namburi

Council President, Tom Dove, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Pastor Koppel offered a prayer.

Tom Dove discussed the officer positions and duties.

Tom Dove opened the floor to nominations for Council President. Tom Dove was nominated for president. Being no other nominations, nominations ceased. Tom Dove was elected Council President by acclamation.

Tom Dove opened the floor to nominations for Vice President. Sue Rue nominated Dave Smith; Tammy Oetken nominated Linda Dufner. Being no other nominations, nominations ceased. Linda Dufner was elected Vice-President by ballot vote.

Tom Dove opened the floor to nominations for Secretary. Dave Smith nominated Sue Rue for secretary. Being no other nominations, nomination ceased. Sue Rue was elected as Council Secretary by acclamation.

MOTION: Keith Outlaw moved to appoint Michael Koehn as Treasurer. Motion carried.

MOTION: Keith Outlaw moved to approve the agenda for the meeting. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was reviewed and discussed.

MOTION: Tammy Oetken moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS

Executive Administrator/Financial Report – There were no financial reports to review; Alan Dunn reported that January income was \$83,901.59, and expenses were \$103,838.42. The attendance reports were reviewed, and Alan noted that online attendance declined in January.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Council Expectations and Covenant – Tom Dove discussed the expectations of a council member; Tom reviewed the Council Covenant and asked council members to sign it.
2. GRACE Ministry Team Appointments – Tom Dove discussed GRACE Groups; he encouraged council members to attend GRACE Night; the GRACE Team assignments were distributed.
3. Appoint Audit Team Member –
MOTION: Keith Outlaw moved to appoint Rod Dietz to the Audit Team for a 3-year term. Motion carried. The Audit Team members are Rick Salvo, Anita Hulsman and Rod Dietz.
4. Synod Assembly Offering – Alan Dunn reported that we have usually sent \$2,000 from the Memorial Fund.
MOTION: Linda Reed moved to approve \$2,000 from the Memorial Fund to send to the Synod Assembly. Motion carried.

5. Property Team Recommendation – Alan Dunn presented the Property Team’s recommendation to submit the steeple restoration plan to the Historical Commission; we currently have a donation of \$140,000 for the work, it has been recommended to use a powder-coated aluminum that has a 50-year life, the cost using that product would be \$240,000; Alan is going to talk to the donors to see if they can give more money for the project.
The council voted to approve the Property Team’s recommendation to send the plan to the Historical Commission.
6. Change Investment Allocation for Invested Restricted Funds – (Telander, Capital Maintenance, Cemetery, Trinity Place Fund for Seniors, Expansion Fund, Iver Wallin (Expansion), and Pauline & Isedor Wallin) Alan Dunn discussed the current investment allocations of the various funds.
MOTION: Keith Outlaw moved to change the investment allocation of the Invested Restricted Funds to moderate allocation. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Susan Ames reported that she would like to have the CIC on duty to find volunteers to help at services; it was discussed with no changes at this time.

MOTION: Keith Outlaw moved to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 2:34pm.

Sue Rue
Council Secretary

PASTOR KOPPEL'S REPORT

We are in the middle of Lent, and it is an exciting time for the church as we prepare for the Resurrection of Our Lord.

We have been working **with Trinity Seminary and interviewing** two possible interns, one of which should begin this summer and work with us for two years.

Our **alternative income team has been meeting**, exploring possible income sources for the future.

We began our special Lenten services on Ash Wednesday with two services and have continued with church suppers and special midweek services. We continue to prepare for Holy Week

Our **Women's group met and learned about electrical safety** from Keith Outlaw

Our **new website went live** with this description of Palm Valley

- Palm Valley has always been a church of immigrants. As early as 1838 settlers came from Sweden to this area. After worshipping in their homes, they built a log cabin church. By 1870 we fully organized and officially formed the Swedish Lutheran Church of Brushy. Over the years we became known as Palm Valley Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our first services were in Swedish. Later, we added English. We later added worship in Spanish, and now we also host Antioch Korean Church of Austin. We are currently exploring the addition of Telugu language services. We are a congregation of GRACE -Growing in Faith, Reaching the Community, Awe-inspiring Worship, Connecting in Small Groups, and Exceptional Serving. In a world of judgment, Palm Valley is truly a place of Grace. We invite you to join us.

Several members were hospitalized.

Our intern Steven has turned in his approval essay and has completed his Rostered Ministers Profile for call committees.

We hosted the 2024 *Mayor's Prayer Breakfast* and it was well attended.

We will be hosting *Bless the Badge* for first responders from our region on Thursday May 16.

On February 25th we installed our council members in both English services and our Spanish service.

Our Synod assembly delegates, Susan Ames, Fred and Brenda Ramirez, attended a pre caucus assembly at Christ Lutheran Church in Georgetown. Synod Assembly will be in Corpus Christi May 3-5.

Our seven confirmation students are preparing for their one-on-one interviews. Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 7 at a combined service.

We were saddened to learn that **Alan Dunn will be retiring as of September 1, 2024**. He will be missed. Our **personnel team has already moved into action** to secure a replacement with a tentative 3-week overlap.

As always, thank you for the privilege of serving alongside you in the Gospel ministry.

Dr. Dave Koppel
Senior Pastor

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **March 15/16 Garage Sale**
- **March 17 New Member Class (St. Patrick's Day)**
- **March 24, 2024 Palm/Passion Sunday**
- **March 24 Thrivent Rep here – Sarah McIntee**
- **March 28 Maundy Thursday**
- **March 29 Good Friday**
- **March 31, 2024 Easter**
- **April 7 Confirmation – combined service**
- **April 8 Total Eclipse!**
- **April 13-20 Adult Puerto Rico Mission Trip**
- **April 28 Senior High School Luncheon**
- **May 3-5 Synod Assembly in Corpus Christi (all in-person)**
- **May 6-9 ELCA larger church conference (Pastor Koppel out)**
- **May 19 Pentecost**
- **June 14 Water for Africa Day at Dell Diamond [Round Rock Express vs Tacoma Rainiers - MyProVenue™ \(tickets.com\)](#) Code: W4A**
- **June 17 Day Camp Begins**
- **June 23-28 Mission Arlington**
- **July 7-12 Camp Chrysalis**
- **July 16-20, 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering**

- July 22-26 VBS
- March 1, 2025 Global Church Gathering

Women's Forum on Electrical Safety



Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at PVLC

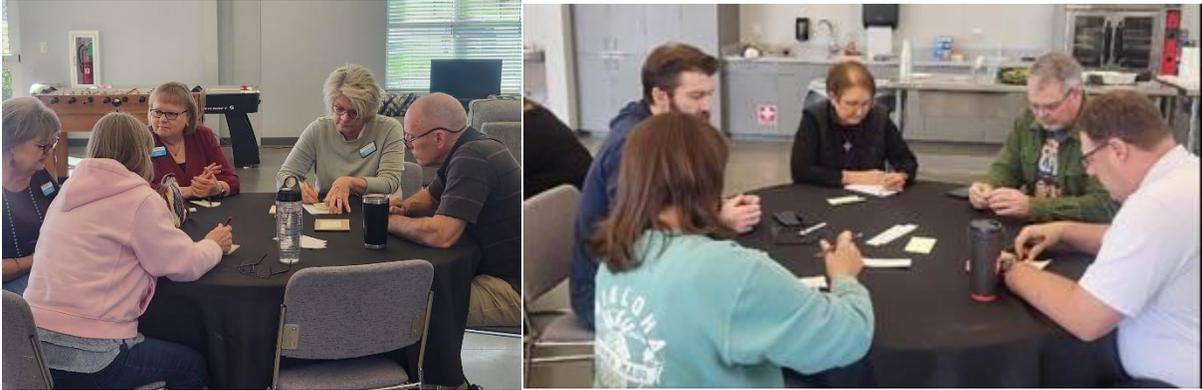




Members visiting Getty Wieding



Church Council Retreat



PVLC Synod Assembly Delegates at Preassembly Caucus



INTERN PASTOR

As we move through the year, I am pleased to share the diverse and enriching activities that have defined our ministry in February. This month has been filled with meaningful engagements, spiritual gatherings, and educational opportunities that have contributed to our church's mission and my personal development.

Anti-Racism Training at Seguin:

I had the privilege of attending an Anti-Racism training session in Seguin. This enlightening experience provided valuable insights and tools to further our commitment to creating an inclusive and equitable church community.

Telugu Spiritual Gathering - February 10:

We held a Telugu Spiritual Gathering, seeing more than 50 people join in fellowship and worship. Alongside Pr. Dave, Daniel, Pr. Hephzibah, Lax, and I experienced a positive and uplifting atmosphere, marking a promising beginning for our continued outreach. We are also making house visits to deepen our connections with the attendees. The event was well-documented, with pictures that capture the spirit of our gathering.

Home Visits:

Continuing the vital ministry of visiting our homebound members, I spent time with Leonard and Connie Aitkens, Emily Fehlis, Buddy and Sally Burk, Betty and Don Hester, Fritz and Betty Hodde, Jane Ramm, David Teinert, Betty and Don Hester, George and Joy Warriner, Robert Behrens, Carroll Pimpler, Pat and Herb Wolff, Wilma Peterson, Margaret Hitzfeld, Nancy Kind, Johnnie Pecht, Barbara Williams, and Roy Krienke. Each visit was an opportunity to provide spiritual support and companionship. A special visit to Herb in the hospital was enriching, as he expressed happiness for our pastoral care.

Sermon Preparation:

I dedicated time to preparing sermons, seeking to deliver messages that resonate with our congregation and reflect the teachings of our faith.

Cross Trail Youth Retreat Observation:

Observing the Cross Trail youth retreat allowed me to see youth engagement and spiritual development in action, furthering my understanding of effective ministry practices.

Continuing Education and Networking:

My participation in Zoom meetings with the ELCA candidacy committee and Teresita and our recent North Capital Conference attendance with the pastor have been instrumental in my learning process. These platforms have broadened my perspective and allowed me to establish new connections within our wider church community.

Lay Committee Meeting:

During our Lay Committee meeting, we discussed the impactful book "Annihilation of the Caste." This discussion was thought-provoking and enlightening, reinforcing our commitment to understanding and addressing social justice issues.

I am thankful for the opportunities to grow, serve, and connect with our church family and the broader community. I am grateful for the support and guidance of the Church Council, Pastor Dave, and our congregation.

I look forward to continuing our journey together in faith and service.

With warm regards and blessings,

Steven Namburi

Intern Pastor



Ironmen Bible Study



YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Wednesday Night Youth

Wednesday nights in February have shifted. We completed the Bible Study series called “The Gospel of Disney” with Hercules. Our goal is not to be God but more God-like. The next Wednesday, all youth attended the Ash Wednesday service together. The next weeks, we watched the Lenten drama online and had small group discussions to follow up on what we had just watched.

Youth Activities

The High School Synod Youth Gathering was scheduled at Camp Chrysalis for the second weekend in February. It was canceled due to the fact that Palm Valley was the only congregation registered. Therefore, the camp came to Palm Valley for a day event. We had eight youths who participated in worship, Bible study, fun, and games.



Denise’s Activities



I helped to lead the 2024 Council Retreat team building activities. It was a good to see the council working together for success.

I have been hard at work helping to plan the Adult mission trip to Puerto Rico in April. There will be 6 people from Palm Valley and 12 people from Emanuel’s in Seguin. We will be staying at the Lutheran Camp outside San Juan again and be doing service for the camp as well as on of the churches in San Juan.

I continue to be part of a Task Force Committee to recommend a Capital Campaign consultant for Cross Trails Ministry. We have been researching and interviewing firms for consideration. I continue in the Stephen Ministry roll where I am able to support youth and families in times of struggle. Confirmation class continues for 7 youth in the 201 class and 7 youth in the 101 class.

I continue as the Synod’s liaison for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in the Summer 2024. I have started to plan for the worship service for Synod day at the Gathering. I have met with Bishop Sue Briner to gather her input.

I continue to support our youth at their activities.



Blake B. – SPHS Basketball

Abby H. – SPHS soccer

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children in Worship

We are working on a special Children's Sunday service for April 21st. The theme for the service will be the Good Shepherd. We will invite Preschool Families to join us that day, too.

The new religious toys we introduced to the prayer ground have been very popular. We also added some more baby and toddler-friendly toys.

JAM

During Lent, we are modifying JAM to meet the current needs. We are continuing to add story pictures to our Bible Timeline and play outside or make a craft.

Sunday School

Sunday school is continuing as a regularly scheduled activity on Sunday mornings.

Bible Study for Women

"The Good Gospel" is our current Bible study and is offered on Thursday mornings and Thursday evenings. We also plan to take a break whenever there is a Women's Forum and attend those this year.

Children's Ministry Team

We had a meeting on February 5. We decided we needed to send out a survey to gather more opinions and suggestions from all the parents. I would like to start a visioning process to think about long-term goals for the children's ministry. I took a visioning training course and will lead our team through this when we can set a date.

Future Plans

Our next VBS Leadership meeting is March 12th at 7 pm.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Easter Sunday.

Service Project

The Children's Ministry Team is in charge of the Lenten Meal on March 6th.

Spring and Summer Dates

March 16- Garage Sale benefiting children and youth going to camp

March 17- No Sunday school that week

March 31 - Easter Egg Hunt

April 3- Family Dinner and Game Night (with Small Group Information)

April 4 - New Women's Bible Study, "The War Room"

April 21 - Children's Sunday

June 17-21- Day Camp here at Palm Valley

July 7-12- Camp Chrysalis

July 22-26 - VBS

SMALL GROUPS

Small Group Steering Team
March 13, 2024, 6 pm

Attendees:

David and Angela Beck, Manny Castro, Susan Ames, Deborah Franke

1. Call to Order 6:11 pm. prayer lead by Deborah

2. Agenda Items

- a. T-Shirt: Manny showed the group a t-shirt given to attendees of small group leader training in 2019. Deborah will ask Alan if we still have supply at the church that we could use.
- b. Study Gateway: Manny reported he had spoken to Alan concerning the rights to Study Gateway small group resources. As of now, the church has a membership for 20 and could purchase a church-wide membership for 100 people for less than purchasing two memberships.
 - (a) Action: It was decided that a second or church-wide membership was not needed at this time
- c. Generosity Responses: The team reviewed the responses on the online digital generosity cards to invite to the April 3 information session. It was noted that the ministry choices were not on the physical generosity card.
- d. April 3 Small Group Information Session: This session will be combined with a family game night and taco bar. Small groups are being identified to include interest groups such as volleyball, pickleball, and quilters.
- e. Meetings: This group will meet on another night besides Grace Night due to group members having other responsibilities during Grace Night.
- f. WELCA: There was discussion concerning WELCA groups at Palm Valley. At this time there are no groups at Palm Valley. Deborah share their monthly magazine as resources for group WELCA Bible studies.
- g. New Member Discipleship Class: Deborah will create a document with group information to be shared at Discovering Discipleship.
- h. Susan will also report to council on small group initiatives.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Ames

COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

Tuesday, February 13

1. Call to Order: Cassie Cummings at 0934
2. Financial Report: Alan Dunn
 - a. Contractor, is coming out this week to give us an estimate for flooring.
 - b. Teacher December bonus relocated to the endowment.
 - c. Will know over the summer if we need to add a door to the 18-month class (nursery); however, we anticipate not needing to.
3. Secretary Report: Kasi Moench
 - a. Sonia makes a motion to accept January minutes
 - b. Kasi seconds motion
 - c. All in favor and no opposed. Motion passes

4. Preschool Report: Bailey Plato
 - a. All kids have converted to 3 days except for 2 in the 18-month class.

| AGE | 2 DAY | 3 DAY | TOTAL | WAITLIST |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------|
| 18 MOS | 2 | 6 | 8 | |
| 2'S | | 17 | 17 | |
| 3'S | | 18 | 18 | |
| KINDER READINESS | 0 | 16 | 16 | |

Total Enrollment: 59

5. Committee Reports:
 - a. Church Council Representative:
 - i. May 11th- Women's tea in the CLC. It's a fundraiser and you can buy a table and decorate. Will give more info closer to the event.
6. Action Items
 - a. Texas Day
 - i. Bailey to send Sonia the parent list. We will decorate 2 weeks before. Bailey will do the sign up genius. Bailey has already ordered tablecloths, plates & utensils.
 - b. Silent Auction
 - i. Teacher auction items due 2/27
 - ii. Will set up Saturday before auction at 6pm. We will meet at church on Preschool Sunday at 8:30 am. Will need the square for Preschool Sunday.
 - c. Teacher Appreciation
 - i. Week of 3/26-3/28
 - d. Registration/Website – Still waiting on 11 current families for registration.
 - i. Will update the parent handbook over summer regarding nap time & behavioral issues. The state is requiring 5 different documents to be signed so Ellen will look into doing a docusign for parents. We will not lay out specific ratios in our handbook.

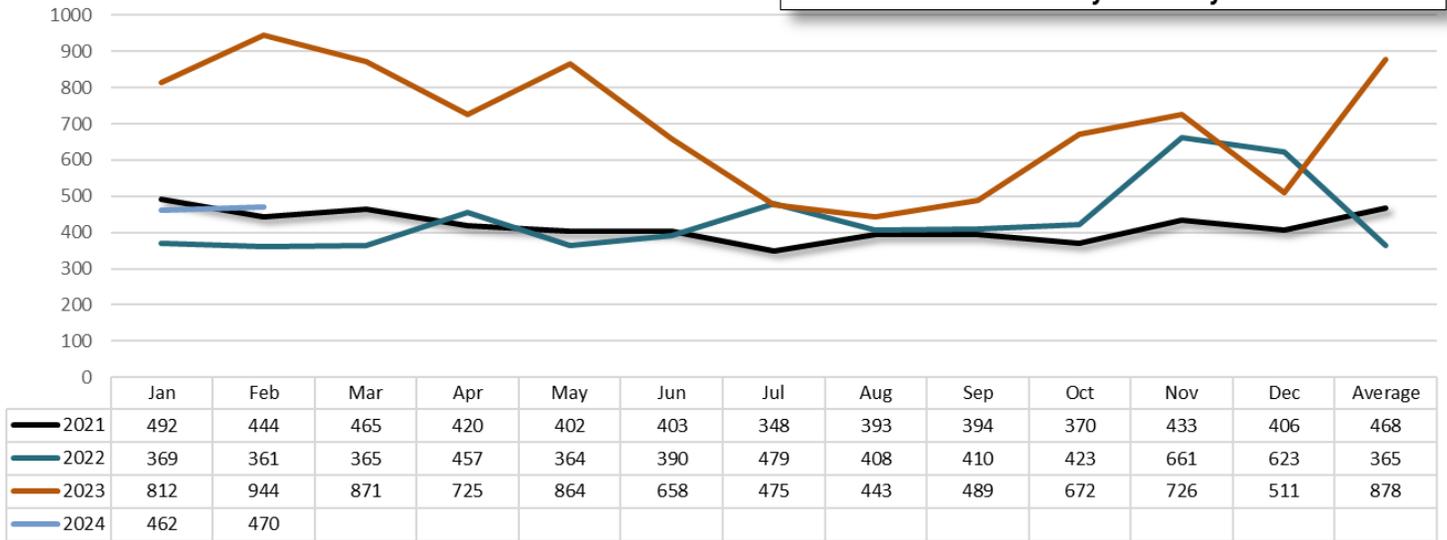
| AGE | 3 DAY | WAITLIST |
|---------------------|-------|----------|
| 18 MOS | 5 | |
| 2'S | 9 | |
| 3'S | 11 | |
| KINDER READINESS | 13 | |

Total Enrollment: 38

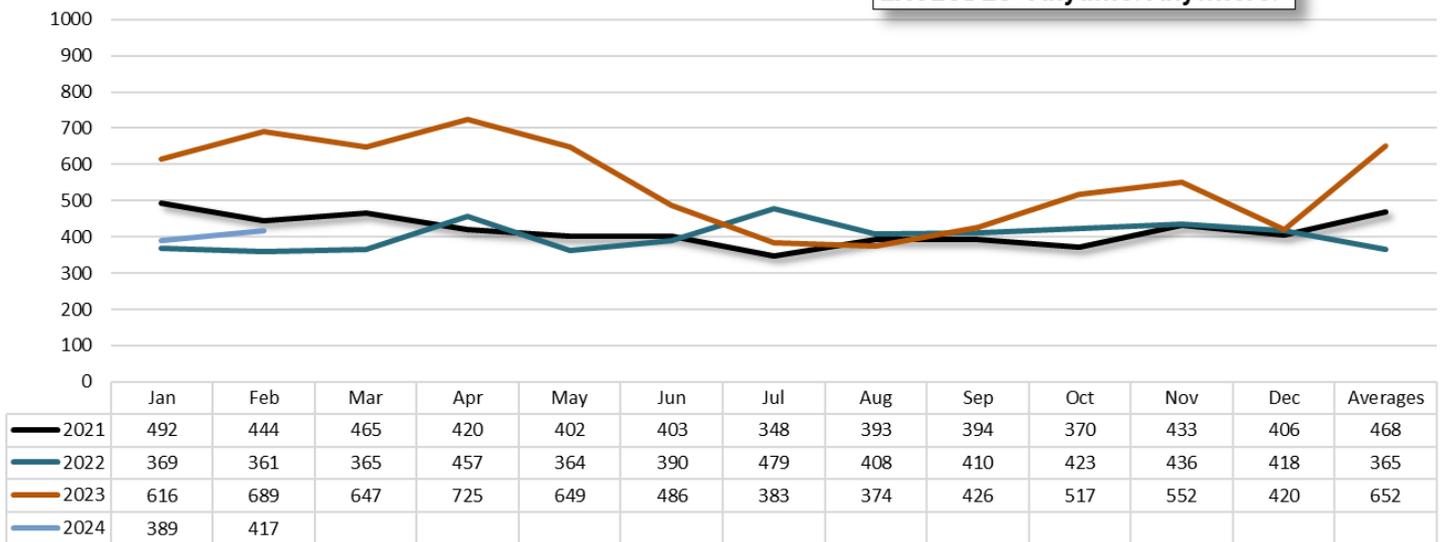
- 7. Meeting adjourned at 1026
- 8. **Addendum:** On March 18, 2024: Kasi made a motion to approve a \$250 bonus for each staff member during teacher appreciation week. Sonia second motion. All in favor and none opposed. Motion passes.

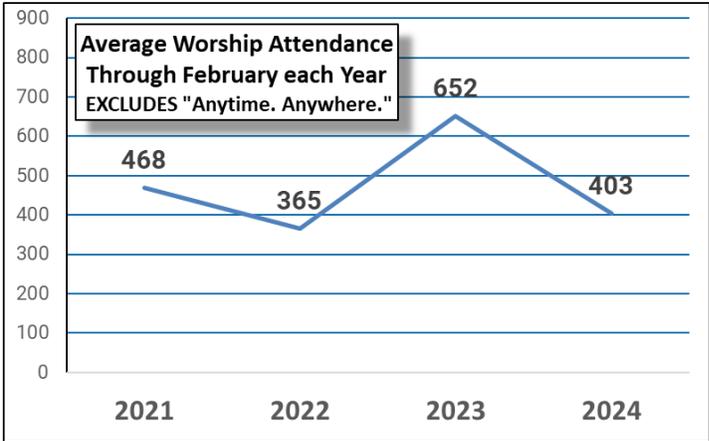
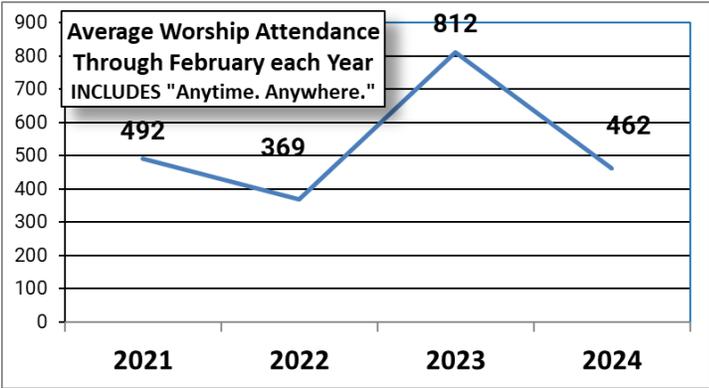
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

**Average Monthly Worship (Online & Campus)
INCLUDES "Anytime. Anywhere."**

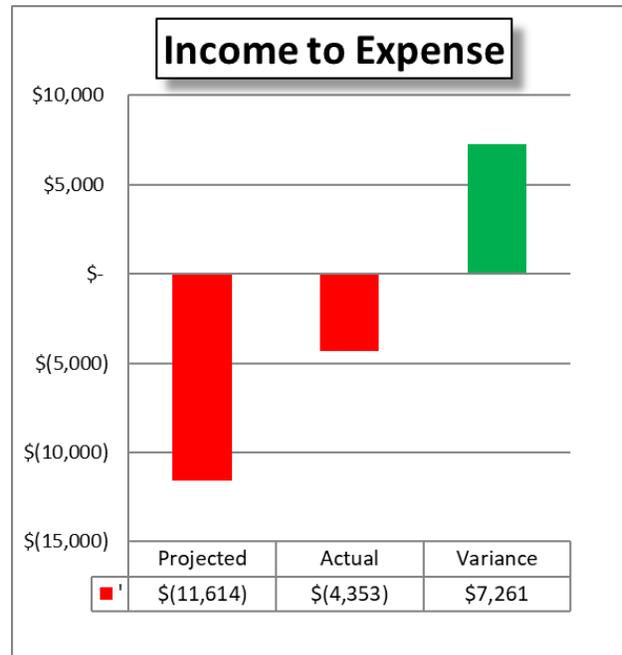
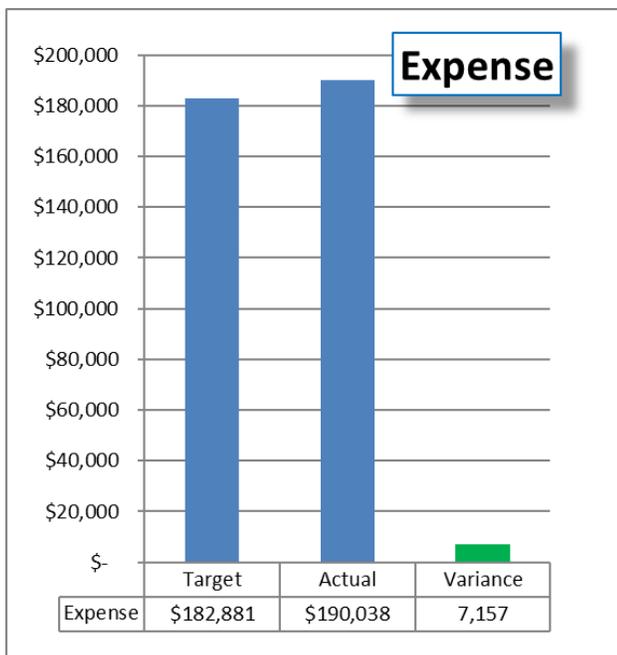
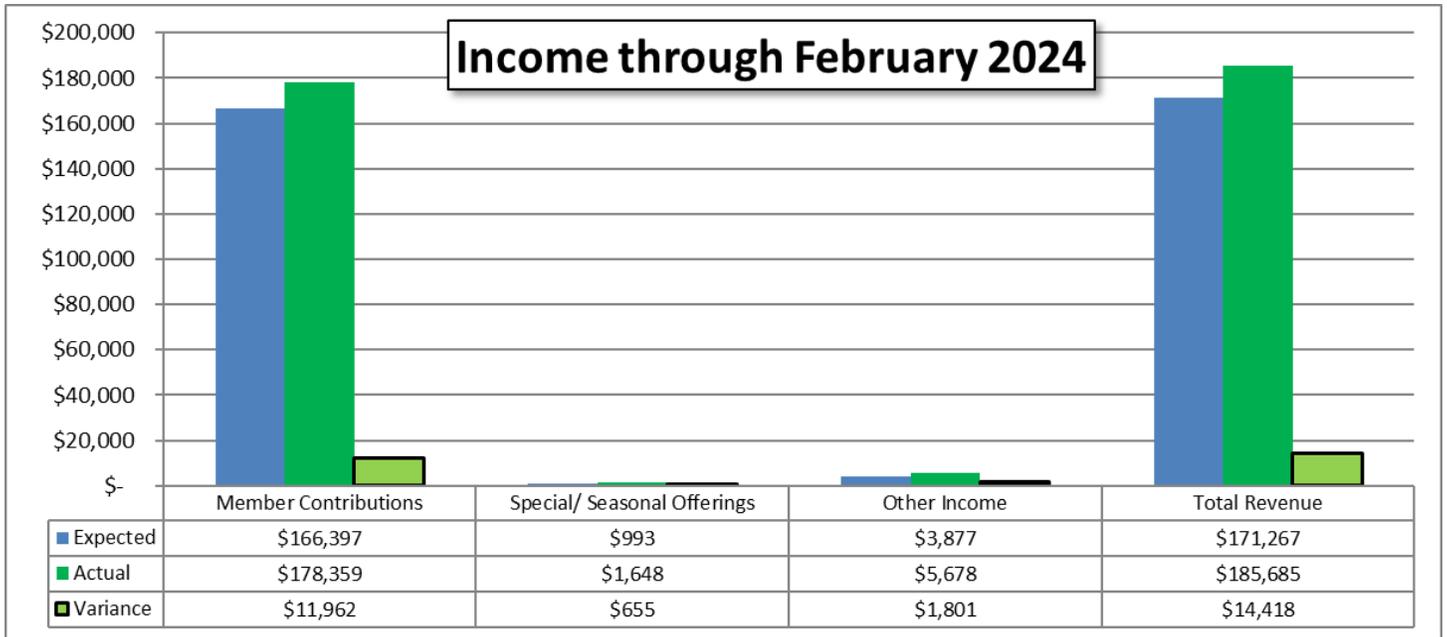


**Average Monthly Worship
EXCLUDES "Anytime. Anywhere."**





FINANCIAL REPORT



PALM VALLEY LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT GRANTS

Multi-Year Grants

| | | |
|--|--------|---------------|
| 1 RR Serving Center (Year Two of Three-Year Request 2023-2025) | 17,250 | |
| | | 17,250 |

Recurring Grants

| | | |
|---|--------|----------------|
| Synod Aid Fund/Sustentation Fund (15% of Distribution) | 32,550 | |
| Building Fund Reserve (15% of Distribution) | 32,550 | |
| Council Retreat | 1,200 | |
| Administrative Expense | 6,850 | |
| High School Senior Recognition (10 Scholarships @ \$1,200, Gifts & Meal @\$1,500) | 13,500 | |
| Disaster Relief | 6,000 | |
| Local Benevolence | 4,500 | |
| Camp Scholarships | 10,000 | |
| | | 107,150 |

New Grant Requests

| | | |
|---|--------|----------------|
| 1 Lumin UT Austin Food Pantry (Three-Year Grant) | 10,000 | |
| 2 ELCA Intern Program (Three-Year Grant) | 58,600 | |
| 3 Backpack Friends (Pflugerville) (Three-Year Grant - \$30K per year) | 30,000 | |
| 4 Faith-Based Counseling Center | 58,850 | |
| | | 157,450 |

| | | |
|------------------|--|----------------|
| Requested | | 281,850 |
|------------------|--|----------------|

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| 6.35% of Endowment Fund Value | | 281,850 |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------|

| | | |
|----------------|--|----------|
| Balance | | - |
|----------------|--|----------|

Trinity Place Senior Care Fund

Grant Requests

| | | |
|--|--------|---------------|
| 1 Transportation Ministry for Seniors (Three-Year Grant - \$11,740/Year) | 11,740 | |
| 2 Senior Access Texas (Three-Year Grant - \$60,000 per year) | 30,000 | |
| | | 41,740 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|----------------|
| Available Income | | 110,566 |
|-------------------------|--|----------------|

| | | |
|----------------|--|---------------|
| Balance | | 68,826 |
|----------------|--|---------------|