

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

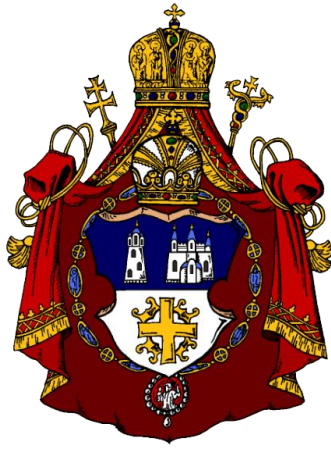
Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

www.svluka.org

Annual Assembly December 22, 2024

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Reading of the minutes from the 2023 Annual Assembly
3. Report of the Parish Priest
4. Report of the President
5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Report of the Candle Shop
7. Report of the Sunday School
8. Report of the Serbian Singing Society "Lira"
9. Report of the Children's Choir "Lira"
10. Report of the Circle of Serbian Sisters "Mala Gospojina"
11. Report of the Serbian School "Nikola Tesla"
12. Report of the Folklore Ensemble "Prelo"
13. Report of the Youth Group "Zmaj"
14. Report of the Auditing Board
15. New Business
 - a. 2025 Stewardship Pledge Form
 - b. Questions & Answers
16. Closing Prayer



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Annual Assembly Minutes
December 10, 2023

The annual meeting was called to order with a prayer at 1:27pm. The meeting was held in person in the Church Social Hall.

Opening Remarks. Trusteeship President, Milan Visnick, opened the meeting, welcoming those in attendance. Copies of the agenda and all reports (see attached) were distributed at the meeting and made available on-line.

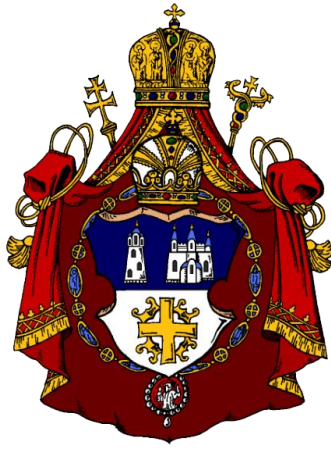
Previous Year's Minutes. The reading of minutes from last year was waived.

Priest's Report. Father Vasilije's gave his report. He highlighted that our parish has a unique privilege to build our own church, and he would like to thank everyone for their generosity in doing this.

Liturgical Life: Father's report included all the liturgical events we had in 2023. We celebrated the Divine Liturgy 140 times. There were 14 baptisms, 1 marriage, 1 conversion and 2 deaths.

Church Events. Since the last Annual Assembly, we had 56 notable events in our parish, all of which can be found on our Flickr page. Some notable highlights were Father Sava, Abbott of Decani Monastery; Bishop Grigorije of Dusseldorf and Germany; SSS Lira induction into Serbian Singing Federation; SSS trip to Aliquippa, PA; Beatification items installed; and two Serbfests after a hiatus.

Church Beautification Project. In 2023, we installed the Iconostasis. We would like to thank Mark Rasevic for storing our items from Serbia until we could install them. We also installed the Throne of the Bishop, the Throne of the Mother of God, the Altar table, and the Pevnica. Thank you to Jelena Tasic and Aleksandar Dukic for the iconostasis, Throne for the Mother of God and pevnica; thank you to Dejan Bujak for the altar table; and thank you to the Kolo for the Throne for the Bishop. We would like to thank Goran Milosavljevic for making the crates, doing the paperwork and organizing everything for transport. Thank you to Drina Rajic and the Office of the Republic of Srpska for donating the new altar curtain, altar cover and icon of St. Stephen the Archdeacon. We acquired a new reliquary of St. Thekla and St. Barbara. The pilgrimage group commissioned the



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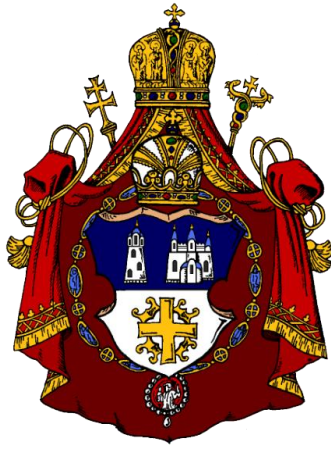
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reliquary. For 2024, we hope to do the next phase of ceiling frescoes; obtain a reliquary for St. George, St. Demetrius, and St. Theodor Tiron; and get new icons for veneration through parishioner donation and commissions.

Communication. Please visit our parish website: www.serbianchurch.org. Our email distribution is via Mailchimp. We have a Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram. Our photographs from parish events are stored on Flickr. We reach fifteen thousand people per month on Facebook.

Thank You. Thank you to all the Parish Ministries who do so much for our church. Thank you to all of our Parishioners for their tireless help and assistance and generous donations. Thank you to Ivana Ciric and Marija Zivkovic for spearheading our parish luncheons, and thank you to all who sponsor them. Thank you to the Circle of Serbian Sisters, SSS Lira, Children's Choir, Sunday School/Religious Education; Serbian School "Nikola Tesla," "Prelo" Folklore, bookstore, candle shop, Zurka organizers, and brojanica workshops. Thank you to all the parish support we receive particularly from Igor Miletic, Dejan Bujak, Milena Mijuskovic, Snezana Djokic, Rada Bozic, Protonica Jelena, Ronald Butts-Boehner, Sunday School teachers and altar servers.

President's Report. Milan Visnick summarized highlights from the President's Report. Milan's report is available online. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Milan. 2023 continued as a growth year for our St. Luke parish. There was an increased optimism and spirit de corps. Our Community is experiencing growth in church attendance, stewardship, and participation in various activities and programs. We were blessed with a baby boom. Our parish was proud and overjoyed to have our lifelong member, Mark Rasevic, awarded the Order of St. Sava by the Holy Synod. The Parish Assistance Committee stands ready to help our parishioners get groceries, prescriptions, etc. It can be contacted by emailing outreach@svluka.org or contacting Father Vasilije. With the blessing of His Grace Bishop Irinej, there was a change in the audit committee; with the resignation of Miodrag Lazarevich, Peter Bizic was approved to join current member Marija Eremic. An account was established to receive funds collected for a new playground to replace the current one. The Trusteeship is looking for volunteers to chair this fundraising campaign. Please make sure that we have your current mailing address. A stewardship pledge from for 2024 is included with this report package. Everyone is encouraged to participate. The importance of personal stewardship cannot be over emphasized. It is a mechanism to show our commitment by pledging our financial support and sharing the talents that God has blessed us with by volunteering and participating on



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committees and projects. After nine years in our current facility, our parish still continues to struggle to make ends meet financially. The parish leadership continues to explore ways to try and generate additional income and to control expenses, but the single most important source of financial support must come directly from our parishioners. If you haven't set up recurring online donations via our website, please do so. The Trusteeship is committed to moving the leadership of the parish from a Trusteeship to an elected Board of Directors, but before this can happen, we must have the monthly funding gaps eliminated, build a financial reserve for contingencies and loan paydown, and a continued increase in demonstrated support and commitment to this parish by its parishioners. Thank you to the members of the Trusteeship for their work on behalf of the parish and our Kolo for their unwavering support. Thank you to Zoran Stanisic and Donald Fish for being our tutors. Most importantly, thank you to Proto Vasilje and Protonica Jelena for their six years of energetic and transformative service to this parish. May God bless them and grant them many more years with us.

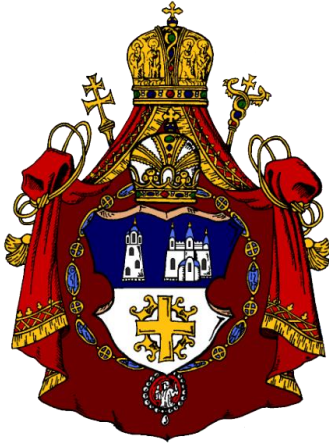
Treasurer's Report. John Buffalini presented the Treasurer's Report, including a summary of the year's major financial happenings, a review of the fiscal year-to-date income and expenses, trends, and anticipated 2023 income versus proposed budget expenditures.

Income. Our income has consisted of two parts – Operational Income and Beautification Income. Our operational income for the year was \$503,448. Our 2023 fiscal year operational income was significantly higher than fiscal year 2022, which was heavily driven by hosting two very successful SerbFests.

Expenses. Our total operational expenses were \$496,907. Our expenses were higher than the previous year due to continued inflation, higher insurance costs, and other unexpected maintenance events. Our expenses were also higher due to the hosting of many events over the course of the year.

Church Beautification Project. Donations for the Church Beautification project totaled \$43,529 and expenses totaled \$53,891. Most of the expenses realized towards this project were from donations collected in the previous year. As of November 30, 2023, we have \$68,258 funds remaining.

Trends and Reminders. Cost-cutting measures and improvements have helped decrease our monthly operational expenses. However, we have seen Church Worship income decrease slightly year-over-year for two consecutive years. The church continues to have



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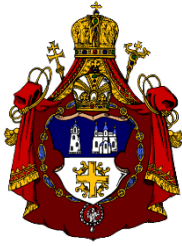
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no viable savings and any financial cushion we can build in our Operating Accounts is depleted to cover unexpected expenses. Furthermore, we continue to experience very lean summer months.

Other Reports. Next, reports were presented or submitted by the leads of the following parish auxiliary organizations— Audit Board (Marija Eremic), Candle Shop (Dejan Bujak), Sunday School (Joyce Visnick), Serbian Singing Society "Lira" (Nevena Arizanovic), Children's Choir (Protonica Jelena Vranic), Circle of Serbian Sisters (Nina Lojanica – presented by Joyce Visnick), Serbian School "Nikola Tesla" (Bojana Andrejvic) and Folklore Group "Prelo" (Rada Bozic). All reports were distributed at the meeting and made available on-line, and parishioners had the opportunity to ask questions of all the leads.

New Business; Other Questions & Answers. None at this time

We closed the annual meeting with a prayer at 4:10 pm.



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2024 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 14, 2024

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

2024 continued as a growth year for our St. Luke parish. On behalf of the Trusteeship, I have the following to report regarding our status this year:

1. 2024 brought increased optimism and esprit de corps. Our community continues to experience growth in church attendance, stewardship, and participation in various activities and programs.
2. We are blessed with a continued baby boom.
3. All liturgical and special services continue to be livestreamed.
4. In January, we celebrated Christmas.
5. The St. Sava Akademija program and slava celebration, held on February 3, was a huge success and attendance exceeded previous years. We were honored to host our Bishop Irinej, the Ambassador of Serbia, His Excellency Marko Djuric, and keynote speaker, Mr. David Vuich.
6. Father Vasilije continued to conduct lectures on our faith and made himself available to minister to the individual needs of parishioners.
7. The Parish Assistance Committee is still operational and stands ready to help our parishioners get groceries, prescriptions, etc. It can be contacted by emailing outreach@svluka.org or contacting Father Vasilije.

8. There was a change in the audit committee for this year. Marie Kosanovich and Dana Isailovic Novacic joined current member Marija Eremic to conduct the 2024 Audit.

9. The Church Beautification Project has been met with overwhelming enthusiastic participation. Phase 2 will be installed beginning December 24 and will be completed in time for our Christmas. We thank Aleksandar Terzic and Aleksandar Krsmanovic for their efforts in spearheading the fund-raising campaign for Phase 2.

10. In May and October, we held two very successful SerbFests. These fundraising events are critical to augment operating expenses. They also provide an excellent forum to share our culture with our community and a tremendous opportunity for our parishioners to work together for their church and have fun doing so!

11. On June 30, we held a Vidovdan luncheon prepared by our Kolo followed by a presentation by our parishioner, Branko Terzic. Fortunately for us, his outstanding lesson was videotaped for everyone to see.

12. After Labor Day, we moved into high gear with activities:

- SerbFest was held the weekend of October 5.
- The Sunday religious education program, Serbian school, folklore, and children's choir resumed classes and practices.
- The Kolo celebrated their slava and hosted a slava luncheon.
- On November 3, we celebrated our 63rd anniversary and church slava. Kumovi for this year's slava were Aleksandar Terzic and his wife Jasmina Milkovich. The day began with Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Grace Bishop Irinej, followed by a delicious Slava Luncheon prepared by our Kolo. We were entertained by Lira Choir, Lira Children's Choir, and Prelo, our children's folklore group.

13. Funds were raised to build a new playground for our parish's growing number of children. The old playground was removed, and the new playground was installed by volunteers of our parish. We thank Aleksandar Krsmanovic for spearheading this effort.

14. We recognize and thank Mark Rasevic for leading a small team of volunteers who hosted a St. Luke food booth at the Balkan Chestnut Festival in Southern Maryland. This initiative augmented our fundraising efforts.

15. This fall, we re-started one of our past fundraisers – the New-To-You Sale. We would like to thank Ivana Ciric and Ljiljana Becker for their help in organizing & executing this fundraiser.

16. We recognize and thank Ivana Ciric for coordinating Sunday Luncheons following Liturgy. The luncheons have made such a positive contribution to the building camaraderie among our parish families. We invite members of our parish to step up and volunteer to host a Sunday luncheon. This can be hosted individually or by a group and sign-up can be either on SignUp Genius or by contacting Milos Lazic. Light refreshments are served after Liturgy on Sundays when there are no designated luncheons.

17. The committee structure that we implemented three years ago continues to provide more efficient board administration. Items are first vetted through the responsible committee and then brought before the board for final action or with interim updates. Those committees include:

- Building & Grounds
- Communications
- Events Management
- Loan & Finance
- Candle Making Business
- Strategic Planning
- Sunday Luncheons/Coffee
- Altar
- Bookstore
- Volunteer Recruitment

18. We commemorated all major Orthodox feast days – particularly the Feasts of St. Sava and St. Luke. Recognition and thanks go to Fr. Vasilije.

19. We recognize and thank Zoran Stanisic and Donald Fish for steadfastly being Tutors at all services they attend.

20. The parish auxiliary groups – Kolo Srpskih Sestara, the Bratstvo, SSS “Lira”, Parish Religious Education Program, Lira Children’s Choir, Prelo Folklore Group, Nikola Tesla Serbian School, and the Zmaj Youth Group – continue to do their good work to assist our church; the details of their activities are contained in separate reports (attached). I would like to thank all these groups for their supporting our parish and representing our faith and culture in an exemplary fashion.

21. The parish e-mail distribution list keeps growing and continues to be the primary means of communication in the parish; e-mail distribution lists also

continue to be used by the parish auxiliary groups. Social media has grown significantly as a means of communication.

22. The mailing lists for the monthly donation envelopes and master mailing list continue to be updated.

- Please make sure that we have your current mailing address. Returned postal mail incurs additional charges.
- If you contribute electronically and no longer use the monthly donation envelopes, **please let us know** so that we can discontinue sending you envelopes.

23. All parish communications continue to be posted on the website for access to all.

24. Policies and procedures to ensure compliance with Article 26 of the Uniform Rules & Regulations of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North & South America which were drafted and implemented in January 2011, continue to be the standards for structuring our work.

25. A stewardship plan with annual pledges for the ongoing care and maintenance of our parish and facilities was drafted and implemented in January 2011 and continues to be used. A pledge form for 2025 is included with this report package and will be available electronically. Everyone is encouraged to participate. It is also the basis for determining eligibility to vote on critical matters when required.

26. The importance of personal stewardship cannot be over emphasized. It is a mechanism to show our commitment by pledging our financial support and sharing the talents that God has blessed us with by volunteering and participating on committees and projects.

27. Candle Business ceased operations this past fall. It is no longer making or importing candles from Serbia. A separate report is attached. Thank you to Dejan Bujak and his team for all their work on this project for many years!

28. After ten years in our current facility, our parish still continues to struggle to make ends meet financially. The parish leadership continues to explore ways to try and generate additional income and to control expenses, but **the single most important source of financial support must come directly from our parishioners. If you haven't set up recurring online donations [via our website](#),**

please do so. This ensures that our church receives consistent funding throughout the year, even when many of us are away for the summer.

29. The Trusteeship is committed to moving the leadership of this parish from a Trusteeship to an elected Executive Board. Before this can happen, we must have the monthly funding gaps eliminated, build a financial reserve for contingencies and loan paydown, and a continued increase in demonstrated support and commitment to this parish by its parishioners. **Continued and increased participation in the life of our parish is vital to making this happen.**

30. All parishioners are encouraged to participate fully. Come to church, bring your children to Sunday School, join one of our parish groups, volunteer for an event – or even better yet – join one of the standing committees or come to the parish leadership with a new idea which you would like to implement.

31. The Trusteeship wants to hear from anyone interested in serving on the Trusteeship in the future.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Trusteeship for their work on behalf of the parish and our Kolo for their unwavering support. But most importantly, I wish to recognize Proto Vasilije and Protinica Jelena for their seven years of energetic and transformative service to this parish. They have selflessly shared their gifts and talents with us and made a profound difference in our spiritual health. May God bless them and grant them many more years with us!

Respectfully Submitted,

Milan Visnick
President, Trusteeship St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church



St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

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2025 PLEDGE FORM

(Please complete both sides, sign, and return by February 28th)

About Pledging: Pledging is the practice by which each of us can give our time, talents, and financial support to care for and promote the Christian work and mission of St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church and to assure the smooth operation of our parish in meeting the spiritual, educational, cultural, and other needs of our community.

Time & Talent Commitment: I/We indicate, by placing check marks ("✓") in the blanks below, the areas in which I/we have skills and talents to offer to help support our Church. For married couples, please indicate "H" for husband and "W" for wife.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Choir |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Committees | <input type="checkbox"/> Church School & Youth Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Circle of Serbian Sisters (KSS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking & Kitchen Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Cleanup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Folklore | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Advice | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance/Repair of Church Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter & Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography & Videography | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic & Special Event Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Organizing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reader (Liturgy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Serbian Language Instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Serbian Language Translation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warden (Liturgy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please explain): _____ | | |

Financial Commitment: In addition to the time & talent commitment above, I/We pledge \$ _____ in total monetary contributions for the year to be paid as follows (choose the most convenient way for you):

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------|--|
| Weekly amounts of | \$ _____ | which will be made 52 times per year. |
| Monthly amounts of | \$ _____ | which will be made 12 times per year. |
| Quarterly amounts of | \$ _____ | which will be made 4 times per year. |
| Annual amount of | \$ _____ | which will be made 1 time per year. |
| Other amounts of | \$ _____ | which will be made _____ times per year. |

Please indicate your preference by placing a check mark ("√") in the box next to one and only one of the following options:

- I/We choose to have this pledge automatically renew at the beginning of every year unless I/we submit a revised pledge form or request that the Executive Board cancel the pledge.
- I/We choose instead to complete and submit a new pledge form at the beginning of every year.

I/We understand that I/we also have the option to sign up for automatic bank account withdrawals or to make payments by credit card at www.svluka.org as a convenient and reliable way to make the pledge payments.

I/We understand that the fulfillment of the commitments made on this pledge form will be used in the determination of my/our status as a parishioner in good standing of St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church according to Article 26 of the *Uniform Rules & Regulations for Parishes & Church Congregations of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North & South America*.

I/We understand that this pledge is not a legally binding contract, but rather a commitment made in good faith. I/We will do our best to honor it and to help support our Church and our community.

Your Signature	Printed Name	Date
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Spouse's Signature	Printed Name	Date
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Home Address	City	State	Zip Code
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Your Telephone Number	Your E-Mail Address
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Spouse's Telephone Number	Spouse's E-Mail Address
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St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

John Buffalini, Treasurer

10660 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
www.serbianchurch.org

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the course of the past year, our community was very active with many events, in addition to a very busy Liturgical life within our parish. We held our typical keystone events such as SerbFest and Svetosavska Akademija, but also reintroduced other fundraisers, such as the New-to-You Sale. We continued our Church Beautification project, culminating with the installation of frescoes in the Nave of our church in December 2024.

Income:

With the Beautification project, it is vital to think of income in two ways:

- 1) Operational Income
- 2) Beautification Project Income

Operational income refers to essentially all income, except any donations or funds raised expressly for the Beautification project. This section will deal with only operational income, as the Beautification project will be discussed in detail below.

Fiscal Year operational 2024 income is broken out into the following categories:

Church Worship (Tasa/Candles/Bookstore):	\$218,448.04
Donations (In Memory/Building Fund/Slavas):	\$106,870.59
Social Events and Fundraisers:	\$233,563.18

Total operational income for Fiscal Year 2024 was **\$558,881.81**

In comparison to the trend we've realized over the previous fiscal years, operational income in fiscal year 2024 was significantly (approx. \$55,000) higher than fiscal year 2023. Income was higher across all categories when compared to the previous fiscal year. A record-setting income realized at our fall 2024 SerbFest is part of our 2024 success story. Nevertheless, SerbFest remains of great importance to our parish - it is a necessary and critical source of income.

Expenses:

Just as with income, expenses must also be broken out into Operational and Beautification expenses. This section deals with operational expenses only.

Fiscal Year 2024 operational expenses break down as follows:

Mortgage:	\$169,561.86
Administrative, Building, Maintenance:	\$252,595.69
Other Expenses and Events:	\$81,929.35
Liturgical Needs, Church Supplies, Candles:	\$16,914.60

Total operational expenses for Fiscal Year 2024 were **\$521,001.50**.

As such, the operational profit for Fiscal Year 2024 was **\$38,880.31**.

Over the course of 2024, continued inflation, higher insurance costs, and other unexpected maintenance events drove up our expenses, compared to that of 2023.

Additionally, the Trusteeship took steps to repay all Parishioner Loans which had been on the books since 2019. As of November 30, 2024, all Parishioner Loans have either been repaid or converted into a donation to the church.

Church Beautification Project:

As previously mentioned, the Church Beautification project, remains separate from our operational budget, as the funds collected for this project will be used only for the beautification of our church. Further, no operational funds will be used towards the beautification project.

In fiscal year 2024 donations towards the Church Beautification project totaled \$99,329.43. Expenses towards the Church Beautification project were \$93,305.61.

As of November 30, 2024, there remains **\$74,756.70** in donations allocated for the Church Beautification project. These funds sit in a savings account until needed, in alignment with project milestones.

Trends and Reminders:

Cost-cutting measures and improvements have helped decrease our monthly operational expenses. However, our church continues to have minimal savings and any financial cushion we can build in our Operating Accounts is generally depleted to cover unexpected expenses, of which there are many, ranging from HVAC maintenance to kitchen equipment repairs and beyond.

Furthermore, we continue to experience very lean summer months, when most of our parishioners are on their summer vacations. During the summer of 2024, the parish was only able to sustain due to a successful Spring SerbFest. The proceeds from SerbFest continue to sustain us through the summer months when church attendance, donations, and income in general decline.

Also of note in 2024, the interest rate on our loan with John Marshall Bank reset per the terms of our loan agreement, executed in May 2019. Our new interest rate is 7.25% and our new monthly mortgage payment is \$15,219 per month. This is an increase of \$2,178 per month (\$26,136 per year). As a parish, we will need to be extra diligent to ensure that our income remains at a level where we will be able to meet our monthly loan payment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to again remind everyone that our church needs you - we cannot sustain our community without your support. Whether via donations, volunteering for events, or remembering us in your Holy prayers, we need YOU. Please remember our church however you can. No donation, no hours spent volunteering are too small. We cannot continue to serve the Serbian and Orthodox faithful of the greater Washington DC area without your help.

With thankfulness to God, I would like to express my sincere and deepest appreciation to all of our parishioners and friends who helped our church over the past year. Whether through donations, participating in Divine Services, or attending our fundraisers, your support has enabled us to keep our doors open for the Serbian Orthodox faithful in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Your continued support is vital for us to continue our mission. We are grateful for you.

May God Bless all of you during the Advent season and in the new year.

Yours in Christ,

Reader John Buffalini
Treasurer
treasurer@svluka.org

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Balance Sheet

As of November 30, 2024

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Altar Fund	3,668.94
Cash on hand	315.00
Church Beautification Savings	10,500.06
EIDL Money Market	7,496.64
JMB Interest Reserve	115,000.00
Live Oak Savings	146,052.17
Operating Account (John Marshall)	27,408.54
Playground Money Market	5,328.38
Serbian School	11,455.19
Sunday School	3,129.45
United Bank Checking	15,143.04
Total Bank Accounts	\$345,497.41
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total Current Assets	\$345,497.41
Fixed Assets	
10660 River Road - Building	3,000,000.00
10660 River Road - Land	1,000,000.00
Furniture & Fixtures	35,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$4,035,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,380,497.41
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$ -960.52
Long-Term Liabilities	
EIDL Loan	143,442.08
Frozen Diocesan Assessments	0.00
John Marshall Bank Mortgage	1,899,795.18
Refinance Parishioner Loans	0.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$2,043,237.26
Total Liabilities	\$2,042,276.74
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	1,943,538.46
Retained Earnings	246,484.26
Net Income	148,197.95
Total Equity	\$2,338,220.67
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$4,380,497.41

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Operational Profit and Loss

December 2023 - November 2024

	TOTAL
Income	
01-I Church / Worship	
Candles	27,333.00
Christmas Candle Sales	3,658.00
Easter Candle Sales	1,744.00
Total Candles	32,735.00
Christmas Offering	11,953.00
Church Slava Offering	4,349.00
Easter Offering	10,949.00
Icon Project	9,559.65
Offerings	
Online Donations	79,280.00
Weekly Offerings / Tasa	68,776.09
Total Offerings	148,056.09
Sales	
Religious Items / Bookstore	846.30
Total Sales	846.30
Total 01-I Church / Worship	218,448.04
02-I - Congregation	
Building Fund	350.00
Online Donation	57,100.00
Total Building Fund	57,450.00
Donations	380.00
Altar Fund	4,463.50
Family Slavas	590.00
In Honor Of	1,310.00
In Memory Of	12,025.00
New Tent	1,890.00
Total Donations	20,658.50
Refunds / Reimbursements	12,158.40
Calendar Sponsorship	2,500.00
Processing Fee Reimbursement	2,681.19
Total Refunds / Reimbursements	17,339.59
Rentals	11,422.50
Total 02-I - Congregation	106,870.59

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Operational Profit and Loss

December 2023 - November 2024

	TOTAL
03-I - Socials / Fund Raising	
Banquets / Socials	
Christmas Eve	2,843.50
Church Slava Banquet	1,275.92
DC Zurka	
Bar Sales	753.00
Food Sales	1,044.00
Tips	308.60
Total DC Zurka	2,105.60
Easter Bake Sale	3,426.17
St. Sava Celebration	
Advance Ticket Sales	15,495.00
Day of Event Admission/Bar	5,273.00
Donations	1,665.85
Total St. Sava Celebration	22,433.85
Total Banquets / Socials	32,085.04
Interest Earned	1,930.33
Ongoing Fundraising Activity	
New to You Sale	3,962.85
Other Festivals	
Food/Drink Sales	5,325.51
Total Other Festivals	5,325.51
SerbFest	7,923.00
Bake Sale	8,451.00
Bar Sales	30,138.00
Bookstore	4,995.00
Candles	3,539.48
Donations	10,137.30
Embassy Market	2,612.00
Food Sales	67,251.15
RS Office	1,915.37
Tips	9,730.04
Total SerbFest	146,692.34
Sunday Lunches	17,004.64
Total Ongoing Fundraising Activity	172,985.34
Other	
Playground Fund	16,837.04
Prelo/Children's Choir	4,474.00
Vrbica Retreat	2,437.00
Total Other	23,748.04

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Operational Profit and Loss

December 2023 - November 2024

	TOTAL
Special Events	
Gradac Event	2,814.43
Total Special Events	2,814.43
Total 03-I - Socials / Fund Raising	233,563.18
Total Income	\$558,881.81
GROSS PROFIT	\$558,881.81
Expenses	
01-E - Church / Worship	
Altar Inventory Acquisitions	3,593.50
Icon Project	3,000.00
Total Altar Inventory Acquisitions	6,593.50
Candles, Icons, Incense	
Candles	
Altar Candles	23.92
Slava Candles	1,083.50
Small Candles	2,586.34
Total Candles	3,693.76
Liturgical Needs	1,114.14
Total Candles, Icons, Incense	4,807.90
Purchases of Salable Items, Religious Articles	3,818.19
Calendars	1,695.01
Total Purchases of Salable Items, Religious Articles	5,513.20
Total 01-E - Church / Worship	16,914.60
02-E - Religious Education	
Awards and Gifts	198.00
Church School Materials	586.55
Prelo/Children's Choir	1,363.92
Vrbica Retreat	1,122.87
Total 02-E - Religious Education	3,271.34
03-E - Diocese	
Diocesan Assessment	4,800.00
Travel Expenses	283.47
Total 03-E - Diocese	5,083.47
05-E - Priest	
Benefits	
FICA	7,344.00
Insurance	7,851.18
Pension	4,134.00
Total Benefits	19,329.18

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Operational Profit and Loss

December 2023 - November 2024

	TOTAL
Car Allowance	6,000.00
Salary	48,000.00
Total 05-E - Priest	73,329.18
07-E - Office/Administration	
Delegates/Travel	1,683.35
EIDL Interest	8,146.08
Equipment Purchases	801.36
Other	18.87
Bank Charges	5,720.69
Donations	1,015.00
Legal & Professional Fees	6,696.44
Parishioner Loan Interest	287.50
Total Other	13,738.50
Postage/E-Mail	725.24
Supplies	1,457.30
Donation Envelopes	2,834.03
Kitchen/Lunch Supplies	7,068.39
Software Subscriptions	1,684.14
Total Supplies	13,043.86
Total 07-E - Office/Administration	38,138.39
08-E - Building and Grounds	
Equipment	798.99
Improvements	20,190.17
Playground Renovation 2024	12,911.00
Total Improvements	33,101.17
Insurance	10,928.80
Mortgage	
Mortgage Interest	123,197.59
Total Mortgage	123,197.59
Other	
Cleaning	16,893.00
Storage	3,344.00
Total Other	20,237.00
Repair & Maintenance	23,024.58
Supplies & Materials	5,841.29
Taxes	1,565.08
Utilities	21,660.37
Gas	2,858.08
Phone/Cable/Internet	3,522.44
Refuse Collection	456.00
Water/Sewage	4,105.59

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Operational Profit and Loss

December 2023 - November 2024

	TOTAL
Total Utilities	32,602.48
Total 08-E - Building and Grounds	251,296.98
09-E - Socials/Fundraising	
Banquets / Socials	
Church Slava	1,101.35
Honoraria	500.00
Total Church Slava	1,601.35
DC Zurka	
Bank Charges	102.25
Entertainment	300.00
Food/Beverages	289.23
Total DC Zurka	691.48
Easter Bake Sale	832.94
St. Sava Celebration	600.00
Bank Charges	151.79
Entertainment	2,000.00
Food and Drink Purchases	2,293.46
Hall Rental / Cleaning / Labor	6,650.00
Honoraria	500.00
Supplies and Materials	5,467.76
Total St. Sava Celebration	17,663.01
Total Banquets / Socials	20,788.78
Ongoing Enterprises	
Other Festivals	
Bank Charges	151.21
Food/Beverage Inputs	2,964.07
Total Other Festivals	3,115.28
SerbFest	613.43
Advertisement	402.17
Bank Charges	3,477.81
Cleaning	5,052.50
Food/Beverages	34,192.40
Music	5,454.25
Supplies	6,005.84
Total SerbFest	55,198.40
Sunday Lunches	1,040.06
Total Ongoing Enterprises	59,353.74

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Operational Profit and Loss

December 2023 - November 2024

	TOTAL
Special Events	366.83
Consecration	1,420.00
Total Special Events	1,786.83
Total 09-E - Socials/Fundraising	81,929.35
Total Expenses	\$469,963.31
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$88,918.50
Other Income	
Parishioner Loan Write-Offs	40,000.00
Pass Through Income	1,268.52
Choir Donation	1,010.00
White Canes Project	7,284.40
Total Pass Through Income	9,562.92
Serbian School Income	1,227.00
Donations	20.00
Tuition	7,324.00
Total Serbian School Income	8,571.00
Total Other Income	\$58,133.92
Other Expenses	
Depreciation	847.73
Pass Through Expenses	874.52
Choir Donation	957.00
Diocesan Relief Efforts	300.00
White Canes Project	6,995.55
Fees	138.26
Total White Canes Project	7,133.81
Total Pass Through Expenses	9,265.33
Serbian School Expenses	234.79
Total Other Expenses	\$10,347.85
NET OTHER INCOME	\$47,786.07
NET INCOME	\$136,704.57

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Church Beautification Project

December 2023 - November 2024

	TOTAL
Income	
02-I - Congregation	
Building Fund	
Church Beautification Project	99,329.43
Total Building Fund	99,329.43
Total 02-I - Congregation	99,329.43
Total Income	\$99,329.43
GROSS PROFIT	\$99,329.43
Expenses	
08-E - Building and Grounds	
Improvements	
Beautification Project	
Phase 1B - Iconostasis	2,046.00
Phase 1D - Trapeza and Thrones	2,240.26
Phase 2 - Altar Window and Related Work	19,000.00
Phase 2 - Ceiling Frescoing	69,179.97
Shipping and Related Costs	692.61
Transfer/Bank Fees	146.77
Total Beautification Project	93,305.61
Total Improvements	93,305.61
Total 08-E - Building and Grounds	93,305.61
Total Expenses	\$93,305.61
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$6,023.82
NET INCOME	\$6,023.82

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC

Church Beautification Project

All Dates

	TOTAL
Income	
02-I - Congregation	
Building Fund	
Church Beautification Project	286,113.49
Total Building Fund	286,113.49
Total 02-I - Congregation	286,113.49
Total Income	\$286,113.49
GROSS PROFIT	\$286,113.49
Expenses	
08-E - Building and Grounds	
Improvements	
Beautification Project	
Phase 1A - Pantocrator	11,375.00
Phase 1B - Iconostasis	51,019.69
Phase 1C - Trojerucica	41,096.06
Phase 1D - Trapeza and Thrones	8,015.70
Phase 2 - Altar Window and Related Work	19,000.00
Phase 2 - Ceiling Frescoing	69,179.97
Shipping and Related Costs	10,983.75
Transfer/Bank Fees	686.62
Total Beautification Project	211,356.79
Total Improvements	211,356.79
Total 08-E - Building and Grounds	211,356.79
Total Expenses	\$211,356.79
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$74,756.70
NET INCOME	\$74,756.70

Sources of Income	<u>INCOME FOR 2024</u>		<u>BUDGET FOR 2025</u>
	Actual Gross Income	Actual Adjusted Income	Proposed Anticipated Income
1. Church / Worship			
Weekly offerings – Tasa	148,056	148,056	150,000
Christmas Offering	11,953	11,953	12,000
Easter Offering	10,949	10,949	11,000
Church Slava – Offering	4,349	4,349	5,000
Rituals (Trebe) Taxes	Ø	Ø	Ø
Candles	32,735	* 29,041	35,000
Sales-Religious Articles	846	* 0	0
Other <u>Icon Project</u>	9,560	6,560	3,000
2. Congregation			
Membership/Stewardship	Ø	Ø	Ø
Pledges	Ø	Ø	Ø
Donations	20,659	20,659	22,500
Building Fund	156,779	Ø	65,000
Rentals	11,423	11,423	12,500
Refunds/Reimbursements	17,340	17,340	18,000
Transfers from other Funds			
Cemetery	Ø	* Ø	Ø
3. Socials / Fund Raisings			
Catering	Ø	* Ø	Ø
Banquets, Socials, etc.	32,085	* 11,296	45,000
Special Events	2,814	* Ø	95,000
Ongoing Fundraising			
Activity <u>SerbFest Lunches</u>	172,985	* 113,631	225,000
Other (Misc) List <u>Playground Icon: School Vrbice</u>	23,838	23,838	10,000
Interest	1,930	1,930	3,000
TOTALS	658,301	411,025	712,000

Note: Figures in “Actual Adjusted Income” column are identical to those in “Actual Gross Income” except the items noted by an asterisk (*). Also, negative amounts are to be reported as 0 (zero).

EXPENDITURES (DISBURSEMENTS) IN 2024**BUDGET FOR 2025****1. Church / Worship**

Wine, prosfora, oil, etc.	<u>1,114</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Altar inventory acquisitions (Vestments, utensils, books, articles, etc.)	<u>6,594</u>	<u>7,500</u>
Candles, icons, incense	<u>3,694</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Purchases: saleable items, religious articles	<u>5,513</u>	<u>2,000</u>

2. Religious Education

Church School Materials – Text Books	<u>587</u>	<u>750</u>
Supplies & Furnishings	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
School Activities	<u>2,486</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Awards & Gifts	<u>198</u>	<u>200</u>
Library purchases & Visual Aids	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
Subscriptions to periodicals, etc.	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
Teachers: Conference expenses, Travel, etc.	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>

3. Diocese

9% Gross Assessment of Cong. Income	<u>16,640</u>	<u>7,200</u>
Diocese Day sponsored by Parish	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
Donations	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
Travel – Bishop / Dean	<u>283</u>	<u>1,000</u>

4. Donations by Congregation

St. Sava Church / Vracar	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
Charities	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
Gifts	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>

5. Priest

Salary	<u>48,000</u>	<u>52,800</u>
Benefits (SS, Pen. Plan, Hospitalization, Ins.)	<u>19,329</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Gasoline allowance	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Utilities / Rectory or Housing	<u>Ø</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Substitute / Vacation pay	<u>Ø</u>	<u>1,250</u>

EXPENDITURES (DISBURSEMENTS) IN 2024

BUDGET FOR 2025

6. Other / Personnel

Salaries	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
Benefits	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
Other (describe) _____	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>

7. Offices / Administration

Equipment purchases & maintenance	<u>801</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Supplies	<u>13,044</u>	<u>15,000</u>
Postage	<u>725</u>	<u>800</u>
Delegates travel, etc.	<u>1,683</u>	<u>1,400</u>
Other (describe) <u>Bank Fees Software</u> <u>Legal 2JDL</u>	<u>18,413</u>	<u>21,000</u>

8. Buildings & Grounds

Mortgage payments on <u>10660 River Rd</u>	<u>169,562</u>	<u>182,628</u>
Insurances	<u>10,929</u>	<u>12,500</u>
Taxes	<u>1,565</u>	<u>1,750</u>
Utilities (Church, Hall, School)	<u>32,602</u>	<u>34,000</u>
Supplies	<u>5,841</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Maintenance	<u>23,025</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Equipment	<u>799</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Improvements	<u>126,407</u>	<u>135,000</u>
Cemetery	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
Other (describe) <u>Storage</u> <u>Cleaning</u>	<u>20,237</u>	<u>22,500</u>

9. Social / Fund Raising Activities, etc.

Church Slava	<u>1,601</u>	<u>Ø</u>
Banquets / Dinners, etc.	<u>19,188</u>	<u>22,500</u>
Catering expenses	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
Special Events expenses	<u>3,213</u>	<u>82,500</u>
On-Going Activities / enterprises	<u>59,354</u>	<u>65,000</u>
Other (describe) _____	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>

10. Miscellaneous

(Describe) _____	<u>Ø</u>	<u>Ø</u>
TOTALS	<u>619,427</u>	<u>740,498</u>



РАДИОНИЦА СВЕЋА **CANDLE WORKSHOP**

СРПСКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦРКВА СВЕТИ ЛУКА

ST. LUKE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Washington, DC

2024 Candle Shop Report

(Dec 2024, by Dejan Bujak)

Closing the Operation...

Since 2018, we've been trying to acquire technology to produce enough candles to sell to all the churches in the Easter Diocese.

After many tries and tribulations to bring out our own production to a satisfactory level and never quite succeeding - we decided to import enough candles made in Serbia and to see how many churches in our Diocese would start regularly buying candles from us.

We were trying very hard to market our products by:

- Word of mouth
- Sending out sample candles
- Sending out emails
- Calling and networking
- Going to Shadeland final week (where a lot of parish priests are present)

While we had some success and were able to sell a few hundred kilos of candles, it was all "one-off" and we haven't acquired regular (recurring) customers.

In 2024, it was decided and approved by the Trusteeship that the candle making shop can close the operation and **the space can be given back for church use**. Of course, current candle inventory will remain there until it is consumed in the next few years by our church.

All the investments by Dejan Bujak, Viktor Isailovic and Milutin Djurickovic were converted as their individual donations to our Church, so no money is owed to anybody. Money from selling off the equipment and candles will go directly to our Church.

Looking for help

At this point we need to try and sell outstanding items stored in the storage room:

- Frames for making candles by dipping method (30 frames for small candles and 5 frames for Slava candles).
- Two Custom made pots for dipping frames.
- Wax melting machine.
- Some wix.
- Some packing materials.
- Other smaller tools and items we used while making candles.

Finally once all the items are removed, we'd need to organize shelves with the remaining candle inventory, clean the floor and turn it back over to the Church.

Religious Education Annual Report

2024

Religious Education is an ongoing ministry in our church. Presently 38 children are enrolled in the program, compared to just 15 last year, a jump of 150%. Last summer our Bishop Irinej launched a new effort to standardize the religious instruction of students in every parish in the Eastern Diocese. He appointed a special commission early in 2023 to study various curricula and well-developed lessons that had been published by respected Orthodox sources. After thoughtful deliberation, the choice of Orthodox Journeys was made and presented to all the religious education teachers throughout the diocese. The lessons are accessed online weekly and are written for students K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. The same topic is presented each week and designed to reach each child's appropriate level. In our parish, on a trial basis, we decided to send out the lessons each week to all parents who signed up for their children to receive religious instruction. Of course, it fell to parents of young children and to the older students themselves to download the materials, read them and to discuss them at home. After a meeting with some students and a few parents on December 1st, held to evaluate how the program was progressing, it became clear that this online lesson model was not working as we had hoped. The older students did not read the materials, and the younger students did not accept the teaching from their parents. The consensus of both adults and children who attended the meeting was that we should return to in-person classes with a teacher leading the instruction and discussion upstairs following Liturgy on Sundays. I have not heard from any parents who are satisfied with the new online lesson model.

It certainly is possible to return to classical in-person classes. If we do return to this delivery model, it will require parents to do three things:

1. Bring your child (children) to Church.
2. Send him or her upstairs for religious education instruction after Liturgy. In some cases, walk with your child upstairs.
3. Review any lesson handouts given either in person or online with your child, just as you do with their regular homework in M-F school.

I will continue to send out weekly lessons online to accommodate out-of-town students and adults who are on the distribution list. We here at St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church stand ready to instruct the parish children in the Orthodox Christian faith. Parents, will you partner with us to make this happen?

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Visnick

Program Coordinator

Serbian Singing Society Lira

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church Choir

President's Report 2024

The Serbian Singing Society Lira is tremendously grateful to our singers and our conductor, p. Jelena Vranic, who together show gratitude to God and commitment to serving our parish community and beyond.

Presently we are up to thirty singers who regularly sing responses at the Sunday Divine Liturgies at our St. Luke's church. Most weeks we have a robust number of both men and women in attendance, as well as teens, helping to achieve a full sound and contribute to the beauty of everyone's worship experience. The choir proceeds to incorporate new arrangements of Orthodox liturgical music, and we hope that most of our congregation will learn to sing them alongside the choir, over time. We also welcomed new singers who are working hard to learn the repertoire and master the skill of choral singing.

Some activities took place outside of worship as well, nevertheless inspired and strengthened by the spirit of worship, which are essential for the life of the Lira choir, such as an appearance at Serb Fests, St. Sava Slava celebration, as well as supporting our parishioners in their milestone and special events by singing for a baptism, a wedding, and funerals (Branko's baptism, Dajana & John wedding, Snezana and Karmela's funeral etc.)

This year SSF Lira was invited to be an honor choir at the Serbian Singing Federation Festival which took place over Memorial Day weekend in Windsor, Canada. Eighteen Lira singers proudly presented our parish at the festival and corresponded to the Sunday liturgy.

Additionally, our board's vice president Dejan Bujak attended and represented Lira at the Serbian Singing Federation's Convention which took place this past September in San Diego, CA.

After many years of service on Lira's board (various positions), Matthew Marcetich stepped down from his position as Vice President - thank you so much for your service, Matthew! We updated our by-laws at our annual meeting and had an election (elected officers as follows: President: Nevena Arizanovic, Vice-President: Dejan Bujak, Treasurer: Jasmina Milkovic, Secretary: Marie Kosanovic). The Board meets at least once a month (open to the public) except for skipping a month during summer. The Board has worked together to think creatively and become more reflective of the choir's needs and has worked diligently on making the choir sustainable and proactive in our church community. We made new fundraising efforts by preparing Sunday after-liturgy lunches and have collected funds toward beautifying the church with the medallion of Patriarch Pavle of Serbia (\$1,250), one of the great masters of Serbian church chant and a great Liturgist of our current times.

We are currently in full preparation for our first annual concert scheduled for February 21-23, 2024, where our kumovi choir Branko Radicevich from Chicago is our honorary guest performer. This is going to be a landmark event for our choir, and we hope to have all of you support us in our efforts and come together for this joyful weekend.

I am grateful to p. Jelena for continuing to be our amazing choir director, to the board members of the choir for their hard work and support throughout the year, and most of all to the singers of the choir who dedicate their valuable time and energy to making our services more beautiful each week.

Respectfully submitted,

Nevena Arizanovic
President, S.S.S. Lira

Дечији хор ”Лира” ~ Lira Children’s Choir
Director’s Report 2024

Lira Children’s Choir of St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church introduces our young singers to the Serbian sacred and secular music traditions.

During school year 2023-2024 Lira Children's Choir had one age group (8-15) and a total of 20 children registered and participating in the program.

The choir performed for Badnje vece, St. Sava children’s celebration, as well as Svetosavska Akademija, and at SerbFest in May.

Due to my bereavement leave, Children’s Choir did not perform at Fall SerbFest this year and started rehearsing only in October. The Choir had a successful performance at this year’s Church Slava, together with the SSS Lira, and started the new season with open registration for new singers in November.

Currently, Children’s Choir has 16 singers registered and participating in the program. We are preparing to perform in Church for Badnje vece and Bozic. We have canceled our Christmas Concert due to the fresco installation and usage of the hall for church services but are looking forward to continuing the tradition next year. We are excited to perform at St. Sava celebrations, as well as SSS Lira’s first Annual Concert in February, and SerbFest in May.

Children’s Choir is also considering the possibility of joining the SSS Lira at the Festival of the Serbian Singing Federation, organized by the St. Elijah Choir of Aliquippa, PA in May 2025.

Parents of our singers are organizing the parish luncheon on January 12, 2025. Please join us on that day and support our young choir.

Protinica Jelena Vranić
Choir Director



St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

www.serbianchurch.org

KSS once again had a successful year in 2024, continuing its important work with dedication and camaraderie. Through hard work and joyful gatherings in the kitchen, the sisters made significant contributions to fundraising efforts for the church.

The year began with the preparation of a traditional fasting Christmas dinner and the sale of Serbian specialties for the holiday season, including Česnica, gibanica, pastries, and cookies. After Christmas, the focus shifted to preparations for the celebration of Saint Sava in January at the Church of St. Peter and Paul. As one of the church's most important celebrations, the sisters organized themselves efficiently, preparing food—especially cookies—with great care. Shortly after, they hosted a “Žurka” in the church hall, bringing the community together.

In the spring, KSS introduced a relatively new but highly successful activity: the sale of pastries for Easter. This was met with enthusiasm and became another hallmark event.

One of the most notable achievements of the year was the Serbian Festival. Organized in May and repeated with even greater success in October, the festival brought the community together to celebrate Serbian culture. The sisters played a vital role in both the organization and the preparation and sale of food during the festival days. Their cheerful teamwork in the kitchen made the hard work enjoyable, and their efforts helped achieve record earnings, leaving everyone motivated to continue this momentum into the New Year.

In September, KSS celebrated its feast day with a festive lunch in the church hall. In October, the sisters organized and prepared for the church's celebration of St. Luke. His Grace Bishop Irinej honored the occasion by serving the Bishop's Liturgy and blessing the Kolač. KSS beautifully decorated the hall, prepared a festive lunch, and ensured the event was memorable for all in attendance.

Finally, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the “Serbian Brothers” (Marko, Miloš, Peđa, Sava, and others) for their invaluable help and support, without which our success would not have been possible.

We look forward to an even more prosperous year ahead, the growth of KSS, and the exciting challenges and celebrations to come!

Vice President
Snezana Nena Djokic

Званични извештај о раду Српске школе “Никола Тесла” у Вашингтону

2024/2025

Српска школа “Никола Тесла” у Вашингтону наставља са успешним радом и у деветој години постојања. Као и до сада циљ школе је одржавање српског језика у нашој парохији као и упознавање српске деце са српском историјом, културом и традицијом. Поред тога, још један од циљева школе је омогућавање деци као и родитељима да се међусобно друже и на тај начин додатно учвршћују међуљудске везе у парохији.

Часови се одржавају сваке друге недеље од 13:30-15:30 у просторијама Цркве Свети Лука у Потомку. Одмор између два часа је 30 минута, током којег деца имају ужину и време за слободну игру у Црквеном дворишту.

Поред редовне наставе на часу, деца такође учествују и у другим додатним активностима као што су веронаука, драмска секција и радионице очувања српске традиције (фолклора, часова традиционалног кувања, прављења украса и кићење Бадњака, фарбање јаја за Ускрс, прављење венаца за Врбице и друго). Школска година се завршава заједничком прославом школске славе Свети цар Константин и царица Јелена и школском представом ђака школе. Школарина за ову школску годину је подигнута по први пут након више од 5 година са \$160 на \$200 за породице са једним дететом, односно \$225 за породице са више деце. Циљ је да \$160 (\$20 x 8 месеци), као и до сада покрива трошкове школског материјала, док преосталих \$40, односно \$65, представља донацију цркви, а као резултат ове промене, школа ће цркви донирати чек од \$3000.

Ове 2024/25 године пријављено је 84 деце за похађање школе, што је рекордни број до сада, и скок од 19 пријава од само прошле године (65 деце у 2023/2024).

Ђаци су подељени у више група, по узрасту и нивоу знања српског језика. За више информација о наставном садржају, погледајте план и програм наставе у прилогу овог извештаја. Наставни план и програм настао је у договору са наставницима и на основу запажања о интересовању ђака на часу и активно се примењује од 2022. године. Сви ученици редовно добијају и домаће задатке које успешно савладавају.

Од 2022. године, након пандемије, а уз сарадњу и подршку студената волонтера из Србије, оформили смо и виртуелну наставу Српске школе Никола Тесла која прати исти школски програм. Циљ је да и деци која станују далеко од цркве пружимо прилику да наставе своје школовање на српском језику. Прошле године 20 ђака је успешно завршило школску годину, а ове године имамо 26-оро уписане деце.

Изузетно смо захвални свим нашим учитељима-волонтерима, који из године у годину вредно раде на организацији школе и развијању школског програма, као и свим родитељима који редовно доводе своју децу на часове.

С поштовањем,

Колектив Српске школе “Никола Тесла”

Official Report on the Work of the Serbian School "Nikola Tesla" in Washington

2024/2025

The Serbian School "Nikola Tesla" in Washington continues its successful work in its ninth year of existence. As before, the goal of the school is to maintain the Serbian language in our parish and to introduce Serbian children to Serbian history, culture and tradition. In addition, another goal of the school is to enable children and parents to socialize with each other and thus further strengthen interpersonal ties in the parish.

Classes are held every other Sunday from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in the premises of the St. Luke Church in Potomac. The break between two classes is 30 minutes, during which children have a snack and time for free play in the Church yard.

In addition to regular classes, children also participate in other additional activities such as a religious study, drama section and workshops to preserve Serbian traditions (folklore, traditional cooking classes, making decorations and decorating the Christmas tree, dyeing eggs for Easter, making wreaths for Vrbice, and more). The school year ends with a joint celebration of the school's slava of Saint Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena and a school play by school students. Tuition for this school year has been raised for the first time in more than 5 years from \$160 to \$200 for families with one child, or \$225 for families with more than one child. The goal is that \$160 (\$20 x 8 months), as before, covers the cost of school materials, while the remaining \$40, or \$65, is a donation to the church, and as a result of this change, the school will donate a check for \$3,000 to the church.

This 2024/25 school year, 84 children were registered to attend the school, which is a record number so far, and a jump of 19 applications from last year alone (65 children in 2023/2024).

Students are divided into several groups, by age and level of knowledge of the Serbian language. For more information about the teaching content, see the curriculum attached to this report. The curriculum was created in agreement with teachers and based on observations of students' interest in the class and has been actively implemented since 2022. All students also regularly receive homework that they successfully complete.

Since 2022, after the pandemic, and with the cooperation and support of student volunteers from Serbia, we have also established virtual classes at the Serbian School Nikola Tesla, which follows the same school program. The goal is to provide children who live far from the church with the opportunity to continue their education in the Serbian language. Last year, 20 students successfully completed the school year, and this year we have 26 children enrolled.

We are extremely grateful to all our volunteer teachers, who work hard year after year to organize the school and develop the school program, as well as to all parents who regularly bring their children to classes.

With respect,

The staff of the Serbian School "Nikola Tesla"

СРПСКА ШКОЛА „НИКОЛА ТЕСЛА“

ПЛАН И ПРОГРАМ ЗА 2024/2025 ГОДИНУ

ПРВОБИТНИ СТАТУС: Српска школа Никола Тесла успешно едукује децу у околини Вашингтона у последњих 9 година (од 2015. године). Ограничени број учитеља/волонтера, и мали броја ђака условио је да деца буду подељена у 4 групе:

- Новајлије
- Мала група (3-5 година)
- Средња група (6-8 година)
- Велика група (9 година и старији)

ПРОБЛЕМ: Ова подела је функционисала добро првих неколико година, међутим временом су се испојили изазови који су отежавали да се настава одржава стратегијски са конкретним циљем који треба постићи. Конкретно ти изазови су:

- Различити узрасти у оквиру исте групе
- Различити нивои знања у оквиру исте групе
- Деца која редовно похађају наставу би похађала исти разред више година за редом
- Нека деца су нередовно похађала наставу и тако пропуштала неке кључне лекције које би им онемогућавале успешно похађање наредног градива у току школске године.

РЕШЕЊЕ:

- Понудити деци и родитељима шири спектар часова које њихова деца могу да похађају током године и на тај начин одржати интересовање ђака током целог њиховог школовања у српској школи
- Понудити исти програм (1) у оквиру паралелне онлајн наставе и (2) радне листове са лекцијама тако да деца не пропусти наставу јер не могу да дођу у цркву због других обавеза у школи

ЛОГИСТИКА:

- Понудити родитељима да децу упишу за неки од часова (погледајте комплетну листу у наставку текста)
- Након уписа утврдити тачан број наставника за онлајн и уживо наставу
- Након уписа утврдити распоред часова и организовати групе
- Специјална задужења:
 - Објављивање наставног материјала на Гугл Учионици
 - Слање редовних обавештења, наставни материјал и подсетнике за часове

СПИСАК ЧАСОВА ПО СТАРОСНИМ ГРУПАМА И ОКВИРНИ ПЛАН НАСТАВНИХ ЈЕДИНИЦА

1. РАЗРЕД “ПАЧИЈА ШКОЛА” (3-5 ГОДИНА)

- Одабир релевантних песмица и игрица за децу овог узраста



2. РАЗРЕД “БУКВАР” (6 ГОДИНА – као и сва друга деца која још увек нису савладала ћирилицу)

- Обрада српске азбуке – 3 до 4 слова сваког часа
- Снимање аудио буквара сваког часа – асоцијације деце на задато слово



3. РАЗРЕД “...ЧИТАЈ КАКО ЈЕ НАПИСАНО” (сви наредни разреди похађају се сукцесивно)

- Увежбавање читања и свакодневног разговора кроз текстове за овај старосни узраст
 - Приче
 - Песме
 - Интригантне теме за разговор



4. РАЗРЕД “ПИШИ КАО ШТО ГОВОРИШ...”

- Избор прича за слушање који одговара овом узрасту
- Писање кратких текстова на задату тему



5. РАЗРЕД “МОРЕ МАРКО НЕ ОРИ ДРУМОВА... и великани српске књижевности”

- Вук Караџић
- Десанка Максимовић
- Радоје Домановић
- Бранко Ћопић
- Иво Андрић
- Његош
- Доситеј Обрадовић
- Стеван Сремац
- Марко Краљевић и остали ликови и дела народне књижевност



6. РАЗРЕД “ЈА, ТИ, МИ, ВИ, ОНИ” (10 ГОДИНА)

- Богаћење речника
- Вежбе говора уз правилно коришћење граматике кроз разговор и игру
 - Времена (прошло, садашње, будуће)
 - Лица и број (ја, ти, ми, ви, они)
 - Деклинације именица (падежи)
 - Номинатив и вокатив
 - Генитив и датив
 - Акузатив
 - Инструментал
 - Компарација придева (добар, бољи, најбољи)



<input type="checkbox"/>	Добија се на питања КО? ШТА?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Падеж који стоји са предлогом ка.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Уз овај падеж обавезна је употреба запете.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Падеж који означава део нечега.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Падеж који има значење објекта.

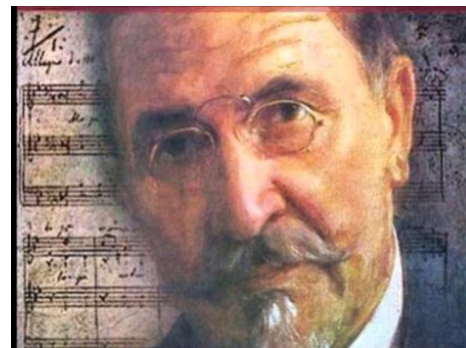
7. РАЗРЕД “ДРАМСКА СЕКЦИЈА” (11 ГОДИНА)

- Припремање представа српских драматурга (сваке године другачија представа)
 - Бранислав Нушић
 - Јован Стерија Поповић (Покондирена Тиква) и други...



8. РАЗРЕД “ХАЈ ПОВЕДИ ВЕСЕЛО – СРПСКИ ФОЛКЛОР, МУЗИКА И СЛИКАРСТВО” (12 ГОДИНА)

- Упоредни фолклор/игре из различитих крајева Србије/Балкана
 - Вежбање корака за обично коло и Чачак коло
 - Народна ношња – описи делова ношње и разлика у ношњи зависно од краја из ког потиче
- Српски композитори и њихова најпознатија дела
 - Стеван Стојановић Мокрањац (Руковети)
 - Стеван Христић (Охридска легенда – балет)
 - Петар Коњевић (Опере “Коштана” и “Вилин вео” ова друга по мотивима народне песме о женидби Милоша Обилића)
 - Хорске и традиционалне песме
 - Модерна музика (први час): Здравко Чолић, Бајага, Бјело дугме, Ђоле Балашевић
 - Модерна музика (други час): Тома Здравковић, Лепа Брена, Жељко Јоксимовић, Марија Шерифовић
- Српски сликари и њихова најпознатија дела
 - Паја Јовановић (Сеоба Срба, Кићење невесте, Таковски Устанак, Проглашење Душановог законика)
 - Урош Предић (Косовка девојка уз обраду истоимене народне песме)
 - Сава Шумановић и Надежда Петровић
 - Иконе (Бели Анђео и друге)



9. РАЗРЕД “ИСТОРИЈА И ГЕОГРАФИЈА” (13 ГОДИНА)

- Стефан Немања и Стефан Првовенчани
- Цар Душан
- Свети Сава
- Кнез Лазар и Косовска битка
- Ропство под Турцима
- Први Српски Устанак и лик Карађорђа
- Други Српски Устанак и лик Милоша Обреновића



- Први и Други Светски Рат
- Главни град Србије – Београд и знамените локације
- Други већи градови и њихове знамените локације: Ниш, Нови Сад, Приштина, Лесковац, Крагујевац, Крушевац, Ужице, Суботица, Сремски Карловци, Сомбор
- Реке у Србији: Дунав, Сава, Дрина, Морава, Нишава
- Покрајине у Србији: Војводина и Косово и Метохија
- Планине у Србији: Кopaоник, Златибор, Стара Планина, Шар Планина, Фрушка Гора



10. РАЗРЕД “НОВИНАРСКА РАДИОНИЦА” (14 ГОДИНА)

- Писање локалних вести и обавештења за школски и црквени вебсајт
- Снимање и објављивање видеа и интервијуа са знаменитим гостима и парохјанима



11. РАЗРЕД “КУЛИНАРСКА РАДИОНИЦА” (15 ГОДИНА)

- Сарма
- Мусака
- Гибаница
- Славски колач/чесница
- Баклава/тулумбе
- Ћевапи
- Карађорђева шницла
- Ајвар
- Пребранац на српски начин (на тавче)
- Слатко – укусна српска добродошлица
- Славска пшеница
- Проја



12 РАЗРЕД “ОМЛАДИНСКИ КЛУБ” (16 ГОДИНА и старији)

- Гледање култних филмова
- Дискутовање о филмовима и другим омладинским темама





St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

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www.serbianchurch.org

Folklore Group Prelo

The folklore group Prelo strives to preserve Serbian traditional dancing by teaching authentic kolo steps from different parts of Serbia. I am delighted to report that this year 2 dancers from our oldest group, Petar and Kristina, are helping teach the younger children. At our fall Serbfest the children's group performed the choreography "Srbija" featuring dances from Sumadija performed by our youngest group, dances from Lescovac performed by our middle group, and dances from East Serbia performed by our oldest group. The folklore group also danced for Slava Sveti Luka, performing both the "Srbija" choreography as well as "Urban Dances From Serbia". This school year the children's folklore group has 24 dancers. The children's group practices every Friday, and we are planning to start recreational practices for adults.

Rada Bozic

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church Annual Audit Report

December 20, 2024

In accordance with the parish bylaws and Church constitution, an audit of the financial records for the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Potomac, MD was performed virtually the week of 16 December 2024. The audit was performed by Marija Eremic, Danica Novacic, and Marie Kosanovich with the assistance and guidance of John Buffalini, Trusteeship Treasurer, by creating the files of the parish financial records. The reports provided to the audit team included monthly bank statements from United Bank and John Marshall Bank, transaction details by month and event, major receipt copies, and answers to questions created as a result of our initial review.

We performed the audit by reviewing the records for 12 months from November 2023 to October 2024 and associated receipts. We verified expenditures and gross receipts against the Quickbooks reports and found the receipts matched the summary records. All church expenditures were fully documented and substantiated with appropriate receipts, including the review of all checking and savings accounts for the various church functions, compliant with accounting rules and appropriately authorized by the Trusteeship Board, in accordance with bylaws. The audit committee can tell that the amount of work John puts in for the Trusteeship and the Church at large is certainly a labor of love. The time he dedicates to his Church and for his faith are evident and greatly appreciated.

Our review revealed that the overall income (credits) at the end of the year (October 2024) generally met expenses (debits) and the ledgers were accurate in their accounting. There were a few key events that took place during our review period that are worth mentioning in more detail.

- SerbFest continues to generate a substantial amount of profit and is critical to the financial health of the church. We must also recognize that without the donation of the parishioners' time and labor, these events would not be possible.
- The terms of the parishioner loans that were made in May 2019 came to fruition this year and were paid off in May and June with some parishioners opting to turn their loan into a donation. We greatly appreciate those who generously participated in this program.
- The Beautification project – specifically the frescoes for the walls and ceiling of the church – began this year. Funds that are being raised for this project have outpaced the expenses, though some of the final payments will be made upon completion in 2025. We encourage the Trusteeship to continue providing updates on this effort with the hopes of raising more funds into the next year.

Additionally, we reviewed the status of the Sunday School, Serbian School, and Altar expenses and found that these ministries and activities are all self-sustaining, all with positive balances in their individual checking accounts.

Progress continues with paying back some of the backlog of the monthly Diocesan Assessment contributions by our Parish to the Diocese. However, with the monthly loan payment increasing in June, our financial wellness continues to demand regular attention. Our parish continues to rise to the occasion when certain needs are made (the playground for the children or the fresco beautification project for example), but general donations are cyclical and are dependent upon attendance. This leaves the summer months (occasionally others, depending on when Easter falls) operating at a loss. While other months with events and holidays are able to make up for it in the short term, it prevents us from building up more reserves for the long term.

The audit team encourages our brothers and sisters in the parish via our prayers reflect and please remember your Church when you go on vacation and set aside donations ahead of time. We also encourage as many parishioners as possible to set up automatic donations from your credit card or bank accounts. This not only helps the parish stabilize income throughout the year, but it also allows for each parishioner to ensure they receive the proper tax-deductibility at the end of the year since cash donations are unable to be tracked. Along the same lines, the audit committee encourages the Trusteeship to be proactive and follow up with parishioners whose recurring charges lapse due to credit cards declining so that replacement donations can be given.

We cannot thank the Trusteeship enough for their dedication to St. Luke and all our parishioners. The events of the upcoming year will only keep St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church growing. We encourage others in our community to join and pledge their support so that our faith and collective spiritual needs can continue to be met by this parish – both now and into the future.

Yours in Christ,

Marija Eremic, Danica Novacic, and Marie Kosanovich