
2023 Annual Report



WESTWOOD
LUTHERAN MEMORIAL
FOUNDATION

The mission of our foundation is to positively impact people's lives by enriching and supporting the ministries of Westwood Lutheran Church.

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President's Report

February 12, 2024

Dear Westwood friends,

For 50 years, the foundation has been a faithful partner to Westwood Lutheran Church. Our mission is to positively impact people's lives by enriching and supporting the ministries of Westwood Lutheran Church. The foundation starts its second 50 years on solid financial footing due to the generous support of donors. I am grateful for the opportunity to play a small part in this continuing story.



Thank you for your donations! In 2023, \$47,736 donations were received. Most donations honor the memory of a loved one or are a gift of gratitude from an estate or trust. The most important task of the foundation is to honor the wishes of the donor. Donations can be identified to a specific purpose or to the Endowment Fund which supports church priorities.

The board works closely with pastors and staff to distribute grants to support the strategic mission of Westwood. Careful consideration is given to each grant request to ensure it follows donor wishes. Key 2023 grants were made to support Council and Staff offsites; funds for the development of a communication strategy; production of "This Matters" videos; special speakers for worship and education. In addition, the foundation provides grants for special music, youth programs, racial equity initiatives, and the gardens. Grants also support those in need: Every Meal, STEP, Pastor's Discretionary Fund and Our Saviour's Housing.

In 2023, grants totaled \$61,332, slightly lower than 2022 due to a challenging economic environment which weighed on performance for the first three quarters of the year. In 2024, the board has allocated \$70,000 of available grants - the most ever!

Highlights from 2023:

- In October the foundation held a dinner and program to celebrate our 50th year. The fun evening was hosted by Beth Johnson and Perry Jacobson. See pictures from the celebration later in this report.
- A 50th Anniversary book was produced by anniversary committee members for the dinner. It is available at the church library and on the Westwood website.
- The foundation sponsored a cribbage tournament which raised funds for STEP. Our thanks to Kerry Kruppstadt for organizing the event and Dwight Peterson serving as the emcee.
- On All Saints Sunday the foundation handed out 400 roses in remembrance of the saints that have gone before us.

I am very excited about the future of the foundation in its mission to support the ministries of Westwood Lutheran Church. The legacy the founders envisioned 50 years ago continues to guide us. We are the stewards of a greater story that drives our commitment.

I am very thankful for the support of current and past board members, church pastors and staff, and the members of Westwood Lutheran Church. Together we make a difference in so many ways!

In Christ,

Chris Finseth, President

Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation
cfinseth5@gmail.com

About Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation

History of the Foundation

The Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation (WLMF) was founded in July 1973 by a number of visionary Westwood leaders. The first board of directors included Dr. Donald Bell, Robert Boeder, Eugene Booth, Lois Coon, Alvin Haugen, Noreen Johnson, Ralph Martinson, Don Padilla and Robert Skare. The first gift received by the foundation remains intact today and continues to grow. Grants are awarded from the earnings of the funds.

Gifts to the foundation are often memorials for a family member, close friend, or beloved member of our congregation. Individuals who wish to leave a legacy have directed gifts to the foundation to achieve their personal aspirations for the church and the community. Some have set up special funds for a favorite area of ministry, such as music, youth, or education. Gifts can also be in honor of special occasions such as graduations, birthdays, anniversaries or retirements. Gifts made for estate planning purposes benefit the giver as well as the foundation. In each case the purpose is the same; to accumulate financial resources to help us do God's will in various ways.

How the Foundation Functions

The Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation is governed by a board of directors, elected from members of the Westwood congregation. The board is charged with the fiduciary responsibility of preserving gifts by making prudent investment decisions. The earnings are then put to work, consistent with the dreams and aspirations of the original givers. WLMF has four standing committees: Public Relations, Investments, Grants, and Planned Giving.

2023 Foundation Board of Directors

Steve Bergeland, Secretary
Sally Christenson
Chris Finseth, President
Christine Heiberg
Tim Hill, Assistant Treasurer
Kathy Jacobson
Perry Jacobson, Vice President
Kerry Kruppstadt
Dwight Peterson, Treasurer
Karoline Pierson
Al Updike

Ambassadors for the Foundation

Kim Aune
Gail Dahl
Beth Johnson
Greg Loeschke
Dennis Netland
Jan Prazak
Linnea Sodergren



Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation past and present directors

Luther Anderson (P)
Kim Aune
Lee Anne Lack
Richard Bardy (P)
Jack Barnes
Donald Bell (P)
Joann Bell
Bob Berg
Steve Bergeland
Keith Bergquist (P)
Eileen Blixrud
Barb Bluhm
Robert Boeder (P)
Eugene Booth
Deanna Broe
Dwayne Broe
Bruce Cameron
Gary Carlson
Margo Chesley
Sally Christenson
Alice Collings
Lois Coon
Lois Crunstedt
Gail Dahl
Larry Dalen
June Davis
Bob Desannoy
Simone Dorcas
Mary Dunn
Brenda Dvorak
Harold Enesvedt
Robert Erickson
Chris Finseth (P)
Joseph Fjelstad
Cindy Folin
Dale Forsberg
Roger Friauf
William Gardner (P)
Charles Gauck
Duane Glisan
Kristi Gray Shephard
Louise Griver
Robert Hadland
Phyllis Hansen

Marilyn Hanson Hickock
Alvin Haugen
Christine Heiberg
Richard Heise
Tim Hill
Sharon Holland
Verna Holland
Stanton Holmberg
Jim Holmes (P)
Carl Holmstrom
Steve Huseth
Darleen Hysen
Paul Ives
Kathy Jacobson
Perry Jacobson
Peter Jacobson
Craig Jergenson (P)
Beth Johnson (P)
Clyde Johnson
Don Johnson
Noreen Johnson
Sandy Johnson
Heather Kemp
Lorraine Kent
Lowell Kleven
David Koppe
Kerry Kruppstadt
Mary LaBelle
Steve LaBelle
James Lanenberg
Stuart Larson
Sharon Lee
David Lingo
Jim Lockhart
Greg Loeschke
Richard Lund
Ralph Martinson (P)
Betty Melander
Josh Natzel
Dennis Netland (P)
Henry Nielson
John Nilsestuen
Bill Nord
Lance Norderhus

Lowell Noteboom
Barry Novak
Mark Okey
Donald Padilla
Curtis Pearson
Dwight Peterson
Susan Peterson
Karoline Pierson
Kim Polzin
Conrad Posz
Janice Prazak (P)
John Racek
Marcy Redmond (P)
LaDonna Reynolds
Mary Rhodes
R. S. Ylvisaker
James Safley
Arne Sather
Richard Selvig
Charles Sewall
Robert Skare
Linnea Sodergren
John Steinke (P)
James Strommen
Arnold Swanson (P)
George Swenson
Rick Taft
Lowell Thompson
Fred Thwing
Al Updike
Rose-Mary Utne (P)
Mark VandenEinde
Jim Vos
Michael Walgren (P)
Alene Walker
Gloria Wesely
Tom Wesely
Peter Withoff
James Wittnebel
Paul Wogen
Richard Wogen
Douglas Yock
Ellen Ziegler

P = president

Foundation Fund Structure

The heart of the foundation is its endowed funding structure by which funds are accumulated and disbursements made. Two types of funds are distinguished; **1) the Endowment Fund**, which is supported by all undesignated gifts, and **2) Designated Funds**, which are established (and donated to) for a specific purpose. With a minimum gift amount, **Named Funds** can be established under the Endowment or Designated funds for continued recognition or the memorializing of an individual or individuals.

Each fund has a caretaker and a fund advocate to ensure the donor intentions and the needs of the church are met. The following paragraphs list the currently established funds. To read the full story behind each fund, visit the foundation page of the Westwood church website: <https://www.westwood.church/foundation>.

The Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is the primary instrument of the foundation's work. Disbursements are made based on a plan created by the senior pastor and approved by the foundation board. The following named funds have been established under the Endowment Fund umbrella to forever memorialize those named.

Luther and Sylvia Anderson Memorial Fund
Shirley Larsen Memorial Fund
Agnus Hansen Memorial Fund
Jonathan Hilke Memorial Fund
Paul and Doris Ives Memorial Fund

Lillian Domholdt Memorial Fund
Ralph and Dee Martinson Memorial Fund
Bud and Elaine Graham Memorial Fund

Designated Funds

Many Westwood members show support for their passions by creating funds with specific guidelines on disbursement. The 16 designated funds fall into five categories: outreach, art and music, adult education, youth development, and scholarship. The foundation board works with staff to combine the guidelines of the funds with the current year goals and needs.

Outreach

Good Samaritan Fund
 The Conrad A. and Marie Posz Good Samaritan Fund
 Albert Johnson Memorial Fund
 James and Barbara Lanenberg Fund
Shelter Assistance Fund
Darleen Hysen Community Mission Fund
Stanley and Esther Crist Garden Fund
 Gordy and Linda Meyer Garden Fund

Art & Music

Ronald A. Nelson Music Fund
 Lorraine Langmo Fund
 Kristie Thompson Memorial Fund
 Stanley and Esther Crist Music Fund
 Ronald A. Nelson Appreciation Fund
Ralph and Dee Martinson Art Fund

Adult Education

Donald C. Bell Adult Education Fund
Don Hansen Caring Ministry Fund
Graham Library Fund
Graham Staff Development Fund
Prazak Visiting Scholar Fund

Youth Development

African Youth Bridge-Building Fund
Thoni Youth Ministry and Service Fund
Tom Hunstad Caring Youth Memorial Fund

Scholarship

Engen Family Lutheran College Fund
Louise Griver Seminary Scholarship Fund

Making a Gift to the Foundation

Over the years, WLMF has primarily achieved its growth through traditional memorial gifts, bequests and gifts in honor of persons and special occasions. These have been the bedrock upon which the foundation has grown, for which we are most thankful. An important question for us all is how we can participate in the effort to carry out God's will. There are several options, depending upon the circumstances of the giver.

Immediate Gifts

Gifts of cash/checks or appreciated assets can be relatively straightforward. Unlike cash, however, appreciated assets including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, life insurance, retirement account distributions, and real estate may offer tax advantages to the donor.

Deferred Gifts

Deferred (or planned) gifts come in many forms; the most common of which may be through wills or estates. Other forms of planned gifts include naming the WLMF the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, a retirement plan, or a charitable annuity contract. Creating a charitable trust, providing the foundation with a lead gift or remainder after your family needs have been covered, is an attractive option. Many in the Westwood congregation have taken advantage of this option.

To learn more about gifting options and what might be best for your needs, please feel free to contact a member of the foundation investment committee: Chris Finseth (cfinseth5@msn.com); Dwight Peterson (drcrguy@yahoo.com); Kerry Kruppstadt (kerry.kruppstadt@me.com); Tim Hill (theflyintimato@yahoo.com).

For more information on any of the options listed above, contact your financial advisor. For foundation-related questions, feel free to email the president, Chris Finseth (cfinseth5@msn.com) or treasurer Dwight Peterson (drcrguy@yahoo.com)

To make a gift

Donations to honor someone or in memory of someone can be made any time. The foundation has information on the Westwood church website, which includes a link to make an online donation. You may also mail or bring a check made out to Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation to the church office. Please indicate in the memo section of the check if you want to direct your gift to one of the designated funds. Otherwise, all contributions to the foundation will go to the general endowment fund. All gifts are acknowledged with a thank you.

Donate to the foundation online: <https://westwood-lutheran-memorial-foundation.snwbll.com/foundation-fundraising-2022>

Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation

c/o Westwood Lutheran Church
9001 Cedar Lake Road
St. Louis Park, MN 55426



SnowballFundraising.com

Financial Statements for Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31

	2023	2022
Assets		
Cash in Bank	\$65,848	\$35,035
Investments		
Thrivent Invest Trust	1,617,541	1,492,627
Charles Schwab	250	250
Total Investment	<u>1,617,791</u>	<u>1,492,877</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,683,639</u>	<u>1,492,877</u>
Liabilities	0	0
Net Fund Balance	<u>1,683,639</u>	<u>1,527,912</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$1,683,639</u>	<u>\$1,527,912</u>

Statement of Financial Activity

For the Year Ending December 31

	2023	2022
Revenue		
Donations Received	\$47,736	\$397,956
Net Investment Gain/(Loss)	<u>186,599</u>	<u>(194,017)</u>
Total Revenue	234,335	203,939
Expense		
Grants	61,332	65,777
Investment Expense	11,615	11,693
Administrative and Operations	<u>5,661</u>	<u>1,965</u>
Total Expense	<u>78,608</u>	<u>79,435</u>
Net Revenue Gain / (Loss)	<u>\$155,727</u>	<u>\$124,504</u>

Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation Annual Grant Activity

For the Year Ending December 31, 2023

Fund Name	Purpose	Amount
Endowment Fund	Congregational Discernment Process	\$2,500
	Actor Scripture Reading - April Sundays	712
	Stewardship Thought Partner	4,200
	“This Matters” and Stewardship Videos	6,747
	Sanctuary RFID Tags and Consultant	2,350
	Racial Equity - Chicago Community Chorus	3,000
	Council Retreat and Outside Facilitator	2,750
	Communications Consultant	7,182
African Youth Bridge-Building Fund	Financial assistance for 2024 African youth trip	1,012
Darleen Hysen Community Mission Fund	Every Meal	1,423
Don Hansen Caring Ministry Fund	Lay visitation support/books/goody bags	854
Donald C. Bell Adult Education Fund	Actor Scripture Reading - April Sundays	488
Shelter Assistance Fund	Our Saviour’s Housing	300
Good Samaritan Fund	Pastor Discretion Fund and STEP	1,765
Graham Library Fund	Library Enhancements and Supplies	7,843
Graham Staff Development Fund	Staff Retreat	7,843
Louise Griver Seminary Scholarship Fund	Seminary Student	2,006
Prazak Visiting Scholar Fund	Outside Speaker - Sundays	600
	Sustainability Guest Speaker	464
Ronald A. Nelson Music Fund	Joe Davis and String Quartet	3,764
Stanley and Esther Crist Garden Fund	Garden Maintenance & Upkeep	947
Thoni Youth Ministry and Service Fund	Parent Ministry	1,403
Tom Hunstad Caring Youth Memorial	2024 Youth Gathering	1,179
Total Grants Awarded in 2023		\$61,332



Danica and Jason demonstrate how to use the RFID tags located on the back of sanctuary chairs. The tags were obtained with a grant from the foundation.

Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation 2023 Annual Contributions Received

For Year Ending December 31, 2023

Fund	Amount
Africa Youth Bridge-Building Fund	\$150
Darleen Hysen Community Mission Fund.....	\$200
Don Hansen Caring Ministry Fund	
Donald C Bell Adult Education Fund	\$500
Endowment Fund.....	\$19,995
Engen Family Lutheran College Fund.....	
Shelter Assistance Fund	\$353
Good Samaritan Fund	\$1,095
Graham Library Fund	\$1,261
Graham Staff Development Fund	\$1,211
Louise Griver Seminary Scholarship Fund.....	
Prazak Visiting Scholar Fund	
Ralph and Dee Martinson Art Fund	\$50
Ronald A Nelson Music Fund	\$535
Stanley and Esther Crist Garden Fund	\$225
Thoni Youth Ministry and Service Fund	\$21,941
Tom Hunstad Caring Youth Memorial Fund	\$220
<hr/>	
Total	\$47,736



The foundation sponsored a cribbage tournament that raised funds for STEP.

Donations made to the Foundation in honor/memory of, in 2023

Al Ackley

Luanne Bachman
David & Dawn Hill
Dorcas O'Connor
Robert Waataja

Cherie Anderson

Joyce Kautz
Mark and Karen Scott
Sonja Zenk

Eileen Blixrud

Susan K Anderson
S Luanne Bachman
Ellworth & Wendy Beckmann
Craig Blixrud
Lynn Blixrud
Ron & Gail Dahl
James & Christine Erickson
Craig & Louise Halverson
Ruth Hembre
David & Dawn Hill
Beth Johnson
Bradford & Shirley Kennell
Kay & Forest Kenworthy
Carol Kohler
Georgianne Kornfuehrer
Kerry & Gloria Kruppstadt
Judith Leidall
Robert & Joy Moorhead
Robert & Sara Moran
Janice Prazak
John & Sandra Racek
Gary Rudolph & Janelle
Beckman-Rudolph
Keith Russell
Craig or Karen Scofield
Kevin & Mary Sletten
Linnea Sodergren
Jean Teigland
Rev. Lee Thoni
Carole Wogen
Paul & Carole Wogen
Sonja Zenk

Sandy Boe

Kerry & Gloria Kruppstadt

Sharon Dack

Paul & Carole Wogen

Ron Evje

Srinivasa & Judith Dhruvan
Barbara Erickson
Elizabeth Evje
Vernon & Helen Grimes
Roger & Kathryn Kingsbury
Georgianne Kornfuehrer
Geraldine Peterson
Brett Reese
Donald & Lucille Roemhildt
Roger Stenson
Paul & Carole Wogen

Roger Friauf

David & Karen Pitkanen

Reuben Groehler

Arlene Groehler

Doug Hallen

Linnea Sodergren
Rev. Lee & Phyllis Thoni

Maren Harrison

Linnea Sodergren

Rex Harrison

Robert Disch
David & Brenda Dvorak
Diane Harrison
Diane Hedges
David & Dawn Hill
Deanne Hill
Georgianne Kornfuehrer
Janis Korus
Charles Krause
John & Jo Levenick
David & Evelyn Nordstrom
Dwight & Janis Peterson
Beverly S Robertson
Gerald & Linda Roelofs
Mark & Julie Scroggins
Jon & Jan Sloan
Linnea Sodergren
Rev. Lee & Phyllis Thoni
Paul & Carole Wogen
Shane & Kjerstin Yager

Ronald Hofstedt

Roger & Mary Strand

Delores Holman

Joyce Kautz
Sonja Zenk

Beth Johnson

Carol Kohler

Lorraine Johnson

Roger & Mary Strand

Warren Johnson

Paul & Carole Wogen

Spencer Knutson

Dwight & Janis Peterson
William & Trudy Broman
Chris & Lynnae Finseth
David & Dawn Hill
Beth Johnson
Kerry & Gloria Kruppstadt
Karoline Pierson
Linnea Sodergren

Al Luig

Gordon & Linda Meyer

Dick Lund

Gary & Mary Anderson
Craig & Louise Halverson
Janice Kleven
Marilyn Nelson
Dennis & Kay Netland
Linnea Sodergren
Paul & Carole Wogen

Doris Lund

Faith Broman
Craig & Louise Halverson
Mark & Janet Okey
Gregory & Mary Thompson

Dick & Doris Lund

Judith Leidall

Terry McMonagle

Nancy Kalina

Eldore Nash

Faith Broman
Craig & Louise Halverson
Dennis & Kay Netland
Rev. Lee & Phyllis Thoni
Sonja Zenk

William Nord

Paul & Carole Wogen

Wally NovakGeorgianne Kornfuehrer
Charles Sewall
Rev. Lee & Phyllis Thoni**Lois Nystul**Muriel Beal
David & Karen Pitkanen
Linnea Sodergren
Carole Wogen
Sonja Zenk**Nino Pedrelli**

Judith & Thomas Mottaz

Ryan PetersonChris & Lynnae Finseth
Paul & Carole Wogen**Lana Pommer-Helmke**Carolyn Dahl
Robert & Patti Disch
Linnea Sodergren
Sonja Zenk**Albert Pooler**

Paul & Carole Wogen

Muriel Ryden

Sonja Zenk

Dotti Schrupp

Carol Kohler

Douglas Stanton

Gerald Stanton

Mary StrongDorcas O'Connor
Sonja Zenk**Eric Swanson**

Linnea Sodergren

Jeanne Turner

Gloria Wietzke

Roy TurnerPaul & Anne Ablan
Lorraine Baumgardner
William & Jane Collien
Edward & Lynne Enquist
Chris & Lynnae Finseth
Goodin Company
Kathleen Groen
Mark & Sarah Kipp
Kerry & Gloria Kruppstadt
David & Julie Latterell
David & Dagni Lee
Mick & Sandy Lee
Philip & Sharon Lindau
Linda & Paul Meschke
Cheryl Michel
Bruce & Karen Mikkelson
John & Susan Murakami
Dorcas O'Connor
David & Karen Pitkanen
Robert & Barbara Roy
Robert & Delphie Sorenson
James & Gabrielle Thon
Rev. Lee Thoni
Robin & Cameron Turner
Scott & Liz Turner
Paul & Carole Wogen**Roy & Jeanne Turner**Lorne & Linda Turner
Barbara Watschke**Carla Walgren**Susan K Anderson
Ruth Hembre
Dorcas O'Connor
Linnea Sodergren
Jean Teigland
Rev. Lee Thoni
Sonja Zenk**Michael Walgren**Susan K Anderson
Craig & Louise Halverson
Ruth Hembre**Michael Walgren (continued)**David & Dawn Hill
Janice Prazak
Linnea Sodergren
Jean Teigland
Rev. Lee Thoni
Sonja Zenk**Mike & Carla Walgren**Kay & Pete Elliasen
David & Dawn Hill
Andrew & Paula Holmberg
Beth Johnson
Carol Kohler
Dennis & Kay Netland
Arne & Dyanne Sather
Paul & Carole Wogen**Bill Westerdahl**

Linnea Sodergren

No DesignationKim & Dan Aune
Joan Bell
Faith Broman
Tiah Colacci
Robert Disch
David & Brenda Dvorak
Kathryn Elgethun
Kay & Pete Elliasen
Joe & Jean Holt
Kathy Jacobson
Perry & Gina Jacobson
Lanica S Klein
Eugene & Lee Anne Lack
Judith Leidall
David & Shirley Lingo
Jana & Elwood Mjor
Dorcas O'Connor
LaDonna Reynolds
Charles Sewall
Linnea Sodergren
Rev. Lee & Phyllis Thoni
Bob & Donna Waataja
Joel Xavier
Sandra Zander

We acknowledge and appreciate all gifts made and have tried our best to accurately document donations. If there is an error, please let us know. Chris Finseth cfinseth5@msn.com, or Dwight Peterson, drcrguy@yahoo.com

50th Year Anniversary Celebration

In November, the foundation celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

A special thank you to the 50th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Beth Johnson and to Perry Jacobson for assisting with the hosting duties. Gavin Berg provided music. Special recognition was given to Bud and Elaine Graham for their posthumous gift. A highlight of the evening was an exceptional performance by a talented quintet titled "50 Ways to Leave a Legacy".

Committee Members: Beth Johnson, Brenda Dvorak, Chris Finseth, Denny Netland, Gail Dahl, Jan Prazak, Kay Netland, Linnea Sodergren, Paul Wogen, Sally Christenson

Pictured below by row: Al Updike, Faith Broman, Gavin Berg, Lynn Hunstad; Beth Johnson, Linnea Sodergren; Sara Moran; Beth Johnson, Perry Jacobson; Kay Netland, Beth Johnson, Denny Netland, Brenda Dvorak, Paul Wogen; Jeff Mikelson, Jamie Freming and spouses (nephew and niece of Elaine Graham); Gavin Berg; Beth Johnson, Kay Elliasen

