

# THE 117TH ANNUAL

## *Church Meeting*

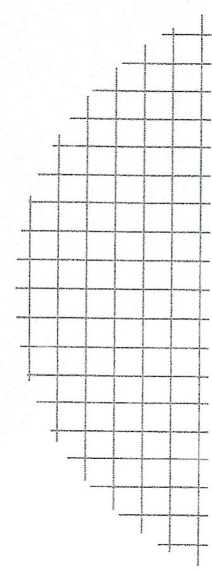
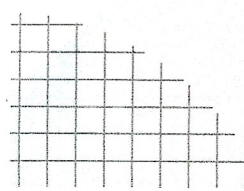
Saron Lutheran - 1st Presbyterian Church

708 8th Street, Hoquiam WA 98550



**FEBRUARY 23, 2025**

[www.sarongraysharbor.org](http://www.sarongraysharbor.org)





**Agenda**  
**117<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Saron Lutheran – 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church**  
**February 23, 2025**

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Minutes of 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, February 25, 2024

Council President's Letter

Senior Pastor's Letter

Congregational Records for 2024

Elections 2025

Treasurer's Report 2024

Budget for 2025

Endowment Report 2024

Memorial Fund Report 2024

Martha Circle Fund Report 2024

Property Maintenance Crew Report 2024

Outreach Report 2024

Special Presentation from Boots for Bears

Music & Worship Report 2024

Youth Report 2024

Education Report 2024

Adjourn with Prayer

**Saron Lutheran/First Presbyterian Church**  
**116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**February 25, 2024**  
**Meeting at 11:00 am**

**Members in attendance:**

**In person:**

Pastor Michelle de Beauchamp

Marilynn Anderson, Patti Barker, Linda Borth, Roger Borth, Robert Del Valle, Randall Daugherty, Elichia Enzler, Elisabeth Enzler, Tony Enzler, Mike Erkkinen, Barbara Fairchild, Megan Filer, Ruth Hamilton, Kari Hasbrouck, John Hunter, Pam Hunter, Ray Kahler, Marlene Kellar, Vada Kohn, Carrie Larson, Dale Larson, Ingrid Larson, John Larson, Ray Kahler, Teri Julian, Ken Matheson, Teri Moody, Timothy Moon, LouJean O'Brien, Phil Olafsen, Sharal Patton, JoAnn Ray, Becky Root, Sue Swantek, Haldis Totland, Knut Totland, Dan Varland, Sue Varland, Callie White

(Minutes prepared by Mike Erkkinen, Church Council Secretary)

**Call to Order**

Ruth Hamilton, Church Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:34 am. A quorum was present.

**Opening Prayer**

Pastor Michelle de Beauchamp led off the meeting with an opening prayer.

**Minutes of 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, February 5, 2023**

Minutes from the 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, held on February 5, 2023, were reviewed. Sue Varland made a motion to approve the minutes as written. LouJean O'Brien and Sharal Patton second the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The minutes are included in Annual Meeting Report.

**Council President's Letter**

Ruth Hamilton read her letter to the congregation. The letter is included in the Annual Meeting Report. Her letter states that we are blessed, seeing God at work through our challenges and triumphs. We are a beacon of hope to the community. Through joys and sorrows we have become closer as a church family, as we exemplify God's love. Our "Sabbatical -in-place" while Pastor Michelle was away on her sabbatical will reap benefits for years to come. It is a joy to see our growth and we look to continue to be blessed and grateful in the coming year.

**Senior Pastor's Letter**

Pastor Michelle discussed her letter to the congregation. The letter is included in the Annual Meeting Report. Her letter addresses several topics: acts of service, outreach, education, and worship. She spoke to a sabbatical "Heart Pilgrimage" workshop she will offer on April 27. She thanks the congregation and Lily Foundation for her unforgettable sabbatical experience.

**Congregational Records for 2023**

Pastor Michelle summarized the congregational records for 2023. Total Sunday worship attendance, including in-person and online worshipers, was 125. We received two new members by transfer, had three marriages, four baptisms, two confirmations, and two burials.

**Elections 2024**

Pastor Michelle announced that there are three new vacancies on the Church Council, as Joyce Easton, Linda Borth, and Sharal Whitecliff-Patton are leaving Council. Randall Daugherty and Patti Barker have agreed to be considered for two positions. Mike Erkinen and Teri Moody have agreed to be considered for re-election. Phil Olafsen made a motion to approve Randall, Patti, Mike, and Teri for these positions. Callie White seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Treasurer's Report 2023 and Budget for 2024**

Tony Enzler, Council Treasurer, announced that we are in a very good financial position. Thank you to the congregation. There is a concern that written pledges have dropped significantly. Grants and other opportunities are out there for additional funding. A question was asked as to what is the most critical financial issue. Tony responded that facilities issues are most critical at this time. As we peel back on problems that arise, more things get uncovered. Pastor Michelle said that we are in better financial shape than many, even larger, congregations. Linda Borth said we need to give Pastor Michelle and Teri Julian a round of applause for keeping office expenses down. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report and 2024 Budget. The motion was approved unanimously. The Treasurer's Report is included in the Annual Meeting Report.

#### **Endowment Report for 2023**

Tony Enzler addressed the Endowment Report for the Endowment Committee. The Committee has decided to move the interest monies forward. The question was asked if we are in a financial hole right now. Tony responded that is not the case. While we are slightly in the red, our assets more than cover that. LouJean O'Brien asked if we need another capital campaign. Pastor Michelle said we will get back to that later in the meeting. Linda Borth asked about getting the bells working. Pastor Michelle said that she and Randall Daugherty agree we need a new system. Randall added that the current system uses Windows 95. The Endowment Report is included in the Annual Meeting Report.

#### **Memorial Fund Report for 2023**

Ruth Hamilton discussed the Memorial Fund. It currently has a balance of \$3,752.55. The Memorial Fund Report is included in the Annual Meeting Report.

#### **Martha Circle Fund Report for 2023**

Becky Root discussed the Martha Circle Treasurer's Report 2023. The report is included in the Annual Meeting Report. Last year the flea market and plant sale did very well. Sharal Patton has indicated that there will be another plant sale in June (June 1). Total donations to the Martha Circle fund in 2023 were \$3,874.46. The breakdown of those figures is shown in the report. Barbara Fairchild made a motion to approve the Endowment, Memorial Fund, and Martha Circle Reports for 2023. Sharal Patton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Property Maintenance Committee Report for 2023**

Pastor Michelle discussed the Property Maintenance Committee Report. The report is included in the Annual Meeting Report. She asked for people to submit ideas for landscaping along M Street. We will include some stepping stones in the project. Regarding the west wall project, copies of the engineering report are available. The plan is to put a steel beam on each side of the stained glass window. Ray Kahler has been working with Alan Gozart with Harbor Architects. We don't have a quote right now for the project. The Hoquiam Historic Commission has agreed that we can install metal siding as we did for the steeple. John Larson said that when they were able to see the siding on the steeple, they were ok with installing it on the west wall as well. Sue Varland asked about removing the stained glass. Ray said we have not obtained a quote on that, but the range is likely between \$20,000 and \$40,000. Pastor



Michelle said that the stained glass people said some minor re-leading may be needed. Barbara Fairchild commented that we are so blessed to have people work with us on this, including the contractors and John Larson. Pam Hunter asked how dangerous are conditions with the wall. She wouldn't be surprised if the entire wall through the sacristy may need to be repaired or replaced. Pastor Michelle said the project would need another capital campaign. She is also looking into possible loans. JoAnn Ray asked if we would need to send the stained glass window to Seattle for repairs. Ray responded that it is likely that any part of the window that does not need repair could stay here. JoAnn said that nine years ago, James documented the condition of the windows, so that we would have an indication of their value. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Building Maintenance Committee Report. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Music & Worship Report for 2023**

The Music and Worship Report is included in the Annual Meeting Report. Thanks to Kari Hasbrouck and Troy George for all their efforts.

#### **Outreach, Education, and Youth Report for 2023:**

Pastor Michelle summarized the Outreach, Education, and Youth Report included in the Annual Meeting Report. Linda Borth announced that there will be two fundraisers, one on March 17 and another in May.

#### **Adjourn with Prayer**

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm with a closing prayer from Pastor Michelle, followed by a motion to adjourn by Phil Olafson. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

# Council President's Letter 2024

February 23, 2025

Dear Church Family -

Have you been amazed this year at what God has done? What a year it has been!

We started 2024 with our pastor refreshed and restored from her sabbatical adventures. Our congregation enjoyed its own "sabbatical in place," learning and growing in new ways during her absence.

Earlier in the year we viewed the West wall and window restoration as our greatest challenge. Through the combination of generous donors and several successful fundraisers, the money needed to accomplish these repairs was met. Additionally, we were able to fund a new carillon bell system. Though the process has taken longer than expected, we have seen God's perfect timing at work. As you all know, the steeple was struck by lightning in November, exploding the top half of the structure, knocking out the electrical system and causing other damage.

Fortunately, the stained-glass window and carillon bells had not yet been installed and escaped damage. The original church structure has now been completely re-wired and updated from 1950's era work. Insurance will cover most of the repair costs, supplemented by a GoFundMe account and other donations. Again and again, God has provided.

Outreach into our community continues and grows. The Rose Center is serving more and more people, through Al-anon, Girl Scouts, Spiritual Direction counseling, Harbor Food Pantry, the Community Garden, fundraisers, youth events and other uses. Our teams provide Monthly Community Meals and Union Gospel Mission meals while the church hosts several groups including Homemakers, VASA and Sons of Norway. Supporting the Hoquiam Food and Clothing Bank and providing hygiene supplies for the homeless are ongoing ministries.

We have worshipped together, prayed together, mourned together and rejoiced together, caring for one another and reaching out to care for others. We have grown in numbers and in faith. We continue to be a beacon of hope in Grays Harbor and beyond. And we have been blessed!!

Our church is healthy and faithful, with you, its members, expressing in so many ways a willingness to serve. Thank you for your hard work and generous hearts! May God continue to bless each of you beyond what you deserve or expect.

May blessings abound,

Ruth Hamilton, Council President



## Senior Pastor Letter 2024

Dear Church,

This year was one of trials, but we are even more rooted in our mission. We are a beacon of hope in Grays Harbor, living out our mission of faithfully serving God and our neighbors. Our mission of our church is: *As one united congregation, we stand as a beacon of hope in Grays Harbor, by sharing God's message of love through acts of service, outreach, education, and worship.* We lived out this mission even though the church was literally struck by lightning.

The beautiful thing about this terrible event is that it shows us the power of community and the power of living out our faith faithfully. How we are called to be the body of Christ and a beacon of hope in our community, which we are, and that because of this our community has shown up for us through donations, clean up, volunteering, time and prayers. We are blessed to be a blessing.

THANK YOU to all who have participated, led, donated, and volunteered with all our different ministries. We could not do this without you. Our ministries keep growing with our outreach ministries, the restructuring of our youth ministries, and the Rose Center with the wonderful possibilities of that facility. We could not do this without all of you. We are that beacon of hope in the Harbor and will continue to be this sharing Christ's light with all.

Lastly, I want to say I am proud and blessed to be serving as your pastor. This church, in my nine years here, has gone through so much beautiful growth. We have come back from being 2 struggling congregations into one healthy church. That is phenomenal. God has blessed us with this, and you all have done the hard work of listening to how God is calling us to be beacons of God's light in this community. Thank you for inspiring me as your pastor to keep preaching and teaching the gospel.

Peace,

Pastor Michelle de Beauchamp

# Congregational Records for 2024

We would like to note that 2024 again proves to us the importance of online.

## **Worship Attendance:**

The average worship attendance in 2024 was 49 in-person and 197 online based on our viewership (and not repeat views). This means the 2024 average worship attendance is 246. This includes all Sunday services and other special services we have (i.e., Blue Christmas, Maundy Thursday, Prayer Vigils etc.). This is growth from last year, however we do need to be aware the Sunday after the lightning strike online views were over 1,000.

## **New/Transfer/Restored Members:**

7 New members.

## **Marriages: 1**

Myka Wayman and Neil Seibert, August 3, 2024, at Orchard at Sunshine Hill in Chehalis, WA

## **Baptisms: 0**

## **Burials/Memorials/Gravesides/Prayers: 2**

Pearl Smith, June 8, 2024, at Saron Lutheran-1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, presider Pastor Jeff Johnson

Barbara Royal, December 17, 2024, at her home at request of spouse.

## **Church Hit by Lightning: November 20, 2024**



# Elections 2024

## Council

1. Bailey Cavender

## Synod Assembly

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

## Leaving Council

1. Tony Enzler

*Thank you, Tony, for your time and talents with the Church Council at Saron-1<sup>st</sup>! You are appreciated!*

# Treasurer's Report 2024

## Income

Building Use Donation	\$	525.00
Boots for Bears	\$	200.00
Fundraisers	\$	2,239.00
GH Community Foundation Grant	\$	2,100.00
Interest	\$	0.49
Paypal Giving	\$	1,172.32
Special Events	\$	309.73
Sunday Service/Tithes	\$	143,048.57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>149,595.11</b>

## Expenses

### Administration

Advertising	\$	853.63
Paypal Fees	\$	301.57
Office supplies and software	\$	5,713.39
Bank Fee	\$	25.00
Misc and Taxes/Filing Fees	\$	(0.17)

**Total Administration** **\$ 6,893.42**

### Benevolence

ELCA/Presbytery	\$	1,468.59
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$	500.00
Other	\$	-

**Total Benevolence** **\$ 1,968.59**

### Ministries

Education Materials	\$	4.55
Youth	\$	1,047.54
Outreach Ministries	\$	5,453.50

**Total Ministries** **\$ 6,505.59**

### Facilities

Alarm System	\$	749.03
Electricity	\$	7,076.70
Elevator	\$	4,111.26
Garbage	\$	995.27
Gas	\$	877.07
Insurance	\$	7,766.63
Internet and Telephone	\$	7,237.90
Maintenance and Repair	\$	664.68
Water	\$	5,175.13
Supplies	\$	1,486.18

**Total Facilities** **\$ 36,139.85**



# Treasurer's Report 2024

## **Pastoral leadership- Senior Pastor**

Sabbatical Expenses	\$	350.00
Senior Pastor	\$	59,733.76
Portico (retirement etc. not incl. health insurance)	\$	12,469.38
Continuing ed	\$	1,319.84
Utilities, electricity	\$	2,605.55
Utilities, garbage	\$	339.23
Utilities, telephone/wifi	\$	-
Utilities, water	\$	2,317.93

**Total Senior Pastoral Leadership** **\$ 79,135.69**

## **Payroll expenses**

Music Director/Accompanist	\$	5,765.75
Administrative Assistant/Custodian	\$	21,231.98
Choir Director	\$	1,000.00
Payroll Fees	\$	404.62
Payroll Taxes	\$	8,569.65

**Total Payroll expenses** **\$ 36,972.00**

## **Worship**

Pulpit Supply/musician fill in	\$	945.03
Worship supplies: incl liscensing	\$	1,888.79

**Total Worship** **\$ 2,833.82**

**Total Expense** **\$ 170,448.96**  
Net Operating Loss **\$ (20,853.85)**

## Saron Lutheran/First Investment Fund 2024

Account at Harbor Investment Advisors

Balance January 1, 2024		\$228,269.33
<u>Receipts</u>		
Save Saron Donation	6,644.50	
Dividends and interest	8,959.13	
		<u>15,603.63</u>
		243,872.96
<u>Expenses</u>		
Account expense		(301.50)
		<u>243,571.46</u>
		21,459.20
<u>Market Appreciation</u>		
		<u>21,459.20</u>
Balance December 31, 2024		<u>\$265,030.66</u>

## Saron Lutheran/First Presbyterian Property Account

Account at Timberland Bank

Balance January 1, 2024		\$ 101,512.99
<u>Receipts</u>		
Save Saron Donations	191,803.83	
Swedish Pancake Feast	2,485.00	
BBQ	1,548.75	
Cookboks and calendars	1,280.00	
		<u>197,117.58</u>
		298,630.57
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Reconstruction - Lupo	164,435.73	
Window restoration - Unique Glass	28,844.89	
Fees and licenses	9,513.85	
Elevator expenses	4,111.26	
Carrilon Bells - Verdin Co	15,452.91	
Cookbooks and calendars	1,281.95	
Lightning strike expenses	666.74	
Loan to general fund	12,000.00	
		<u>236,307.33</u>
		\$ 62,323.24
Balance 12/31/2024		<u>\$ 62,323.24</u>
Balance January 1, 2025		\$ 62,323.24
<u>Receipts</u>		
Donations		6,891.91
		<u>69,215.15</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Lightning strike		
Lupo Construction	14,874.40	
MB Electric	24,503.45	
PCS Structural Solutions	12,200.00	
Elevator	17,275.90	
		<u>68,853.75</u>
Balance February 5, 2025		<u>\$ 361.40</u>

# Saron-1st Budget 2025

## Income

Mission Groups	\$	1,000.00
Building Use Donation	\$	600.00
<b>PLEDGES as of 2/12/25</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>75,640.00</b>
<b>NOT PLEDGED Offerings Needed</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>98,358.96</b>
Fundraisers	\$	2,300.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>177,898.96</b>

## Expenses

<b>Total Administration</b>	\$	7,300.00
<b>Total Benevolence</b>	\$	2,600.00
<b>Total Ministries</b>	\$	2,450.00
<b>Total Facilities</b>	\$	36,000.00
<b>Total Pastor- incl. parsonage util.</b>	\$	86,648.96
<b>Total Payroll/Staff Expenses</b>	\$	40,800.00
<b>Total Worship</b>	\$	2,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>177,898.96</b>



# Endowment Report 2024

The Endowment Fund of Saron was established by action of a congregational meeting on January 28, 2007. The purpose of the fund is to support the work and mission of Saron-1st in and beyond our community. No portion of the fund is to be used to support regular operating expenses.

Endowment Fund contributions from Saron members and others are invested with the Mission Investment Fund and Thrivent Mutual Funds A relatively small amount of money, not intended to generate investment income, is held in a checking account at Timberland Bank. This account provides an efficient way to disperse funds to worthy projects.

Table 1. Endowment Fund Assets as of December 31, 2024.

Institution	2023 Year-end Value	2024 Year-end Value	2023 Annual Gain/Loss
Timberland, Hoquiam	\$438.58	\$849.69	\$411.11
Thrivent Financial Mission Investment Fund	\$18,346.72 \$10,500.00	20,189.91 \$10,500.00	\$2096.60 \$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,285.30</b>	<b>\$31,539.60</b>	<b>\$1843.19</b>

In accordance with guidelines in Chapter 20 of the Saron Lutheran – 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church Constitution, the Endowment Committee has the option to distribute annual gains from the Mission Investment Fun and Thrivent Financial. The Constitution allows for distributions ranging from none to all gains in a given year. Per by-laws, annual distribution of endowment proceeds is to be allocated as follows: 30% for Mission Outreach (ELCA); 30% Capital improvements; 10% Community Outreach; 10% Youth; and 20% (committee discretion).

# Memorial Fund Report 2024

**Balance January 1, 2024** **\$4588.40**

**Income**

Contributions 00.00

Interest \$0.41

**\$4588.81**

**Disbursements**

Office Computer \$1054.95

**Balance December 31, 2024**

**\$3533.86**

# Martha Circle Report

## Martha Circle Report- 2024

Martha Circle is a group that meets regularly to provide support and service for Saron-1st. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 1:00, with two early starts for luncheons in May and December. Currently there are 35 members, and we always welcome more to join us.

Some of the projects we've worked on in 2014 are:

- The Holiday Bazaar: This year we had several new vendors and a great turn out! We offered lunch for sale with Marilyn and Haldi making yummy soup, apple pies baked on a fun Martha "work day", Flat Bread rolled and baked on another "work day" using the famous JoAnne Ray and Haldi Totland dough. and donated homemade rolls from several members.
- Holiday Dinner: The Totlands and Reimes again baked a delicious holiday dinner with ham, potatoes and green beans. Martha Circle members, and other church families donated casseroles, salads and desserts. We met after Church to enjoy fellowship and a wonderful meal with family and friends.
- Donations: We give money each year to the Hoquiam Beautification Team, The Aberdeen Bloom team, Friendship House, Union Gospel Mission, Salvation Army, both Hoquiam and Aberdeen Football programs, and Chaplains on the Harbor. We also provided the computer program for the office to use for various posters and flyers, and new RING doorbell & chimes for the building. We also supported Youth activities, Sunday School, Summer Bible Camp
- Building Care: Martha Circle deep cleans the kitchen, cleans for special events, and some take care of the landscaping around the building. Some spouses provide great help with these projects.

Some activities for fundraising:

- Bazaar, Plant Sale, Spring Treasures Sale, recipe book donations, Pancake and Crepe dinners provided by Totlands.

Other Activities and Projects:

- Helped host the Val and John Rhodes 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner
- Provided recipes for the new cookbook compiled by Carrie Larson
- Work at Community Meals



# Martha Circle Report

- Provide meals for the Union Gospel Mission
- Provide Coffee Hour after Church (along with other members of the church)
- New Directory: Photographer Pam Pelan had photo shoot nights to take pictures for our directory. This will be coming soon thanks to Teri's publishing work.

Martha Circle thanks all of you for the support you've given our projects and the hard work of many of our members. A special thanks goes to Mark and Karla Johnson for cleaning out and fixing up the back storage room, and former quilter's room; Linda Borth for decorating Moller Hall each month; Teri Moody for leading the Community Dinner group; Sharal for heading the Plant Sale; and others I've failed to mention here or above.

Becky Root-President

## Quilters Report

The Quilters retired in October with the final shipment being sent. During the past 25 years, there were thousands of quilts sent out into the world from us while we also honored our graduates and families for different occasions and gave to the Foster Children's Program.

We were happy to give our sewing machines, material and sewing accessories to Amazing Grace Quilters.

The money in our account, \$1489, was dispersed as shown:

Shipping	\$150
Amazing Grace Quilters	\$150
Pieceful Discoverers Quilt Guild	\$150
Save Saron Window Project	\$1039

We used a Halloween themed quilt as a raffle with other donated items from us and made \$649 additional money for the window project.

We saved 13 quilts for future church family gifts. The Quilters thank all members for their donations and buying quilts through the years so we could continue. The cost of batting has increased during the years.

# Martha Circle Treasurer's Report 2024

## Martha Circle

**Beginning Balance 1/1/24** **\$ 4,560.56**

### Income

Circle	\$	124.00
Plant Sale	\$	320.00
Donation	\$	300.00
Holiday Bazaar	\$	3,487.56

**Total Income** **\$ 4,231.56**

### Donations

Saron-1st	\$	300.00
Hoquiam HS Football	\$	100.00
Aberdeen HS Football	\$	100.00
Union Gospel Mission	\$	150.00
Salvation Army	\$	150.00
Friendship House	\$	150.00

**Total Donations** **\$ 950.00**

### Expenses

Holiday Bazaar Lunch	\$	101.16
Bazaar Ad Daily World	\$	75.00
Table Covers	\$	49.12
Flowers	\$	38.12
Rhodes' Anniversary	\$	136.33

**Total Expenses** **\$ 399.73**

**Ending Balance 12/31/24**

**\$ 7,442.39**

## Quilters

**Beginning Balance 1/1/24**

**\$ 1,489.00**

### Expenses

Saron-1st Window	\$	1,039.00
Pieceful Discoverers Qu	\$	150.00
Amazing Grace Quilter:	\$	150.00
Shipping	\$	150.00

**Total Expenses** **\$ 1,489.00**

**Ending Balance 12/31/24**

**\$ -**

# Building Maintenance/Property Team Report

With both the "West-wall-window" project, and the lightning-damage repairs.... 2024 felt like a year "on hold".

The custodial "mop room" project: When the lightning hit; the electricians "took over" this space for all their work in that vicinity of the building— so that project stalled-out. They are out of there now; we can re-start that project.

Members of our Committee did as-needed, emergency repair work on the elevator- (whenever it broke down)- learning a lot about it. However, with talk of a new elevator project, that work is now completely out of our hands.

We also did some work up in the "cry room", in preparation for the new "bells" installation- (thanks, Mike Erkinen). With extensive lightning-strike window/ water-damage; this entire project is also now out of our hands.

After much planning and discussion, this Spring, we were also going to begin work out on the "M" Street landscaping project, but the future need to get big, heavy, equipment back into that area- (to make high steeple repairs)- we decided to hold off on any landscaping work until all the overhead construction/repair is completed.

However, we were able to complete some projects through the year:

Heavy-cleaning, scraping, and painting were completed in the "Martha-Circle" small closet behind the kitchen area. That's where our nice, big tablecloths are presently stored. It was in really bad shape- damp and musty. It looks much better for now. (A new, much better, storage-location for our beautiful tablecloths is planned!).

Shelving-work was recently completed in the "Quilter's Room". During my work there, several Church members told me that we need to "go thru all the *"stuff"* that has accumulated over the years and determine what the Church actually needs for its activities and functions". Building/re-building shelving for general storage in every cubby-hole here and there just to meet *additional* storage "needs(?)" is expensive. I personally agree with all those who'd like to see a re-organization of the entire storage issue throughout the building, for efficiency and safer, easier, access. Our huge Saron building has a relatively small amount of organized, centralized, dedicated, storage space. Compounding the problem, damage from the lightning strike has taken away much-needed storage space up in the "cry room"; we can't use that space until the steeple/window/water-damage work is complete.

Again, this last year, there was an exceptional amount of time and effort put forth by those who regularly take care of "their areas" of landscaping, shrubbery, and



# Building Maintenance/Property Team Report

the Rose Garden, along both 8<sup>th</sup> Street and M Street. Much pruning this year was needed. In addition, quite a bit of spraying and weed burning was needed. These jobs take a lot of time and effort. They are just “quiet”, on-going, under-the-radar, and almost “taken for granted”. They are a huge part of what keeps the outside of our Church and property looking sharp. You know who you are--- many thanks!

Throughout the year, there were also plenty of small maintenance tasks completed, as they turned up.

So, with the new year upon us, and some of the lightning-repairs done (for now), we have a full list of projects that we can resume work on, including: Finishing-up work on the custodial mop-room; repairing/repainting both sets of the big, main-entry doors- (8 huge doors in all); improving the access and storage of the 2 huge ladders we use regularly for Church maintenance-issues/decorations/etc.; actually determining what the Church needs to keep stored here— and work on storage for that; and, lastly, the re-organization of the maintenance-furnace-room.

Separately, I'd also like to mention that Knut Totland has taken on the project of repairing and re-doing the small bathroom up near the Communion-room. A small room--- but a big job! Big thanks for that!

That's all I have for now. Your Building Maintenance Committee will keep pluggin' along in doing our best to keep things working as best we can. Please fill out a handy “work request” in the big book or contact any one of us— any time-- if there are any needed repairs, and/or with your suggestions and ideas!

-Mark

# Outreach Report

programs. We have also been blessed with food donations from members of Saron-1<sup>st</sup> and from 1 member who bought us new "open" signs.

## **Union Gospel Mission Dinners**

This long-time ministry is still going strong with our 4 teams of 24 volunteers making meals for 60 people every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

## **Boots for Bears**

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our small community. Grays Harbor has truly heard our call to provide appropriate footwear, sweats, socks, and underwear for the students of Emerson, Central and Lincoln Elementary Schools.

To date, we have received 35 check donations and numerous cash contributions of \$8070.00 for 2024. With these funds, we set up a room at Emerson Elementary, stocking it with shoes, boots, and clothing for a total of \$3290.40. The staff have been incredibly responsive, and we're pleased to report that every child in need of clothing or footwear has received the items they require. The end of year balance for this account was \$4756.60.

We then expanded our efforts to the other two elementary schools in Hoquiam – Central and Lincoln. We made significant deliveries to both schools on November 11<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup>. All three schools are now in contact with us whenever a need arises for specific sizes or items. We also encourage staff to inform us if additional clothing items are needed.

## **L<sup>^</sup>3+P=(RIOT) Book Club**

Meeting in the Fireside Room every third Thursday of the month, this ministry has expanded to approximately 20 people meeting to discuss books that were chosen to explore together.

# **Music & Worship Report 2024**

The choir is small but mighty and there is always room for more singers. Thanks to Troy George for being such an easy-going, humble choir director. Choir is fun and has a very welcoming atmosphere.

Streaming of Sunday Worship and other events at Saron-1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian continue to reach our community and beyond and let our congregation, friends and neighbors attend worship services from wherever they are.

Troy and Kari choose the hymns that are sung for most Sunday services. They even take requests at times and plan to continue doing that so let them know if you have a favorite that you would like to sing. Special music and hymns were picked for most church important events (Lent, Advent, Pentecost, etc.).

## **Special Music and guest musicians**

The Choir, Troy George and Kari Hasbrouck have continued throughout the year to provide special music for worship services. We had some special music this year for Christmas with Ray Kahler on the clarinet.

Thank you to Andy Hall for filling in when Kari was gone.

## **Special Services**

### **Blessing of the Animals on September 22, 2024**

Back by popular demand we have a Sunday dedicated to the blessing of the animals. People brought their pets and/or pictures of their pets for a blessing. We had many join in this joyful occasion online.

### **Prayer Vigil for on Nation on November 5, 2024**

Pastor Michelle wrote up a special liturgy for us to pray for the US. It was attended by about 15 people in person (many not members of Saron-1<sup>st</sup>) but many more online.

### **Blue Christmas on December 21, 2024**

The first day of Winter is the longest and this is when we hold our annual Blue Christmas Service. This is a reflective service for the entire community, and many join us from throughout the county and most online actually. It is allowing space for grief and loss during the holiday season while also finding hope.



# Youth Ministry Report 2024

**Most importantly we developed a joint Youth Committee for Saron-1<sup>st</sup> and Amazing Grace Lutheran Church. This consists of 6 members (3 from each church) and the pastor(s). This group started Fall 2024 with planning the monthly events.**

## **Sunday School (January-June 2024, September-December 2024):**

We have a great Sunday School program with excellent teachers. We have about 5 teachers on a rotation. Average attendance is about 5-8 youth. Thank you to all our teachers for running this program!

## **Monthly Youth Events**

We started to have monthly youth events more regularly this year. They were movie nights with discussions, some field trips and more. The biggest one was our Christmas Pageant in December!

## **Christmas Pageant on December 7**

It was well attended and almost all our youth participated! It was also a fundraiser for the youth. We held it this year over at Amazing Grace and it was also live streamed. We did the play written by Rev. Michelle de Beauchamp "Do You Hear What I Hear?" which was based on the song and written so the characters matched the kids well.

## **Vacation Bible Camp 2024 (June 23-27):**

We here at Saron-1st call it camp, not school, because we do a more interactive VBS with activities, singing, crafts, games and more. This year we had the theme of "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a kid." We jointly put this on with Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Aberdeen at The Rose Center. The kids came and started with dinner and then go on to learn great stories from the Bible, sing songs, do arts and crafts, play field games, and learn about kids around the world. This is free for the kids to attend, and they get a cool T-shirt! However, our kids try to fundraise to make this happen. Any donations to help put this on for our kids and the community is welcome!

## **Family Camp at Lutherwood in Oregon (July 19-22)**

The kids fundraised and they got to go to camp with their families! It was a wonderful time, and we hope to go again! We learned Bible stories, sang great camp songs, made new friends, and had a wonderful time learning about our faith in the great outdoors!

**Youth Fundraisers: We had a Baked Potato Feed in March and a Spaghetti Feed and Dessert Auction Fundraiser in May. Thank you for all your support! All the proceeds go to VBC, Sunday School, and Family Camp!**

# Youth Ministry Report 2024

## **Founder's Day Parade Pride Float (July 2024):**

Our youth and some members were invited to help GH Out and Proud to decorate their wonderful float for Founder's Day. Our kids really wanted to participate, and they made amazing signs and more. We invited other churches in the area to also participate with us. It was a wonderful event with showing love and care of God for all people no matter who they are. Our kids were delighted to participate along with other church members.

# Education Report

## **Sunday School (see under Youth Report)**

### **Centering Time (January-current):**

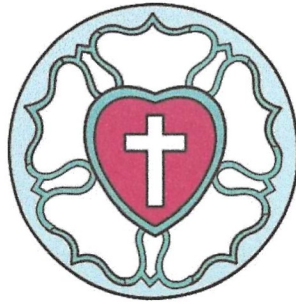
This is Tuesdays at 10:30 or 11:30am at The Rose Center (210 K St). We changed the time throughout the year. The people who come share some reflections, and we practice some contemplative rituals together (i.e. walking the labyrinth).

### **Wednesday Adult Bible Study and Education Hour (January-December 2024):**

This education ministry expanded greatly this last year. We have on average about 6-8 participants. Sometimes we even have up to 15 people present. The group meets starting at 11:30am on Wednesdays (excluding some holidays and other things).

### **Special Day Retreats**

Pastor Michelle led for people some special day retreats this year. One was about her sabbatical trip and her learnings in April 2024. This was an all-day event called "Heart Pilgrimage: One Day Retreat and Workshop." This was extremely well attended with over 45 people participating locally and throughout the Synod/Presbytery. In November she also led a 3-hour retreat called "Pre-Holiday Centering Retreat" for our church members and anyone else local. We had about 8 people in attendance. For clergy, in the fall, Pastor Michelle led at the Rose Center an "Autumn Retreat" and it was attended by about 5 people from the Synod and Presbytery.



## **Saron Lutheran - 1st Presbyterian Church**

P.O. Box 517  
708 8th Street  
Hoquiam, WA 98550  
360-532-4611

### **The Rose Center**

210 K Street  
Hoquiam, WA 98550  
360-637-9451

### **Church Staff**

Rev. Michelle de Beauchamp - Senior Pastor  
Kari Hasbrouck - Music and Worship Director  
Teri Julian - Administrative Assistant/Custodian  
Troy George - Choir Director

### **Church Council**

Ruth Hamilton - President  
Ray Kahler - Vice President  
Mike Erkinen - Secretary  
Tony Enzler - Treasurer  
Teri Moody  
LouJean O'Brien  
Patti Barker  
Randall Daugherty

*In case of pastoral emergencies  
(i.e. hospitalization, death, family issue)  
please call the pastoral emergency line for  
Pastor Michelle at 360-637-9766  
please leave a message with your phone number.*