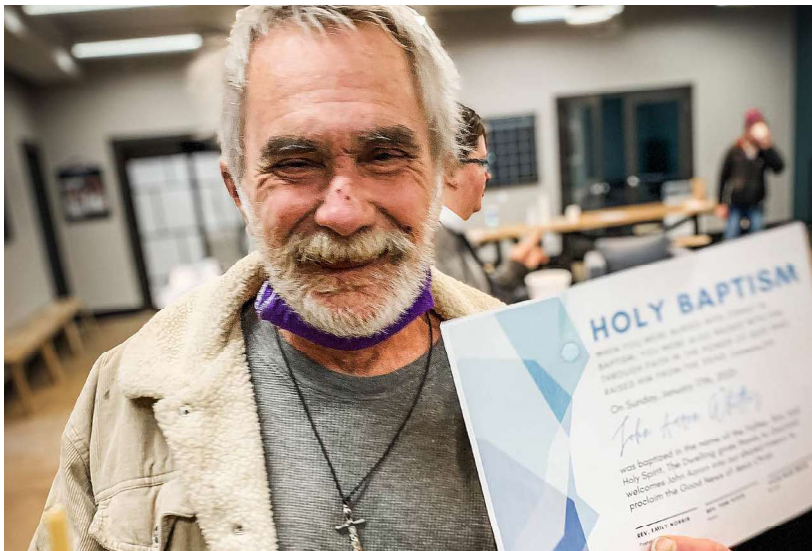


# ANNUAL REPORT

2021



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



## A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth  
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

# Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

2001 Second Street NW  
Watertown, SD 57201

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.**

### **2022 Annual Meeting Agenda—January 30, 2022**

<b>Call to Order and Approval of Agenda</b>	Mark Reishus, Council President
<b>Opening Devotions</b>	Pastor Kent Stillson
<b>2021 Annual Meeting Minutes</b>	Peg Juba, Council Secretary p. 3-5
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Jennifer Harms, Council Treasurer p. 6-9
<b>Church Council Report</b>	Mark Reishus, Church Council President p. 10
<b>Pastor's Reports:</b>	Senior Pastor Kent Stillson p. 11-12
<b>Staff and Committee Reports – (accepted as written)</b>	p. 13-31
<b>Presentation and Approval of the 2022 Proposed Budget</b>	Jennifer Harms, Council Treasurer p. 35-39

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

- Seven Delegates needed for the 2022 South Dakota Synod Assembly, June 3 & 4, 2022
- Year-end surplus of \$78,704.61; recommend dispersing \$17,000 to 2022 budget; \$40,000 to Capital Improvement; \$3,704.61 to SD Synod, ELCA; \$4,000 to LCOOR youth attending the 2022 National Youth Gathering; \$3,000 to ELCA World Hunger; \$3,000 to Brothers and Sisters Behind Bars; \$2,000 to Lutheran Disaster Relief; \$2,000 to Watertown Sandwich Ministry; \$2,000 to One Roof Project; \$2,000 to Church on the Street in Sioux Falls.
- Discussion of Pastoral Vacancy and Call Process — Tammy Davis and Mirk Reishus.
- LCOOR Strategic Planning Process, with GSB consultant — Justin Reusch and Mirk Reishus.

#### **Elections**

#### **Adjourn**

#### **Closing Prayers**

#### **New Council Organizational Meeting**

<b>LCOOR 2021 Church Council</b>	President....Mark Reishus	Vice President....Tammy Davis
	Secretary....Peg Juba	Treasurer.....Jennifer Harms

#### **Term Expires**

2022: Terry Ulrich, Todd Nichols, Mark Reishus  
2023: Tammy Davis, Jennifer Harms, Justin Reusch,  
2024: Peg Juba, Kevin Keup, Bev Splinter

#### **2022 Church Council Nominations**

3-year term: Cody Martin, Laurie Tennis, Monte Hopper

#### **2022 Mission & Endowment Committee Nominees**

3-year term: Jennifer Harms  
1<sup>st</sup> 3-year term: Mark Iverson, Ann DeSpiegler, Deb Shepherd

#### **2022-2023 Nominating Committee**

1-year term: Melanie Schroeder, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

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*Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Davis, Council Member*

Church Council President, Justin Ruesch, greeted the attendees and called the meeting to order at 11:28am with the requisite quorum in attendance. The motion to approve the 2021 annual meeting agenda was made by Ron Moehring and second by Roger Whittle. No discussion and motion carried.

Pastor Kent Stillson opened the meeting with devotions.

### **2020 Annual Meeting Minute Review**

Lisa Carrico made a motion with a second by Char Loterbauer to approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting. No discussion and motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Todd Nichols presented the 2020 Treasurers report highlighting the building loan, dedicated fund, and general fund.

#### Building Loan:

On January 30, 2020 our loan was refinanced through Reliabank at a rate of 3.9%

The principal amount of the loan was for \$391,020.83

In 2020 the principal balance was reduced by a total of \$28,412.75

\$15,949.75 coming from mortgage payments

\$12,463.00 coming from special debt reducing offerings

The principal balance at the end of 2020 is \$363,284.90

#### Dedicated Fund:

The dedicated funds are money set aside for specific purposes or missions.

The \$174,494.20 balance at the end of 2020 is significantly larger than the 2019 balance of \$76,835.05 and the majority of this difference comes from the following:

The \$4440.00 in 2020 Bible Camp scholarships were not given as camp options were not available due to Covid.

\$3100.00 in special offerings in excess of stewardship goals were given to connecting through technology and fishes and loaves.

The Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) were funds issued by the government to encourage businesses to remain open and keep staff at near 100% during the pandemic. A portion of the loan was forgiven based on payroll, mortgage and utility expenses incurred during a specific time period. LCOOR received a loan for a total of \$97,500. Based on our expenses reported during that time period, \$87,435.48 was forgiven and a payment for the remaining balance of \$10,064.52 was returned. Because of the continued generosity of the congregation during the pandemic, these additional funds were not used to maintain day to day operations of the church. They were instead placed in the dedicated fund for future hardships caused by the pandemic or to be addressed at a later date.

## Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

### General Fund:

Promised giving increased in 2020 by \$20,619.60. The total in 2019 was \$688,035.12 and \$708,654.72 in 2020.

Non-promised increased in 2020 by \$886.29. The total in 2019 was \$156,332.21 and \$157,218.50 in 2020. The combined increase of promised and non-promised for 2020 is \$21,505.89.

The total income for 2020 was a 1% increase from 2019 and totaled \$927,176.07.

Expenses were down 6% in 2020 mostly due to fewer services. The total expenses in 2019 was \$903,956.49 and \$849,657.87 in 2020.

Our 2020 income of \$927,176.07 less expenses of \$849,657.87 leaves a balance of \$77,518.20.

Todd Decker made a motion with a second by Mark Reishus to approve the 2020 Treasurer's Report. No discussion and motion carried.

### **Reports**

Darwin Brinkman made a motion with a second by Peggy Juba to approve the Church Council Report. No discussion and motion carried.

Nyla Bergan made a motion with a second by Marv Sherrill to approve the Pastor's Report. No discussion and motion carried.

Sam Hatlestad made a motion with a second by Ron Givens to approve Staff and Committee Reports. No discussion and motion carried.

Chuck Langner made a motion with a second by Jennifer Harms to approve the 2021 Proposed Budget. No discussion and motion carried.

### **Old Business**

Todd Decker expressed his appreciation to the education, worship and music, sound and projection, outreach, church council and all the committees and individuals for their leadership in 2020.

### **New Business**

Seven (7) delegates are needed for the 2021 South Dakota Synod Assembly which will be held June 4 & 5, 2021. The SD Synod Council will decide if the event will be in-person or online in March. No volunteers were identified during the meeting.

Lisa Carrico made a motion with a second by Allen Rude to approve the disbursement of the year end surplus of \$77,518. The disbursement includes \$30,000 to the 2021 Stewardship initiatives of Loaves and Fishes, Connecting Through Technology and With You Always, \$7,700.00 to the mission of Lutherans Outdoors of South Dakota and \$39,818.00 to capital improvement. No discussion and motion carried.

### **Elections**

Todd Decker made a motion with a second by Ron Moehring to approve the 3 year term of Church Council nominations Krisi Osthus, Kevin Keup and Peggy Juba and a one year term of Terry Ulrich. The motion also

included the 3 year term of Becky Conger to the Mission and Endowment committee and a one year term of the Nominating committee of Peggy Juba, Jody Pleten and Melanie Schroeder. No discussion and motion carried.

### Closing

Ron Givens made a motion with a second by Chuck Langner to adjourn the meeting. No discussion and motion carried.

Pastor Dan Ofstehage led the closing prayers.

The meeting concluded at 12:07 p.m.



Four Christmas Eve Candlelight Services drew a total of 1,115 people to our church in 2021; 166 more watched via livestream.



A digital billboard on U.S. Highway 212 invited everybody to our Christmas Eve services.





# FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

<b><i>Dedicated Fund</i></b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Adult Mission Trips	\$ 186.97	\$ 186.97
Altar Guild	\$ 372.25	\$ 372.25
Befriender Ministry	\$ 2,332.12	\$ 2,372.12
Bible Camp Scholarships	\$ 4,440.00	\$ 4,265.00
Camera Fund	\$ 1,853.11	\$ 1,853.11
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 62,792.05	\$ 60,797.75
CASA/Foster Family Drive	\$ 737.88	\$ 537.88
Christian Education	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Coffee/Equal Exchange	\$ 2,060.84	\$ 2,120.95
Connect Though Technology	\$ 600.00	\$ 766.67
Fishes & Loaves	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,466.67
Gods Work Our Hands	\$ 834.89	\$ 834.89
Handbell Choir	\$ 871.12	\$ 1,219.45
High School Lunches	\$ 3,189.64	\$ 2,991.02
Ladies Night Out	\$ 3,785.82	\$ 3,735.82
Legal & Accounting	\$ 2,717.00	\$ 2,291.00
Liturgical Dance	\$ 191.72	\$ 191.72
Mission & Ministry/Cong	\$ 3,225.54	\$ 3,397.62
Ministry Events	\$ 515.78	\$ 1,857.36
Music Team Fund	\$ 2,405.96	\$ 3,859.30
Payee Service Donations	\$ 1,871.44	\$ -
PPP & EIDL Loan	\$ 87,435.48	\$ 97,521.31
Praise & Rejoice Choir	\$ 793.08	\$ 1,486.41
Prayer Shawl Ministry	\$ 2,102.79	\$ 2,797.02
An Education W/ Jesus (Preschool 2022)	\$ -	\$ 3,227.00
Preschool Donations	\$ 4,550.93	\$ 4,408.50
Quilters	\$ 75.00	\$ 375.00
Radio Ads	\$ 100.00	\$ 384.00
Sandwich Ministry	\$ 2,551.00	\$ 505.08
Sound & Projection	\$ 2,417.40	\$ 2,417.40
Summer Faith Experience	\$ 2,514.93	\$ -
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 6,191.68	\$ 2,878.23
Use Tax	\$ -	\$ 279.48
Wednesday Meals	\$ 5,548.61	\$ 5,086.26
With You Always (Mental Health)	\$ -	\$ 166.66
9th Grade Confirmation	\$ -	\$ 156.50
Youth Ministry Missions	\$ 346.86	\$ 1,821.86
Youth Development Fund	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Interest	\$ 2,000.31	\$ 1,512.65
	<b>\$ 214,312.20</b>	<b>\$ 221,165.91</b>

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

## Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

### Building Loan

Refinanced January 30, 2020

Reliabank @ 3.9% (Maturity January 15, 2027)

Payment = \$2,341.26 per month on the 15th

Principal paid	Balance of Principal	Interest
	\$ 363,284.90	
01/15/21 \$ 1,118.48	\$ 362,166.42	\$ 1,222.78
02/02/21 \$ 733.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 361,433.42	
02/16/21 \$ 1,086.86	\$ 360,346.56	\$ 1,254.40
03/02/21 \$ 567.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 359,779.56	
03/15/21 \$ 1,288.04	\$ 358,491.52	\$ 1,053.22
04/01/21 \$ 672.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 357,819.52	
04/15/21 \$ 1,138.35	\$ 356,681.17	\$ 1,202.91
04/30/21 \$ 593.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 356,088.17	
05/17/21 \$ 1,105.86	\$ 354,982.31	\$ 1,235.40
06/01/21 \$ 677.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 354,305.31	
06/15/21 \$ 1,227.05	\$ 353,078.26	\$ 1,114.21
06/30/21 \$ 642.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 352,436.26	
07/15/21 \$ 1,194.80	\$ 351,241.46	\$ 1,146.46
08/02/21 \$ 632.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 350,609.46	
08/16/21 \$ 1,124.58	\$ 349,484.88	\$ 1,216.68
09/01/21 \$ 558.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 348,926.88	
09/15/21 \$ 1,206.28	\$ 347,720.60	\$ 1,134.98
09/30/21 \$ 598.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 347,122.60	
10/15/21 \$ 1,212.14	\$ 345,910.46	\$ 1,129.12
11/01/21 \$ 593.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 345,317.46	
11/15/21 \$ 1,180.47	\$ 344,136.99	\$ 1,160.79
12/01/21 \$ 683.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 343,453.99	
12/15/21 \$ 1,123.85	\$ 342,330.14	\$ 1,117.41
12/31/21 \$ 943.00 From Debt Reduction Offerings	\$ 341,387.14	
		\$ 13,988.36
\$ 14,006.76 Total from Mortgage Payments		
\$ 7,891.00 Total from Debt Reductions		
<b>\$ 21,897.76</b> Total payments made to principal		

## MISSION & ENDOWMENT FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

### **General Gifts Summary (acct # xxx1968 & xxx7601)**

Principal as of 1/1/21	\$ 38,093.94
Accumulated Interest (YTD)	\$ 13.08
Interest transferred from Acct # 7601	\$ 126.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 38,233.06</b>

### **Drange/Hogstad Endowment Summary (acct # xxx4545) (75% of Gift)**

Principal as of 1/1/21	\$ 51,789.31
Deposit 75% of Hogstad Gift	\$ 18,750.00
Accumulated interest earned on acct # xxx4545	\$ 701.80
Accumulated Interest (YTD) transferred to acct # xxx0607	\$ (701.80)
	<b>\$ 70,539.31</b>

### **Summary**

Total Principal	\$ 108,772.37
	<b>\$ 108,772.37</b>

### **Timmerman Scholarship Summary (acct # xx3002 & acct # xx2718)**

Principal as of 1/1/21	\$ 37,092.12
Accumulated Interest (YTD)	\$ 743.51
Expenses YTD	\$ (2,500.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,335.63</b>

### **Mission Fund Summary (Special Gifts & Memorials)**

#### **(25% of Hogstad Gift) (Acct # xx1958 & # xx607)**

Principal as of 1/1/21	\$ 36,213.90
Accumulated Interest (YTD)	\$ 68.46
Interest transferred from account ***4545	\$ 701.80
Memorials Deposited YTD	\$ 3,245.00
Expenses (YTD)- Grants	\$ (5,033.00)
<b>Total, available to spend</b>	<b>\$ 35,196.16</b>

### **Total of all funds**

**\$ 179,304.16**

### **Memorial Funds (reflected in Missions Summary)**

Designated Memorial Monies in account # xxx1958	\$ 1,740.00
Undesignated Monies in account # xxx1958	\$ 16,547.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 18,287.05</b>

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

### Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

On behalf of the Church Council, I want to thank the Congregation for your continued support of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, the staff and the ministries that strive to “Make Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.” Without your support, the church could not accomplish this Mission.

To sum up 2021 I offer this common phrase: “The Only Constant is Change,” but change is not always a bad thing.

We began the year worshipping either online or safely in person. In spring, the Council considered the question, “What will summer worship look like?” The change of seasons allowed us to gather outdoors to sing our praises. The fall season brought us “Back to the Building” with worship, Sunday School, the weekly activities and “coffee.” We will continue to review and adapt as necessary.

This year also brought more welcomed changes as we added two new staff members: Roger Whittle, Communications Coordinator, and Rachel Clendenin, Christian Education Director. We are thankful for the talents they bring to the church.

“A Future with Hope” is the ministry priority for the coming year. It will focus on three areas: 1. The Christian Pre-School staff, supplies and scholarships; 2. Increasing Christian Education Director to full time to enhance our children’s Christian Education, 3) A Strategic Plan for the future of our church. To achieve this we will enlist GSB, a professional firm, with the expertise to guide us through the process. What do we want Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer to be in three to five years? Members of the congregation will play an integral role in shaping and completing this plan for our future.

My words cannot adequately express all the sadness felt with the loss Pastor Dan Ofstehage in October. His caring and loving personality was felt by anyone he met. Our continued prayers go out to Sarah, Emma and Chloe. May you Rest in Peace, Dan!

As 2021 came to a close, we welcomed Pastor Dave Nerdig. Pastor Dave and his wife, Linda, became members about a year ago. He has graciously agreed to fill in as Interim Pastor, until a Pastor can be called. Thank You, Pastor Dave!

It has been a privilege to serve as your Council President this year. Many thanks go out to the Church Council, Pastor Kent, the church staff and all the committee members that made it much easier.

May the New Year bring you *A Future with Hope!*



The Church Staff donned baseball wear in honor of Pastor Dan while he was hospitalized.

God’s Blessings,

Mark Reishus

## PASTOR KENT STILLSON'S REPORT

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you **a future with hope.**"*  
(Jeremiah 29:11)

As we made plans for the coming year for 2022, through stewardship, ministry priorities and staffing, our guiding faith statement is God's promise in the scripture at the top of this page. God is for us, God's mercy protects us, God leads us. Therefore, on many levels, we have a future with hope.

Once again, the past year of 2021 has been a challenging one, but this does not diminish God's promise of "A Future With Hope."

We all know the challenges we have faced.

COVID has made us re-think every aspect of our ministry. Vaccines and boosters have allowed us to be together more in worship, Christian education and leadership, but not all the people have returned with involvement. Weekly worship and Christmas Eve worship attendance are back to about 70% of pre-pandemic levels. May 16 was the first Sunday with Holy Communion back up front of the sanctuary, rather than received in the pew with the pre-packaged elements. We continue to have Holy Communion assistants mask and keep the offering plates in the back. As with other aspects of life, some people have been satisfied with the ministry modifications we have made, some think we are too open and some are critical of any modification.

Associate Pastor Dan Ofstehage's sudden illness and death on October 6, 2021, was a very sad time for his family and the congregation he faithfully served for 4 years. We grieve as a congregation the loss of a friend and pastor. Pastor Dan's funeral on October 11 and the visitation here at LCOOR the day prior, were a grand celebration of Dan's life and God's promise of life beyond this life. Twenty-five clergy vested and processed, Bishop Constanze Haigmeier preached and Pastor Dan's seminary friends provided incredibly faithful music. One of the most memorable moments of the funeral was Pastor Dan's mother reading scripture and providing memories of their son singing God's praise even as a child, as he was rolled on a hospital gurney in to a surgery.

My announcement that I will retire as Senior Pastor at the end of February means that 2022 will be a time of transition, but LCOOR is in a good place to respond to this change. We can be most thankful for the fact that we have a solid leadership team for Council and other committees. We can be thankful for the highly skilled and involved lay staff of the church. We are thankful for the solid financial footing the congregation has exhibited these recent years. And we are thankful for the support of the SD Synod in helping us embrace Pastor Dave Nerdig as our interim Associate Pastor and the Synod's work in helping LCOOR secure an interim Senior Pastor at my departure.

Below is an assortment of ministry highlights for 2021.

**Ash Wednesday** saw the largest worship attendance in nearly a year – 450.

We **welcomed to our staff** Roger Whittle as Communications Coordinator and Rachel Clendenin as Christian Education Director.

A **ministry priority identified for 2021 was mental health**, due to the prolonged pandemic and the toll it has taken on people. In worship, we had guest speakers and a series of videos of local mental health professionals.

## PASTOR KENT STILLSON'S REPORT

### Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

For nearly a year, **clergy were not allowed to visit hospitalized parishioners**. At its highest, Prairie Lakes had 20+ COVID patients hospitalized at one time. Now masks are standard procedure when going to the hospital or care facilities.

A **return to the usual practice of baptisms, weddings and funerals**. There have been way too many funerals. One day in December, I received 3 phone calls to schedule 3 funerals. People have needed to grieve these losses, but due to illness concerns, it hasn't been easy to safely be together and grieve.

The **lake service this summer at Memorial Park** was especially wonderful. Not only did the weather cooperate – we did not cancel once – but it was just so good to be back to “mostly normal” with interaction with people. People joined us for worship via cars, walking from the campground, boats and bikes!

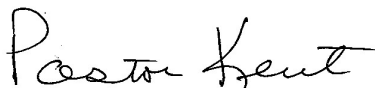
The **generosity of this congregation**, not only with its regular stewardship practice but also its “over and above” giving support for Pastor Dan's family. Congregation members wondered how we could further support the Ofstehages, so Church Council provided salary, housing allowance and insurance several months beyond his death. Plus, individual members of LCOOR generously gave gifts directly to the Ofstehage family.

I am so thankful –for God's faithfulness throughout this difficult but blessed year. You can see from the above areas the many blessings of this congregation: Generosity, mission involvement, children and youth are welcomed and honored, a joyful spirit and the people's engagement with God's Word.

I am thankful for a lifetime of ministry – 37½ years of ordained ministry in 5 congregations, 9½ years as senior pastor at LCOOR. I am thankful for God's grace all along the way and supportive congregations willing to try new things for the sake of all God's people. I have a “Pastoral Records Book” in my office that I have recorded 37½ years of Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and other pastoral acts. I see the working of God in these names and dates.

I am thankful for my family's support and ability to thrive in new communities. They have (mostly) understood my crazy pastoral schedule, put up with 48 working weekends per year and never having a family Christmas where dad wasn't exhausted or working.

Through it all, God has been good. I am thankful.



# 2021 MISSION PRIORITY UPDATE

## Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

Thanks to the generous support of this congregation, we have been able to help with funding for some very important ministries of this community.

### “With You Always”

- \$3,000 Beacon Center
- \$3,000 Brothers & Sisters Behind Bars
- \$1,000 Lutheran Social Services
- \$1,000 Human Service Agency

### “Loaves & Fishes”

- \$3647.18 Watertown Sandwich Ministry
- \$2,500 Access Ministry
- \$2,500 Salvation Army

The Beacon Center is a non-profit organization that provides services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. They offer counseling, shelter and education, just to name a few of their services.

Our financial gifts to LSS and HSA will help fund counseling services at those locations.

Brothers & Sisters Behind Bars are continuing to help build healthy relationship and provide essential unmet basic needs with those re-entering the community. Currently BSBB is looking to secure a transitional living facility for men. With the funds we provided, the future is looking pretty bright for a facility.

Hunger continues to be a big issue for many in our community. The Watertown Sandwich Ministry serves approximately 160 sack lunches three times a week. Access Ministry and the Salvation Army both serve hot meals during the week and have food pantries.

Thank you again, for “Letting Your Light Shine” this past year.



**BEFORE / AFTER**

**BSBB Transitional Living Facility**



**Meal Served by Access Ministry**

# PASTORAL ACTS & MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

\* = Non-member

## **Baptisms – Child (35)**

Wren Anistyn Manning  
Ryan Leone Fischer  
Thea Jean Heiser  
Laine Janet Newman  
Jackson Richard Benda  
Lennon Anne Stoick  
Autumn Kay Kearney  
Emmett James Pickrel  
Townsend Jean Farkas  
Beau Chopper Zenk  
Lily Belle Splett  
Margot Ellen Rae Krumwiede

Zelda Ann Drees  
Fallyn James Morrow  
Taevyn JoLyn Stolp  
Fitz Jagger Koistinen  
Ryker Joseph Benda  
Kit Housiaux Madsen  
Grayson Leo Alberts  
Rylee Anne Pickrel  
Kainen Troy Hegg  
Jaxon James Zenk  
Addox Andrew Turbak  
Hank Ryan Anderson

Claire Marie Severson  
Tucker Eugene Rice  
Jack James Swenson  
Watson Charles Rigdon  
Henry Silas Ofstehage  
Aria Mae Norgaard  
Evelynora Rose Hopper  
Tyrone Mac Finn  
Adelaide Lydia Kjenstad  
Milan Jae Kluckman  
Mariah Nichol Tol

## **Baptisms – Adult (1)**

Joseph William Stoick

## **Confirmed – Youth (46)**

*[October 31, 2021; 8:30am] (11 People)*

Isabella Kathryn Horning  
Jayden Chad Lambert  
Haydn Allen McGillivary  
Kaden Douglas Rylance

Talan Kristopher Jurgens  
Charles Thomas Lenox  
Skylir Luella-Ilene Peterson  
Ethan Rue Wientjes

Hannah Rose Keup  
Ava May Luken  
Jaxen Dennis Riley

*[October 31, 2021; 10:30am] (34 People)*

Josie Ann Althoff  
Jayden Max Fischer  
Kyleigh Ann Hansen  
Kynslee Faye Johnson  
Emma Lily Kirschenmann  
David James Lechner  
Manara May Mjoun  
Sophia Louise Nichols  
Willow Charlotte Overvaag  
Mackenzie Ann Pletan  
Shelby Lynn Spilde  
Norah Jean Zubke

Ryanne Mary Anderson  
Zane Weatherby Goddard  
Jacob Allen Hanson  
Samuel Adam Karst  
Karter Lee Kohlenberg  
Kendra Lynn Meidinger  
Makia Julieann Moe  
Nicholas Derrick Noeldner  
Natalie Janaye Pearson  
Austin Gary Redfield  
Chase Eugene Stimson

Brylie Jean Boomsma  
Madisyn Lea Grimsrud  
Brooke Ann Hlavacek  
Griffin Thomas Keever  
Lily Ann Marie Lalim  
Zander Michael Mettler  
Griffyn Louise Muller  
Alexis Emily Olson  
Cali Jo Marie Pieschke  
Nathan Lee Sowers  
Samuel Richard Vockrodt

*[November 3, 2021; 6:30pm] (1 Person)*

Mason Guy Sackmann

## **Deaths/Funerals/Memorial Services/Burials (22)**

Vivian R. Miller (2015)  
Everett Eldon Fisk  
\*Dennis H. Kumm  
\*Marilyn McAtee  
\*Elaine M. Larsen  
Gordon "Butch" F. Kruse Jr.  
Brandon W. Bohling  
Terry Lynn Meyer

Phyllis R. Karst (2016)  
Angie Kay Darling  
\*Todd Allen McGillivary  
Betty Ann Marohl  
Joan Evonne Goeman  
Beverly Mae Owen  
\*Richard "Dick" Willis Bury  
\*Debora "Debbie" A. Jants

\*Vernon "Zeke" Keairnes  
\*Lori Rose Lee  
Dr. Duane R. Niles Jr.  
\*Floyd Karpinske  
Pastor Daniel Bernard Ofstehage  
Vera Freda Sunne  
Judean Russell Schwinger  
Theodore "Ted" Moe



## **New Members Received (17 Households [40 People])**

*[April 18, 2021] (10 Households; 18 People)*

Brook Anderson & Brailyn Blaskowski

From: Brook – Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton, South Dakota ELCA

Brailyn – St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Oakes, North Dakota Roman Catholic

Brady Brockel

From: American Lutheran Church, Milbank, South Dakota ELCA

Zach & Annie Drees

From: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota ELCA

Kipp & Melissa Jurgens and son Kale

From: Grace Lutheran Church, Watertown, South Dakota ELCA

Nicki Jurgens

From: Grace Lutheran Church, Watertown, South Dakota ELCA

Carol Madsen

From: Trinity Lutheran Church, Jamestown, North Dakota ELCA

Dave & Linda Nerdig

From: Bethesda Lutheran Church, Jewell, Iowa ELCA

Brian & Becky Schlotterbeck and daughter Brylie

From: Becky – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish, Florence, South Dakota Roman Catholic

Brian & Brylie – Cornerstone Church, Watertown, South Dakota Methodist

Jacob & Lacey Severson

From: Lacey - American Lutheran Church, Castlewood, South Dakota NALC

Jacob – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clark, South Dakota ELCA

Daisy VanGenderen

From: Aurora Reformed Church, Aurora, South Dakota Reformed

*[June 3, 2021] (1 Person)*

Jason Norgaard

From: Hayti Lutheran Church, Hayti, South Dakota NALC

*[October 31, 2021] (5 People)*

Madisyn Lea Grimsrud *Confirmed Youth*

Brooke Ann Hlavacek *Confirmed Youth*

Manara May Mjoun *Confirmed Youth*

Makia Julieann Moe *Confirmed Youth*

Norah Jean Zubke *Confirmed Youth*

*[December 2021] (7 Households; 16 People)*

Ron & Carol Bergan

From: Grace Lutheran Church, Watertown, South Dakota ELCA

Rachel Clendenin and daughter Allie Clendenin

From: United Church of Christ, Huron, South Dakota UCC

Beverly Eggen

From: Trinity Episcopal Church, Watertown, South Dakota Episcopal

Lesli Jutting

From: Trinity Episcopal Church, Watertown, South Dakota Episcopal

Doug & Nancy Linneman

From: Trinity Lutheran Church, Estelline, South Dakota ELCA

Stefan & Clair Martinsen and daughters Whitney & Patricia Martinsen

From: Hope Lutheran Church, Freehold, New Jersey ELCA

Vaughn & Marian Neshiem

From: Christ Lutheran Church, Georgetown, Texas ELCA

Clay Wellman & Jordon Knutson

From: Jordon – Trinity Lutheran Church, Waconia, Minnesota LCMS

# PASTORAL ACTS & MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

## **Marriages (6)**

Daisy VanGenderen & Cole Jurgens

Logan Leah Tupper & \*Dalton Reece Olson

\*Mariah Raye LeBlanc & \*Dominik Christian Luond

Danielle Mae VanMeter & \*Ryan Christopher Thornton

Brailyn Alexis Blaskowski & Brook Dean Anderson

Andrea 'Andi' Nicole Sasse & Justin Douglas Schmidtgal

## **Members Removed by Request [12 People]**

Arlis Basel

Thad & Laura Jacobson and children Colin and Devin

Travis & Lisa Carrico and child Tyrus

Jeremy & Kari Ness and children Loudyn and Lawgyr

## **Members Transferred Out (12 Households [33 People])**

Mollie Purdy and child Nash Purdy

To: Westwood Lutheran Church, St Louis Park, MN ELCA

Brittney Lardy Veflin

To: Grace Lutheran Church, Sisseton, SD ELCA

LaVerna Moldenhauer

To: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Milbank, SD LCMS

Joseph William Stoick and child Lennon Anne Stoick

To: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD ELCA

Kit Housiaux Madsen

To: Calvary Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD ELCA

Mike & Emily Van Lith and children Kennady, Riley & Jase

To: Britton Lutheran Parish, Britton, SD LCMC

Bryan & Amber Gaikowski and children Hayley<sup>(confirmed)</sup>, Emery, Hope & Harris

To: Cornerstone Church, Watertown, SD UMC

Joshua & Emily Hogue and children Hensley, Blakely and Charley

To: Cornerstone Church, Watertown, SD UMC

\*Chase Albert McGillivray (youth)

To: St. Bernard's Catholic Church, Redfield, SD Roman Catholic

Corby Shelsta

To: Cornerstone Church, Watertown, SD UMC

Scott & Kris Munger and children Avery<sup>(confirmed)</sup>, Reese, and Ty

To: Cornerstone Church, Watertown, SD UMC

Christina Krumwiede and children Michael & Margot Krumwiede

To: Messiah New Hope Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

## **Membership Statistics**

Year Ending 2019:

Baptized: 3358

Confirmed: 2458

Year Ending 2020:

Baptized: 3364

Confirmed: 2468

Year Ending 2021:

Baptized: 3381

Confirmed: 2506

## **Average Weekly Attendance**

2019: 618

2020: 500

2021: 545

Pastor Kent speaking to graduating preschoolers.



## EMERGENCY & SAFETY PROCEDURES

Our First Aid kits and fire extinguishers (located throughout the building) and the AED (located next to the church office) continue to be monitored and supplies replenished as needed throughout the year.

“Clean Up” kits have been placed in the vestry and in the education wing for use in emergencies. Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer’s Emergency Guidelines are available in the business office.

Masks have been available throughout 2021 near both entrances for any who may wish to wear one while in the building. Communion servers continue to wear masks during distribution through 2021.

Church staff will complete refresher trainings for CPR/First Aid and AED though the American Heart Association once it is safe to do so.



Safety Measures....Masks are available for all visitors at the Welcome Center and in the Church Office.

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

## Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

Submitted by Rachel Clendenin, Christian Education Director

Committee Members: Kjersten Fisk, Nikki Landmark, Char Loterbauer, Gwen McGillivary, Denise Schmahl, Dana Stimson, Terry Ulrich, and Peg Juba (Council liaison)

<u>Church School:</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
Sunday:	96	77
Wednesday:	116	143
<b>Total Enrolled:</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>218</b>

Our Church School has been very active so far with more than 200 enrolled for the 2021-2022 session.

Our gracious volunteers have stepped up in various capacities including teaching, substitutes, music leadership, resource-room helpers, food-service volunteers, small group leaders, and more, with a group of 60 people strong.

Our Kindergarten through fourth-grade curriculum is from Augsburg Fortress Company using *Spark*, which follows the lectionary. The younger children have a shorter lesson that is written for them and in simpler terms but still following the lectionary. Our fifth- and sixthgraders are led by Phil Lickei in studying the Old and New Testaments. After a large group meeting, they break off into smaller groups for more discussion.

Church School offerings totaled \$1,537.43 and were given to the Missions of the Month!

**January:** \$167.90 to Nicaragua Partner Ministry

**February:** \$108.35 to Lutheran Outdoors of SD

**March:** \$162.93 to ELCA World Hunger

**April:** \$111.36 to LCOOR Christian Preschool

**May:** \$79.01 to Pine Ridge Ministry

**September:** \$157.93 to Lutheran Campus Ministries

**October:** \$253.01 to Cameroon Partner Ministries

**November:** \$125.57 to Salvation Army One Roof Program

**December:** \$371.31 to LCOOR Care Fund

**Pass the Faith:** Pass the Faith events have been continuing. The second-graders received first communion in March. The third-graders and 3-year-olds were presented with Bibles in the fall. Fifth- and sixth-grade acolyte training occurred in October.

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS took place in August, using the theme “The Golden Rule” with more than 70 children enrolled. Countless volunteers helped from 6th grade and up that made this possible. Each participant received the book “Be Kind: 125 kind things to say and do” by Naomi Schulman.

**GWOH:** The Church School kids also participated in God’s Work, Our Hands doing various service projects including gathering hygiene kits for the Intermediate and Middle Schools, rolling bandages, and helping with Sandwich Ministry.

**Christmas Programs:** The events took place Dec. 15 and 19. The Wednesday Church School kids presented “The Gifts of Christmas” by Myrtle E Felkner, with more than 90 children participating. Nancy Brinkman and Traci Althoff directed the performance. A traditional Christmas program, written and directed by Char Loterbauer, was put on by the Sunday Church School group. More than 50 children presented this ministry.

**Adult Studies:** Men’s Lunch, Circle and Sunday morning Bible Study with the Pastors are offered.

## EVANGELISM & MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

### Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

*Submitted by Twila Schmitt, Welcoming & Caring Ministries Coordinator*

**Missions of the Month:** These ministries are supported not only by your donations, but by the “noisy can offerings” and the church school offerings. We are truly making a difference in our community, our nation and the world. LCOOR supported the following organizations as our Mission of the Month in 2021:

**January** – Rev. Claudia Soliette Loipez Ortega (Nicaragua Partner Ministry)

**February** – Lutherans Outdoors of South Dakota

**March** – ELCA World Hunger

**April** – LCOOR Christian Preschool

**May** – Pine Ridge Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministry

**June** – St. Dymas

**July** – Nicaragua Youth Retreat

**August** – Pueblo de Dios (People or Community of God)

**September** – Campus Ministry

**October** – Pastor Elisabeth Johnson (Cameroon Partner Ministry)

**November** – One Roof – Salvation Army

**December** – LCOOR Care Fund

**Ongoing** – Watertown Sandwich Ministry and Brothers & Sisters Behind Bars

Throughout the year, the LCOOR congregation was also involved in outreach in the following areas:

**Watertown Sandwich Ministry:** A faithful group of volunteers, including many from LCOOR, prepare 180-190 sack lunches (up from 165 in 2016) and deliver them Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Many of our congregational members bake cookies -- a special treat for those receiving the sack lunches. LCOOR, as well as other organizations from the community, give financial support to the ministry. (All donations go directly to purchase food.)

**Kathy's Karts:** Our on-going mission to keep the shelves filled at the Salvation Army Food Pantry sees “Kathy’s Karts” filled with food and delivered on a regular basis. (Formerly known as our Community Carts, “Kathy’s Karts” were re-named as a tribute to Pastor Kathy Hibbert who had a strong passion in feeding the hungry.) Thanks to Marv & AJ Sherrill who frequently and faithfully deliver the donated items to the Salvation Army.

**Bundles of Hope:** By partnering with United Methodist Church, our members collected and delivered 1,787 diapers and 2,936 wipes during March. “Diaper need” is a very real and ongoing problem for many families in our community. Bundles of Hope is an on-going ministry at United Methodist Church.

**Do Small Things With Great Love:** Our spring and summer initiative encouraged everyone to “Do Small Things With Great Love.” A bingo game was created with actions to be completed. We even awarded small prizes to those who completed their great activities!

**Angel Tree:** More than 100 tags were delivered to LCOOR in December 2021 for this Salvation Army project. When they few off the tree quickly, we requested more! Each angel tag has the details for Christmas gifts for a child in the community. Generous families and individuals fulfilled 120 tags and brought back bags filled with wonderful gifts for children in need in our community.

**Winter Wonderland:** Thanks to help of wonderful volunteers, we were pleased to be represented among the 40+ displays in the Winter Wonderland display at City Park this season.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 20**

## EVANGELISM & MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

**God's Work – Our Hands 2021:** We are blessed to have hosted our Eighth Annual “God’s Work. Our Hands” on September 19 and 22. We had a tremendous response to our request for hygiene supplies for our Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center and Watertown Middle School & Intermediate School projects this year. Following a meal and fellowship in the Great Hall, volunteer teams completed the following projects:

- Pine Ridge hygiene kits (98 completed)
- School hygiene kits (120 completed)
- I-29 Rest Area clean-up
- Road ditch clean-up
- Window trim painting & yard clean-up
- Sewing hospice gowns (25+ completed)
- Fellowship Faithful Generations Gifts delivered (165 delivered)
- Trim trees at church
- Bandages rolled for Global Health Ministries
- Leaves cleaned from gutters
- Cake kits (30 cake & frosting kits)

A huge THANK YOU to Paige Sullivan, Lynn Langner and Twila Schmitt for organizing this amazing day of service!

*“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40*



God's Work. Our Hands.



## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

### Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

Finance Committee: Kerry Stager, Toby Wishard,

The finance committee meets to review the financial activities of LCOOR. Jodi Spilde, business manager, has done a great job in her new role and works close with the finance committee. The finance committee oversees activities such as bill paying, payroll, and month end reports. We will be completing a year-end audit after the 2021 year is fully closed out. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please reach out to Jodi or myself.



Watertown Sandwich Ministry volunteers revel in a large donation of break.

## MISSION & ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

### Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

Submitted by Gary Grewing President, Mission & Endowment Committee

**Committee Members:** Gary Grewing (Chairman), Jennifer Harms, Betty Chadwell and Becky Conger

The mission and endowment committee of LCOOR provided the following funds for 2021.

Timmerman \$500 scholarships were presented to the following students:

- Kylie Landmark: Lake Area Technical College,
- Maggie Peterson: Black Hills State University,
- Jessalyn Holden: South Dakota State University,
- Dawson Schmidt: Northern University,
- Brooke Bollinger: University of South Dakota.

The following endowment grants were also awarded:

- Pre-School \$158 Stand Up Magnetic Design Center for the kids
- Prayer Shawl \$425 Crochet/Knitting Supplies
- Worship Team \$550 New Bass Amplifier
- Quilting \$500 Quilting Supplies
- Fall Kick-Off Party \$500 Supplies for Church-wide fall kick-off party
- Sandwich Ministry \$2,500 Food supplies for the meals.

The mission and endowment committee receives its funding from the generous donations of our members. Please consider a gift to this fund or to remember it in your estate.



The LCOOR Quilting Group and the Parking Lot Party both received funds from the Mission & Endowment Committee in 2021



## PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

*Submitted by Nikki Landmark and Wendy Kruger, LCOOR Preschool*

Each child's individual personality is what makes teaching so much fun. We enjoy sharing the Bible stories and songs along with introducing the child to early literacy skills, math skills, and building their social skills. Our classroom Bible verse is "Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life." (Proverbs 22:6)

We were blessed to have 26 children enrolled in the Spring Semester (Jan.-May), and 28 children enrolled in the Fall Semester (Sept.-Dec.). The Pre-Kindergarten class meets on Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:15-3:15 p.m. These classes are for 4- & 5-year-olds and the cost is \$140 a month. The curriculum focuses on helping children become aware of the uppercase and lowercase letters in the alphabet and how to correctly write the letters. We practice correctly writing the child's first and last name. We also work on shapes, colors and numbers. We help the child build good socialization skills and direct them into the development of key classroom-life skills.



Pre-K Graduation.

This year we had no committee and no meetings due to COVID.

The spring of 2021 had a different look as we split up the class for social distancing and the students' safety. We had 14 students in the morning and 12 in the afternoon. We put away a lot of our toys, removed the sensory table, didn't share supplies, and did a lot of cleaning and sanitizing. The students had a seating chart and we wash hands a lot and use hand sanitizer.

We sold Rada Cutlery and had the Giving Wall for a spring fundraiser in April. Our profit for Rada was \$2,023.91 and the Giving Wall was \$1,210. The amounts earned in the fundraisers were used to further LCOOR Preschool. A special **thank you** should be given to the members of our congregation for your purchases and for your giving. Thank you for your support.

For the fall of 2021, we brought back the sensory table which the students really enjoy, we're still cleaning and sanitizing, using a seating chart, and we wash/sanitize hands before playtime.

We continue having Chapel once a month. The students look forward to this and enjoy it. We had a Christmas program for the Pre-K students in December with fellowship afterwards.

Thank you to our Thrivent Financial for Lutheran members who directed their Choice Dollars to our preschool. \$1,370 was donated. Also, thank you to those using SCRIP.....\$1,370 in proceeds were transferred over to the preschool. The preschool also received \$279.22 from Amazon Smile. The preschool was the Mission of the Month in April, \$483.02 was given. 2021 Lenten Offerings (\$3,178) also went toward our preschool ministry. Thank you so much to all of you that support the preschool in many different ways.

We thank the parents (and grandparents) for bringing their children to our preschool.

God's blessings to you all in 2022.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

### Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

Respectfully submitted by Chuck Langner, Committee Chairman

**Committee Members:** Pam Raeder, Allen Rude, Tim Peterson, Chuck Langner, Jerry Rieber, Doug Alvine, Dale Evens, Custodian Adam Lauseng, Council liaisons Mark Reishus and Kevin Keup.

The Property Committee thanks the many members who give many hours to keep our property in order. Many chores are taken care of by these volunteers such as mowing, landscaping and many others.

Once again, this year was different for the Committee as Covid continued to limit activities conducted in the Church. However, the property must still be kept up.

There were several improvements done in the Church this year that members might not notice. These were the projects;

- Replace Great Hall doors- \$8400
- Install a new ice machine in kitchen- \$2136
- Fix one of the freezers in the kitchen- \$582
- Fix coffee maker in the kitchen-\$672

Repairs being scheduled for this winter:

- Repair fabric on several pews in the Sanctuary
- Reseal the steps in front of the Sanctuary, and the windows
- Tune-up and repair the big John Deere riding mower. (It is still in pretty good shape, but it is much cheaper to fix it now than have to purchase a new one).

The Church is getting to the age where larger items will need to be repaired or replaced. We do have a priority list that we will be working on, as budgeted money allows.

One priority will be the shingles. The Property Committee would like to have more money put into the Dedicated Fund to enable these projects to be completed without going to the congregation with a Fund Raiser.

The Property Committee will continue to keep the Council as well as the congregation, informed of upcoming needs to keep the church a welcoming place.



### Statistical Report on “A Future with Hope” 2022 Stewardship Results

- A total of 273 giving units (husbands and wives or single persons) completed *Statement of Intent Cards* this year.
- A total of 150 of these giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year’s amount.
- A total of 273 giving units filling out *Statement of Intent Cards* committed a total of \$806,204.00.
- Based on last year’s giving records, we can expect to receive \$111,694.00 during the coming year from people who have consistent giving patterns during the past twelve months but did not submit a *Statement of Intent Card*.
- Based on the average total of loose offering during the past three years, we can expect to receive \$15,000.00 during the coming year from that source. Along with \$1,000.00 from church school offerings.
- Church income from non-donor sources such as interest, rentals, pre-school and fees \$49,000.00.
- 2021 Budget Surplus to be moved over in the amount of \$17,000.00.
- This gives us a grand total of \$999,898.00 anticipated income for the next twelve months.
- The total income for our general operating budget during the last twelve months was \$1,017,334.41.

## WELCOMING & CARING MINISTRIES REPORT

### Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

*Submitted by Twila Schmitt – Welcoming & Caring Ministries Coordinator*

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer's Welcoming & Caring Ministries during 2021 were lead by Twila Schmitt.

The groups, committees and ministry areas covered under Welcoming & Caring Ministries include:

- Welcome Center Teams
- Monthly Faith & Care (finding weekly volunteers for Greeters, Ushers, Lectors & Communion Assistants),
- Sunday morning coffee servers
- BeFrienders
- Care Committee
- New members
- Newborn baby visits
- Hospital & home visits
- Prayer Chain
- Prayer Shawl Group
- Quilters Group
- Fellowship Committee
- Mission & Evangelism Committee
- Faithful Generations
- God's Work-Our Hands
- Caring Casseroles
- Women's Bible Study

*"Be joyful in hope; patient in affliction; faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12*



One of my favorite ministries from this past year was our Lenten Prayer Flag Project. We invited individuals and families to create prayer flags. Each flag began with a basic kit containing the blank flag and a felt purple heart. From there, more than 200 prayer flags

were created (using ribbons, buttons, felt, paint, etc.) and displayed throughout the sanctuary and Gathering Space during Lent. As a final prayerful gesture, the flags were flown at our Lakeside worship and sent home with all who wished to take them.

With more than 1,000 church families at LCOOR, we have a lot of people to keep in our prayers. Through our varied ministries (and building relationships) we strive to keep in touch with as many folks as we can on a regular basis to help with life's challenges as well as to join in celebrations.

Here are some highlights from the various Welcoming & Caring Ministry areas:

**BeFriender Ministry** – Our BeFriender ministry continued as a phone-based ministry through 2021. Our primary efforts include providing a listening ear and working to prevent profound loneliness that has accompanied the pandemic.

**Caring Committee** – A team of active volunteers sends cards of congratulations, encouragement, sympathy, get-well and children's birthday cards and more to LCOOR members and friends. Birthday cards are also sent each month to our senior members.

**Faith & Care** – All members of LCOOR are placed on a Faith & Care Team and contacted to serve at least once every 13 months. Twila was assigned the Faith & Care organizational responsibilities in September 2021. Each week she invited folks to be greeters, ushers and lectors and communion assistants twice each month. Postcards and emails were sent to encourage folks to sign up; and phone calls are made to continue the search. (Twila's greatest hope is that you don't cringe when you see her approaching you with "an ask" to help serve!)

**Fellowship Committee** – The committee's annual Faithful Generations appreciation meal was not held due to the ongoing pandemic. However, more than 165 gift bags were assembled and delivered to our Faithful Generations 75+ members in conjunction with God's Work Our Hands in September. With COVID-19 still an active concern, Ladies Night Out was not held in 2021.

## WELCOMING & CARING MINISTRIES REPORT

**Caring Casseroles** – Since September 2018, our Caring Casserole ministry has provided a tangible way for our members to care for each other. The casseroles continue to be well-received as they have been delivered to a variety of households including: new parents, folks who have had recent surgeries, recently widowed spouses and foster families.

**Care Fund** – Through the great generosity of our members, funds are available to assist others in need. We continue to grant requests throughout the year, with our largest focus being in December. Blessings to all who make this possible!

**Sunday Morning Helpers** – This dedicated group makes sure the Lutheran lifeblood (coffee) is ready and waiting for Sunday morning worshippers! They also set out trays of goodies which are appreciated by all ages.

**Meals on Wheels** – Julie Rude continues to serve as LCOOR coordinator for the Watertown Community Meals on Wheels program, overseen by the Interlakes Community Action Program. LCOOR delivers meals one week out of a 10-week rotation.

**New Members** – Our congregation continues to formally welcome new members twice each year. In 2021, our new members were in April and December. Our Christianity 101 Class was held in December.

**New Baby Ministry** – In an effort to support and encourage our young families, LCOOR presents new parents with the gift of an embroidered baby blanket made by a member of our congregation, “God Loves Me” Bible and brochure on baptism shortly after the birth of their child. While “in person” home visits were on-hold in 2021, we still reached out via social media and phone visits with the new parents during the first month.

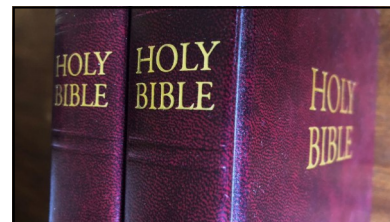
**Prayer Chain Ministry** – The prayer chain is always ready to be activated. Prayers are forwarded both through an email list and telephone list. Prayer requests can be made by calling the church office. Thanks to Marilyn Chapman and Pam Luckhurst, co-chairs.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** – The Prayer Shawl Ministry,

organized in April 2007, continues to bring love and comfort to many through shawls knit and crocheted by members of the group both at home and also meeting twice a month at the church. A notable addition has been the Prayer Square Ministry. Pocket-size squares are packaged with a prayer and are also available at the Welcome Center for anyone to give. A new batch of shawls continues to be blessed regularly during worship services throughout the year. A dozen shawls are shared monthly with Prairie Lakes Hospice. In addition, LCOOR graduating seniors receive shawls in May. The prayer shawls are funded primarily through donations, memorials and Thrivent Action Grants.

**Road Ditch/Adopt a Highway Project** – Each spring and fall, Al & Pam Rader continue to organize a group of volunteers who clean a two-mile stretch of Highway 20 by removing garbage and other debris.

**Wednesday Women’s Bible Study** – Our Wednesday Bible Study continued via ZOOM for the first half of 2021, lead by Twila Schmitt. The group focused on the monthly Gather magazine study on angels. Pricilla & Martha Circles resumed in September, incorporating the Gather Bible study into their groups.



**Welcome Center Teams** - We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of smiling folks who take turns at the Welcome Center each week. They are available to answer questions, direct people to locations, assist with sign ups, take information and sell SCRIP. And most importantly, they greet everyone with a smile!

Overall, 2021 continued to be a challenging – yet successful -- year in the areas of Welcoming & Caring Ministries at LCOOR. I would encourage all of you to reach out and get to know members of your church family in new ways. Please remember – that opportunities to become involved exist in all of the areas mentioned above. In addition, if you see a need that we are not currently meeting, let’s visit about getting something started in 2022!

# WOMEN OF THE ELCA REPORT

Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

**Treasurer's Report** Submitted by Sandy Peterson,  
Treasurer

Balance 1/1/2022 = \$2,813.56

**Gifts Given During 2020**

\$475—Prairie Coteau Conference Women sending  
Quilts

**Activities**

The Women of the ELCA began doing funerals at the  
end of May.

**Global Health Ministries**

35 Newborn Kits  
5 hospice Kits  
40 pounds of Rolled Bandages

**Lutheran World Relief**

91 Quilts  
21 Baby Care Kits  
5 Fabric Kits  
9 Personal Care Kits  
121 School Kits  
\$126 was collected in the "Gas Can" and sent off to  
the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund  
8 Quilts were given to the Beacon Center



ADVENTURE DAYS — Vacation Bible School

## WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

*Submitted by Robbyn Givens, Worship & Music Coordinator*

*“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:6-7

2021 continued to be challenging due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We maintained social distancing and without large group musical opportunities. A small group of distanced handbell ringers and a small group of singers, called Bel Canto, shared special music in worship through May. The congregation was not encouraged to sing, so a singer or two sang the hymns for the congregation at all inside worship services until September, when distancing measures were relaxed.

Many baptisms were put on hold during the the pandemic and now that we were worshipping in a somewhat normal fashion, many families began scheduling their child’s baptism. Since it was not safe for the pastor to get close to the family during baptism, the pastors stood a distance away and presided while a family member poured the water and anointed the child’s forehead with oil. Families are given the option to do baptism in the more distanced way.

Those attending the 5:30 p.m. Saturday worship service continued to receive the Word of God and Holy Communion from the pastors on the first Saturday of each month, from Cathy Zubke on the second Saturday and from Jack Holmquest on the third Saturday. The congregation received a videotaped sermon on the fourth (and fifth Saturdays). Gary Kruse also served through the year as a lay leader. The monthly meal served on the first Saturday of the month following worship began again on October 2

Lent began on February 17. Many in the congregation joined in worship on-line. One service was held within the sanctuary each Wednesday during Lent. These services were livestreamed along with the 8:30 a.m. Sunday service. The theme for Lenten worship was *Prayers of the Bible*. Traditional Maundy Thursday worship and a Tenebrae service on Good Friday con-

cluded Holy Week. Easter Sunday worship included special music from a handbell ensemble and the Bel Canto singers. Hymns were again sung for the congregation. A total of 1,072 worshiped at LCOOR on Easter Sunday with 349 of those worshipping online.



We were able to begin worship at Lake Kampeska a week earlier than our usual Memorial Day Weekend start. Being outdoors gave the congregation a chance to sing again. Socially distanced, two or three singers, a keyboard and sometimes guitars, lead the congregation in singing at the lake. We continued to distance within the sanctuary throughout the summer months. One or two song leaders sang for the congregation. Presented by masked servers, communion began to be served with the wine and bread during the summer months. Self-contained communion elements are available for those who prefer them. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday service was livestreamed during the summer. All services returned to the sanctuary on September 11.

Offering at the lake was taken by ushers using long-handled minnow nets to maintain distance. At the church, the offering plate was set near the doors of the sanctuary where people could drop off their offering as they walked in or out. This practice has been continued indoors throughout the year. An attempt was made to pass the offering plates on December 19, but covid numbers began spiking again and it was quickly discontinued.

We came back to fully worship in the sanctuary on September 11. Church School began on September 12 and WOW (Word on Wednesday) Worship on

## WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

### Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.

September 15, with confirmation beginning that day as well. We switched to live streaming the 8:30 a.m. Sunday service. In October, Children's Church leaders began serving on the first and third Sundays while the pastor provided a Children's Sermon within worship on the other weeks. Fifth- and sixth-grade acolytes also began serving in worship again in October.

As we fully came back to the sanctuary, Worship Teams began leading 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship with the congregation singing. Some members of the teams were comfortable leading worship while others continued to stay away from situations where many people were gathered and/or where singing was involved. As we slowly began gathering again, volunteers continued to be very difficult to find. This has remained the case throughout the year.

The Handbell Choir, under the direction of Bev Splinter, and the Praise & Rejoice Choir, under the direction of Tera McDonnell, began rehearsing and providing Special Music for worship in September. These choirs are always ready to welcome new members. If you're interested in ringing or singing, please contact Bev or Tera!

Pastor Dan Ofstehage, LCOOR's associate pastor, died on October 6 and his funeral was held on October 11. This was a very difficult time for the congregation, the staff, and especially, his family. We are very fortunate to have a church staff that was able to continue the ministry of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer despite this devastating situation. Retired Pastor Dave Nerdig stepped up to help and preach at this time, as his schedule allowed. He will continue to do this until another associate pastor is called by the congregation.

Confirmation was held at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., in the sanctuary on October 31 with the JAIK Band providing Special Music at both services. JAIK Band consists of four ninth-graders, including one who was confirmed that day.

Advent was filled with Church School and Preschool Christmas programs along with the message of Christ's birth shared at worship each week. The Ad-

vent season culminated with four candle-light Christmas Eve services at 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 and 10 p.m. A Worship Team, a Handbell Ensemble, Praise & Rejoice Choir, the Kampeska Krooners barbershop quartet, organ, guitar and flute were all a part of bringing the Good News of Christ's birth to the congregation. One thousand, one hundred fifty-five (1,155) were in attendance with 162 worshipping online. A technical issue caused the live stream to malfunction. The service was quickly uploaded to YouTube with updated links on the church's website and Facebook page. Unfortunately, this may have made it difficult for members to join us online for worship.

The LCOOR Fishing League, led by Tim Moes and Tim Chandler, enjoyed time on the water and a good deal of success. Twenty-four men and women enjoyed the camaraderie and a good deal of fish. Those earning bragging rights this year were Tim Moes, Rod Thompson, and Chuck Langer in the walleye and in the 'other' category.

Robbyn Givens, Worship and Music Coordinator, reduced her hours to three quarter time on September 1. Because of this, the task of finding volunteers for worship was taken on by Twila Schmitt and the overseeing of the Sound & Projection Team was taken on by Roger Whittle. The Sound & Projection Team transition is quite complicated and is a work in progress. Twila and Roger are greatly appreciated for taking on these tasks to allow for Robbyn's reduction in hours.

We'd also like to offer a heart-felt thank you to the many people who serve as head ushers and Sound & Projection Team members at LCOOR's four weekly services and during additional festival worship services and events. Thank you to all of the musicians, thank you to the Altar Committee members who assist with communion and keep our altar area clean. And thank you to the volunteers who share their gifts decorating the sanctuary and our church building for special worship services and to celebrate the seasons.

The Worship & Music Committee serves in an advisory capacity to, and in partnership with, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer's pastors and worship leaders.



# YOUTH MINISTRIES REPORT

*Submitted by Philip Lickei — Youth Director*

## ***“To Move Freely, One must be Deeply Rooted”***

It's safe to say that 2021 was a little more normal than 2020 in our youth ministry world. However, I am not quite sure what normal looks like anymore. The whole Covid-19 situation has caused us to look a little differently at how we do youth ministry. A large percentage of our youth got out of the habit of regular attendance at youth events, and I have spent a lot of time this past year trying to re-engage and re-energize the youth.

Many of our ministry programs resumed in 2021, including the following:

- Seventh- and Eighth-Grade Confirmation
- High School Deeper
- High School Coffee & Conversation
- Sixth-Grade Confirmation Camp
- Day Camp
- Middle School Merge
- Christmas Caroling

### **Fifth- and Sixth-Grade Church School**

Along with the above ministries, our youth participating in numerous serving ministries throughout the year, such as creating care packages for shut-ins, God's Work, Our Hands, collecting for the Christmas Cheer project and Watertown Sandwich Ministry to name a few.

Unfortunately, we did not have a summer mission trip or have the youth music team lead Lenten Worship Services in 2021. However, both of these ministries will be back in 2022. We have the privilege of hosting the Mission Trip here in Watertown on June 19-24, 2022. Youth from Guardian Angels Catholic Church will be coming to LCOOR to join us in this service opportunity. We have participated with Guardian Angels on other service projects in the past.

Our high school youth will also be attending the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minn., July 24-28, 2022.

With 2021 in the review mirror, we look forward to all of the opportunities for faith formation and spiritual growth as we dive into 2022. May we continue to grow as a community of faith and experience the Holy Spirit in new and exciting ways!



## South Dakota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*"In the beginning was THE WORD, and THE WORD was with God, and THE WORD was God. ... THE WORD became flesh and made his dwelling among us."*

Dear partners in ministry of the South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! – **Thank you** for your generosity to the ministry of the South Dakota Synod as we *journey together in Christ*. Because of your generosity and our ministry partners, hope and new life in Christ is cultivated in people and communities.



**You have made a difference in Susanne's<sup>1</sup> life.** Susanne faces daily challenges as she roams the streets of Sioux Falls as a person who is housing insecure. But because she connected with "Church on the Street" she now has a monthly worship to look forward to and a community to connect with as she hears the good news of Christ's love for her. On behalf of Susanne, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in Dillon's life.** Dillon grew up on the farm and a caring church family. After his high school graduation, he set out to attend college. While the first few days were new and exciting, the excitement soon wore off, and Dillon fell in a hole of anxiety and depression, wondering if he would make it. Then he remembered the speaker from Lutheran Campus Ministry that had visited his home church one Sunday and decided to look them up on campus. Dillon still goes to college, and while life at times can still be overwhelming, he now has a community which supports him and cares for him when he is away from home. On behalf of Dillon, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in Pedro's life.** Pedro lives in Nicaragua with his family. His family doesn't have much, but they survived by farming a small plot and sharing a small space they call home. All that changed when first a drought and then hurricanes devastated the little the family had. His parents would prepare the little food the family had for their children, but the family would go to bed hungry each night. But because of the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua's partnership with the South Dakota Synod and 'Helping Kids' Round First', Pedro and his family received meal kits that provided much-needed nourishment for the family. On behalf of Pedro, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in Tony's life.** Tony admits that he has made some bad choices and deserves to be incarcerated. But because of St Dysmas' weekly worship services at the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, Tony has found new life in Christ. He hears weekly that his choices are not what defines him, but instead Christ's mercy is for him. On behalf of Tony, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in the life of the synod staff.** As we travel the state and work with you, we see the impact your generosity makes in people's lives. Every time THE WORD of THRUTH is proclaimed in the pulpit, washed over a person in the waters of baptism, and celebrated at the Lord's Table we give thanks for your faithfulness. Our gathering makes a difference, because when we gather God shows up. Your witness, you showing up, and your generosity make a difference in your neighbor's life as the community of Christ bears witness to the defeat of sin and death. On behalf of your synod staff, **THANK YOU!**

It is my sincere hope that your synod staff has made a difference in the life of your congregation as we strive to live our shared vision of journeying together in Christ. Please know that your synod staff is always happy to be in conversation with you. We are committed to show up – just let us know where, when, and why.

Looking forward to the continued journey,

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

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<sup>1</sup> Names and stories are fictitious and altered to protect the individuals.

# 2021 MINISTRY CELEBRATION



One of the hymns we have found meaningful in our work on Synod staff is “The Canticle of the Turning.” The refrain throughout the song is that “the world is about to turn” through God’s work and presence. For many of us, it certainly felt like the world was turning quickly this year. Yet we have held fast to our vision of Journeying Together in Christ throughout it all.

**Here is a celebration of some of the ministry we shared together in 2021. Together, we:**

- A new start congregation, **Spirit of Hope, in Scotland, SD**, was formed and is quickly overflowing the house church used to startup.
- Partnered with the **McLaughlin Community Alliance Group**, a non-profit utilizing the building of Redeemer Lutheran Church for the empowerment of the community.
- Walked with the **27** people in various stages of **Candidacy** and 2 new entrance interviews scheduled in January 2022!
- Received **9 new first call candidates**.
- Completed **34 Ministry Site Studies**.
- **Filled 32 calls** as of November 2021!
- Ensured that nearly every congregation has a called pastor, interim pastor, Synod Authorized Minister, or lay leader to care for God’s people (thank you to all of you who are helping out with area congregations and filling in!)
- Distributed **\$107,838** through the **Seminary Debt Reduction Program**.
- Granted **\$80,500** in **scholarship funds** to seminary students.
- Received **\$78,000** in grants from ELCA Christian Community & Leadership.
- **10, \$1000 technology grants** were awarded to congregations in need of expanding the use of technology in ministry.
- Held a **virtual Synod Assembly**, where we found creative ways to conduct the business of the synod.
- Hosted **Spring** and **Fall Theological Conferences**, where we continued to support the continuing education of our Rostered Ministers either online or in-person.
- Invested in **FaithX**, a community mapping tool for congregations to see hard data about their neighborhoods and learn more about their neighbors.
- Supported many congregations and ministries through visits by synod staff, both digitally and in-person.
- Hosted Bishop Megan Rohrer from our sister synod, Sierra Pacific.
- Completed construction and began the use of the Wambli Ska Center, formerly planned as the Woyatan Retreat Center.
- Created **new synod staff** positions including a **Rural Ministry Liaison** to journey with our rural ministry sites.

**It is through our mutual support for one another, our prayers lifted up on behalf of our neighbor, our financial blessings that are given, and most importantly the love and relationships we have, that all this and much more is accomplished. God has called us to be the body of Christ together, and this is an active and healthy body!**

## LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA



# 2021

## CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

### KEEP THE CAMPFIRES BURNING APPEAL IS SUCCESSFUL!

LO created the **Keep the Campfires Burning Appeal** to aid in the financial challenges resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Reaching our goal of \$1.2 million in 2021 moves us forward into 2022 without debt remaining. It will also enable LO to continue offering quality, life-giving programs and maintain and improve our facilities.



Lutherans Outdoors received a terrific response during 2021, enabling the ministry to meet its goal of \$1.2 Million! These gifts came from individual donors, congregations, SD Synod, special events, memorials, and more. Thank YOU for making this appeal a success!

### SUMMER CAMPERS RETURN

Lutherans Outdoors was thrilled to have campers return to NeSoDak, Outlaw Ranch, and Klein Ranch during the summer of 2021! **Nearly 1,100 campers** received a safe, Christ-filled, and life-giving experience.

In 2021 Lutherans Outdoors planned for a return of 60% of campers compared to previous years. In 2022, LO has increased camper capacity and hopes to improve from last summer.

**Registration is currently open so reserve your spots today at [losd.org](http://losd.org).  
Then, see YOU at camp in 2022!**

### JOY RANCH TRANSFER OF PROPERTY COMPLETED

In early January 2022, Lutherans Outdoors completed the transfer of ownership and operation of Joy Ranch to a new entity named Joy Ranch of South Dakota. This process had started in November of 2019 with the creation of a Joy Ranch Task Force.

Lutherans Outdoors is proud to have been an instrumental part of the birthing process of this beautiful facility that increases the quality of life for all who gather. Lutherans Outdoors thanks the thousands of supporters who have participated in the development of Joy Ranch. With these changes, Lutherans Outdoors is confident that Joy Ranch of South Dakota will be successful into the future and will faithfully honor its many supporters.

### WELCOME, NEW STAFF!

NeSoDak welcomed Vicki Foss as the new Camp Director in March. Vicki comes from Minnesota with a youth ministry and camping ministry background. Thomas Wishard is the new Program Director and began in September. Thomas has been on summer staff for several years.

Outlaw Ranch welcomed Shannon Pulscher as the new Facility Manager last February. Shannon is a general contractor and brings many abilities to the position. In addition, we welcomed back Taylor Wiese as the Program Director last April.

## 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

**Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.**

	As of 12/31/2021	As of 1/11/2022	
<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>Budget 2021</b>	<b>Actual 2021</b>	<b>Proposed 2022</b>
Promised	802,338.00	743,745.79	\$806,204.00
Non-Promised	95,850.00	146,723.55	\$111,694.00
Loose	10,000.00	19,251.12	\$15,000.00
Church School	1,000.00	1,537.37	\$1,000.00
Christian Preschool	25,000.00	44,998.44	\$45,000.00
Budget Surplus	30,000.00	30,000.00	\$17,000.00
Other	2,000.00	\$7,977.00	\$4,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>966,188.00</b>	<b>994,233.27</b>	<b>\$999,898.00</b>
Mission of the Month Designated Givings		23,101.14	
		<b>1,017,334.41</b>	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	<b>Budget 2021</b>	<b>Actual 2021</b>	<b>Proposed 2022</b>
<b><u>Missions</u></b>			
<i>Partners in Mission</i>			
1101 St. Dymas	1,000.00	1,701.20	\$1,000.00
1102 Pine Ridge	1,000.00	1,934.14	\$1,000.00
1104 SD Lutherans Outdoors	1,000.00	2,022.39	\$1,000.00
1108 Companion Synod - Nicaragua	1,000.00	1,691.87	\$1,000.00
1110 Lutheran Campus Ministry	1,000.00	1,591.35	\$1,000.00
1113 Companion Synod - Cameroon	1,000.00	6,078.30	\$1,000.00
1114 Nicaragua Youth Retreat	1,000.00	1,568.10	\$1,000.00
1215 Pueblo de Dios - SF	1,000.00	1,497.59	\$1,000.00
1201 ELCA & SD Synod Mission Support	43,000.00	43,269.96	\$43,000.00
1202 Loaves & Fishes	10,000.00	10,000.00	
1203 Connecting Thru Technology	10,000.00	7,818.44	
1204 ELCA World Hunger	2,000.00	4,614.02	\$2,000.00
1206 With You Always	10,000.00	9,741.95	
1207 LCOOR Pre-School	1,000.00	4,661.02	\$1,000.00
1209 Salvation Army - One Roof	1,000.00	1,859.00	\$1,000.00
1212 LCOOR Care Fund	1,000.00	1,948.53	\$1,000.00
1213 Sandwich Ministry	2,500.00	2,500.00	\$2,500.00
1214 Brothers & Sisters Behind Bars - Watertown	1,800.00	1,800.00	\$1,800.00
	<b>90,300.00</b>	<b>106,297.86</b>	<b>\$60,300.00</b>
<b><u>Stewardship Mission Goals</u></b>			
An Education with Jesus (Preschool)			\$21,000.00
- payroll increase noted in Christian Preschool Salary lines			-\$21,000.00
Developing Lives of Faith (Christian Education)			\$20,000.00
- payroll increase noted in Parish Education & Program Salary			-\$20,000.00
Seeking & Embracing God's Plan			\$9,000.00
			<b>\$9,000.00</b>

## 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Proposed 2022
<b><u>Worship &amp; Service</u></b>			
<i>Salaries</i>			
2101 Organist/Pianist	\$11,520.00	8,670.00	\$11,520.00
2102 Choir Directors	\$8,320.00	5,760.00	\$8,320.00
2106 FICA	\$3,967.00	1,600.65	\$3,064.00
2107 Worship Coordinator	\$43,464.00	39,842.00	\$33,576.00
2108 Benefit Package	\$2,608.00	2,390.52	\$2,015.00
2109 Health Insurance Stipend	\$8,390.00	7,690.96	\$6,481.00
2110 Continuing Ed/Robbyn & Choir Director	\$550.00	132.87	\$550.00
2112 Sound and Projection Team	\$1,530.00	310.00	\$1,000.00
<i>Music</i>			
2201 Instrumental/Contemp. Team Music	\$300.00	28.94	\$300.00
2202 Sr. Choir Music	\$500.00	83.59	\$500.00
2203 Handbell Music	\$300.00	216.59	\$300.00
<i>Miscellaneous</i>			
2301 Bulletins/Devotionals	\$1,500.00	1,417.68	\$1,500.00
2303 Copyright/Sundays & Seasons	\$2,700.00	3,048.15	\$3,000.00
2305 Nursery Supplies	\$100.00	0.00	\$100.00
2307 Festival Decorations/Visuals	\$600.00	538.57	\$600.00
2310 Special Worship Programming	\$500.00	0.00	\$500.00
<i>Altar</i>			
2401 Altar Supplies	\$1,500.00	1,500.13	\$1,500.00
<i>Equipment- upkeep/repair</i>			
2501 Pianos	\$1,500.00	809.40	\$1,500.00
2502 Misc. Equipment, Repairs	\$3,000.00	1,964.12	\$3,000.00
2503 Sound System	\$3,000.00	23.68	\$3,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,849.00</b>	<b>76,027.85</b>	<b>82,326.00</b>
	<b>Budget 2021</b>	<b>Actual 2021</b>	<b>Proposed 2022</b>
<b><u>Parish Education &amp; Programs</u></b>			
<i>Salaries</i>			
3100 Education Coordinator	\$8,700.00	16,495.00	\$40,170.00
3102 FICA	\$797.00	1,510.57	\$3,734.00
3103 Health Insurance Stipend	\$1,716.00	3,495.90	\$8,642.00
3104 Benefit Pkg	\$522.00	975.00	\$2,410.00
3108 Continuing Ed	\$400.00	0.00	\$400.00
<i>Curriculum</i>			
3200 Elementary School Activities	\$500.00	224.72	\$1,000.00
3201 Church School	\$9,500.00	6,871.71	\$9,000.00
3202 Vacation Bible School	\$2,500.00	2,214.17	\$2,500.00
3204 Adult Bible Study	\$400.00	133.78	\$200.00
3205 Bibles	\$2,500.00	2,499.03	\$2,500.00
3207 Equipment	\$750.00	391.85	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,285.00</b>	<b>34,811.73</b>	<b>71,056.00</b>

## 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

**Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.**

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Proposed 2022
<b><u>Parish Youth Program</u></b>			
<i>Salaries</i>			
4100 Youth Director	\$48,500.00	48,654.42	\$47,804.00
4102 FICA	\$4,352.00	4,363.91	\$4,318.00
4104 Benefit Pkg	\$2,910.00	2,911.81	\$2,868.00
4105 Health Insurance Stipend	\$8,390.00	8,390.16	\$8,642.00
4106 Continuing Ed	\$500.00	492.22	\$500.00
<i>Youth</i>			
4201 Sr. High Activities	\$400.00	375.04	\$300.00
4202 Middle School Activities	\$400.00	385.04	\$400.00
4204 Elementary Youth Camperships	\$3,000.00	3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<i>Curriculum</i>			
4301 Curriculum/Confirm.	\$500.00	398.26	\$400.00
4302 6th Grade Confirmation Camp	\$3,000.00	3,000.00	\$3,000.00
4303 Camp Counselor Scholarship	\$1,000.00	0.00	\$0.00
<i>Youth &amp; Family</i>			
4504 Wednesday Meal Coordinator	\$2,100.00	2,100.00	\$5,000.00
4505 High School Lunches	\$1,000.00	0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,052.00</b>	<b>74,070.86</b>	<b>76,232.00</b>
	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Proposed 2022
<b><u>Outreach</u></b>			
<i>Evangelism</i>			
5102 Advertising	\$2,000.00	1,660.70	\$2,000.00
5103 The Lutheran Magazine	\$150.00	0.00	\$0.00
5104 Evangelism Supplies	\$150.00	146.33	\$150.00
5105 Hospitality	\$400.00	247.43	\$400.00
5106 Befriender Ministry	\$500.00	20.00	\$500.00
5107 Nursery Packets	\$500.00	207.46	\$500.00
5108 Gods Work Our Hands	\$1,000.00	475.23	\$1,000.00
5110 Senior Ministry	\$750.00	555.49	\$750.00
<i>Fellowship</i>			
5201 Supplies	\$1,000.00	144.30	\$1,000.00
<i>Stewardship</i>			
5301 Materials & Supplies	\$2,000.00	2,471.84	\$2,200.00
5303 Stewardship Drive	\$6,000.00	6,000.00	\$6,000.00
<i>Miscellaneous</i>			
5402 General Synod Assembly	\$1,300.00	300.00	\$1,300.00
<i>Health &amp; Wellness</i>			
5404 Wellness Expenses/AED	\$250.00	0.00	\$250.00
<i>Salaries</i>			
5501 Welcome & Caring Coordinator	\$43,705.00	43,704.96	\$45,016.00
5502 Benefit Pkg	\$2,622.00	2,622.24	\$2,701.00
5503 Health Insurance Stipend	\$8,390.00	8,390.16	\$8,642.00
5504 FICA	\$3,985.00	3,985.28	\$4,105.00
5505 Continuing Ed	\$500.00	86.21	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,202.00</b>	<b>71,017.63</b>	<b>77,014.00</b>

## 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Proposed 2022
<b><u>Pastoral Leadership</u></b>			
<i>Senior Pastor</i>			
6101 Salary	\$60,557.00	60,557.04	\$62,374.00
6102 Housing Allowance	\$24,560.00	24,559.92	\$25,297.00
6104 Health Coverage/Pension	\$32,171.00	31,208.32	\$22,970.00
6105 Continuing Ed	\$1,300.00	100.00	\$1,000.00
6107 Social Security Offset	\$6,511.00	6,510.96	\$6,706.00
6109 Professional Expenses	\$1,700.00	1,258.04	\$1,700.00
<i>Assoc. Pastor</i>			
6401 Salary	\$44,441.00	40,737.62	\$43,993.00
6402 Housing	\$17,776.00	17,776.08	\$17,842.00
6404 Health Coverage/Pension	\$36,239.00	31,957.37	\$36,981.00
6405 Continuing Ed	\$1,200.00	0.00	\$1,000.00
6407 Social Security Offset	\$4,760.00	4,363.26	\$4,730.00
6409 Professional Expenses	\$700.00	437.83	\$700.00
<i>Miscellaneous</i>			
6301 Watertown Ministerial Assoc.	\$100.00	100.00	\$100.00
6302 Pastoral Conferences	\$3,500.00	1,103.55	\$2,500.00
6303 Pastors' Mileage	\$2,000.00	917.28	\$1,200.00
6306 Guest Preaching Pastor	\$1,000.00	3,725.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>238,515.00</b>	<b>225,312.27</b>	<b>230,093.00</b>
	<b>Budget 2021</b>	<b>Actual 2021</b>	<b>Proposed 2022</b>
<b><u>Church Operations</u></b>			
<i>Secretarial Salaries</i>			
7101 Communications Coordinator	\$39,000.00	34,287.50	\$40,170.00
7102 Salary/Business Manager	\$41,000.00	40,999.92	\$42,230.00
7103 FICA (Jodi)	\$3,778.00	3,819.02	\$3,892.00
7104 FICA	\$3,625.00	3,197.98	\$3,734.00
7105 Continuing Ed	\$600.00	0.00	\$600.00
7106 Benefit Pkg (Jodi)	\$2,774.00	2,781.63	\$2,534.00
7108 Health Insurance Stipend (Jodi)	\$8,390.00	8,390.16	\$8,642.00
7109 Benefit Pkg	\$2,340.00	2,057.25	\$2,410.00
7110 Health Insurance Stipend	\$8,390.00	7,516.19	\$8,642.00
<i>Office Operations</i>			
7201 General Supplies	\$9,500.00	8,996.49	\$9,000.00
7202 Computer/Lease/Support	\$6,000.00	5,661.05	\$6,000.00
7203 Prairie Coteau Conference Dues	\$700.00	671.60	\$700.00
7204 Telephone/Internet	\$4,000.00	3,842.42	\$4,000.00
7205 Postage	\$6,800.00	6,847.59	\$6,800.00
7206 Office Equipment Maintenance	\$3,500.00	2,654.95	\$3,000.00
7207 Office Equipment	\$500.00	500.00	\$500.00
7208 Staff Mileage	\$600.00	665.84	\$600.00
7210 Accounting/Legal Fees	\$750.00	756.15	\$1,200.00
7211 Bank Charges	\$2,500.00	3,031.93	\$3,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,747.00</b>	<b>136,677.67</b>	<b>147,654.00</b>



## 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

**Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word and Deed.**

	<b>Budget 2021</b>	<b>Actual 2021</b>	<b>Proposed 2022</b>
<b><u>Church Home</u></b>			
<i>Mortgage</i>			
8101 Mortgage (principal paid)	\$13,600.60	14,063.38	\$14,083.00
Mortgage - Debt Reduction		6,306.00	
8102 Mortgage Interest	\$14,699.40	14,031.74	\$14,217.00
<i>Custodial Salaries</i>			
8201 Salaries	\$17,340.00	15,679.36	\$17,860.20
8203 FICA	\$1,326.00	1,199.47	\$1,366.00
8210 Janitorial Services	\$18,360.00	14,233.95	\$16,480.00
<i>Custodial Supplies</i>			
8301 Cleaning Supplies/Misc.	\$3,500.00	3,659.06	\$3,500.00
8302 Paper Products	\$2,500.00	2,534.53	\$2,500.00
<i>Grounds Maintenance</i>			
8401 Supplies/Services	\$3,500.00	3,677.75	\$4,000.00
8402 Maintenance of Equipment	\$1,500.00	1,090.92	\$3,500.00
8404 Snow Removal	\$10,000.00	4,010.31	\$10,000.00
<i>Building Maintenance</i>			
8502 Painting	\$500.00	493.94	\$500.00
8504 Maintenance	\$16,000.00	15,185.57	\$16,000.00
8505 Equipment	\$2,000.00	2,000.00	\$2,000.00
8506 Utilities	\$42,000.00	39,212.58	\$46,200.00
8507 Insurance	\$16,190.00	18,659.01	\$20,000.00
8508 Capital Improvement	\$10,000.00	10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,016.00</b>	<b>166,037.57</b>	<b>182,206.20</b>
	<b>Budget 2021</b>	<b>Actual 2021</b>	<b>Proposed 2022</b>
<b><u>Christian Preschool</u></b>			
<i>Salaries</i>			
9101 Director/Teacher	\$19,682.00	23,591.92	\$30,006.00
9102 Teacher Assistant	\$8,527.00	12,079.02	\$15,821.00
9103 FICA	\$1,929.00	2,301.12	\$2,957.00
9104 Continuing Ed	\$600.00	45.00	\$600.00
9105 Benefit Pkg	\$1,181.00	1,415.43	\$1,800.00
9106 Substitute Teacher	\$400.00	63.00	\$400.00
9107 FICA - Assistant	\$652.00	942.79	\$1,210.00
9108 Health Insurance Stipend	\$5,537.00	6,488.08	\$8,642.00
<i>Supplies/Equipment</i>			
9201 Supplies	\$1,250.00	1,250.00	\$2,000.00
9202 Equipment	\$200.00	200.00	\$300.00
<i>Advertising</i>			
9401 Newspaper/Radio	\$300.00	0.00	\$200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,258.00</b>	<b>48,376.36</b>	<b>63,936.00</b>
 <b>Grand Total</b>	 <b>962,224.00</b>	 <b>938,629.80</b>	 <b>999,817.20</b>
<b>Recap:</b>			
<b>Actual 2021 Income</b>		<b>1,017,334.41</b>	
<b>Less Actual 2021 Expenses</b>		<b>938,629.80</b>	
<b>Income less Expenses</b>		<b>78,704.61</b>	

## NOTES

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

## Litany

Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember:

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

**You have called us for such a time as this.**

## God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of  
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that  
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
trust from you all that you give; help us in  
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
love to share, teach us like you to care  
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,  
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.  
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.  
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

*All Creation Sings* #1063

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**O God,  
you have called your servants  
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden,  
through perils unknown.  
Give us faith to go out with good courage,  
not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us  
and your love supporting us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen. (ELW, p. 317)**

Change and the need for creativity have become constants over the last year and a half in many aspects of life, including the church. This was the case for **Living Christ Lutheran Church** in Flagstaff, Ariz., even before a global pandemic caused many of us to rethink what it means to be church. Generosity from all three expressions of the ELCA (the churchwide organization, the Grand Canyon Synod and members of Living Christ) helped turn a congregation “on the road out of town, near the mall” into an online presence reaching over 500 people a week from Phoenix to the Philippines. (Read more about Living Christ in the current issue of “**Stories of Faith in Action**” at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).)

Many other congregations have found new ways to connect both when in-person worship was impossible and when congregations began to return to their sanctuaries. Generosity, especially through Mission Support, helped us find and support these new ways of being connected. Early in the pandemic, ELCA Worship launched the “Worship in the Home” webpage, with Scripture, hymn links, prayers and reflections for each

Sunday. These resources were and continue to be used in congregations across the ELCA—even at **Sitka Lutheran Church** in Alaska, whose members printed and hand-delivered “Worship in the Home” resources to fellow members without internet access.

Change and creativity have taught us many things. As Pastor Sandra Rudd of Sitka Lutheran Church noted, “The pandemic was a stark illustration of the fact that the church is not a building. A lot of people say that, but we didn’t fully know it until we didn’t have a building to use. We learned that there are many ways to be connected as the church.” Throughout the pandemic, the ELCA has changed and adapted, doing ministry in new and creative ways, because of the generosity of its members. Even now, you may be gathering in a new way for your annual meeting, to discern how you will steward the gifts shared generously with your congregation to do ministry in your community and beyond. As you have these important conversations, remember that your gifts of time, talent and resources have helped create new spaces beyond our walls and buildings where we continue to worship, serve and love God and each other.

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021