

# **The truth about the Central States Synod:**

112 of 153 congregations in synod are served by shared or part time clergy, or by lay leaders (73%)

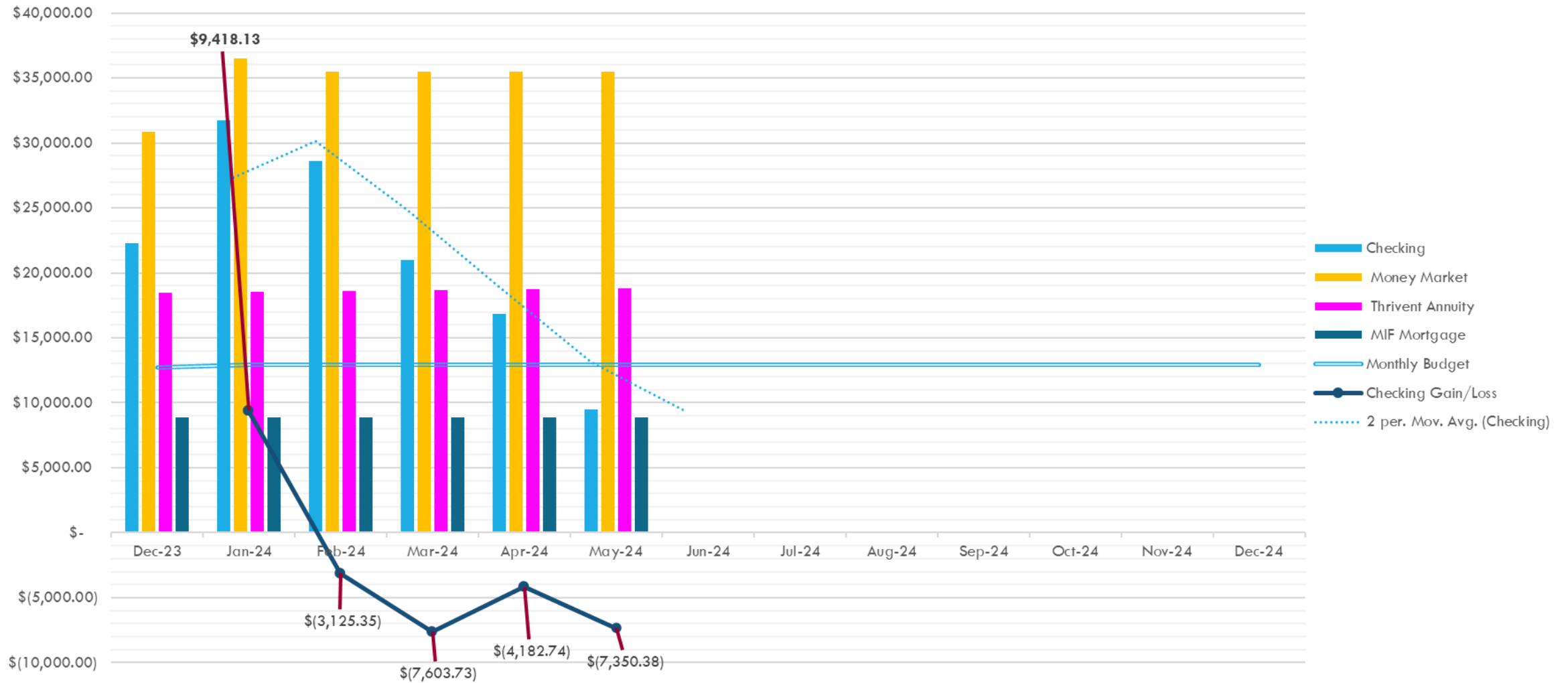
- 44 share pastors
- 35 served on part time basis
- 33 served by SAMs or lay leaders
- 41 served by full time pastors

# Average attendance across 153 congregations

- 36 congregations: 1-25
- 39 congregations: 26-50 (25%) **SOTH**
- 36 congregations: 51-100
- 12 congregations: 101-150
- 3 congregating 6: 151-200
- 4 congregations: 201+ (largest = 309)

**73% of congregations worship less than 100**

## Cash On Hand



**Churches all over are finding it harder to support mission and ministry on offerings alone.**

## **The truth about where SOTH is:**

- Our current model for ministry is NOT sustainable.
- We are still **doing good ministry** inside and outside the church.
- We have invested partners in the Great Rivers Collaborative.
- We have congregations interested in collaboration.

# **Types of Collaboration:**

- Cooperative Ministries (like CHM)
- Staff Sharing (could be treasurer)
- Yoking (retain autonomy – council, constitution, budget, etc.)
- Merger (creating a new congregation)

# Reflection Questions

What are SOTH's strengths?

What makes SOTH unique?

What is essential to our congregation?

What would be hard to give up?

## Strengths

- Welcoming Spirit
- Generous
  - Supportive, Vibrant
    - Pantry, Garden
  - Prayer life, community
- Feel at home, relational
- Fellowship, connection with each other
- Open minded, willing to try other things

## Essentials

- Music, Choir, Bell Choir, Special Music
- Projected Service
- All people are welcome
- Mission to community
- Bible Study
- Open approach, flexible
- Weekly Communion
- Open Communion
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**Other Questions?**