



ORGAN REPAIR

Months ago, we found out that our organ was not working properly. Many thanks to Sherri Melichar, our organist, for discovering the problem and to Mike Spalding for overseeing the repairs. The good news is that insurance covered the cost of repairs since it was due to our thunderstorm surge back in March of 2023. The organ was used for the first time at our 10:30 service on February 2, and it sounded splendid! Our organ, a Rodgers model 658 electronic organ, has two manual keyboards plus foot pedals. It was purchased from, and installed by, Triune Music of Elmhurst, IL in 2009. The purchase was made possible by the Marquardt bequest. The most beneficial component of an organ is the space in which it is installed: Triune did an exemplary job of designing an installation that took advantage of the architecture and acoustics of our sanctuary.



END OF 2024 FINANCIAL POSITION

The final numbers are in for 2024. We finished with a deficit as it became obvious that we would as the year progressed. The good news is that the deficit was smaller than expected even with the ongoing elevator issues. The final total is -\$8404.88. We had approved a budget that was not a deficit, but repair expenses and other transition expenses put us under. Other notes from 2024:

-We are completely up to date with Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM), Southeast Association dues, UCC missions that we support, and our six local service organizations that we choose to support.

-Our Making All Things New: Phase One campaign for the repair of our stained glass windows was completed and is paid in full.

-We have been working with the property insurance company to finalize the repairs of all the electrical damage related to the power surge from the thunderstorm back in March of 2023. Insurance paid for all but \$43 for the repair to the organ that we didn't realize earlier since we are holding services in Fellowship Hall. Insurance has made a commitment to pay approximately \$68,000 toward the elevator repair but will not pay until the repair is complete. We secured a loan from the Cornerstone Fund to pay for repairs, and the insurance payment will pay down most or all of the loan.

We are starting 2025 in a secure cash position. The budget that we approved showed a deficit of only -\$1235.89. The church has received additional pledges since, which more than covers the deficit. We are heading in the right direction!

Submitted by Phil Stepanski, Treasurer

