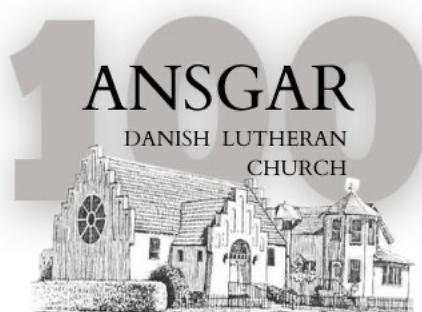


ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING  
for the year 2023

February 25, 2024



1923 - 2023

EDMONTON ALBERTA CANADA



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# AGENDA

for the Annual Congregational Meeting of Ansgar Church  
February 25, 2024, 12:30 pm

1. Opening Prayer
  2. Election of Chairperson
  3. Approval of Agenda
  4. The minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023
    - a. The minutes were approved at the end of the ACM on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  5. Business arising from the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  6. Reports presented in the printed ACM handout.

## Danish Women's Club

Camp Kuriakos

Hyggeklubben

- 7. Pastor's Report
  - 8. President's Report
  - 9. Treasurer's Report
  - 10. Proposed Budget for January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023
  - 11. Capital Assets Aquisitions Schedule
  - 12. Election of Church Board Members

## **Outgoing Board Members:**

• President	Kirsten Olsen	Term ending 2024
• Board member	Dorrit Morrow	Term ending 2024
• Board member	Niels Hansen	Term ending 2024
• Board member	Inge Andersen	Term ending 2024

## **Current Board Members:**

• Board member	Daniel Aalto	Term ending 2025
• Board member	Christopher Sørensen	Term ending 2025
• Board member	Lene Nielsen	Term ending 2025
• Board member	Angela Moroz	Term ending 2026
• Board member	Bent Skousbøl	Term ending 2026
• Board member	Mette Rasmussen	Term ending 2026

\* Permanent member: Pastor Lasse Hultberg

13. Election of Auditors

Outgoing

  - Current Valerie Sørensen Term ending 2024

For ACM 2024:

  - New Jeanna Baty Term ending 2025

14. Election of Pastoral Selection Committee:

a. Outgoing Birgit Wildenhoff Term ending 2024

For ACM 2024:

  - Jeanna Baty Term ending 2025
  - Maria Hjort Guiney Term ending 2026
  - New TBD Term ending 2027

15. Review and Approval of Minutes of ACM February 26, 2024

16. Adjournment

# **Minutes**

for the Annual Congregational Meeting of  
Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton  
February 26, 2023, 12:30 pm

Meeting call to order 12:40 pm

1. Opening Prayer by Pastor Lasse Hultberg.
2. Election of Chairperson – Jeanna Baty

Motion: Bent Skousbøl

Seconder: Johanne Nicolajsen

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Daniel Aalto

Seconder: Dorrit Morrow

4. The minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
  - The minutes were approved at the end of the ACM on February 13, 2022.
5. Business arising from the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
6. Reports presented in the printed ACM handout.

**Danish Women's Club.**

Camp Kuriakos. (elect a board member for Kuriakos at first board meeting after ACM)

Hyggeklubben.

Men's Breakfast not started up again.

Motion: Kaj Nicolajsen

Seconder: Daniel Aalto

All in favour

7. Pastor's Report.

Thank you to Pastor Lasse from Randi Mark

Motion: Kirsten Thorup

Seconder: Alice Nickel

8. President's Report. Thank you from

Motion: Valerie Soeren

Seconder: Eija Aalto

9. Treasurer's Report

- Granly donation into GIC's
- \$300,000 kept on hand for purchasing land, etc.
- The Granly donation is not to be used for operating.
- Fundraising and donations are still needed.

- Need more donors to sign up for monthly payment.
  - Management and Admin expenses: computer
  - Occupancy
  - Bent Skousbøl has the details if you want to know more.
- Cash flow gone over by Bent Skousbøl.

Motion: Elinor Glerup

Seconder: John Andersen

#### 10. Proposed Budget for January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Motion: Gerda Kozculab

Seconder: Randi Mark

All in favour - accepted.

#### 11. Proposed Special Project Budget for 2023

- Donation from Granly to be used.
- Bent explained the projects in detail.
- Stain glass – replacing it with a new design to be enjoyed from inside and outside and indicative of our congregation and time.
- \$150,000 in cash
- \$100,000 GIC
- \$280,000 GIC mature next yere
- Do we need a new meeting for special budget if we go over the proposed budget number? If we approve the budget as a total, there's room for movement within it.
- Organ: looking for organs all over the whole country, will likely look at a used pipe organ with upgrades. The organ is a high priority. Piano is separate.

Motion: Karin Kossman

Seconder: Inge Andersen

Approved

#### 12. Election of Church Board Members

##### **Outgoing Board Members:**

• President	Kirsten Olsen	Term ending 2023
• Board member	John Sørensen	Term ending 2023
• Board member	Mette Rasmussen	Term ending 2023
• Board member	Bent Skousbøl	Term ending 2023
• Board member	Susanne Reid	Term ending 2024 (early withdrawal)

##### **Current Board Members:**

• Board member	Dorrit Morrow	Term ending 2024
• Board member	Niels Hansen	Term ending 2024
• Board member	Christopher Sørensen	Term ending 2025
• Board member	Daniel Aalto	Term ending 2025

##### **New Board Members:**

• President	Kirsten Olsen	Term ending 2024
• Board member	Dorrit Morrow	Term ending 2024
• Board member	Niels Hansen	Term ending 2024
• Board member	Christopher Sørensen	Term ending 2025
• Board member	Daniel Aalto	Term ending 2025

• Board member	Mette Rasmussen	Term ending 2026
• Board member	Bent Skousbøl	Term ending 2026
• Board member	Lene Nielsen	Term ending TBD
• Board member	Angela Moroz	Term ending TBD
• Board member	Inge Andersen	Term ending TBD

- Kirsten Olsen – nominated by: Birgit Wildenhoff, seconder: Johanne, accepted.
- Mette Rasmussen - nomination by: Inge Andersen, seconder: Chris Sørensen, accepted.
- Bent Skousbøl (11<sup>th</sup> year as a treasurer!) - nomination by: Dorrit Morrow, seconder: Alice Nickel, accepted.
- Inge Andersen – nomination by: Chris Sørensen, seconder: Erik Wildenhoff, accepted.
- Lene Nielsen – nomination by: Valerie Sørensen, seconder: Dorrit Morrow, accepeted.
- Angela Moroz – nomination by: Kirsten Thorup, seconder: Kirsten Olsen, accepted.

### 13. Election of Auditors

• Outgoing	Margith Hansen	Term ending 2023
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For ACM 2023:

• Current	Valerie Sørensen	Term ending 2024
• New	Jeanna Baty	Term ending 2025

Valerie Sørensen nominated Jeanna Baty, seconder: Kirsten Thorup, accepted.

### 14. Election of Pastoral Selection Committee:

• Outgoing	Maria Hjort Guiney	Term ending 2023
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For ACM 2023:

• Current	Jeanna Baty	Term ending 2025
• Current	Birgit Wildenhoff	Term ending 2024
• Current	Maria Hjort Guiney	Term ending 2026

Maria Hjort nominated by Chris Sørensen, seconder: Birgit Wildenhoff, accepted.

### 14. New Business:

Ansgar 100<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2023 – 17 September

- Festive Service on the Sunday with invited guests the bishop and secretary of DSUK
- Open to ideas – street party with BBQ, concerts, invite the neighbourhood.
- Celebration at Camp Kuriakos as well (June 23-25)
- September 17 is Edmonton Community League Day as well.
- Previous pastors are going to submit stories about being a pastor here.
- May need folks in the congregation to put up visitors if needed.
- Stain glass design and alter cross design idea – please come to Pastor Lasse with that.

Volunteer/Committees

Property Acquisition – Kirsten Olsen

- Parking is needed for the church. Hood renewal means less parking available.
- Neighbour to the north asked if we were interested. We had a special congregational meeting – moved on it, and offered a price but it was rejected.

- Shortly after we were approached by the neighbour to the east. The house is mostly a tear down.
- In the process of figuring out what do.
- Chris Sørensen has facilitated the fencing and boarding up (insurance) and dealing with clearing out.
- Pastor Lasse – committee struck and work w. Erik Jacobsen who will come with some working drawings. Will apply for rezoning for parking lot.
- If rejected, then what? Use the foundation for a new house? Tear totally down?
- The local councilor has been approached. Pastor Lasse has been at a lot of meetings with planners and councilor.
- Church street does have a special status – the churches will suffer with less parking.
- How do we envision our church in the future? Do we think we'll grow? Will invite the congregation in a vision workshop – see the next newsletter - April 23, 2023.
- Can we have business there on the lot, such as a daycare for income?

15. Review and Approval of Minutes of ACM February 26, 2023

Motion: Niels Hansen, Seconder: Chris Sørensen

16. Adjournment

Motion: Kirsten Olsen, Seconder: Valerie Sørensen

Kirsten Olsen, President

Date: February 6, 2024

Mette Rasmussen, Secretary

Date: February 6, 2024

# Danish Women's Club Report to the Annual Meeting 2023

2023 has been another busy year for the Ansgar Women's Group. Our regular monthly meetings are well attended by a majority of the current 16 members. We still meet in the Church basement on the third Tuesday of the month, from September to November and January to May, at 9:45 am., to plan money-raising and social events to support our Church. Over our lunches, we exchange ideas and "news" with our friends and sometimes, we enjoy group activities like the **Leverpostej preparation workshop** we held for members this past Spring.

The highlight of this past year was the celebration of **Ansgar's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** in mid-September, and the Women's Group played an instrumental role in making it a grand and memorable occasion, particularly the Boyle McCauley community event on the Saturday. Fortunately, the weather was fine for an outdoor festival, and enabled us to serve popcorn and hundreds of free hot dogs and juices to the local homeless and hungry folk in the neighbourhood, who expressed their gratitude generously. In addition, we sold traditional Danish treats like Pork Roast Sandwiches with all the fixings, as well as coffee and Danish pastry. Our work was enhanced by a lively street jazz band, storytelling and face painting for little ones, and historical presentations of the Church and introduction of the new church organ with two mini concerts. It was a grand day.

We again hosted the annual **Ansgar Christmas Lunch and Bazaar** in late November, in a pleasant new location at the German Canadian Cultural Centre on the southside. This event is a great deal of effort for our group members, so it is gratifying how many in the Danish community continue to attend the event. However, we couldn't "pull it off" without the support of the many in the congregation who pitch in to help. Many thanks!

In addition, we offered two **On-line Bake Sales**, which have become a profitable addition to our events: one before Christmas, and one around Easter in the Spring. These are a beneficial outcome of our Pandemic activities and seem to attract another part of the far-flung Danish/Scandinavian community.

Finally, we packed the basement last Spring for the annual **Frikadelle Supper**, a fun and delicious competition to identify the best Frikadelle cook in the vicinity. Lots of laughs and tasty enjoyment. If you haven't come before, we recommend you purchase a ticket early for the next event!

This year, we are pleased to be able to **donate \$18,356.42** to the operation of Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church.

We are grateful to have added several new members this past few years and have relied on the help of a few other churchgoers to share our workload when needed, as we have recently lost a couple of our older longtime members. We welcome any woman from the Ansgar congregation who would like to join us and share in the fun and this "churchwork". Our next meeting will focus on planning our upcoming Spring activity. Do come and join us!

*Jeanna Baty, Secretary*

## Hyggeklubben

I am happy to report that we again had another great year with lots of Hygge.

We had a number of friends sharing their life and travel experiences with us. Thanks to all of you for that.

We always enjoy our afternoons at Hyggeklubben, with old as well as new friends, sharing a light lunch that mostly turn out to be a regular banquet. The singing of the well-known songs from Højskole Sangbogen is so enjoyable. We enjoy the cheapest medicine-laughter and of course, there is always coffee.

Check the newsletter for dates and times. Thank you to all who are helping me on that day, it is appreciated.

*Randi Mark*

# Camp Kuriakos Report to the Annual Meeting 2023



*Kuriakos exists to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, encourage and disciple. Kuriakos is a community set apart for all people to grow together in Christ.*

# KURIAKOS

## SYLVAN LAKE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP ASSOCIATION Report to Congregational Annual Meetings - January 2024

Join our Association at [www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/congregations](http://www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/congregations)

*Kuriakos seeks to be accountable to the people, congregations and church bodies the Association serves. This report is for publication in congregational annual reports or distribution in newsletters. Electronic copies are available online at [www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/congregations](http://www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/congregations)*

**AGM:** The 2023 financial review will be completed and ready for the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 2:30 pm, March 23, 2024 @ Kuriakos. Virtual attendance is available. Members are all congregations that have donated in the past year. Renew your membership online!

**Thanks for your support of Kuriakos. We're privileged to work with your congregation.**  
Together, we are growing the next generation of leaders in our world and Church. At Kuriakos, we provide an opportunity for members of the Church to live together in a way that isn't always found in the outside world. Outdoor Ministry provides programs and facilities that bring people together in community, for connection, renewal, and re-creation. We look forward to using this special place, this holy ground, to support your leaders and members.

**Get involved!** visit [kuriakos.ab.ca](http://kuriakos.ab.ca)

- Let neighbours and friends know about the great community at Kuriakos
- Invite Kuriakos to lead a Camp Sunday service at your church
- Volunteer for a Service Project or Committee
- Donate items for auction at Kuriakos Gathers Together, and join us on April 20
- Suggest to young folks in your community to join our staff or volunteer teams



### Above & Beyond Capital Campaign

In early 2023, we launched our Campaign to secure 11 acres of land that have long been desired to connect all of our property and allow space for the future of our programs and community. This is a commitment to the individuals, families, and congregations in our community that there will be a physical place for them to come and experience that community.

**Your congregation is invited to be a part of this opportunity to build the Church together.**

Our hope is that your congregation would set a time after Easter to conduct this campaign, sharing information and inspiration about Kuriakos and inviting people to make a gift. We are not asking for support in your budget for this campaign. Kuriakos has a team of people ready to Zoom into a Council meeting to share about this exciting campaign.

### 2023 in REVIEW

- New Partnership Programs (including Reels in the Rockies, Camp Maple Leaf, and Camp Yoga) have allowed us to refill our summer capacity to pre-Covid levels.
- We had an amazing summer staff team. Diverse staff from six different countries brought a unique perspective.
- **View our Courier for more updates and messages from staff**  
[www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/contact-us](http://www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/contact-us), scroll to Kuriakos Courier

### 2023 Membership

### Partners - 24 (Doubled over the past 5 years!)

### Members- 4

Many congregations provide financial support as part of their annual budgets or through special gifts. Program revenue covers roughly 1/3 of the cost of hosting campers. This is a wonderful opportunity to bless kids and families in need, giving them the best week of their year. Consider promoting a Kuriakos retreat as a congregational event, or sponsoring camperships for your local community.

### Program Participation

- Summer Kids/Youth/Family/Adult – 13 programs, with 332 campers and 1849 camper-days
- Weekend Retreats – 20 programs, with 403 campers
- Kuriakos Outdoor School – 12 school events, with 599 students and 1039 camper-days
- Partner Programs – 14 events, with 266 participants and 953 camper-days
- Guest Groups – 78 events, for a total of 2400 individuals, raising over \$250 000
- Community Campground – 53 bookings raising \$5500
- Online Programs – 2 programs with 26 participants

2024 Program Dates		
<b>Winter</b>		
Homeschool Days	Last Monday	
Campus Student Retreat	Jan 26-28	
Confirmation Retreat	Feb 2-4	
Men's Retreat	Feb 2-4	
Family Day Getaway	Feb 16-19	
<b>Spring</b>		
Annual General Meeting	Mar 23	
RENEW Women's Retreat	Apr 5-7	
Kuriakos Gathers Together	April 20	
Synod Youth Gathering	May 3-5	
Spring Work Week	May 13-17	
Congregational Staff Retreat	May 14	
Family May Days	May 17-19	
Kuriakos Open House	June 23	
<b>Summer</b>		
<i>Day Camps and Service weeks can be booked throughout the summer! Contact our office.</i>		
<b>Week 1</b>		
Prime Time	June 30-Jul 5	
Senior Youth	June 30-Jul 5	
<b>Week 2</b>		
Junior Youth	July 7-12	
Leaders in Training	July 7-12	
<b>Week 3</b>		
Family Camp I	July 14-19	
Kids' Adventure	July 14-19	
<b>Week 4</b>		
Junior Adventure	July 21-26	
<b>Week 5</b>		
Kids' Camp (5 nights)	July 28-Aug 2	
Mini Camp	July 31-Aug 2	
<b>Week 6</b>		
Kids' Camp (4 nights)	Aug 5-9	
Skills Camp	Aug 5-9	
<b>Week 7</b>		
Family Camp II	Aug 11-16	
<b>Fall</b>		
Retreat of Our Own	Sept 13-15	
Community BBQ	Sept 15	
Family Adventure Weekend	Sept 20-22	
Fall Work Week	Oct 14-18	
Thanksgiving at the Lake	Oct 18-20	
Women's Retreat	Nov 1-3	
Fall Confirmation Retreat	Nov 22-24	
Christmas Retreat	Dec 1-3	

**FINANCES** - The tentative budget for 2024 proposes an annual operational revenue of \$826,855.

We have seen increased costs, particularly in staffing and supplies, and have raised program and rental rates accordingly. We do not anticipate acquiring any new debt. **We will be conducting the congregational phase of our capital campaign in the coming months to allow investment in land, programs, and facilities for the future of this community.** Informational meeting dates have been shared with your congregation's leadership, please inquire about your congregation's participation.

**Percentage of Operating Revenue (as reflected in the 2023 preliminary statements)**

Donations + Fundraising 24%      Programs 32%      Guest Groups 37%      Operational Grants 5%      Property Income 2%

Kuriakos Debt Load	Dec 31/2023	Dec 31/2022	Dec 31/2021	Dec 31/2020
	\$447,174.26	\$505,835.31	\$523,535.12	\$540,323.23

**Camperships are available for all programs**, particularly for children and youth. We believe no one should miss out on camp!

**Staffing**

In the past year, we've welcomed Hannah Rude (Calgary) as Program Assistant and Henry Nelson (Calgary) as Property and Hospitality Assistant. We're grateful for Alexa's work over the past two years, and wish her happy reunions in Mexico. Our Association continues to be served by Amber as Hospitality Director, Kendra as Program Director, Paul as Assistant Director, and Rev. Art as Executive Director.

We are seeking candidates for the roles of **Property Manager and Executive Director**.

**Volunteer Support**

Our community depends on volunteer involvement. We benefitted from over 100 volunteers offering over 5000 hours! This includes nearly 500 hours for our governance Board and Committees, plus 1100 on Property projects and 3000 in support of programs.

**CURRENT KURIAKOS BOARD (Term: March 2023 – March 2024)**

**Chairperson:** Dave Christiansen (Rocky Mountain House)

**Vice-Chair:** Kari Ree Grahman (Calgary)

**Treasurer:** Rev. Phil Penrod (Beaumont)

**Secretary:** Michael Gillingham (Sherwood Park)

**Vision Committee:** Leah Wetter (Calgary), Kurt Hanson (Calgary)

**Risk Management Committee:** Rev. Doug Heine (Hinton), Rev. Matt Gillard (Hanna)

**Sustainability Committee:** Ron Bjorge (Red Deer), Anthony Woloszyn (Edmonton)

Additional volunteer working groups are established to assist staff with duties, including Capital Campaign, Property, Total Inclusion and KGT. These committees are generally short-term and focused on a specific task or event. We'd love to add you to our teams!

**Camp Sundays**

Our team would love to join your congregation for worship, as a part of our partnership in ministry. We can help lead songs, share a devotional message, or lead activities for kids. Then we'd join announcements at the end and hand out S'More kits to go. Contact [hannah@kuriakos.ab.ca](mailto:hannah@kuriakos.ab.ca) to set up a date!

**Looking ahead to 2024**

- **Congregational Staff Retreat Day on May 14** – We're hosting a free retreat and networking day. Enjoy lunch and the afternoon at camp, plus time to learn, reflect and share with colleagues and peers. Or, send your staff for a free weekday retreat in Dana Lodge (depending on availability, you provide your own meals and program).
- **Day Camps and Service Teams** – Congregations are invited to request teams of 2-3 Kuriakos Summer Staff to come to their congregation for a week, to join in their ministry. We can support your program or take care of activities and registration. We'd love to line up a few day camps for August!
- **Work Weekends** at May Long Weekend and after Thanksgiving are a great gathering of our community... and essential to keeping our property and facilities operating. Come as a family or congregation to join the fun!
- **Community Camping** – Book a tent or RV campsite at Kuriakos for your family! Available on select weekends in the summer.
- **Kuriakos Gathers Together Fundraiser**. Join us in-person or online on April 20<sup>th</sup> for our annual celebration and auction.
- **Family Camps** – (2 in July and August). Come for 1 day or stay for the whole week. All ages welcome, with or without kids.
- **Looking for Great Staff:** We appreciate referrals of summer staff, SITS (age 14-16), STANDS (age 16-18), GAPS (age 18+), Interns, spring and fall programmers, nurses, and resource people. Apply online or email [kendra@kuriakos.ab.ca](mailto:kendra@kuriakos.ab.ca) for more info.

God's Blessings,  
**Rev. Art Weiss, Executive Director**  
[art@kuriakos.ab.ca](mailto:art@kuriakos.ab.ca)

5-39317 Range Road 24  
Lacombe County AB T4E 2R7  
403.746.2702



**WWW.KURIAKOS.AB.CA**

## Pastor's Report to the Annual Meeting 2023

2023 was a decisive year in the history of Ansgar. This year September 16 and 17, we have celebrated that our congregation has been here for 100 years. Before these dates, we improved and renewed our sanctuary to a glory and beauty beyond what we could ever have imagined. We were also exposed in the medias, not only in the local newsletter, but also in CBC Radio and Television. After our great celebration, I have felt a great interest and joy in our Church, and a gratitude of the wonderful work that has been put into making our little Church a very special place.

This year, I would like to focus on all the amazing volunteers who make this Church into what it is. After all it is the people, the congregation that makes the Church, not the building or the Pastor. I do, however, fear that I may forget a few here that should have been mentioned. Please forgive me for any errors or omissions.

The Board of Directors should be mentioned. The Board makes the Church function on the daily basis. All the smaller and bigger details like paying bills and receiving donations and to keep records of it all. Like making sure that we meet the everchanging regulations and standards laid out by the government. But thank God, we have a fantastic treasurer in Bent Schousbøl. But also the president Kirsten Olsen and the rest of the members have been working tireless to ensure the daily operation of the Church. Thank you from my heart to all of you! I am also so happy that you didn't feel that the daily chores were more than enough for you, but that you also supported that we should have a big party in the fall of 2023 as well as renovate and renew of our sanctuary.

We have been very fortunate to be able to go forward with two big wishes in our congregation. We have been able to get a pipe organ and to renew and embellish the Chancel area. This was possible because of the generous donation from Granly, Surrey BC. But it would probably not have lifted if we had not also received our new pipe organ as a donation from Christina and John DeJong and if we had not received the assistance and help from Tammy-Jo Mortensen and Warren Mack. We now have a wonderful little instrument that lifts our services up to higher levels.

The Chancel has been renewed by removing the wooden panels, by adding a new carpet, by painting the walls and by a set of three beautiful glass mosaics created by the world renown Danish artist Peter Brandes. If it was not for his artistic vision and huge generosity, we would not have been able to purchase this unique and poignant work of art. We are now one of the few Edmontonian Churches with modern religious art at the highest level possible. In my view, we now have the most unique and the most beautiful Sanctuary in all of Edmonton.

A special thank you to Gunnar Jensen who has been working in the Church endless hours with small and big repairs and improvements during the renovation of the Church as well as on an almost daily basis. Also, a huge thank you to Vagn Boelsgaard. He is the man behind the fantastic renovation of the main entrance door and for new organising equipment on the pews, and much more. Also, to Jens Woller for stepping in at the last minute to do the final casing around the windows in the Chancel. Many were involved in the renovations and festivities, as mentioned before the Board of Directors including, Lene Nielsen, Mette Rasmussen, Inge Fenger-Andersen (with her husband John), Dorrit Morrow, Angla Moroz, Daniel Aalto, Christopher Sørensen. From outside the Board Jeanna Baty, Eija Aalto, Birgith Wildenhoff and Alice Nickel have been involved in the planning. And of course, as always, the fabulous Danish Women's Club, including Else Woller, Susanne Reid, Lis Walker, Birgit Wildenhoff, Susanne Balsløv Kulak, Margith Hansen, Darlene Atkinson, Randi Mark, Kirsten Torup and Frederikke Hultberg. Thank you also to the Ansgar Singers lead by Amelia Kaminski for making these days so special. And to our bishop Mads Davidsen of Odense, Denmark for coming to our

festivities. I should greet from him and tell you that he was impressed with the anniversary and with our very special and warm-hearted congregation.

Beside this huge event, is also worth noting that we have continued our relationship with our closest Lutheran neighbours at Saint John's. And that we have decided to work even closer with them in the following years in wherever it makes sense to both congregations. I believe it is a good partnership to ensure the sustainability of our congregation.

To conclude: there have been many wonderful events and meetings in the past year, many more than just the anniversary. They are all in my heart, and I am grateful for every day in good times as in times of trial that I have served here in 2023.

God bless our little congregation. God bless our Church,

*Pastor Lasse*

# President's Report to the Annual Meeting 2023

2023 seems to have come and gone very quickly, though when we look back on the year, a great deal has happened. The monthly programs and special activities are all back, with healthy attendances: Hyggeklubben, the Women's Group, Study Group (meets semi-monthly) and "Morgenkaffe på dansk" have been in full swing. Traditional Danish celebrations have been enjoyed, such as "Fastelavn" which resumed in February with vigorous "beating of the barrel", dress-up by all the children and several adults and the eating the familiar Fastelavn's boller. Easter Sunday is a big day in the Church, but in addition to the service there is always a lot of excitement for the Easter Egg Hunt. Ansgar's traditional Frikadelle Supper & Contest has returned as well. It's good food, good fun and very competitive. The "best cook" gets to take the Golden Pan home for a year!

Our little Choir is established now and has added to several special services throughout the year. Amelia Kaminski has worked tirelessly helping us along, but we could use more voices if you enjoy singing!

For many years, Ansgar has actively supported Operation Friendship, which formerly was a centre sheltering and feeding seniors experiencing hard times. The Friendship Centre closed, but beginning in 2024 it has revived and will be serving seniors living in various facilities nearby. Ansgar will again be serving stew made by their staff and ice cream with fruit provided by us. This is a good time to interact with senior residents and a worthwhile outreach to the less fortunate in our neighbourhood.

December is Advent time, a time of anticipation. We all looked forward to the "krybbesplil" (Christmas Pagent) ably directed by Angela Moroz this year. We were not disappointed. The kids did a fine job and we were emphatically told by a very stern angel "do not be afraid". Julestue followed as usual, with goodies and "risengrød", "æbleskiver" and "gløgg" down in the basement.

In April, we gathered for a Visioning Workshop, led by Pastor Randy from St. John's Lutheran Church down the street. We spent a few hours considering what Ansgar could/should look like in the coming years. It was a good opportunity to look ahead and reaffirm our intentions for the future.

With the coming of summer, many of us returned to Camp Kuriakos at Sylvan Lake for a weekend of fun. This year, Sct. Hans coincided with our camp, so we were able to revel in a big bonfire once again, amplified by singing "Vi elsker vort land" and eating too many marshmallows and "dough boys"! We swam, played indoor and competitive outdoor games, and enjoyed relaxing in the sauna (heated up by our Finnish sauna experts, Daniel and Eija Aalto. It was a fun time for everyone just being together.

The BIG EVENT for Ansgar this year was the 100 Year Anniversary of the Church. In order to prepare for that, the Church was closed for the month of August to make some renovations in the Church. An old chimney was removed in order to install a new altar piece. The result is a new and lighter area around the altar, focusing on the glass artwork by Danish artist Peter Brandes. He has depicted the Christ as crucified and as "sower", all in one. The three windows on the altar have added brightness and light, as well as a new focus for the congregation. The beautiful blue colours remind us of the baptism, while the warm reds remind us of the communion. To complete the renovation, the interior was re-painted and we installed a wonderful pipe organ, which was generously donated by the DeJong family. Local organist and organ builder Waren Mack and his associate assembled the many organ parts at the back of the church. It was a remarkable feat, as at one point every pew in the church held a part. The result of placing the organ at the back of the Church fills the church with sound and has opened up more room around the altar.

September was a hectic month, trying to ready the Church for the Anniversary celebrations. Delivery of parts from Denmark was delayed in customs to the last minute, more than once.... all very

exciting.... but we have so many talented and dedicated members in the congregation, luckily. "We made it" thanks to Jens Woller who was finishing up the drywalling on the altar wall the day before the celebration. The warm, welcoming entrance is the result of many hours of work by Vagn Boelsgaard to refinish the doors. And of course, what would we have done without Gunnar Jensen?! He was at the Church every day, all day, doing whatever was necessary to get the job done: letting workers in and out, moving electrical switches, moving steps by the altar, building a cupboard for the organ pump in the basement, constantly fixing the elevator, plastering where needed, and so much more. It's amazing what a small congregation can accomplish!

Finally, we enjoyed a wonderful celebration of our first 100 years on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday, the street in front of the Church was closed to traffic and tents erected and we celebrated with a community party: we served many free hot dogs and juices; sold popcorn and traditional pork sandwiches, coffee and wienerbrød; enjoyed a street jazz band, storytelling and facepainting for the kids; opened the Church for two mini concerts on the new organ and concluded the day with a packed Vesper Service. We were overwhelmed by the number of people who turned up in the afternoon for the free food, but were glad we provided it, as our Church is in a very needy area of the city. Sunday was highlighted by congregational events such as a very animated, special church service in the morning and a gala banquet at the Chateau Louis in the evening. Special representatives from DSUK in Denmark, staff and the Bishop, along with pastors from the three other Danish Lutheran Churches in Canada, were introduced. Stories were shared and a good time was had by all.

We owe a big "thankyou" to the congregation of Granly Church in Surrey, who donated funds to each of the Canadian Churches upon their closure! These funds enabled the recent renovation and we have a wish list for the rest of the funds. With them, we have purchased the derelict house next door, and are in the process of having it removed and seeking City approval to turn the property into a much-needed parking lot.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in the past year to the growth and well being of Ansgar. Thanks to my fellow Board members, who have maintained balance, been a constant support for me and each other and put in lots of good work during the year. Thanks to Alice Nickel for her tireless work producing our bi-monthly Newsletter, as well as managing everything "computer technical" about our Church projects. Thanks to the Women's Group for all their work putting on dinners and mounting projects to raise money to support ongoing Church operations. It is so good to see that group active and growing again. Thank you to the Anniversary Committee who took on the big job of advertising, inviting all our guests, planning events and producing a great celebration for our Church. Finally, thanks to Pastor Lasse for all the many jobs he has taken on above and beyond the usual pastoral duties, and for participating with us in all the extra activities we host in the Church. He is even a member of the Ladies Group! Thanks also to the whole Hultberg family for participating in all aspects of the Ansgar Family, whether singing, helping out in activities, camping and always just being there for all of us.

This has been an active but a very good year.

*Kirsten Olsen  
President, Board of Directors*

# Treasurer's Report to the Annual Meeting 2023

## **Auditors' Report to the Board**

We have now successfully completed the audit of ADLC finances for 2023. The books were found to be in good order.

### Recommendations:

We have no recommendations to the Board at this time.

We would commend the Treasurer, Bent Skousbøl, for his conscientious work and thank him for presenting the documentation in an easy to manage condition.

Thank you,

*Jeanna Baty and Valerie Sørensen*

January 19, 2024

# Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton

## BALANCE SHEET

For Period ended December 31,2023

### Current Assets

Cash on hand	735.00
Bank Accounts	206,845.45
T-Bill Savings Acct	39.55
Prepaid Expenses	8,861.10
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>216,481.10</b>

### Long Term Investments

GIC Term Investments	1,120,000.00
Accrued Term Interest	5693.33
Enbridge shares	41,351.35
<b>Total Long Term Investments</b>	<b>1,167,044.68</b>

### Fixed Assets

Church Building	253,458.86
Accumulated Depreciation	-121,429.27
Manse	258,256.69
Accumulated Depreciation	-227,990.93
Elevator	127,305.00
Accumulated Depreciation	-42,848.27
Equipment & fixtures	149,186.70
Accumulated Depreciation	-33,005.83
Computer Equipment	1,675.83
Accumulated Depreciation	-1,231.53
Land (includes parking acquisition)	350,900.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>714,277.25</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>2,097,803.03</u></b>

### Current Liabilities

### Long Term Liabilities

### Total Liabilities

### Equity

Beginning Equity	2,043,477.11
Net surplus for the year	22,503.42
<b>Ending Equity</b>	<b>2,065,980.53</b>

### Total Liabilities & Equity

Audited by:

Valerie Sorensen

Jeanna Baty

Signed at Edmonton January 18,2024

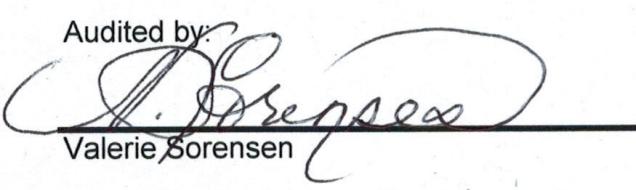
# Statement of Income & Disbursements

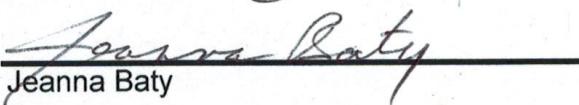
<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Open Donations Non Tax Receiptable	22,663.78	30,072.62
Donations Tax Receiptable	86,480.97	187,126.15
Church Service Fees	100.00	300.00
Fund Raising Events	15,285.85	9,093.28
Interest and Investment	10,717.69	62,183.69
GST Recovered Rebates	524.56	1,468.51
Gifts from other Charities	1,700,924.00	824.18
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,836,696.85</b>	<b>291,068.43</b>

## Disbursements:

Activities Outside Canada DSUK	100,837.00	106,554.63
Charitable Activities Expense	5,458.96	34,619.50
GST Expense	1,490.71	9,486.47
Management & Administration Expense	13,697.06	13,109.93
Occupancy Costs	32,773.28	53,080.97
Depreciation expense	6,182.39	51,713.51
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>160,439.40</b>	<b>268,565.01</b>
<b>Surplus for the Year 2023</b>	<b>1,676,257.45</b>	<b>22,503.42</b>

Audited by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Valerie Sorensen

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanna Baty

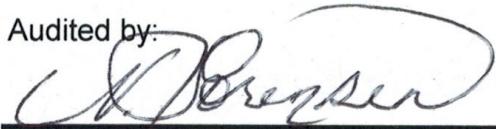
Signed at Edmonton January 18, 2023

# Cash Flow Statement

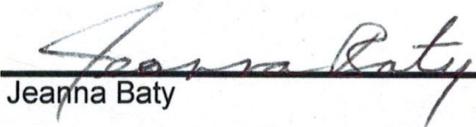
For the period ended December 31,2023

<b>Cash balance forward December 31,2022</b>	<b>143,335.86</b>
<b>Inflow</b>	
Cash received from donations & fundraising	291,068.43
Reduction of GIC accounts	280,000.00
Reduction of GIC interest accrual	1,535.06
Increase in accounts payable	26,322.50
Increase in Cash	598,925.99
<b>Outflow</b>	
Cash disbursements for operational expenses	268,565.01
Less:Non cash depreciation expense	-51,713.51
Increase in prepaid accounts	1,420.82
Property Acquisitions (see Schedule)	316,369.53
Decrease in cash	534,641.85
<b>Net increase in cash</b>	<b>64,284.14</b>
<b>Ending Cash Balance as at Dec 31,2023</b>	<b><u>207,620.00</u></b>

Audited by:



Valerie Sorensen



Jeanne Baty

Signed at Edmonton January 18,2023

## Capital Asset Acquisitions Schedule 2023

Stain Glass Windows	67,515.56
Fencing	14,496.99
Gutters	2,387.00
Chimney removal and east wall repair and restoration	57,560.00
Furnace and Air Conditioning	9,870.00
Hot Water Tank	2,904.29
New Roof on the Manse	18,420.00
Piano	10,220.00
Sound System	6,547.00
Organ	123,000.00
Bench Vases	3,065.70
Computer Printer	382.99
<b>Total Capital Asset Acquisitions</b>	<b>316,369.53</b>

# Proposed Budget for 2024

	PROPOSED <u>2023</u>	ACTUAL <u>2023</u>	PROPOSED <u>2024</u>
Charitable Activities	2,500.00	34,619.50	10,000.00
Programs Expense	10,000.00	33,038.75	20,000.00
GST Expense	1,000.00	9,486.47	4,000.00
Management & Administration Expense	50,000.00	32,711.55	29,000.00
Professional Expense	110,000.00	106,995.23	110,000.00
Depreciation Expense (non cash)	6,000.00	51,713.51	50,000.00
Provision for Congregation Assistance Fund	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
TOTAL	181,500.00	268,565.01	225,000.00

Approved by the Board January 9, 2024

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## Proposed Special Projects Budget for 2024

	PROPOSED <u>2023</u>	ACTUAL <u>2023</u>	PROPOSED <u>2024</u>
Manse Improvements:			
New roof for house and garage	25,000.00	18,420.00	0.00
Furnace & Air Conditioning Hot Water Tank	12,000.00	12,774.29	0.00
Kitchen & Living Room open concept renovation	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00
Basement update and completion	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Sanctuary Improvements:			
Interior Design and Functional Equipment	15,000.00	0.00	25,000.00
Audio - Visual equipment	15,000.00	6,547.00	0.00
New Organ	50,000.00	123,000.00	0.00
New Piano	15,000.00	10,220.00	0.00
Heating in Foyer	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Entrance Door and Stained Glass Window	25,000.00	67,515.56	0.00
East Wall repair and sanctuary painting	0.00	57,560.00	0.00
Eaves and fencing	0.00	16,883.99	0.00
Bench Vases	0.00	3,065.70	0.00
Computer Equipment	0.00	382.99	0.00
Exterior Painting and waterproofing/Wall repair	0.00	0.00	78,000.00
Artistic Development and Spiritual Enrichment Fund	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
House and/or Parking Lot Project:			
Property Development	150,000.00	0.00	150,000.00
100th Anniversary Celebration Event	25,000.00	26,705.30	0.00
Total Special Projects	394,000.00	343,074.83	325,000.00

Approved by the Board January 9, 2024

# Statistical Report

## 2023 Attendance

		Service	attendance	holy communion
January	danish	1	19	17
	english	4	59	49
February	danish	1	22	20
	english	2	82	62
March	danish	1	15	13
	english	3	100	77
April	danish	2	48	35
	english	4	127	81
May	danish	1	21	17
	english	3	81	62
June	danish	1	25	17
	english	4	114	108
July	danish	2	49	43
	english	3	74	44
August	danish	0	0	0
	english	0	0	0
September	danish	1	15	0
	english	3	246	122
October	danish	2	43	35
	english	3	90	54
November	danish	1	28	26
	english	3	140	79
December	danish	2	62	15
	english	4	179	32
				0
Totals	Danish	15	347	238
	English	36	1292	770
Totals	All services	51	1639	1008

***Church Closed for the August due to renovations***

Avg Attendance	Danish	23 per service
	English	36 per service
Avg Communion	Danish	18 per service
	English	25 per service
% of Services	Danish	21%
	English	79%

## 2.3 Election to the Church Board of Directors

### 2.2 Qualifications

A member shall be qualified to be on the Church Board of Directors if:

- a) That person is an active Member who has been a Member of the Church for at least six months
- b) that person is over the age of 18 years
- c) that person does not have a status of a bankrupt; and
- d) that person is mentally competent

#### 2.3.1. Nominations

Persons possessing the qualifications set out in Article 2.2 can be nominated for election to the Church Board of Directors.

#### 2.3.3. Additional Nominations

Nominations for candidates for a position on the Church Board of Directors can also be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting by any active Member, providing that any candidate, so nominated, agrees to let his or her name stand for a position on the Church Board of Directors. These nominations can be made in addition to a slate of candidates made to the Nominations Committee.

#### 2.3.4 Nomination and Election of the President

The President is elected by a simple majority vote, using ballot procedure. If the President is elected from the existing Church Board of Directors, another Member is elected to the Board as a substitute in this position for the one year he/she is President. If a substitute for the President is required, he who received the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of votes is elected to that position.

#### 2.3.5 Nomination of Remaining Board Members

In electing the other three Members, three names can be written on the ballot. The three who receive the most votes are elected.

### 2.4 TERM OF OFFICE

The President is elected for a one-year term at each Annual Congregational Meeting; the remaining nine Board Members are elected for a three-year term in such a manner that three are elected each year. The Pastor is a permanent Member of the Board.

Vacant Positions	Term Expires
President, 1 year term	February 2025
3 board members, each for a 3 year term	February 2027
1 auditor, 2 year term	February 2026
1 pastor selection committee, 3 year term	February 2027

## New Business