

Falun Lutheran Church

**2025 Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 1, 2026**



**“As children of God, we strive to love,
care for and inspire one another
as we extend grace of Christ to all.”**

2026 Annual Meeting Agenda

Quorum - Falun Lutheran Church - 15

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Minutes of the February 2, 2025 Annual Meeting

Pastoral Report - Pastor Ben Fulton

Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Report – Bernie Dauer

Further Nominations

Election

Auditing Committee Report

Dave Dauer, Donna Dauer, Nathan Carlson

Financial Reports

2025 Financial Secretary's Report - Bernie Dauer

2025 Memorial Report - Norman Dauer

2025 Treasurer's Reports - Shirley Bloomquist

Consideration of 2026 Budgets

Falun/Salemsborg Parish Budget

Falun Lutheran Church Budget

Election Report

Old Business

New Business

Resolutions

Adjournment

Falun Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2025

Quorum – Falun Lutheran Church – 15

Call to order: With a quorum present, Chuck Oleen called the meeting to order.

Opening prayer: Pastor Ben Fulton gave the opening prayer.

Minutes: Chuck Oleen, Chairman, asked the members whether they would like to have the minutes read or dispense with the reading of the February 4, 2024 annual meeting minutes. Erick Anderson made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

Pastoral Report: Pastor Ben reported that at the end of this coming July, he will have completed his sixth year as our parish pastor. He started in July 2019. Our parish is experiencing a lot of growth in members, baptisms and confirmed members and especially in our Sunday School. He said we have approximately 110 youth in our parish, which is wonderful, but we need everyone to help support this growth. 2024 has been a year of joy and sorrow. It's also been a difficult year in losing several of our very dear friends who had deep faith. With tragedy, comes unity. So many people have come together in some of our harder times in our parish, and that strengthens us as a community. We do mission work in helping Salina Food Bank, Dala Pantry, Salina Rescue Mission, Camp Tomah Shinga, Bethany College, Bethany Home, Riverview Estates and Sky Ranch. Our parish still does "KICK" with Bethany Lutheran and Messiah Lutheran Churches.

In 2024, we had three baptisms (Wyatt Dauer, Travis Oleen and Wells Sherwood); three confirmed (Blake Gengler, Riley Neywick and Josselyn Kindlesparger); and one death (Earl Dauer). Membership at the end of 2024, was 192 baptized and 143 confirmed after deducting one from the baptized and one from the confirmed due to Earl Dauer's death.

Election of Officers for 2025: Donna Dauer, Nominating Committee, presented the following ballot: Josh Dauer and Kyle Neywick are the nominees for church council. They will take the place of Chuck Oleen and Bernie Dauer who go off the council this year.

Since Josh Dauer is on the 2025 ballot for council member, they are replacing Josh (elected year 2023) with Dave Dauer to finish Josh's one year term remaining on the Auditing Committee. Dave's term will end in 2026. Donna Dauer will complete Nathan Carlson's term (year elected 2024) on the Auditing Committee, since Donna audited the 2024 books instead of Nathan Carlson. Nathan Carlson will serve as a new member of the Auditing Committee (year elected 2025). Bernie Dauer will serve one year on the Nominating Committee (year elected 2025). Keith Johnson moved to accept the nominations. It was seconded and passed.

Auditing Committee: Josh Dauer reported that the books had been audited and everything was correct.

Financial Secretary Report: Bernie Dauer gave the report. Total 2024 deposits were \$91,444.39. We had a Parish refund of \$13,353.80 for 2022 & 2023 for our share of money that was corrected out of the parish account. See complete report on page 16.

Memorial Fund Report: Norman Dauer gave the report. Ending 2024 balance was \$22,016.87. See complete report on page 17.

Parish Budget: Chuck Oleen presented the Falun-Salemsborg Parish Budget for 2025. Total budget is \$134,945.63.

Falun's contribution total for 2025 is 28.74% for \$38,783.38 with a monthly payment of \$3,231.95, which is \$293.20 more each month paid to Salemsborg compared to 2024.

Money that stays in the account this year:

Sabbatical @ \$6,600

PUV @ \$20,000

Falun Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2025

Page 2

Parish Budget (continued): Chuck Oleen reported that Pastor Ben would receive a 3% raise. Under the Parish Secretary line item, it was determined that Donna Swanson was underpaid. The 2024 expense for the Secretary Salary included Donna Swanson and Melanie Rishel since Melanie was working with the parish app and working on digitizing the parish records. The Parish budget for the Secretary Salary was set at \$12,000 for 2025. Salemsborg may budget more for Melanie's salary since they have more members. There was lengthy discussion regarding the app. Some felt it was not used as much by Falun members. After further discussion, Chuck announced we would vote by ballot, "yes" for passing the 2025 Parish Budget or "no" for not passing the Parish Budget. Chuck asked for two tellers to count the votes. Josh Dauer and Erick Anderson volunteered to be the tellers. Josh reported the 2025 Parish Budget passed by a unanimous vote of 27.

Treasurer's Report: Shirley Bloomquist gave the report. Beginning General Fund balance on 1-1-24 was \$52,822.97 and ending balance on 12-31-24 was \$75,041.86. The \$50,000 that was put into a 15 month CD @5.09% in 2023 at the Farmers State Bank was now a total of \$52,554.39 at the end of 12-31-24. It was decided at the January 14, 2025 Council Meeting to roll it over on 2-2-25 for another 15 months at 3.80% interest. Total 2024 deposits \$91,444.39 less total expenses \$69,225.50 minus In & Out Mission of \$2,014.55= +\$8,865.09. Complete report found on pages 20-22. Mission Investment Fund complete report found on page 25. Building Fund has a 1-1-25 balance of \$43,528.15. Complete report found on page 23. Special account (goes towards missions) has a 1-1-25 balance of \$12,242.10. Complete report on page 24.

Proposed 2025 Falun Lutheran Church Budget: Shirley Bloomquist presented the proposed 2025 Falun Lutheran Church budget. The proposed 2025 budget is \$73,588.89. See complete budget on pages 27-28. Chuck announced we would vote by ballot, "yes" for passing the 2025 Falun Lutheran Church budget or "no" for not passing the budget. Josh Dauer and Erick Anderson were tellers for the vote. Josh reported the 2025 Falun Lutheran Church Budget passed by a unanimous vote of 27.

Old Business: There was continued discussion regarding the Parish app.

New Business: Chuck Oleen asked if anyone was interested in attending as delegates to the ELCA Synod Convention in Kansas City in June. No one volunteered. Chuck stated that Clair and Jerrine Oleen would be interested in attending as delegates. They were unable to attend the annual meeting. It was the consensus for Clair and Jerrine to attend the Synod Convention in June.

Resolutions: Complete list found on page 29.

Adjourn: It was moved, seconded and carried that we adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

A soup luncheon followed the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Oleen, Secretary

How 'Boutcha Church!

Wow what a year 2025 was! As we review our year it is important to also reflect on different ways that we have grown in our own faith. This year Tom and Marlysue Holmquist traveled to Minnesota, and stopped by Gustavus Adolfus College in Iowa. They sent me a picture that was in their chapel. The picture was of a banner that read "Let everyone who has ever felt cast aside, hurt, or lonely say, "I am welcome here." Let everyone who has experienced joy and beauty say, "I am welcome here." Let everyone who desires to find the goodness and compassion say, "I am welcome here." Welcome to Christ Chapel. Come just as you are. Tom then said "that is what we do at our parish".

Both Falun and Salemsborg congregations continue to grow in membership, and with those new members, we continue to add to the Body of Christ in so many different ways. In St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he writes *"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit"*. We are called and sent by Christ to be the Gospel in the world in our own unique way. How will you live into your calling this year?

There are many ways that you can plug into all of the things that are happening in our parish. I encourage you to find new ways to get involved in this growing ministry! Maybe teach a Sunday School class, or sing in the choir. Volunteer with the Maintenance committee, or help serve at fellowship time. There will be opportunities to help out at Camp Tomah Shinga, and a mission trip to Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Colorado. The more we do together, the more we grow together. Our story of living in Koinonia grows every time we gather, no matter the setting.

Thank you for all you have done for this parish. It is such an honor to serve the priesthood of all believers here at the Falun/Salemsborg Lutheran Parish. I can't wait to see where the Spirit leads us all this year! Blessings to you all, and peace be with you!

Shalom, Shalom,

Pastor Ben

2025 FALUN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parochial Report

MEMBERSHIP	Year	Baptized	Confirmed	Transferred	Death
At the End of	2022	184	139	4	
	2023	190	141	4	
	2024	192	143	0	1
	2025	194	146	4	0

PASTORAL ACTS – 2025

BAPTISMS

N/A

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION

Brogan Gengler Libby Blanner

DEATHS

N/A

MEMBERS RECEIVED

Kiff Swisher
Andrea Swisher
Elin Swisher
Boden Swisher
Sorren Swisher

MEMBERS REMOVED

Jennifer Bloomquist Brown

Falun Lutheran Church Annual Meeting February 1, 2026

2025 Council and Committee Members

Falun Church Council	Year Elected	Year Term Ends
Daieneen Carlson (Vice-President)	2023	2026
Gwen Oleen (Secretary)	2023	2026
Shirley Bloomquist (Treasurer)	2024	2027
Keith Johnson	2024	2027
Josh Dauer (President)	2025	2028
Kyle Neywick	2025	2028

**Nominate two Council members to replace Daieneen Carlson and Gwen Oleen whose three-year terms expire in 2026.*

Nominating

Bernie Dauer	2025	2026
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**Nominate one on Nominating Committee to replace Bernie Dauer whose one-year term expires in 2026.*

Auditing Committee

Dave Dauer (completed Josh Dauer's term since Josh was elected to church council in 2025)	2023	2026
Donna Dauer	2024	2027
Nathan Carlson	2025	2028

**Nominate one on Auditing Committee to replace Dave Dauer whose term expires in 2026.*

FALUN LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 Financial Secretary Report

INCOME

Offering	\$71,777.00
Loose	<u>\$ 3,869.00</u>
	\$75,646.00

Wheat	\$ 1,279.76	\$76,925.76
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OTHER INCOME

24' Parish Refund	\$ 849.76
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\$77,775.52

MISSION

(In & Out)

Angel Tree Noisy	\$ 525.00
Swedish Dancers Noisy	<u>\$ 63.00</u>
	\$ 588.00

Camp Deposit	\$ 75.00	\$78,438.52
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TOTAL 2025 DEPOSITS \$78,438.52

2025 Financial Secretary
Bernie Dauer

Donna Dauer
[Signature]
[Signature]

FALUN LUTHERAN CHURCH 2025 MEMORIAL FUND REPORT

1/1/2025 BALANCE OF GOLD NOW CHECKING ACCT.	1,686.77
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Income: Interest	4.10
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Expenses:




12/31/2025 CK #1046	
Shirley Bloomquist	100.00
Treasurer's Christmas Bonus	

12/31/2025 BALANCE OF GOLD NOW CHECKING ACCT.	1590.87
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1/1/2025 BALANCE OF 36 MONTH CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	20,330.10
Interest	286.12

12/31/2025 BALANCE OF 36 MONTH CERTIFICATE OF DEP.	20,616.22
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TOTAL BALANCE OF MEMORIAL FUND		
GOLD NOW ACCOUNT	12/31/2025	1590.87
36 MONTH CD	12/31/2025	<u>20,616.22</u>
TOTAL		22,207.09

FALUN LUTHERAN WOMEN
Treasurer's Report 2025

Balance January 1 2025	1394.99
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Deposits

Cookbook	15.00
Sunday School	137.31
Thrivent	329.00
Coffee Money	255.00
Pancake	2800.00
Donation	200.00

Total Deposits	3736.31
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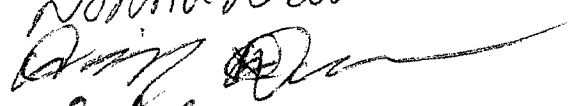

Expenses

Church Supplies	132.62
Pancake	71.30
Bingo Prizes	51.51
Angel Tree	30.00
Christmas Bags	158.07
Shoe Boxes	132.04
Checks	51.29
Donations	2787.00

Total Expenses	3413.83
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Balance January 1 2026	1717.47
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Marilyn Smith Treasurer
1/10/2026

Donna Daves



Falun Lutheran Church General Fund

Treasurer's Report

Balance January 1, 2025	75,041.86
Deposits	78,438.52
Expenses	70,349.02
Balance January 1, 2026	83,131.36

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Dawer
Dawer
Hahli

Falun Lutheran Church
Income & Expense
01/01/2025 through 12/31/2025

INCOME:

Offering

*Noisy Offering	588.00
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Membership Offering	75,646.00
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OTHER INCOME:

Wheat Crop	1,279.76
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Parish Refund 2022-23	849.76
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*Camp Fee	75.00
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TOTAL INCOME	78,438.52
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EXPENSES:

Altar Supply	1,080.39
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Box Rent	15.00
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Computer Software	444.70
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Convention Expense	830.70
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Custodian Wages	2,400.00
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ELCA Proportionate	2,000.00
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Electricity	1,539.11
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Filing Fee	80.00
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Groundskeeper	550.00
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Insurance Building/Work Comp	8,150.50
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Maintenance/Supplies

Mower Gas	200.00
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Air and Fire Systems Maintenance	78.50
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Miscellaneous:

*Kloey Camp Fee	75.00
Cleaning supplies	96.27
Devotional booklets	126.25
Paper Supplies	49.99
Printer Ink	64.38
4 Christmas Gifts: Tina, Phil, Keith, Bernie	400.00

Missions:

*Noisy Offering :

*Swedish Dancers	63.00
* Angel Tree	525.00

Salina Food Bank	750.00
Salina Rescue Mission	750.00

Organist Wages	5500.00
Parish Budget	38,783.37
Post Office	73.00
Propane	1,494.10
Pulpit Supply	-----
Sewer	420.00
Social Security/Medicare Employer Share	604.35
Sunday School Supply	1,447.15
Property Tax	17.00
Telephone	978.73
The Lutheran	-----
Waste Removal	522.52

Water	240.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	70,349.02

TOTAL INCOME \$78,438.52 Less TOTAL EXPENSES \$70,349.02 = +8089.50

Total Membership Offering	75,646.00
Wheat Income	1,279.76
Total Income	76,925.76

Expenses 70,349.02

Less * items which were monies in and directly sent out:

*Noisy Offering –angel tree	\$525.00	
*Swedish Dancers	63.00	
*Camp Fee Kloey	75.00	\$69,686.02

INCOME LESS EXPENSES	+7,239.74
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\$50,000.00 CD at Farmers State Bank Lindsborg, Ks. Is now worth \$54,723.33

This CD matures May 3, 2026

Donna Rauer
 Recd to
 Rachel

Falun Lutheran Church Building Fund

Treasurers Report

BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1, 2025 \$43,528.15

DEPOSITS:

FSB Interest 140.52

Hall Use 155.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS 295.52

EXPENSES:

Keith Johnson Groundskeeper 550.00

Keith Johnson Video Streaming

Upgrade 601.62

TOTAL EXPENSES 1,151.62

BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1, 2026 42,672.05

Remaining balance of Devere Blomberg money is \$4924.19

Donna Dauer
April 10, 2026
Nahli

Falun Lutheran Church Special Account

Treasurers Report

BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1, 2025	\$12,242.10
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DEPOSITS:

Farmers State Bank Interest	53.47
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Mission Investment Fund Interest	470.98
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Total Deposits	524.45
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EXPENSES:

BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1, 2026	\$12,766.55
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Donna Damer
Don't Don
Nahli

Mission Investment Fund

This fund now consists of two certificates of deposit. The amount of the original certificate is \$6,103.23.

This is a 3-year certificate earning 4.523% interest and will mature May 25, 2026. This certificate earned \$276.84 this year.

The second certificate of deposit amount is \$10,000 and is earning 1.96% interest for 6 years. This will mature April 15, 2027. This certificate earned \$194.14 this year.

The interest from both certificates is sent quarterly into the Special Fund checking account at Farmers State Bank.

The total interest earned from these certificates was \$470.98 for this year.

Donna Damer
Dmitriy Damer
Nahlel

**Falun-Salemsborg Parish
2026 Budget**

	2025 Budget	2025 Expense	Over (Under) Budget	2026 Expense	Over (Under) Budget
PASTOR					
Base Salary	\$ 43,567.97	\$ 43,567.97	\$ -	\$ 43,567.97	
Social Security Allowance/FICA Tax - 7.65%	\$ 3,332.95	\$ 3,332.95	\$ (0.00)	\$ 3,432.94	
Housing/Parsonage	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	
Seminary Expense					
Portico Total Benefits:-					
Health Premium-Ben Pays own Insurance	\$ 19,692.48	\$ 19,588.90	\$ 103.58	\$ 18,579.60	
Portico Total Benefits	\$ 10,002.24	\$ 10,895.41		\$ 10,002.24	
Portico Totals	\$ 19,692.48	\$ 10,895.41	\$ 103.58	\$ 28,581.84	
TOTAL PASTOR & BENEFITS	\$ 88,595.64	\$ 89,385.23	\$ (789.59)	\$ 87,582.75	
PARSONAGE UTILITIES	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,087.65	\$ 912.35	\$ 6,000.00	
PARISH OFFICE:					
Office Operations	\$ 4,750.00	\$ 1,930.75	\$ 2,819.25	\$ 3,750.00	
Youth Coordinator				\$ 6,500.00	
Secretary Salary (Melanie)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,360.00	
Payroll Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Website	\$ 900.00	\$ 828.00	\$ 72.00	\$ 900.00	
TOTAL PARISH OFFICE:	\$ 17,650.00	\$ 14,758.75	\$ 2,891.25	\$ 23,510.00	
OTHER EXPENSES:					
Pastor Continuing Education	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	
Pastor Mileage	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,297.18	\$ (297.18)	\$ 9,000.00	
Synod/Bishop Pastor Expenses	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 400.52	\$ 699.48	\$ 550.00	
Vacation Bible School	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,874.05	\$ 125.95	\$ 3,000.00	
Parish Youth Group	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Confirmation	\$ 500.00	\$ 227.94	\$ 272.06	\$ 500.00	
Thanksgiving	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ -	
Wednesday Church School	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	
Golf Course Rental	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ 925.00	
Sabbatical Expense	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	
Substitute Pastor	\$ 900.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 900.00	
Parish Activities	\$ 500.00	\$ 427.94	\$ 72.06	\$ 500.00	
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 17,700.00	\$ 15,727.63	\$ 1,972.37	\$ 16,275.00	
PARSONAGE USE VALUE (PUV)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	
				Over/Under	
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 134,945.64	\$ 129,959.26	\$ 4,986.38	\$ 138,367.75	

Pay In/Refund?

Parish Contributions:

Salemsborg	71.26%	73.05%
Required Contribution Total	\$ 96,162	\$ 101,077.64
Per Month	\$ 8,013.52	\$ 8,423.14
<i>Inc. (dec.) over prior year's monthly Contribution</i>		\$ 409.61

Falun	28.74%	26.95%
Required Contribution Total	\$ 38,783	\$ 37,290.11
Per Month	\$ 3,231.95	\$ 3,107.51
<i>Inc. (dec.) over prior year's monthly Contribution</i>		\$ (124.44)

Important Information:	
Sabbatical Money in Acct.	\$ 6,800
PUV	\$ 25,000
FUNDS REMAINING IN PARISH ACCT. AFTER BUDGET APPROVED IN FEB.	\$ 31,800

2025 Budget and Actual Expenses

2026 Propose Budget

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Proposed
Parish Ministry Budget	37,346.37	37,346.37	35,942.61
Parsonage Use Value	1,437.00	1,437.00	1,347.50
Total	38,783.37	38,783.37	37,290.11

STAFF SALARIES:

Groundskeeper	550.00	550.00	550.00
Custodian	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
Organist	6,000.00	5,500.00	6,000.00
Social Security/Medicare	645.00	604.35	645.00

EDUCATION AND WORSHIP:

Sunday School Supply	500.00	1,447.15	600.00
Convention Expense	500.00	830.70	250.00
Missions	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00

PLANT EXPENSE:

Telephone/Internet	1,200.00	978.73	1,200.00
Electricity	1,800.00	1,539.11	1,800.00
Water	240.00	240.00	240.00
Sewer	420.00	420.00	420.00
Propane	2,000.00	1,494.10	2,000.00
Insurance	10,000.00	8,150.50	12,000.00
Altar Supply	1,200.00	1,080.39	1,200.00
Maintenance/Supplies	400.00	278.50	400.00
Post Office	73.00	73.00	78.00

Safe Deposit Rent	15.00	15.00	15.00
Waste Removal	522.52	522.52	522.52
State Filing Fee	40.00	80.00	40.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	800.00	811.89	800.00
ELCA PROPORTIONATE	4,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
TOTALS	73,588.89	69,299.31	71,950.63

Our monthly share of the Parish Budget for 2025 has been \$3231.95 which was 28.74% of the parish budget. The monthly share for 2026 will be \$3107.50 which is 26.95% of the parish budget. The difference will be \$124.45 LESS each month this year.

2025 Falun Lutheran Church Sunday School Report

We are blessed to continue to have an active Sunday School program with about 23 kids in Pre-K thru 8th Grade. Material is lectionary based through Sparkhouse and Augsburg. Teachers for the Fall 2025-Spring 2026 season are:

Pre K-Kindergarten: Gwen Oleen & Leah Oleen

Grades 1-3: (rotating volunteer basis) Britta Dauer, Jenny Kindlesparger, Hayley Sherwood, and any other volunteers

Grades 4-5: Kristi Kern

Confirmation (Grades 6-8): Jerrine Oleen and Jim Smith

The Junior High Youth Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at the Fellowship Center where Pastor Ben does a deeper dive into Confirmation topics during the 4th Wednesday meetings. Curriculum is a three-year rotation entitled "Here We Stand", also through Sparkhouse. Confirmands are encouraged to attend both the Sunday School and Wednesday sessions.

There were five 9th grade students from our Parish who were confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 26, 2025. Those confirmed were Libby Blanner and Brogan Gengler from Falun; and Ridge Johnson, Wyatt Griffin and Mason Riedel from Salemsborg.

Starting Sept. 2025, our Sunday School offering is being collected into various wooden letter banks. Once each of the letters are all filled and rearranged, they will spell out a secret word. The kids are having fun making guesses as we add new letters.

Mandy Francisco created and directed the Christmas Program on December 14, 2025. The kids did a great job singing, reciting and reading parts, while the Middle/Senior High youth performed in an instrumental ensemble. The program is always a highlight of our Sunday School year. Marilyn Smith and her family filled and passed out the annual traditional treat bags for the kids.

The loose offering collected during worship and designated for Angel Tree this year was \$525. Three names were selected from the Christmas tree at Farmers State Bank in Lindsborg. A huge thanks to Mandy Francisco and family for shopping and wrapping gifts for the two teen boys and one teen girl!

Thank you to all the families who participate in and volunteers that assist with Sunday School, as we build upon the foundations of our "Love God, Love your neighbor" commandments!
Blessings in Christ,

Kristi Kern
Sunday School Director

Falun / Salemsborg Middle School Youth Group

People's Bank and Trust Balance: \$15,013.04

Jan 23-25, 2025: Youth Quake: 15 middle school youth attended.

March 1-2, 2025: Youth Group Lock In: 16 middle school youth attended

June 8-13, 2025: Camp Tomah Shinga Youth Group Retreat

October 2025 Haunted Trail Concessions Income: \$4059.50

Leaders Keir & Ashley Swisher

Youth Coordinator Report

1. Prior to the coordinator position being approved, Abby and Pastor Ben organized a Youth-Led service for Palm Sunday, April 13th at both churches. Students signed up for “jobs” during worship that would best suit their talents. Students served and attended both services, Falun and Salemsborg. All feedback on this service has been positive with excitement for more youth-involved services in the future.
2. Youth Coordinator position was approved on April 14th, and we haven’t slowed down since.
3. The Easter Egg hunt was a success on Sunday, April 20th despite the rain. We had plenty of help hiding eggs from the MS/HS Youth groups and nearly 60 youth in attendance for church and the egg hunt. Thank you for all your help stuffing and donating eggs.
4. Saturday, May 3rd, Jared Nichols and Abby teamed up for a Karaoke Night held in the fellowship center. Attendance was low (6), but there is potential for a stronger turnout with more planning and advertising. We look forward to trying again in the future.
5. Senior Sunday was Sunday May 11th. Graduating high school seniors were invited to celebrate at the church of their choice. \$227.94 for three full-size sheet cakes (2 for Salemsborg, 1 for Falun), and we charged it to the Salemsborg charge account at White’s Foodliner in Lindsborg. Parents of the 9 seniors split the cost of the cakes. Abby has presented Jennifer with the complete cost for the cakes.
6. First Fundraiser for the YC salary was a Parish Garage sale on June 6 and 7th. Rummage Sale for the Youth Coordinator Position was a success! Youth Group members provided baked goods and sold items at a bake sale. Congregational members, with Molly Johnson at the helm, ran the Rummage sale. \$3000 was raised from the Rummage sale, and over \$300 from the bake sale.
7. August 10th from 5-7pm was the annual High School Youth Group Cookout and Swim party at Lakeside Park in Assaria. We had a very small group (4 students) attend. Small but mighty. Several other high school events were scheduled for the same date. Next year we will consider doing this earlier to avoid back to school events.

8. Blessing of the Backpacks took place at both Congregations on Sunday August 10th. All students (grade school through college) and teachers were encouraged to bring their backpacks for a blessing for the back-to-school season. We had a great turnout!
9. SS registration began Sunday August 10th. We had 39 families across the parish register and 27 for Salemsborg alone. 71 kids total, 51 for Salemsborg. Abby has been helping Gwen and Kelsey prepare class lists, organize parent helpers, and begin recruiting substitute teachers. This registration has been instrumental in the success of our youth leaders this fall.
10. Summer Senior High Trip - Due to a lack of response from the High School youth, there was no summer trip. Pastor Ben and Abby are planning to begin conversations and create commitment deadlines for next year's trip in January.
11. The July Parish Swim party and Ice Cream social was very well attended by both children and adults. Ice Cream Social raised \$107 for the Youth Coordinator Position.
12. The new Falun / Salemsborg Youth Groups social media account has been activated. This will be used to share current events, what the kids are doing, and share their experiences with the congregation. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Abby is the admin on the page.
13. August 10th from 5-7pm is the annual High School Youth Group Cookout and Swim party at Lakeside Park in Assaria. If you have a high school youth group member in your family, please encourage them to attend.
14. Confirmation occurred on Sunday October 26th. Pastor Ben had his final meeting with the confirmands on October 11th where they discussed the service and their faith statements. Abby ordered cake for both services. Attendance was great at both churches.
15. T-Shirt Sales \$2470. We want all students to have a shirt. Please consider purchasing your shirt if you haven't already, and there are sponsorships for those who need support in purchasing. Thank you to everyone who has purchased or sponsored a shirt.

16. While the weather cut the Haunted Forest a day short, the chili feed and concessions stand went well. The Middle School was still able to raise a total of \$4059
17. The Highschool Youth Group hosted Smoky Valley's fifth quarter on Friday October 3rd. Thank you to the parents and congregational members who donated supplies for the event. Over 100 smoky valley students attended alongside 20 of our own Highschool youth group members.
18. Middle school youth group is gearing up for the Youth Quake event on February 6-8th. We have 22 kids and 5 sponsors attending this event in Wichita Kansas.
19. Both Falun and Salemsborg put on successful Children's Christmas programs. Falun's program had over 20 students PreK-12 participate. Salemsborg served Breakfast in Bethlehem and collected a free will donation to go back to the Youth Coordinator Position. Thank you, Molly and Mandy, for all your work!
20. The Highschool Youth Group had their annual Christmas Party on December 28th. We had 8 students in attendance. Food was served, gingerbread houses were made, and a great white elephant exchange was had.
21. The Middle School youth group had their Annual LOCK-IN on January 3rd. There were 22 students in attendance.

Middle School Youth Group Notes

- The Middle School youth group is going well. We have 27 students as a part of the MS youth and confirmation group. This includes a group of 10 8th graders to be confirmed next fall.

High School Youth Group Notes

- Abby has been the volunteer leader for the Highschool while we are still searching for a more permanent sponsor. The HSYG is a small but consistent group of about 10 students across grades 9-12.

Respectfully submitted; Abigail Rishel-Barnett, Parish Youth Coordinator

Parish Secretary Report

February marks year #2 in this position. Below is a list of the wonderful things I get to do in a day, week, or month for all of you.

Assist Pastor Ben
Assist with transfers in/out
Answer membership questions
Attend bi-weekly meetings
Attend other meetings
Bulletins: (F) 50 (S) 160
Make inserts & create ads
Coordinate with committees
Answer Emails & relay info.
Camp Registration (assist)
Camp questions & research
Camp Deposits & Payments

Prepare Newsletters (212)
Online mailing system
Prepare / print labels
Coordinate news blasts
Paper/Ink/Office Supplies
Email reminders/updates
Social Media Posting
Prepare Annual reports
Submit reports to synod
Assist the Youth Coordinator
Weather cancelations

Maintain Church App

- Devotional
- Youth Pages
- Linking pages
- Update as needed
- Push notifications

Maintain Church Website

- Answer emails
- Update calendar
- Upload “news”
- Announcement Page
- Update worship times
- Newsletters

Projects in 2025:

Ice-cream Social in July to coincide with the Parish Swim Party.

Heritage Sunday was celebrated in October.

Holiday Care Packages were organized as an “Outreach” project.

A Blue Christmas service was held in December 22, at Falun Lutheran Church.

APP STATS:

206 App users that stay on all the time. (never log out)

92 App users are responding to Group Chat.

47 App users are “clicking on” the Devotion



Goals for 2026:

More APP Training for both churches.

Less Group Texting, and more **Group Chatting within the APP.**

I sincerely appreciate your patience and grace with me as I continue to grow in this position. I look forward to new challenges, and excitement in 2026.

Sincerely, Melanie Rishel

Worship and Music Committee

Annual report 2025

The Worship and Music Committee is a parish group that assists Pastor in the organizing and implementing of worship services, including helping with the choosing of hymns, lay readers, and ushers. The committee also helps in the organization of special events and services.

This committee has the goal of taking on complaints that members may have in an effort to take that load off of Pastor Ben's shoulders. Please voice concerns to Mary Ann Carlson, Tom Holmquist, or any other Worship and Music member. This will allow Pastor Ben to focus on his duties as our spiritual leader.

The Committee appreciates all who volunteer to be lay readers, including confirmands who have done a wonderful job in this part of the services. In addition we appreciate those who give their time to usher church services and other special services. We appreciate the youth leaders in helping arrange acolytes for the services. The time that volunteers give is very important to the smooth efficiency of all services.

We give a special thank you also, to Nita Kay Carlson for directing choir and bells, including the Ding-a-lings; to Phil Kampfe for playing the organ and helping to choose hymns; and to Becky Pihl as our choir accompanist. We are appreciative of all of the hours of preparation, practice and performing that they provide the church and community.

Also, a special thank you to Molly Johnson, Kathy Rishel and Abby Rishel for their music work with the Sunday school children and especially for the wonderful Christmas program, despite some hurdles. A thank you to all volunteers that helped that program be so successful.

Another group vital to our functioning is the Altar Guild, who volunteer their time to make sure communion bread and wine are available and ready for the services. In addition, they make sure that the Altar is appropriately dressed for each part of the Church season, including decorating (and un-decorating) the sanctuary for Advent. Their behind the scenes work is vital to our functioning.

In addition we rely greatly on those who handle the technology of the churches. At Falun, a thank you for Keith Johnson for providing necessary support for sound at the Church. At Salemsborg, we appreciate Milt Larson who calmly and with masterful knowledge helps to make sure our services are broadcast through YouTube as well as throughout the building, itself. In addition, we thank Brandon Carlson for the help and relief that he supplies to Milt. Our online ministry continues to help us branch out far beyond the walls of the church and reaches those who are not able to attend, but want to witness the services.

Also involved in our technology, we are grateful to Wayne Carlson and Brad Mahoney as well as other volunteers for making sure that there is adequate sound throughout services and other events.

Again this year, Salemsborg hosted members from the Bethany College Choir for a two day retreat at the church, followed by sharing their music with the congregation at the Sunday service that weekend. We appreciate the opportunity we had to witness their gifts as a way to enhance our service.

This year there were 4 Christmas eve services within the Parish with the addition of the Blue Christmas held at Falun on December 22nd for those who struggle with missing loved ones during the holidays. We also had our usual 6:00 PM service at Salemsborg, the 9:00 PM service at Falun, and the 10:45 PM service at Salemsborg. All services were well attended so all will likely be continued in the years to come.

The committee looks forward to another great year with the two congregations providing support to Pastor Ben so that the worship experience will continue to be very meaningful for all who attend in person or online. We are well aware that we will need the ongoing support of the many volunteers it takes to keep this parish running smoothly.

The Worship and Music Committee Members:

Mary Ann Carlson (Chair)
Pastor Ben Fulton
Gwen Oleen

Nita Kay Carlson
Tom Holmquist
Becky Pihl

Wayne Carlson
Phil Kampfe
Melanie Rishel

Respectfully submitted by
Mary Ann Carlson

026
1/19/26
A2
1/19/26

Friends of the Forest 2025 Financial Report

Balance on Hand January 1, 2025	\$ 48,987.70
Income for 2025 2 nights of Trail + sales of t-shirts, hats	\$ 63,915.85
Total income:	\$112,903.55

Expenses for 2025	
Hauhted Trail expenses paid so far	\$ 18,912.84
Expense for shirts, hats purchased	\$ 3,457.58
2025 Trail proceeds given out so far	\$ 13,500.25
2025 Campers, 29 Parish, 7 companion	\$ 10,825.00
Transfer to Thrivent Money Market Acct.	<u>\$ 58,000.00</u>
Total expenses:	\$104,695.67

Income minus expenses:	\$ 8,207.88
Outstanding checks 12/31/25:	<u>\$ 6,861.81</u>

Balance on Hand December 31, 2025	\$ 15,069.69
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Ideas for future expenditures:

- Continue companion camper passes up to 20 campers
- Update Nursery/S.S. room, activities

This was our 21st year of providing scares with our Haunted Trail! We would like to start by thanking the Church for continuing to allow us to have our Haunted Trail. Also, many thanks to our 135 wonderful volunteers who work so hard to continue to make our Trail one of the most popular in the state! A special shout out to Krystal Schwindt, who stepped in to take over a major role in keeping our Trail going. She did an amazing job! After getting rained out the first weekend, we still managed to host about 2,300+ people!

As always, we are so grateful to the Middle School Youth and parents for their work in providing the Chili Feed as well as concessions on the Trail. This area is such a comfortable place for people to gather and enjoy good chili as they wait in line. Thanks also to the High School Youth for their help on the trail. We are also thankful for the SVHS National Honor Society youth who come every year to help us with clean up! We are truly blessed to have awesome youth in our Parish, and in our community.

Along with proceeds from the annual Golf Tournament, we continue to help pay for campers at Camp Tomah Shinga, as well as sponsor a counselor. This year, we had promoted to our own Parish youth that they could invite a friend outside of our Parish to attend camp, and we paid \$200 towards that registration. We heard lots of complimentary feedback about Camp, and our plan is to continue this.

We are always looking for ideas to promote youth ministry in any way! Feel free to contact one of us if you have an idea. If you should ever have any questions, or would like to volunteer in any way, feel free to contact Krystal Schwindt, Karla Pihl, or Mona Tjaden. Thank You!

Friends of the Forest – Scaring & Serving since 2004!

13th Annual Parish Golf Tournament – Sunday, September 7, 2025

Winning Team: Steve & Roxie Sjogren and Kaj & Haley Sjogren

Hole Sponsors

Hobbs Creek Veterinary Service (Dr. Kenny & Sally Johnson)	Dave & Bernie Dauer Mike & Cindy Dimitri	Dauer Welding & Machine, Inc. (Norman & Kelly Dauer families)
Chris & Tina Dauer	Keith & Debbie Johnson	Tanner & Jessica Corwin
Tjaden Tomb Tenders (Rex & Mona Tjaden)	Diamond T Creations (John & Jennifer Tillman)	Glenn & Gwen Oleen Ron & Sue Pihl
Jason & Haley Sherwood	Pihl Farms	Mike & Teresa Pihl
Mary Ann Carlson	Pihl Repair	Nate & Maggie Ginest
Wayne & Nita Kay Carlson	Nolan McDonald & Sarah Tjaden	Brian Knoell

Silent Auction Donations

Mona Tjaden	Sarah Tjaden	Jennifer Tillman
Josh & Britta Dauer	Gwen Oleen	Audra Schartz
Jenny Sherwood	Donna Dauer	Tina Dauer
Liz Nelson	Jodi Norberg	Shirley Bloomquist

Live Auction Donations

Colorado Cabin by Clair & Jerrine Oleen	The Farm & The Odd Fellows by Keir & Ashley Swisher	Branson Condo by Ron & Sue Pihl
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Income

Team Registrations	\$4,400.00
Hole Sponsorships	\$1,100.00
Silent Auction	\$1,308.00
Live Auction	\$3,450.00
Donations	\$948.00
	\$11,206.00

Expenses*

Golf Cart Rentals	\$1,800.00
Food, Prizes, etc.	\$178.00
	\$1,978.00

Raised "Fore the Kids"	\$9,228.00
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**Golf Course Rent paid from parish budget*

A special thank you to the Pihl crew for planning and cooking lunch.

We also want to thank all our golfers and everyone who came out to worship, enjoy lunch and participate in the silent and live auctions. It was a great event FORE THE KIDS!

T.A.C.O.L.
The Associated Churches of Lindsborg and surrounding areas

T.A.C.O.L. is comprised of Bethany Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran, St. Bridget's Catholic, Evangelical Covenant, First Baptist, Freemount Lutheran, Falun/Salemsborg Lutheran, Trinity Methodist, Bethany College, and Bethany Home.

T.A.C.O.L.'s main source of income is the thrift store which is open Wednesday through Saturday. In 2025 it was staffed by 2 full time managers, which are paid positions. Financial statements in the last quarter of 2025 showed record high sales. Nearly all profits in 2025, after expenses, were gifted to those in need in our community. Budgeted and supported ministries for 2025 were Weekday Church School, Child Care Assistance, Community Blessing Box, Dala Pantry, and Christmas Baskets.

Other gifts, by request, went to pay for summer recreation programs in Lindsborg and Marquette, blood drives, Baccalaureate expenses, annual prayer breakfast, summer adult meals, and Life Skills 101 program with the Lindsborg school. Each month, T.A.C.O.L. also gifted individuals and families in need who applied for assistance through the T.A.C.O.L. Financial Assistance office at the Covenant Church. Assistance included food vouchers, utility bills and/or rent payments, gas cards, motel vouchers, and medical bill assistance.

2025 accomplishments: Paid building loan ahead of schedule, replaced air conditioning unit, replaced concrete slab at the west entry and started digital media.

The 2025 president of the board is Pastor Chris Deines and VP is Pastor Jeff Waugh. Linda Ball is secretary, and Shirley Reissig is treasurer. All of these positions are up for election in 2027 and any board member is eligible.

2026 Goals: Refine mission statement, handbook, by-laws, website, volunteer recruitment and training. 2026 president is Pastor Jeff Waugh; VP is Pastor Chris Deines.

Special thanks to Susan Hemphill for her years of representing Salemsborg on the TACOL board and her volunteer work in the thrift store.

Our Falun, TACOL representative is Janice Morris who is also in charge of the voucher program, working Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 1:00 to 3:00.

Our Salemsborg TACOL representative is Debbie Johnson and she provides voucher assistance on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00.

Bethany Home Auxiliary Report

February 1, 2026 Annual Meeting

The Bethany Home Auxiliary began on March 10, 1958. Mrs. Emory Pokrant of Assaria was the first president and was assisted by a slate of officers and representatives of area congregations. In March of 2026, it will be the 68th year since this organization began its mission to “serve the aged people of the community” and this continues to be their guiding principle.

Current Auxiliary officers are:

President - Mary Patrick (St. Bridget's Catholic Church)

Vice President - Sue Todd (Bethany Lutheran Church)

Secretary - Marlys Elbert (New Gottland Church)

Treasurer - Jean (Richards) Rowland (Trinity Lutheran Church of McPherson)

Twelve church representatives are part of the Auxiliary members:

Assaria Lutheran Church – Janice Peterson

Bethany Lutheran Church of Lindsborg – Liz Johnson and Sue Todd

Lindsborg Covenant Church – Carol Duerkson

Falun Lutheran – Gwen Oleen

Messiah Lutheran of Lindsborg – Betty Russin and Heather House

Lindsborg Methodist – Barbara Hoffman

New Gottland Lutheran Church – Marlys Elbert

Redeemer Lutheran of Salina – Debbie Beckman

Salemsborg Lutheran – Debbie Johnson

St. Bridget Catholic of Lindsborg – Mary Patrick

St. John's Lutheran of Salina – Marty Ryan

Trinity Lutheran of McPherson – Jean (Richards) Rowland.

The **BH Auxiliary meets** on the 4th Tuesday of every other month at the Bethany Home Conference Room at 1:30 p.m. Our **BH Auxiliary Treasury** includes just the offering taken from the 12 church representatives attending the bi-monthly meetings, plus any extra donations from the churches involved at any time of the year. Your church donations may be given to your church Auxiliary representative to give to the Auxiliary Treasurer. BH treasury money has been used to help fund the Halloween candy for residents to hand out to Halloween trick or treaters, food warmer for the kitchen, décor items, tableware for the activities room, Music & Memory program, four outdoor park benches, large print bingo cards for BH & Sunflower Terrace Assisted Living, staff appreciation treats, and various other items.

BH Activities that our church representatives are assigned or volunteer for are:

- 1) 15 dozen cookies the first Wednesdays of the month to serve with coffee following Chapel each week.
They freeze the cookies and use them throughout the month.
- 2) Bingo at Bethany Home the 4th Mondays (except in December) at 2:00 p.m. Provide 50-60 prizes and 3-4 helpers suggested.
- 3) Bingo at Sunflower Terrace Assisted Living the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. Provide prizes for 15-20 residents and 2 helpers suggested.
- 4) Birthday Cakes at Bethany Home on the 3rd Fridays (except in December) at 2:00 p.m. We furnish two different flavored cakes and the Home furnishes the ice cream and tableware and 2 helpers suggested.
- 5) Happy Cart at Bethany Home on the 1st Fridays at 9:30 a.m. We go to each resident's rooms and offer them a treat from the cart. We provide the treats. This gives the residents some additional socialization. Since we have 12 churches involved, we only do this once a year. Four helpers suggested, two per cart.

A majority of the churches no longer have women's groups to fulfill some of the monetary donations, so we rely on our local congregations to help donate. Individuals from our churches have been good in helping donate money to be given to the activities staff to buy the residents nice Christmas gifts specific to their needs. We appreciate your generous support. If you ever have some extra time to help Debbie Johnson or Gwen Oleen with any of the above activities throughout the year, please let us know. We'd love your help. The residents enjoy our visits and activities. Let us know if you have any questions.

THANK YOU!

Your Bethany Home Auxiliary Representatives

Debbie Johnson, Salemsborg Church, cell phone: 785-227-5019

Gwen Oleen, Falun Church, cell phone: 785-820-6954

Resolutions

We engage and support the Parish/Vision Outreach in the broad focus with specific emphasis on:

**Camp Tomah Shinga
Bethany College
Young Adults and following up on our visitors**

1. We thank God for the continued ministry of Pastor Ben and his family. We pray the Holy Spirit continues to bless and keep them.
2. We appreciate Pastor Ben for all his hard work in continuing to explore new ways to engage, encourage, and motivate the congregation to be better stewards of God's will.
3. We give a SPECIAL thanks to ALL who have given their time and talents to support our church.
4. We give thanks for our congregation for being strong in faith, resilient, and trusting in the Lord.
5. We pray for those members of our church we don't see very often, that God will stir up their faith to a new and lively involvement.
6. We thank those who so generously gave financial gifts to our church this past year that enabled us to spread the word of God to so many.
7. We give thanks to all of those who have remembered Falun Lutheran Church through their wills and memorials.
8. We can remember with heartfelt tenderness those members and friends of our parish who have passed this year. We also remember their families with love and affection.
9. We look forward to a great year to come and for the many ways we can spread the Word and Love of God.
10. **REMEMBER...LOVE GOD AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**