



**St. Philip
Lutheran
Church**

**Annual
Report**

2024

Annual Report

Pastor Brad Doty

St. Philip Staff

BRAD DOTY

Senior Pastor

KORRA LOOSCHEN

Deacon

MELINDA SVENKERUD

Director of Children, Youth,
and Family Ministries

JANET SHIBLY

Director of Music

BEN CORWYN

Organist/Pianist

AMY WAGNER

ELC Director

JESS STEPP

ELC Assistant Director

KIRSTEN OLSHAUSEN

Business Administrator

ANGELA SEEP

Secretary/Editorial Assistant

KAREN DONAHO

Finance

OVERVIEW BY PASTOR BRAD

What a year it was in 2024! The year was filled with ministry, outreach, relationship building, serving others and praising God. Small groups and bible studies continue to grow, which are leading to deeper relationships with each other and with God.

We have been working on growing our serve ministries and doing more outreach into the community. This year, St. Philip had a booth at the Red, White and You Festival at Clement Park on July 3 as well as at the Western Welcome Week Parade in Downtown Littleton with a float and booth. Our float even won two awards!



This year was filled with great ministry and events as well, there were seven youth who went to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New

Orleans, LA, the Men's Group hosted a camping trip in the mountains with seventeen people, and the men even hosted three trap shooting events. We also began a new



ministry at St. Philip with Mosaic, called Rejoicing Spirits, which is a gathering for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our serve ministries continue to do great work for those in need, which is seen through the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of our Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry and the work with Love INC with Dipes and Wipes.



As you go through this annual report, you will see all of the ways we have been working towards our mission. There were so many wonderful events that happened this past year across our ministries of Gather, Serve and Celebrate. Our property team was very active working on a number of different projects. Our Early Learning Center continues to do well and make an impact in our community.

I am grateful for our St. Philip staff and all they do as leaders as they serve in their roles for the sake of God's work here at St. Philip, for the sake of the members of our congregation, those around us, and those in need locally and around the world. We did say goodbye to two staff members this year: Deacon Korra Looschen and Mario Barbosa. Mario took another position at a church in Boulder and unfortunately, due to our budget, we had to eliminate Deacon Korra's position.



FINANCES

While there have been many blessings and many things going well at St. Philip, we have continued to struggle financially. We hoped to bring our finances back up after a big drop in giving between 2019 and 2022. This drop in giving was due to people dying, people moving, people leaving the church and people not coming back to church after COVID.

Over the past three years, we have had budgets with deficits in the \$40K and we ended 2022 with a \$63K deficit and 2023 with a \$27K deficit. As we evaluated our financial position in August and September of this past year, we could see we were trending similar to 2023. After trimming the budgets of our ministries, outreach and benevolence, there wasn't much else to trim. We also knew we couldn't approve another deficit budget and still have some money in our reserves in case of an emergency. Therefore, as we planned for 2025, we made the difficult decision to eliminate a staff position and unfortunately, at the end of 2024, we said goodbye to Deacon Korra Looschen.

CELEBRATE

Worship

Worship is truly a celebration as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ every Sunday. We continue to worship at 9am every Sunday and at 5pm on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. Our Bluegrass Band led us in worship four times this past year, which is always a lively and fun service. On Sundays, we worship an average of 150 people in person and 20 logins on Zoom. I am grateful for the hospitality of this congregation as you welcome those who visit and want to learn more about St. Philip. There have been a number of people and families visiting and worshipping at St. Philip.

Ash Wednesday Prayer Stations

During the day on Ash Wednesday, we offered the opportunity for people to come to the chapel for a time of prayer, reflection and

contemplation. There were a number of prayer stations to guide people in this spiritual practice. There were twenty two people from the congregation and community who participated on this day and others who took advantage of this opportunity throughout the season of Lent. People found it very spiritual, reflective and touching.



Sanctuary Upgrades

Throughout the year, we were able to update our sanctuary from all of the fundraising we did in 2023. We built a new sound booth, put in robotic cameras and replaced the carpet in the sanctuary. In 2025, we will be completing our last project, which is replacing the lighting/dimmer system in the sanctuary.



LOOKING FORWARD

As we look forward to 2025, we focus on the theme of "Fulfilled Spiritually" as we look at the things that fill us and bring us joy. May God bless St. Philip in this coming year!

Letter from Chuck Rogge, Council President

Dear St. Philip Family,

We are grateful to God for the many blessings of 2024 and the vibrant, active life of our church. From exciting events to the many ways we've come together in service and fellowship, it has been a year full of joy, growth, and community. I hope you will take some time to look through this report to check out the wonderful ministry God is doing through St. Philip, all we have accomplished in 2024 and all we look forward to as we move into 2025.

Some of the highlights you will see are Vacation Bible School, the ELCA Youth Gathering, Western Welcome Week, Rally Day & Pig Roast, and many areas of service. We are grateful for the many hands that serve in our church and for the sake of our community.

There were many projects that took place this year:

Sanctuary Upgrades: We made significant improvements to our sanctuary last year, including replacing the sanctuary carpet, updating our A/V booth, and installing cameras for streaming services. These upgrades enhance both the functionality and beauty of our worship space.



Roof & Plumbing Repairs: We faced some unexpected expenses due to roof hail damage and plumbing issues. While this has been a challenge, we continue to address these repairs with careful planning and budgeting. We are grateful for the team who worked hard to ensure our church remains a safe and welcoming place. The roof repairs/replacement were finished in October and thankfully almost fully funded through our insurance. We are addressing the plumbing issues with routine jetting to clean out the lines.

2024 Budget Deficit and Staff Changes

St. Philip carried a budget deficit for the past three fiscal years. This past year, we worked hard to try to close the deficit through fundraising in a program we called the PPP Palooza. We planned three fundraisers throughout the year to raise fund for the general fund: Pickleball, Pig Roast and Poker. The PPP Palooza committee, led by Jon Leonard, Erin White, Chuck Rogge, and Pastor Brad, worked hard on a fundraising campaign, which raised \$2,948.65. We appreciate the support and generosity of our congregation.



Despite our best efforts to reduce expenses and increase revenue, we found ourselves in a position where difficult decisions had to be made to balance the 2025 budget. Unfortunately, this included the elimination of Deacon Korra's position. We are grateful for the incredible work Deacon Korra performed in serving our congregation and community. We are truly thankful for her commitment to St. Philip, and this decision was one of necessity rather than choice. We understand this news was disappointing, and we want to offer reassurance that God is guiding us through this transition. As it says in the Bible, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11). We trust that God's plan for our church is full of hope and a bright future, even in the midst of these challenges.

We are committed to continuing to serve with joy and faith, even as we make adjustments to align our financial resources. We ask for your continued prayers, understanding, and support as we navigate next year together.



Looking Ahead to 2025

As we move forward, we're excited about the opportunities for ministry and service that lie ahead. The 2025 budget is balanced and allows St. Philip to address the needs of our church and community. We continue to welcome new members and families into St. Philip. As a church family, let's continue to show kindness and hospitality by warmly welcoming new faces and visitors among us. Whether it's someone attending for the first time or someone who has recently joined, a friendly greeting and a welcoming spirit can make all the difference. Let's make it a priority to reach out, offer support, and help them feel at home in our church community. Together, we can create a place where everyone feels loved, valued, and accepted.

We are so grateful for your ongoing support, prayers, and participation. Together, we will continue to grow in faith and service to our community and the world. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at St. Philip. May God bless you in the year ahead.



Respectively,
Chuck Rogge
St. Philip Church Council President



Church Council

July 2023 - June 2024

Jon Leonard, Council President
Liz Reed, Vice President
Chuck Rogge, Treasurer
Ericka McDaniel, Secretary

Charlie Petersen, Gather
Erin White, Celebrate
Karen Donaho, Serve
Dan Giles, Young Adult
Emilie Varnell, Youth Representative

July 2024 - June 2025

Chuck Rogge, Council President
Liz Reed, Vice President
Penny Christensen, Treasurer
Erin White, Secretary

Charlie Petersen, Gather
Jane Clausen, Celebrate
Rich Allee, Serve
Camryn Celusniak, Youth Representative

St. Philip Early Learning Center



ST. PHILIP
EARLY LEARNING
CENTER

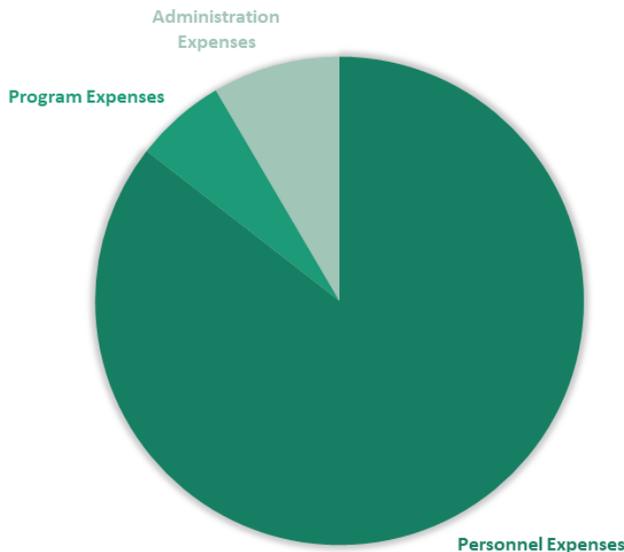


SPELC Staff:

- 22 Teachers
- 5 Substitute teachers

**Scholarships given to families in 2024 totaled \$11,790
which helped 6 preschool families.**

St. Philip Early Learning Center Finances



2024 EXPENSES

Personnel Expenses: \$365,784.16
Program Expenses: \$25,815.99
Administration Expenses: \$36,112.74
(Includes \$24,000 contribution to SPLC)

Total Expenses: \$427,712.89

2024 INCOME

Total: \$406,159.69

Milestones

Baptisms

Layne Autenrieth
Nyah Lawson
Ames Weatherford
Axel Ritthaler
Evie Ritthaler
Caleb Totte
Jacob Wolfe
Hunter Lownsdale
Jackson Lownsdale
Shelby Collins



First Communion

Victoria Nottingham
August Peters

Confirmation

Madilynn Black
Kalina Perry
Joshua Williams

Weddings

Chris & Angela Collins

Memorials

Jo Rock
Vivian Montague
Roger Bracken
Flo Figge
Roger Auch
Robert LeVin
Marilyn Reitz
Kelly Glover
Joel Sigdestad

New Members

Catherine, Dan, Heidi Bailey
Angela & Chris Collins
Richard & Darlene Dethlefs
Chris, Heidi, Zach, Blake, Mason,
Hailey Haggenjos
Mike Laboda
Cyndi, Neil, Tanner, Kalina Perry



Ken Caryl Concert 2024 Report

Ken Caryl concerts produced three concerts in 2024 – “Focus on Native Composers” on April 13 (in collaboration with *Celebration for Native Arts*), “Summer Showcase” on June 20, and “American Songbook” on November 3. Performers included church and community members, both professional and amateur. Audiences included in-person attendees as well as virtual attendees on Zoom and viewings on YouTube in the weeks following. The April concert was our most well-attended performance, with 155 people in the sanctuary that afternoon. In addition to entertaining our audience and providing space for our musicians to be creative with their talents, we raised awareness for global and international causes this year:

- Celebration for Native Arts
- St. Philip Youth traveling to the ELCA Youth Conference in New Orleans (donated \$150 from our freewill offering from the June 20 concert)
- Lutheran Disaster Relief (donated \$150 from our freewill offering from the November 3 concert)

The total cost of presenting the three concerts was \$2,001.50 and total freewill offering and donations collected was \$1,449.80.



-Respectfully submitted by Kristen Celusniak

Serve Ministries

“God’s Work. Our Hands” isn’t a one-day event at St. Philip. It is our faith in action all throughout the year. Thanks be to God for the following ways we served in the community:



SHARING WITH SHERIDAN (SwS)



SwS has been involved with the Sheridan community for the past 10 years! We celebrated the 10th anniversary of this ministry with a lunch for all who have supported this ministry, and special 10th anniversary cookies for all neighbors. This is a walk-through/drive-through food bank that distributes out of the Sheridan Recreation Center. Each week over 30 volunteers are involved in the setup, distribution and cleanup of the site. In 2024, SwS served more people than we ever have, with over 27,000 neighbors, a 50% increase. Through the efforts of our volunteers and the generosity of the extended St. Philip community, other organizations, and grants, we continue to provide a choice of food and other items to our neighbors.

HOLY HAMMERS

In 2024, there were over 10 SPLC members who volunteered at several work sites. 2024 was also the 25th anniversary of the Holy Hammers coalition. Roger Bracken, a long-time SPLC member, was honored at the event. Some activities that SPLC members participated in were the annual fundraising gala, the Breakfast for Humanity fundraiser, putting together goodie bags for volunteers, coloring a large welcome poster for a family’s new home, and the gingerbread house build fundraiser.



DIPES & WIPES



This is St. Philip’s diaper ministry in partnership with Love INC. Approximately 10 volunteers help each month to distribute diapers, pray with the families, and play with the children. It is wonderful to get to know the families and support them in their time of need. We serve 25 families monthly.

CREATIVE CARING QUILTERS

If you can quilt or tie a knot, this group is for you! Members of SPLC make quilts that are distributed by Lutheran World Relief. The group has given 62 total quilts over the past four years, including 17 quilts given in 2024. Lutheran World Relief has distributed 60,000 quilts to Ukraine.



TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

Thanks to Tom Henning for spearheading this new ministry this year. If someone is in need of transportation to a medical appointment or other need, Tom will coordinate this effort with one of our three volunteers.

Serve Ministries

REJOICING SPIRITS



A new ministry for SPLC, this group serves our intellectually and developmentally delayed community. Six St. Philip families and one family from the community participate in this ministry each month. This group meets the 2nd Saturday of each month for a craft, games, a meal, and worship. We are grateful for all of the volunteers who plan and contribute to this wonderful ministry.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Rather than grow food for SwS, eight garden plots were rented to community members. These community members held a few social events in 2024 and a workshop in the spring.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



This group meets once a month to knit, crochet, share a devotion and share in fellowship. Prayer Shawl Sunday is the 3rd Sunday each month. Anyone who is ill, hurting, or has a family member or friend in need of prayers is welcome to take a shawl.

COLLEGE OUTREACH

This ministry continues to bless students all across the country. Last year we mailed packages to 56 students before mid-terms and finals week. Thank you for your donations which bless our young adults.



LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES



SPLC members supplied many items to foster children, refugees, and adoptive families in 2024. We held a Christmas Angel Tree drive, collecting coats, sleep sets and pillows for 50 families.

GRIEF MINISTRY

As folks mourn the death of a loved one, it is important that they feel comforted and are reminded that they are not alone. We are grateful to Sue Miller who helps to send a letter from St. Philip, which includes a book from “Journeying Through Grief”. These are sent throughout the first year of someone losing a loved one.

Gather Ministries

When we gather, we grow! We grow in our faith, in our relationship with God, and in our relationships with others. One of the best things we can do is to be part of the community of St. Philip by attending a ministry, joining a small group or going to a Bible study. St. Philip has so much to offer and you will certainly be blessed when you attend.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- Sunday School
- Puppet Praise Ministry
- Vacation Bible School (105 kids & 48 Volunteers)
- Trunk-or-Treat (18 cars)

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Confirmation
- Camp at Rainbow Trail
- Youth Group
- ELCA Youth Gathering

BIBLE STUDIES

- Monday Mornings
- Tuesday Nights
- Wednesday Mornings
- Wednesday Night
- Pub Theology



MEN'S MINISTRY

- Wednesday Pizza Nights
- Thursday Breakfast
- Trap Shooting
- Softball
- Camping Retreat

MORE MINISTRIES

- Co-Ed Softball (1st Place!)
- Silver Sages
- Family Picnic

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- Book Club
- Prayer Shawls
- Bible Study
- Women's Gathering

St. Philip Mission Endowment Fund 2024

For the year 2024, the St. Philip Mission Endowment Fund Committee met four times to review the Endowment funds, evaluate the investment fund bank to be good stewards of our investments, consider if any grants would be given, schedule windows to allow endowment requests and what requests to award.

The following chart identifies the changes in the fund for the year.

	<u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>12/31/2024</u>	<u>Change</u>
Money Market Account(1st Bank)	\$ 1,751	\$ 2,254	\$ 503
ELCA Pooled Trust Fund	<u>\$203,274</u>	<u>\$219,870</u>	<u>\$16,596</u>
Total	\$205,025	\$222,124	\$17,099

The committee had made a declaration in the summer of 2024 to give \$7,000. Six grant requests were received. At the July committee meeting, five grants totaling \$7,000 were awarded:

Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry	\$1,000
GraceFull Café	\$1,000
Vacation Bible School	\$1,000
Holy Hammers	\$1,000
Portable Sound System	\$3,000

In October, an additional grant was awarded to **Seeds of South Sudan** for \$1,000.

Grant awards were communicated to the congregation via the SPIN and grant application times were in Sunday announcements and the SPIN.

The members of St. Philip Lutheran Church that served on the Endowment Committee for 2024 are:

Penny Christensen	Kay Mosier	Rob Murphy
Andy Hancock	Anne Husted	Jeff Lyslo
Liz Watts	Pastor Brad	

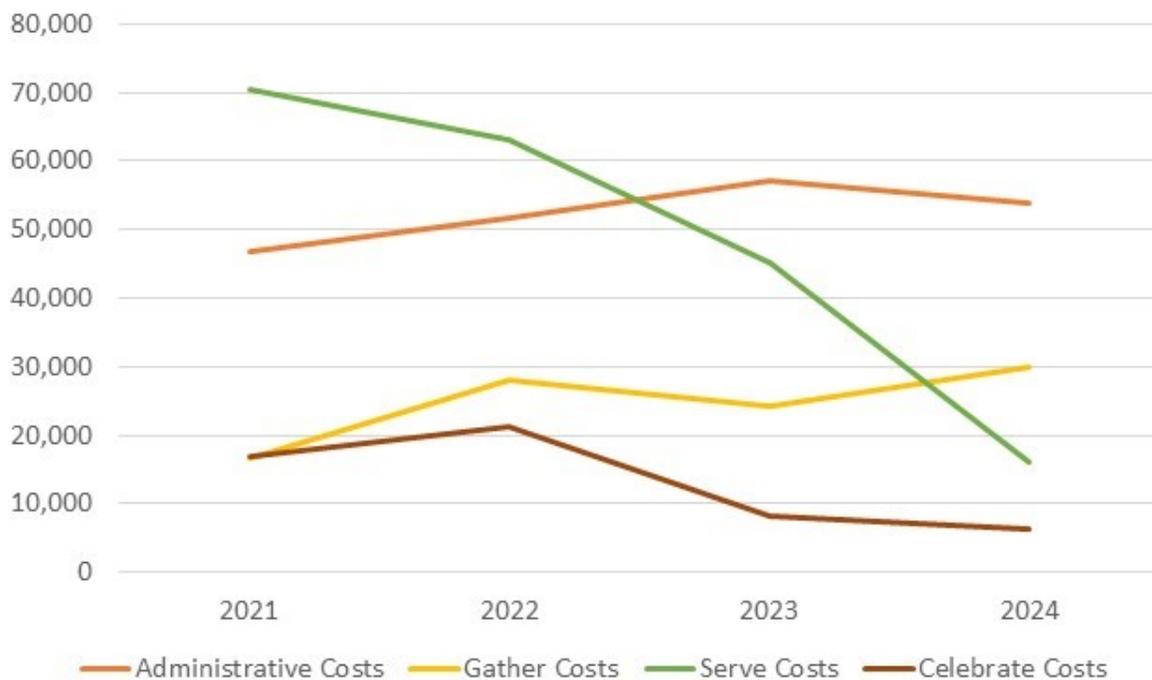
“At St. Philip Lutheran Church we intentionally build relationships through Christ to grow and serve.”

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Financial Report

This year, we have been looking at a lot of trends when it comes to our income and expenses. Over the past two years, we have cut the budget for many areas of ministry as well as our benevolence to the Rocky Mountain Synod and other non-profit organizations we have supported. We also have tapped into designated funds that have been saved up over the years, which we have been spending for their designated purpose. This has allowed us to keep our budgeted expenses down this year. Thanks to your generosity throughout the year and at the end of the year, we were ahead on expected contributions. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Actual Expense Comparison

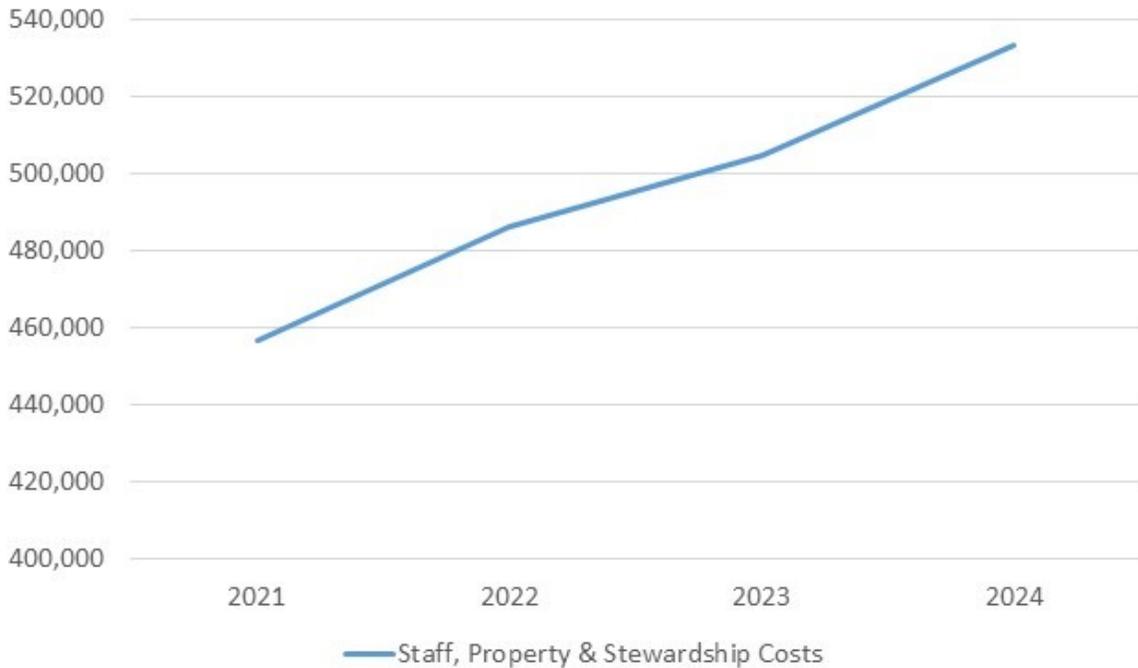


	2021	2022	2023	2024
Admin. Costs	\$46,861	\$51,691	\$57,049	\$53,963
Gather Costs	\$16,543	\$28,174	\$24,370	\$29,919
Serve Costs	\$70,556	\$63,070	\$45,178	\$16,195
Celebrate Costs	\$16,834	\$21,144	\$8,117	\$6,299
Mortgage	\$97,167			

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Financial Report

Staff, Property & Stewardship Cost Trend



	2021	2022	2023	2024
Staff, Property & Stewardship Costs	\$456,785	\$486,395	\$504,865	\$533,470

Year End Summary

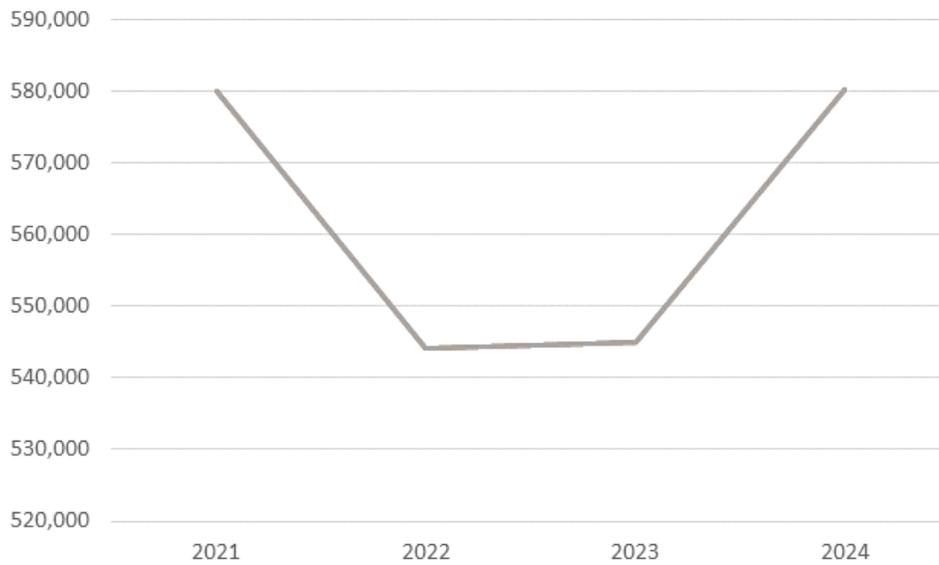
	Actual Contributions	Total Income	Actual Expenses	Difference of Actuals	Designated Fund Use	Actual at End of Year	Designated Fund Use Notes
2021	\$579,918	\$684,502	\$676,906	\$7,596	N/A	\$7,596	
2022	\$544,192	\$588,743	\$652,160	-\$63,417	N/A	-\$63,417	
2023	\$544,887	\$611,011	\$638,307	-\$27,296	-\$22,168	-\$49,464	Upgrade of security system, install of automatic door locks and youth ministry
2024	\$580,115	\$651,703	\$639,846	\$11,857	-\$23,604	-\$11,747	Roof replacement upgrades, organ repair, youth ministry, office supplies

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Financial Report

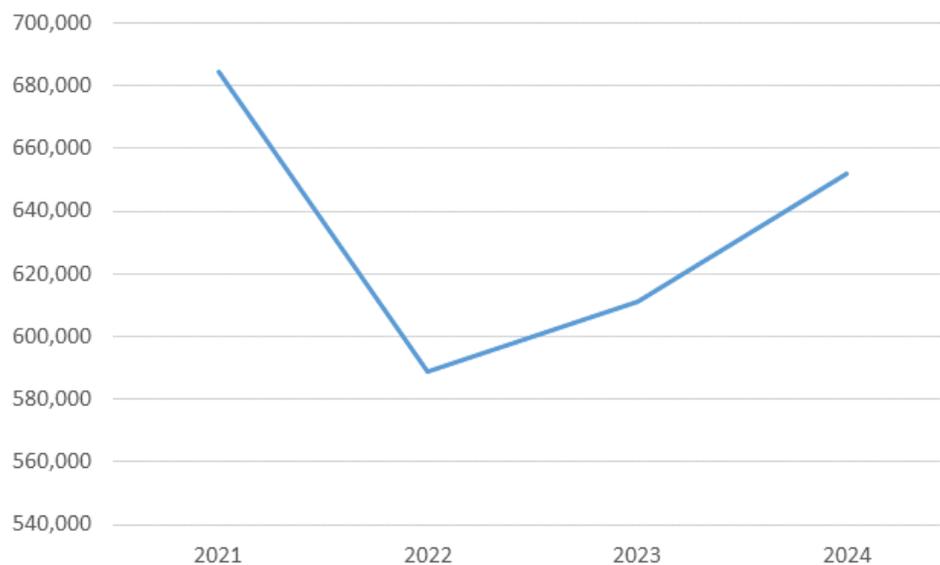
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Actual Contributions	\$579,918	\$544,192	\$544,887	\$580,115

Actual Contributions



	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Income	\$684,502	\$588,743	\$611,011	\$651,703

Total Income

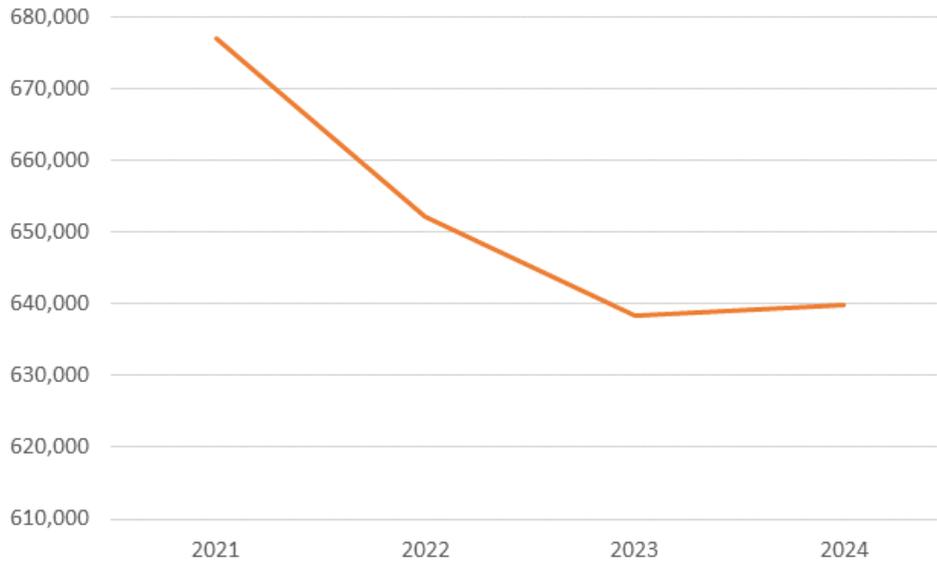


ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Financial Report

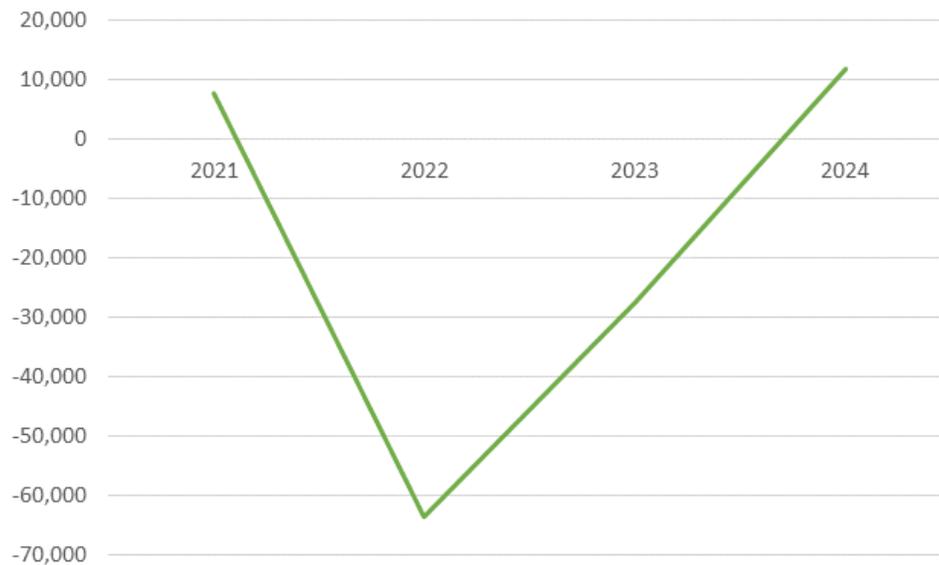
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Actual Expenses	\$676,906	\$652,160	\$638,307	\$639,846

Actual Expenses



	2021	2022	2023	2024
Difference of Actual Income vs. Expense	\$7,596	-\$63,417	-\$27,296	\$11,857

Difference of Actual Income vs. Expense





St. Philip Lutheran Church

GATHER • SERVE • CELEBRATE

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