



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

This year has been a challenging one! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church and society. We have had to shift the ways we engage in ministry from a focus on in-person worship and meetings to livestream worship, virtual meetings and gatherings in the parking lot. We have had to shift to teaching children at home and working from home. We have not been able to travel to see friends or relatives or to celebrate life events. This has also been a time to address economic and social justice issues, to shift our thinking and our way of life.

In times such as this, our baptism in Christ makes a difference and makes us different. Like Christians before us, we recall that God is faithful to God's promises and God's people. We see that God enables us to connect with one another even when we are separated. Shifts in the world invite us to be innovative in how we do God's work and reach out to all ages in making disciples. We see that God is at work not only in our buildings but beyond them as well. We have found new ways to serve our neighbors and reach those in need.

As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future.

Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents and resources. Yes, God does continue to bless us! God will provide both relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,

Elysteeth G. Catm

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."—Ephesians 4:11-16

First Lutheran Church 2020 Annual Meeting

Agenda	2
Council, Board and Committee Members	3-4
Annual Meeting Minutes	5-6
Financial Secretary Report	7
Treasurer Reports	8-11
2021 Proposed Budget	12-13
President Report	
Pastor Report	15-16
Board of Deacons Report	17
Board of Education Report	
Finance Committee Report	
Board of Trustees Report	20
Endowment Committee Report	21
Technology Committee Report	22-25
2021 Nominating Ballot	26
Appendix	
SD Synod Report	27
SD Synod Budgetary Information	28-29
Shetek Lutheran Ministries Report	30
Lutheran Social Services	31
Lutheran Outdoors 2020	32
Church on the Street	33
Journeying Together in Christ	34
Vanco / Giving Authorization / Thrivent Federal Credit Union	n 35

First Lutheran Church 2021 Annual Meeting Agenda January 31, 2021

II.	Opening Prayer					
III.	January 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes					
	a. Approval of Minutes					
IV.	Financial Secretary Report					
V.	Treasurer Report					
VI.	President Report					
VII.	Pastor Report					
VIII.	Boards					
	a. Board of Education					
	b. Board of Trustees					
	c. Board of Deacons					
IX.	Committees					
	a. Endowment Committee					
	b. Cemetery Committee					
	c. Technology Committee					
Χ.	Organizations					
XI.	Old Business					
	a					
XII.	New Business					
	a. Presentation of Proposed 2021 Budget					
	b. Election of New Officers and Board Members					
	c. Finance Board					
XIII.	Annual Report from Supporting Ministries					
XIV.	Motion to Adjourn					
XV.	Closing					

I.

Call to Order

First Lutheran Church 2020 Council and Board Members

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Cell</u>	<u>Email</u>
<u>President</u> Jake Cypher (2014)	446-3951	941-3863	jcypherconstruction@gmail.com
<u>Vice President</u> Tim Jensen (2015)		881-3624	truckertrj@gmail.com
<u>Treasurer</u> Wendy Simmermon (2019)	446-3366	366-8194	wjsimmermon@gmail.com flctreasurerwendy@gmail.com
Secretary Hilary Cypher (2020)	446-3951	941-3282	hilary.cypher@gmail.com
<u>Financial Secretary:</u> Tammy Huntimer (2020)	446-3114	941-2611	thuntimer@sio.midco.net
	Board and Cou	ıncil	
Deacons Cindy Oyen (2020) Jenny Tiehen_(2020) Carol Gaspar (2017) Jamie Peterson (2017) Nancy Warne (2018) Jeanelle Stene (2015)	446-3492 446-3508 446-3934	759-1696 376-8795 929-7987 201-2356 351-2806 530-0802	jrt520@aol.com cgaspar@goldenwest.net qball_03@hotmail.com nwarne27@gmail.com
Education Angie Keith (2017) Bridget Amundson (2017) Nicole Van Hal (2015) Kaye Hansen (2015) Renae Jensen (2018) Kaylee Amundson (2019)	446-3337 595-4256	222-1645 251-7587 929-7988 321-3126 251-5021 212-3760	okieangiekeith@yahoo.com bridget amundson@live.com nicole@goldenwest.net kaye.hansen@yahoo.com renae.jensen11@gmail.com kayjean85@gmail.com
Trustees David Keith (2020) Mike Will (2020) Rick Huntimer (2017) Tim Ramstad (2017) Matt Jones (2018)	529-5403 446-3303 446-3114 446-3671	280-4018 941-2610 351-3141 201-7991	dakeith4@yahoo.com mbwill@mmm.com rhuntimer@sio.midco.net ramstadconst@siouxvalley.net mcjones5543@yahoo.com
Finance Mark Johnson (2020) Jim Willard (2017) Phil Hoffman (2018)	543-5248 446-3833 446-3511	815-978-2780 359-0903	mjohn2222@alliancecom.net jjwillard@goldenwest.net pwhsd@yahoo.com

Endowment Fund Committee:

 Tyler Hansen (2020)

 Julie Luebke (2017) (President)
 529-5162
 201-5035
 jluebke@gmail.com

 Laura Jensen (2018)
 359-5670
 laura.jensen@k12.sd.us

 Rick Lehman (2018) (Treasurer)
 413-8704
 rjlehman@sio.midco.net

 Mark Hotchkin (2019)
 489-2255
 270-1475
 photch@itctel.com

SD Synod Assembly (SF): (June 5 and 6): Tim and Laura Jensen

Bethel Home Board of Directors: Jim Willard

Bethel Home Annual Meeting: Jan Willard and Phil Hoffman

First Lutheran Church 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

The First Lutheran 2020 Annual Meeting was held after church service on Sunday, February 26, 2020. The meeting was called to order by President Mike Willard. Pastor Wayne Meidinger stated our just concluded worship was our opening prayer. A quorum was present, and the meeting proceeded.

January 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes presented as printed in the 2019 Annual Report. Church members were asked by President Willard to look over the minutes. A motion was made by Tim Jensen and seconded by Phil Hoffman to approve the minutes as printed. All voted aye. Motion approved.

Financial Secretary's Report presented by Fay Ramstad. A motion was made by Mark Johnson and seconded by Terry Bunde to approve the report as printed. All voted aye. Motion approved. Fay is retiring after serving four years as financial secretary. **Thank You Fay** for a job well done!

Treasurer's Report presented by Wendy Simmermon. A motion was made by Tim Ramstad and seconded by Tammy Huntimer to approve the report as printed. All voted aye. Motion approved.

President's Report presented as printed in the Annual Report. President Mike Willard thanked our secretary, financial secretary and treasurer. He noted our financial secretary, Fay Ramstad, and our treasurer, Wendy Simmermon, spend a lot of time working together to assure our financial accounts are accurate and reconciled.

Pastor's Report presented as printed in the Annual Report. Pastor Wayne Meidinger said the Holy Spirit is working amongst our congregation asking us to serve. We need to ask what brings us joy in our church and then act on it and share.

The new synod staff has approached Pastor Wayne to see if we are open to an internship. The synod office previously placed interns in congregations but has turned this over to the seminary. The seminary currently has 30 students in training. Pastor Wayne is just throwing this out for our congregations to think about.

Boards

Board of Education Report presented by Angie Keith. The board enjoys working together to help educate the youth in our church.

Board of Trustees Report presented by Rick Huntimer. Several big projects were completed in 2019, but there is always more to be done. We need to be looking at replacing our carpet that was installed in 1972 and continue with more painting. Rick thanked Bonnie Gelderman and Fay Ramstad for the many hours of work and decorating they have done! He noted what a beautiful church we have! Rick gave a big thank you to Jake Cypher for years of service as a trustee! He said Jake knows our church inside and out and is always there to help. Jake was recognized with a round of applause. **THANK YOU, JAKE**!

Board of Deacons Report presented as printed in the Annual Report.

Committees

Endowment Committee Report presented by Mark Johnson. First Lutheran has over a million dollars invested with Edward Jones. There are now no fees for adding new money to our account because of the amount already invested. Mark was asked for the overall total amount donated to Endowments. He did not have that figure at this time, but the amount in our portfolio is over 1 Million dollars and the board will get the total amount donated.

Cemetery Committee Report presented as printed in the Annual Report.

Finance Committee Report presented by Phil Hoffman. Phil asked that the following changes be made: (1) strike the word Fund in the name of the report and (2) in paragraph four change the word supervises to supports and add financial secretary in addition to treasurer. He also noted we are undergoing an IRS audit for 2016, 2017 and 2018 concerning our payment of employee taxes. This process has just begun, and the committee has engaged a CPA to help with this matter.

Organizations

Women's Financial Report

Presented as printed in the Annual Report.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Proposed 2020 Budget presented by Phil Hoffman and Wendy Simmermon. Changes have been made to be more efficient. Wendy has converted all financial records to QuickBooks. Everything has been set up on monthly payments; money comes in and goes out monthly in financials. Workman's Comp Insurance was previously combined with Property Insurance, but these are now divided.

There was some discussion with the following questions and answers regarding the proposed budget:

- (1) How old is our office copy machine? Our copier was replaced two years ago, and we have a five-year contract.
- (2) Who determines the wages for our office secretary? Our secretary is paid by the hour and received a 4% raise. She did not use the budgeted amount in 2019 so the same amount was used in the 2020 proposed budget. Our office secretary's wages are a shared expense with St. Jacob's. (St. Jacob's pays 25% of all shared expenses plus \$125 monthly.)
- (3) Why the large increase proposed for Parsonage Utilities telephone? Wendy stated a correction should be made. The 2020 Proposed Budget amount for Parsonage Utilities telephone should be \$483, not \$1083 (a difference of \$600). The proposed amount for Telephone/Internet should be \$1800, not \$1200 (a difference of \$600). Totals on the 2020 Proposed Budget remain the same.

A motion was made by Tammy Huntimer to approve the Proposed 2020 Budget. Motion seconded by Jim Willard. All voted aye. Motion approved.

2020 Nominating Ballot presented as printed in the Annual Report. There are two open positions on the ballot for President and Financial Secretary. President Willard asked for any nominations for 2020 President and Financial Secretary. There were no nominations for President. President Willard nominated Tammy Huntimer for Financial Secretary and she will consider taking this position. Steve Miller has asked to be removed from the Finance Committee. Also, the treasurer and financial secretary should be added to names on the Finance Committee. Laura and Tim Jensen volunteered to be delegates to the Synod Assembly and Phil Hoffman volunteered to be a delegate to the Bethel Home Annual Meeting. A motion was made by Deb Bunde and seconded by Leslie Johnson to approve the 2020 Nominating Ballot with the following changes: removal of Steve Miller from the Finance Committee and the addition of Laura and Tim Jensen as delegates to the SD Synod Assembly and Phil Hoffman as a delegate to the Bethel Home Annual Meeting. All voted aye. Motion approved.

Hilary Cypher noted the correct spelling of her first name is Hilary, not Hillary as printed on the nominating ballot.

A motion to adjourn the 2020 Annual Meeting was made by Dave Keith and seconded by Hilary Cypher. All voted aye. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned, and Pastor Wayne closed the meeting leading all in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Oyen, Secretary

First Lutheran Church 2020 Financial Secretary Report

						020 1 111				_			
General Fund	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Checks	\$8,454.58	\$7,000.00	\$8,386.00	\$9,240.00	\$1,310.00	\$7,070.00	\$3,655.00	\$4,665.00	\$6,971.92	\$3,329.00	\$11,970.00	\$12,134.45	\$84,185.95
Envelope cash	\$91.00	\$110.00	\$50.00	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$60.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$60.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,260.00	\$40.00	\$3,621.00
Loose offering	\$57.00	\$137.61	\$28.00	\$110.00		\$76.00	\$43.00	\$117.01	\$40.25	\$30.54	\$34.00	\$65.00	\$738.41
DD	\$1,170.00	\$1,785.00	\$1,795.00	\$4,676.45	\$3,295.58	\$4,716.61	\$4,542.97	\$3,524.39	\$4,351.37	\$3,228.25	\$5,481.42	\$5,103.67	\$43,670.71
Choice dollars			\$423.00	\$491.00								\$5,272.73	\$6,186.73
Berge Fund													
Total	\$9,772.58	\$9,032.61	\$10,682.00	\$14,547.45	\$4,645.58	\$11,922.61	\$8,280.97	\$8,346.40	\$11,423.54	\$8,387.79	\$18,745.42	\$22,615.85	\$138,402.80
	39 donors	38 donors	31 donors	34 donors	25 donors	39 donors	25 donors	34 donors	31 donors	31 donors	32 donors	42 donors	72 donors
Other Income		\$500.00									\$25.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,525.00
SJ Share		\$775.75	\$644.15	\$523.59		\$1,011.89		\$629.10		\$615.82	\$578.58	\$2,001.89	\$6,780.77
cemetery mowing												\$530.00	\$530.00
noisy offering	\$49.92	\$87.36	\$32.33										\$169.61
Special Offering-Food Pantry		\$334.00											\$334.00
Church in the Street			\$92.00										\$92.00
In Kind Donations		\$1,209.82										\$2,150.00	\$3,359.82
													\$15,791.20
Designated Giving													
Brakke Scholarship	\$454.04			\$459.18			\$459.69			\$465.19			\$1,838.10
Alter Guild		\$250.00											\$250.00
Building Fund		\$3,750.00											\$3,750.00
Zion Cemetary												\$350.00	\$350.00
Minnehaha Cemetery							\$590.00			\$375.00		\$850.00	\$1,815.00
DD-building fund	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00			\$250.00
DD-endowment	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00		\$48.07	\$113.07
Total													\$8,366.17
Memorial Account													
Undesignated		\$110.00			\$50.00		\$45.00		\$50.00			\$810.00	\$1,065.00
seat cushion fund				\$50.00								\$50.00	\$100.00
Technology						\$1,100.00							\$1,100.00
PPP Grant					\$14,775.00								\$14,775.00
Total		\$110.00		\$50.00	\$14,825.00	\$1,100.00	\$45.00		\$50.00			\$860.00	\$17,040.00

First Lutheran Church 2020 Treasurer Report Summary – US Bank Accounts

Account Title	Beginning	Ending
Main Checking #5936	\$8,200	\$15,321
Memorial Savings #3914	\$48,749	\$54,367
Cemetery Savings #6239	\$36,233	\$37,990
LYO Checking #1554	\$9,430	\$11,596
St. Ansgar Checking #8924	\$5,406	\$5,046
Brakke Savings #8930	\$7,591	\$7,930
		\$132,250

Main Account – US Bank Checking January – December 2020 Operating Account

2020 Beginning Balance	\$8,200
<u>Deposits</u>	
Direct Deposits	\$45,957
St. Jacob's Split	\$6,781
General Worship	\$99,402
Other	\$554
Total Deposits	\$152,694
<u>Expenses</u>	
FLC Budget: treasurer, Sunday school, etc.	\$22,962
Missions: ELCA, Deacons, Bethel, Banquet,	\$6,745
Our Church Home: Utlities, maintenance	\$27,942
Pastoral Ministry: wage and benefits	\$64,406
SF/FLC Shared expenses: secretary, office	\$23,518
Total Expenses	\$145,573
2020 Ending Balance	\$15,321
2020 Memorial Loan	
February: borrowed to pay IRS (2016-2018) back taxes	\$12,000
August: borrowed for the operating deficit	\$4,000
September: borrowed for operating deficit	\$3,000
October: borrowed for operating deficit	\$2,000
Total 2020 Memorial Loan	\$21,000
Memorial Loan Payments	
PPP Funds from the 2020 CARES Act (May 2020)	\$(14,775)
General Funds payment	\$(6,225)
· ·	\$(21,000)
To be reimbursed:	
Berge Music Fund reimbursement - music & Organists	\$8,517
*For the organists, related music costs, and streaming video/recordings.	
*These funds will go into the general/operating account once received.	

First Lutheran Church 2020 Cemetery Accounts – US Bank Savings

	Bethania	Minnehaha	St. Ansgar	Zion	TOTALS
USB Savings Beginning	\$5,195	\$17,320	\$2,628	\$11,090	\$36,233
Edward Jones #1 Beginning	\$2,267	\$151,357	\$10,829	\$5,930	\$170,383
Edward Jones #2 Beginning			\$38,004		\$38,004
USB Checking Beginning			\$5,406		\$5,406
2020 Beginning Balances	\$7,462	\$168,677	\$56,867	\$17,020	\$250,026
USB Savings Deposits		_	_	_	
Sales of Grave Sites		\$800			
Perpetual Care / Upkeep		\$405			
Memorials		\$610		\$350	
Interest	\$2	\$6	\$1	\$4	
USB Savings Expenses					
Mowing (net cost)	\$-	\$110	\$(170)	\$(360)	
Perpetual Care					
USB Checking Expenses					
Water (12 x \$30)			\$(360)		
USB Savings Ending	\$5,197	\$19,251	\$2,459	\$11,084	\$37,990
Edward Jones #1 Ending	\$2,415	\$160,569	\$11,522	\$6,318	\$180,824
Edward Jones #2 Ending			\$41,636		\$41,636
USB Checking Ending			\$5,046		\$5,046
2020 Ending Balances	\$7,612	\$179,820	\$60,663	\$17,402	\$265,496

2020 St. Ansgar Account – US Bank Checking

2020 Beginning Balance	\$5,406
<u>Deposits</u>	
	\$-
<u>Expenses</u>	
2020 Water Bill 12 months at \$30/mo	\$(360)
2020 Ending Balance	\$5,046

First Lutheran Church Memorial Account – US Bank Savings January – December 2020

	Beginning	Deposits	Expenses	Ending	
Altar Guild	\$1,855	\$250		\$2,105	2019 Endowment
Confirmation Camp	\$1,085			\$1,085	
Building Fund	412,865	\$4,000	\$(1,801)	\$15,064	Endowment, donations, boilder
Nativity	\$3,676			\$3,676	
Office Equipment	\$1,505			\$1,505	
Parsonage Upkeep	\$3,962			\$3,962	
Seat Cushion	\$2,035	\$100		\$2,135	
Technology	\$2,956	\$1,100		\$4,056	2020 Technology Grant
Tokheim Fund	\$17,002			\$17,002	*2021 will move to Tech & undesignated
Undesignated	\$1,808	\$22,970	\$(21,000)	\$3,778	IMO, PPP, loan, interest earned
*Memorial Loan	\$-	\$21,000	\$(21,000)	\$-	Memorial loan borrowed & paid in 2020
	\$48,749			\$54,367	

2020 LYO Account - US Bank Checking

Shared with St. Jacobs

2020 Beginning Balance	\$9,430	
2020 Mission Trip Fund Raising	\$2,466	plus endowment donation
1 mission trip refund	\$(300)	
Praying Pelican's deposit	\$(1,785)	*Made in January 2020
2020 Ending Balance	\$11,596	

2020 Brakke Scholarship Account – US bank Savings

2020 Beginning Balance	\$7,591
Deposits	\$1,839
Scholarships	
A. Cypher \$500	
J. Huntimer \$500	
E. Keith \$500	\$(1,500)
2020 Ending Balance	\$7.930

First Lutheran Church 2020 End of the Year Summary - Edward Jones

Account Title	Beginning	Ending	
Endowment	\$310,737	\$332,610	
Tokheim Improvement	\$266,712	\$294,851	*Matching funds
Berge Music	\$167,794	\$182,263	*Music-related expenses
Egan Family	\$54,198	\$63,442	*Funds with stipulations
Bethania Cemetery	\$2,267	\$2,415	
Minnehaha Cemetery	\$151,357	\$160,569	
St. Ansgar Cemetery #1	\$10,829	\$11,522	
St. Ansgar Cemetery #2	\$38,004	\$41,636	
Zion Cemetery	\$5,930	\$6,318	
		\$1,089,308	

First Lutheran Church 2021 Proposed Budget

Bank expense - Vanco fees	\$360.00	
Bible Camp stipends	\$1,500.00	
Choir/Music/Organ/Piano*	\$2,700.00	Berge Music Fund Reimbursement
Custodian wages	\$7,800.00	
Organists	\$3,750.00	Berge Music Fund Reimbursement
Financial Secretary wages	\$1,200.00	-
FLC Meeting expenses - board, conference, etc.	\$300.00	
FLC SSI/Med7.65% - quarterly	\$1,500.00	
Sunday School expenses	\$1,000.00	
Treasure expenses - CPA filing	\$1,000.00	
Treasure wages	\$3,400.00	
Workman's Compensation Ins	\$2,000.00	
Worship Supplies	\$1,000.00	
Sub Total	\$27,510.00	
Missions		
ELCA*Pay monthly if possible Code 13545	\$4,500.00	
Bethel Home *Pay monthly if possible	\$500.00	
Banquet *Wait for activity	\$500.00	
Shetek Lutheran Camp *Pay monthly if possible	\$500.00	
Board of Deacons *Pay as requested	\$750.00	
WELCA Quilts *Pay as requested	-	
Cub Scout Charter	\$100.00	
Sub Total	\$6,850.00	
Our Church Home		
Cemetery Mowing	\$3,546.00	
Church Grounds	\$4,000.00	
Electricity - Sioux Valley Energy	\$3,500.00	
Janitor Supplies	\$300.00	
Natural Gas - Mid American Energy	\$4,000.00	
Office Equipment	\$500.00	
Property Insurance	\$7,300.00	
Repair and Upkeep - Church	\$4,000.00	
Repair and Upkeep - Parsonage	\$1,500.00	
SD Synod Meeting (FLC portion, only)	\$200.00	
Utilities - water/garbage	\$1,500.00	
Sub Total	\$30,346.00	

First Lutheran Church 2021 Proposed Budget

Pastoral Ministry		
Base Salary	\$48,362.00	
		Includes \$2000 for St. Jacob's health
Benefits: Med ins, SSI, retirement	\$13,160.00	ins. Reimb.
Sub Total	\$61,522.00	
SJ / FLC Shared Expenses		
		Includes \$600 for text messaging from
Church Telephone / Internet	\$1,800.00	2020
Confirmation	\$150.00	
Continuing Education	\$600.00	
Copier Lease/Printing	\$3,300.00	
Mileage	\$3,000.00	
Office Secretary	\$10,500.00	
Office Secretary Soc Sec - quarterly	\$900.00	
Office Supplies/Postage	\$2,800.00	Plans for increased outreach in 2021
Parsonage electricity	\$1,800.00	
Parsonage Utlities - telephone	\$440.00	
Parsonage Utilities - Water	\$1,000.00	
Parsonage Utilities - gas	\$800.00	
Pastor Meeting Expense	\$400.00	
Professional Expenses	\$200.00	
Pulpit Supply	\$1,000.00	
Worship and Service	\$1,200.00	
Sub Total	\$29,890.00	
Totals	\$156,118.00	
	-	
Other Cash Inflows to off-set the Operating Budget		
St. Jacob's 25% Split	\$7,472.50	
St. Jacob's Parsonage Rent	\$1,500.00	
Berge Music Fund	\$6,450.00	
Total	\$15,422.50	
Net Budget	\$140,695.50	

First Lutheran Church 2020 President Report

Like everyone, I will be glad to put 2020 in the rear view. It is important however, to remember the good things in our lives that happened throughout 2020. From new babies, weddings, graduations, family celebrations, etc. ...they may have looked a little different in some cases but were happy and joyous moments none the less. There were sad things too obviously, from loss of loved ones, celebrations being cancelled, keeping distance form loved ones because of the not knowing. I try to stay positive in my outlook on most things no matter the situation because I have and always will believe that we learn from the past, try to make adjustments for the future and try to always treat people with kindness and respect because that is how we should treat each other.

I have been truly appreciative of our Church Family. I say Church Family because that is what we are. We may not always agree with each other, (who agrees with their own family all the time?) but we are still a Church Family. We have people in our congregation that reach out to those who have been secluded, even more so due to the pandemic. Not just during this time of pandemic, but always. The Deacons and the Women's Group took the lead on this. Our congregation is doing more Church outside of the Church building than we have in the past and I think it is wonderful. We continue to do small missions, serve the banquet, stock food pantries, and more.

This year did not go as I had hoped when I agreed to be the Council President this year. From the Council Meeting in March, where we tried to come up with a worst-case scenario plan, to it actually happening where we were cancelling services for something other than snow. I would definitely take a good blizzard over a pandemic any day. We adjusted. It may have been a little bumpy at first and there are still bumps, let's be honest but good things happened as well. We were able to get an Easter Service recorded and out on You Tube and it was viewed 291 times. We are moving into live streaming our services. The Board of Education has switched to a Bible Study style of Sunday School for the year. They are starting to do a monthly group activity for the kids. We had outdoor worship services all summer. Not everyone's favorite, I have heard, but something I have felt we should have always been doing some of. We have a beautiful piece of property I feel we should utilize more often and at our house if it's nice out, we love to be outside.

I am not naïve to some of the unrest that is also in our Church at this time and I am hopeful we as a Church Family will be able to work through it. My prayers are as 2021 moves along we will be able to return to some sense of normal, come together as a group, reach out to our community, and try to grow our Church Family.

I am choosing to be hopeful and look forward to the positive changes that come in 2021 and hope the rest of my Church Family does as well. Please continue to be the Church outside of our Church walls and have a blessed and healthy 2021.

Jake Cypher

First Lutheran Church 2020 Pastor Report

This has been the most unusual year of my ministry. Like most of you, I am happy to see this year go by the wayside, but there is hope just around the corner. There is hope for 2021. The vaccines are coming.

The Covid 19 Pandemic has controlled and influenced how we have done ministry at First Lutheran with the wearing of masks, social distancing, the reduction of social gatherings and eating together, and postponing of Sunday School until a time when it will be safer to gather. We have changed how we have done worship; singing less, shorter services, and taking communion in a way that does not always seem as respectful or spiritual as we would hope. During the whole summer, we were able to meet for worship outside, which actually went very well. We have even done some baptisms outdoors.

Because of all the restrictions of the Pandemic, we have put our worship service online each week. Many thanks go out to Tim Jensen, who with his technological help, has made it possible for us to have a worship presence online. We have also added a mid-week Bible Study Devotional, which is also online.

Even with all the issues and weirdness that the Pandemic has thrown at us, we have still been able to meet for worship each Sunday, we did a Community Outside Bible School, and served the Banquet. We have not only met our budget, but we have also ended the year in the black, with money in the bank. Even with Covid around every corner, members have worked hard to stay connected with their church and continue to give to the mission and ministry of the Church.

Thank you for remembering your church with your financial help, and for up-holding and up-lifting your church family in your prayers. It may not always seem like it, but we are still the church, and hopefully in a few months, we will be able to get back to some sense of normalcy, God help us.

Of course, we could always be doing more. So, I encourage you to reach out to your neighbors with phone calls, pray your them, find ways to lend them a helping hand. As a Church, we still have a ministry to do in our area.

Pastor Wayne Meidinger

First Lutheran Church 2020 Pastoral Acts

BAPTISMS (3)

Brystol Renae Carsrud – 2/16/20 Kendrick Kelly Peterson – 5/24/20 Ella Kathleen Jones – 11/21/20

FIRST COMMUNION

(Postponed until Lent 2021)

THIRD GRADE BIBLES (3)

Kevin Rodger Husman Aaliyah May VandeVooren Elise Frances Van Hal

CONFIRMATION (8) (10/25/20)

Nathan Curtis Madison Carter Dean Sorsenson Hailey Kay McNamara

WEDDING (2)

Brittany (Will) and Weston Burgeson – 12/30/20 Samantha (Garness) and Austin Van Asselt – 10/17/20

TRANSFERRED OUT (24)

Monte and Joey Berge
Dave and Jill Gelderman
Scott and Heather Hubbell
Carl Johnson – St. Mary's Catholic Church, Dell Rapids
Chris Jones – West Nidaros Lutheran, Crooks
Rachel Jordaan
Andrew, Lisa, Davin, Dominic and Drake Leuning
Julie Luebke – Zion Lutheran, Mitchell
David, Kristi, Marissa and Riley Philips
Gary and Kellie Sandquist
Ken Williams
Kevin and Lori Rollag

FUNERALS (5)

Shirley M. A. Amundson – 12/10/20 Shirley Rae Egger – 2/22/20 Lowell D. Stageberg – 10/30/20 David Bruce Stene – 7/11/20 Ronald Allen Thompson – 12/30/20

First Lutheran Church 2020 Board of Deacons Report

Events in 2020 include:

- Soup Social in February after worship provided by the Deacons.
- Valentine's Day gifts to shut ins.
- We assisted the Board of Ed with choosing the scholarship winners.
- Provided cards and gifts to the graduates.
- In April we sent out cards to the shut-ins.
- Letter of support sent out to church members in regard to the pandemic.
- Organized and served the Banquet.
- Gift cards sent to graduates for Christmas.
- Planned and organized the gifts to the Retirement Living Center.
- Poinsettias to the shut ins.
- Christmas bags of goodies given to each member following services.

Deacon Responsibilities:

- Serve communion during service.
- Creating the schedule for the worship helpers for reading, ushers, and communion setup.
- Find volunteers to bring snack to the Retirement Living Center each month (last Thursday of the month).
- Assist with coffee and treats before services.

Board of Deacons:

Carol Gaspar, Jamie Peterson, Jeanelle Stene, Nancy Warne, Cindy Oyen, Jenny Tiehen

First Lutheran Church 2020 Board of Education Report

Meetings by the Board of Education are held monthly. Our mission is to bring Christ into our children's lives. We strive to create a community where the children in our church can learn and grow in their faith.

Our 2020 spring semester included the First-Grade milestones presented on January 26, 2020. Shortly after, in March, the decision to suspend Sunday School was made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to mirror the cancellation of in-person school at area districts. Despite the sudden end to gathering in-person, we would like to extend our thanks to those who commit to the teaching positions and others who help make Sunday School a success! Together everyone helps fulfill our congregation's ministry in guiding the youth of our church.

Amidst an ever-changing world, scholarships were awarded this spring. We extend our appreciation to the Deacons, who reviewed and awarded the scholarships. Senior recognition took place as part of service on May 3rd. Recognition, scholarships, and senior quilts were awarded as part of celebrating these youth's dedication to learning and continuing their education. We wish them many blessings as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

Community-wide Vacation Bible School was able to meet with some new ways to gather and learn. VBS was held July 12-16, with the theme of "Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through". VBS took place outdoors and was blessed with a beautiful-weather week for our youth to learn and grow in Christ. Thank you to the many members of our congregation, community, and youth who help create props and other behind-the-scenes preparations, lead sessions, and other volunteers for helping with VBS. The youth raised money again this year as outreach for our own community with donations to the backpack program at Tri-Valley. We look forward to another fun filled VBS this coming year.

To begin the 2020-2021 Sunday school year, the Board of Ed made the decision to incorporate an at-home learning concept due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, limited family interest in meeting in-person, and a shorter supply of teachers. Families were provided the book "52 Weekly Devotions for Busy Families" and have been encouraged to share their learning with our church family. A monthly in-person group Sunday School began in December, and we look forward to continuing this monthly session through the end of the school year.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who generously gives of your time and energy to the Christian education of our children. As we look to a new year, we are excited to continue growing in our own faith and passing our faith in Jesus Christ on to the children in our church. As always, please contact a board member if you are interested in volunteering to help or teach Sunday School in Fall 2021.

Board of Education:

Kaye Hansen, Angie Keith, Renae Jensen, Nicole Van Hal, Bridget Amundson and Kaylee Amundson

First Lutheran Church 2020 Finance Committee Report

We are happy to report that First Lutheran has again finished the year in the black. All bills paid, borrowed monies repaid, and benevolences paid. We finished the year under budget, partly due to reduced services in a year of pandemic.

Thank you for your generous support.

We have completed the IRS audit for 2016, 2017, and 2018. The taxes, penalties, and interest were paid in full in 2020.

We applied for and received a loan that was later converted to a grant by the Small Business Administration (SBA) for \$14,775. These funds were part of the 2020 CARES Act.

We also applied for and received a technology grant from the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation's Hour of Hope to be used towards technology for equipment to record and stream the worship services.

Summer was, as in most years, very lean for us. We would like to stress how helpful regular automated payments are to keep us on track. About a third of our donations are now in some form of automated payment, mostly through Vanco. Please consider this as an option available to you.

When you are ready to donate, here are some of the places you may designate:

General Fund: Pays for salaries, utilities, insurance and other budgeted expenses.

First Lutheran Endowment Fund: Annual dispersal for other than budgeted items, benevolences, etc, as specified in its bylaws.

Egan Family Trust fund: An endowment fund, similar to the FL endowment fund.

Tokhiem Church improvement fund: A matching fund for capital improvements.

Berge Organ fund: Supports the music ministry of the church.

Cemetery Funds: Each of our four cemeteries, Bethania, Minnehaha, St Ansgar and Zion, has a fund for maintenance and upkeep.

Memorial Fund: Earmarked for specific projects, or for undesignated uses.

Other funds of the church:

Brakke Scholarship: Provides scholarships for HS seniors going on to higher education.

Lee Seminary Scholarship: Fund for seminary students.

Donations can be in cash, bequest in a will, transfer from IRA or other investments. They can be one time or scheduled donation. New named funds are also an option.

Finance Committee:

Jim Willard, Mark Johnson and Phil Hoffman

First Lutheran Church 2020 Board of Trustees Report

The Board of Trustees would like to thank the members of the congregation for their support and financial gifts. 2020 was a quiet year at the church due to the pandemic, but several projects were completed:

- Bat-proofing of the sanctuary.
- Removal of damaged steeple point.
- New furnace in the parsonage.
- Boiler and air conditioner maintenance.
- General maintenance and upkeep.

The congregation is always welcome to contact us with any suggestions or concerns. We are looking forward to a productive new year.

Submitted by the Board of Trustees,
Rick Huntimer, Tim Ramstad, Matt Jones, Dave Keith, and Mike Will

First Lutheran Church 2020 Endowment Committee Report

The purpose of the Endowment Committee is to enhance the mission outreach of First Lutheran Church apart from the general funds and regular operations of the congregation. Since the fund's inception in 1994, the Endowment Committee has distributed \$169,160 to various church missions and ministries.

Distributions are made to categories designed by the Endowment Fund's Bylaws.

2020 Contribution: \$113.07 December 31, 2020 Value: \$330,304.00

Restricted Fund: \$3,600.00

2019 Expenditures:

Community Outreach		ELCA Mission	
Tri-Valley School:	\$650.00	Bethel Foundation	\$500.00
Chester School	\$350.00	Lutheran Social Services	\$250.00
Colton Pool	\$1,000.00	Lutheran Social Services Adoption Services	\$500.00
Colton Fire Department	\$1,000.00	Lutheran Outdoors	\$1,000.00
		Shetek Building Campaign	\$1,000.00
Schools/Grants		Pueblo de Dios	\$250
First Lutheran Youth Mission Trip	\$1,250	Church on the Street	\$500
Bible Campers	\$1,500	St. Dysmas	\$250.00
Wednesday Quilters	\$500.00		
Capital Improvements			
First Lutheran Altar Guild	\$250.00		

First Lutheran Altar Guild	\$250.00
First Lutheran Building Fund	\$3,750.00

2020 Expenditures:

Schools/Grants

PACT – Jensen \$500.00

Endowment Committee:

Julie Luebke (President), Mark Johnson (Treasurer), Laura Jensen (Secretary), Rick Lehman and Mark Hotchkin

First Lutheran Church 2020 Technology Committee Report

This past year we saw many advancements in the technology areas at First Lutheran Church.

Online service taping began in March with devotionals and Worship Services. They continued into the summer with our outdoor services. We are now live streaming our services when possible and posting them to our YouTube Channel, Facebook, our website coltonlutheran.com and emailing these links to members with active accounts.

Pastor Wayne is also doing a mid-week devotional that is available on all our platforms.

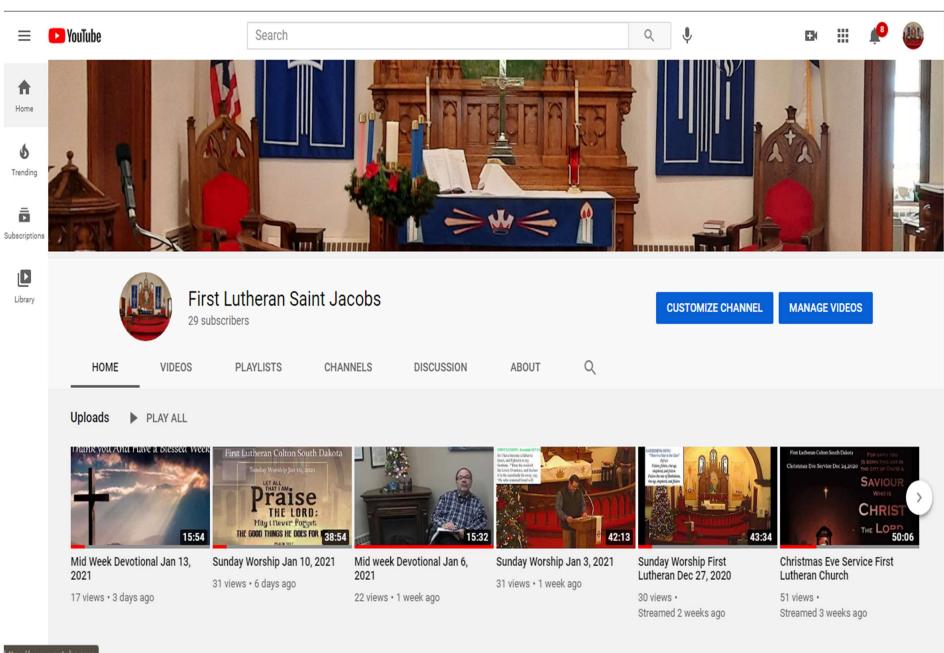
In May we applied for a grant from the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation Hour of Hope. We were rewarded \$1,100 dollars which we will use for future projects and updating our current ones.

These funds would be used to install a technology center for video and audio creation; video and audio display; and video and audio remote delivery of ELCA Christian content, anywhere. To accomplish this goal, FLC needs funding to purchase software, recording cameras, a technology control dashboard, and a projector to coordinate with the existing resources to stream these videos on the website, Facebook, YouTube, and social media. The outcomes of this project include:

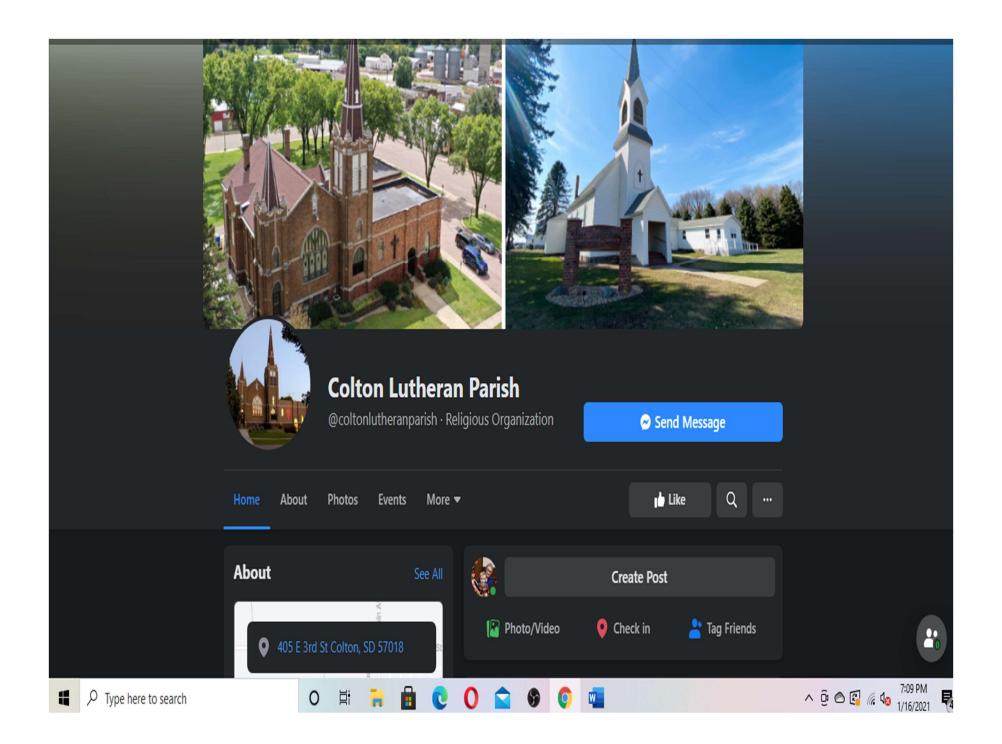
- 1. Incorporate a Technology Mentorship program to create an easy-to-use technology dashboard to generate, record, and deliver services and events. The program would include training of this new technology for school-aged youth to run the system. This would generate engagement, excitement, and enthusiasm with the younger generation.
- 2. Reach a wider Colton-community shut-in population with enhanced life and recorded services and bible studies. These community member shut-ins are unavailable to join services due to health, philosophy, logistics, or pandemic concerns. There is a Retirement facility in Colton that has both members and non-members that could utilize the streaming services.
- 3. Create and record engaging services, devotionals, bible studies, and enhance the existing community Vacation Bible School each summer. The current VBS technology options are underutilized due to lack of technology. The community VBS is nondenominational, coordinates with four churches, and invites all youth in a 30-mile radius.
- 4. Utilize live-streaming services in multiple locations within and outside of our building. Inside the church, there would create a 'cry-room'; an overflow room for funerals; and an area to host the local multi-denominational youth group and community members for gatherings.

Moving forward we would like to offer an invitation to join the Technology Committee and share your gifts and ideas with us. What a great opportunity we have in this modern age to serve our Community, our Church and our Lord.

Prayers and Blessings, First Lutheran Church Technology Committee Wendy Simmermon, Lori Dybvig, Brittany Burgeson and Tim Jensen



https://www.youtube.com



First Lutheran Church Web Page

Colton Lutheran Parish





Meet Pastor Wayne

Pastor Wayne has been ministering at First & St. Jacobs Lutheran Churches of Colton since 2009. He offers Christ-centered and community ministry, pastoral care, a warm and caring heart, acceptance and openness to all people, and a congenial attitude. Pastor Wayne has served as a youth leader, worked at bible camps, and currently serves on the Shetek Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors.

LEARN MORE >

First Lutheran Church Council, Board, & Committee Members Nominating Ballot 2021

(Vote for those who are in bold)

<u>President</u> :	Jake Cypher	(2020)
Vice President:	Tim Jensen	(2020)
Secretary:	Hilary Cypher	(2020)
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Wendy Simmermon	(2019)
Financial Secretary:	Tammy Huntimer	(2020)
<u>Deacons:</u>	Jenny Tiehen Cindy Oyen Jamie Peterson	(2020) (2020) (2017) (2021) (2021) (2021)
Education:	Bridget Amundson Angie Keith Kaye Hansen	(2017) (2017) (2015) (2021)
	Renae Jensen Kaylee Amundson	(2018) (2019)
<u>Trustees:</u>	Mike Will David Keith Rick Huntimer Tim Ramstad Tim Jensen Matt Jones	(2020) (2020) (2017) (2017) (2015) (2018)
<u>Finance:</u>	Mark Johnson Jim Willard	(2020) (2017) (2021)
Endowment Committee:	Tyler Hansen	(2020) (2021) (2018)
	Rick Lehman Mark Hotchkin	(2018) (2019)

SD Synod Assembly (June 5 & 6 - 2 delegates - Sioux Falls, SD):

Bethel Lutheran Home Board of Directors (Last Monday of the month):

Jim Willard (2020)

Bethel Home Board Annual Meeting (2 delegates):

Jan Willard



South Dakota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Dear Siblings in Christ 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!

"But we had hoped" – is probably the most used phrase of 2020. However, this is also the phrase of the two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus after Christ's death and resurrection. While on the road wrestling with things

that they cannot understand, Jesus joins them on the road, sharing with them how all of these things rested in God all along. It is not until the breaking of the bread that the holy heartburn the two disciples felt all along propels them to run back to their friends to share that Christ truly is alive and not dead, and that therefore his followers need to live into the promise that they too are alive and that death has lost its power.

I cannot help but come to understand that this story is our story. It has always been our story, but 2020 has brought this story alive for me in new and profound ways. We too have found ourselves saying countless times this year, "but we had hoped." We too wrestled with the hard questions about what to make of the events of this past year as they unfolded in our life. We have wished many times to go "back to normal." As I heard from people, I invited them to expound on what going back to normal means to them. Creating this space allowed for a deeper reflection on who we are as people of God in South Dakota. Jesus accompanied the disciples on the road and shared scripture with them to open their eyes to God's continued provision and presence in the world. Even in the midst of these life-altering and events of Christ's death and resurrection God is alive and at work. My staff and I have accompanied your community of faith during this life-altering pandemic assuring you that God's Holy Spirit is inspiring and sustaining.

Early on, we hosted weekly Zoom meetings for rostered and lay leaders. We continue these meetings on a monthly basis. Task forces were created to provide resources and training for congregations to continue ministry, such as "Canvas" an online resource platform and network for everything educational. Two worship documents and guidance were created: "Extending the Table, Expanding Participation" and "Come Let us Worship in a New Way." I can say that the pandemic and the challenges of living into a new way of being church has created some heartburn. Many may not call it a holy heartburn, but remember neither did the disciples until they sat at the table with Jesus and ate. Only when bread was broken, and wine was poured, did they remember the promises that God's got them and that they have nothing to fear. I pray that you too will come to recognize and interpret your heartburn as *holy heartburn* that empowers you to be church in a new and different way for the sake of the Gospel.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Now, as we move forward, let's commit

ourselves to journey together in Christ, and in Christ alone.

C. Haguaier

Journeying with you in Christ, Rev. Constanze Hagmaier Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

South Dakota Synod Adopted Budget 02/01/2020 - 01/31/2021

	Adopted	Revised	Proposed
INCOME	2020	2020	2021
MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS	1,823,305	1,733,093	1,733,093
Program Ministry Income			
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,000	45,000	45,000
Other Income Streams			
SD Synod Mission Support	37,000	29,927	29,927
DEM Support Staff	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	7,500	8,000	8,000
SDS Transportation LLC Income	12,472	5,000	5,000
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000	-	-
Misc Income	503	1,000	1,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,960,780	1,832,020	1,832,020
EXPENSES	Adopted	Revised	Proposed
CHURCHWIDE MISSION	2020	2020	2021
Mission Support to ELCA	820,487	779,892	820,487
% of Mission Support	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%
Region III	8,702	7,626	8,702
SHARED MINISTRIES			
South Dakota Sustained Ministries			
Campus Ministry	128,919	122,177	122,177
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	58,300	58,300	58,300
Heartland Ephphatha	6,325	5,994	5,994
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605	3,605	3,605
South Dakota Supported Ministries			
SD Ministries Support	16,650	13,467	13,467
Luther Seminary	73,110	69,287	69,287
Lutheran Social Services	73,110	69,287	69,287
Lutherans Outdoors	36,462	34,555	34,555
Church Colleges	6,325	5,994	5,994
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Total Shared Ministries	403,838	383,698	383,698
The 2021 mission plan for the synod was discussed ar	nd proposed by the	Synod Council in t	he absence

The 2021 mission plan for the synod was discussed and proposed by the Synod Council in the absence of the Synod Assembly being able to convene and pass a mission plan during 2021. The mission plan is reflective of the Synod Council's hopes for how we, as the church, will be able to support and engage in ministry together, while recognizing the unusual uncertainty which began in 2020 and may continue in 2021. Accordingly, the Synod Council proposed a flat budget based upon the congregational statements of intended mission support for the 2020 mission plan year. No significant changes from the 2020 mission plan were proposed other than prudently planning to reduce meeting and leadership related expenses in order to propose a balanced 2021 mission plan.

South Dakota Synod Adopted Budget 02/01/2020 - 01/31/2021

	Adopted 2020	Adopted 2020	Adopted 2020
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES			
Staff Leadership			
Bishop	107,500	90,605	90,605
Associate Director of Evangelical Mission	10,606	6,528	6,528
Associate Mobility/Candidacy	89,017	74,394	74,394
Bishop/Associate Benefits	69,991	78,897	78,897
SDS Travel	35,734	20,500	20,000
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	18,800	16,300	16,299
Program Ministries			
Native American Ministry	74,265	79,248	77,748
Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator	15,814	6,959	6,959
Companion Synod Coordinator	11,993	12,315	12,065
Support Staff and Office			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	148,859	152,501	152,501
Resource Center Supplies	150	300	300
Synod Office Expenses	66,222	68,164	65,559
Augustana University	20,949	20,949	20,949
Synod Leadership			
Synod Council	7,000	7,000	5,500
Support to Ministries Committee	2,600	2,600	2,100
Candidacy Committee	4,500	4,500	3,750
Electronic Communications	1,750	1,750	1,750
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,700	1,700	1,550
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	500	250	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,350
Mission Strategy Committee	2,000	2,000	1,850
Ministry Projects			
Stewardship Project	500	500	-
Continuing Education Projects	250	-	-
Outreach Ministries			
Multicultural Center/Woyatan	15,000	16,500	16,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	3,950
Companion Synods	500	500	-
Contingency	16,053	674	-
Subtotal SD Synod Ministries	727,753	671,134	660,804
Total Expense	1,960,780	1,842,350	1,832,020
Net Total	0	-10,330	0



Shetek Lutheran Ministries 14 Keeley Island Dr. Slayton, MN 56172 (507)-763-3567 camp@shetek.org

<u>www.shetek.org</u>

Executive Director – Marv Nysetvold Program Director – Amanda Randall

Greetings from your camp - Shetek Lutheran Ministries!

What a year! We welcomed Amanda Randall as our new Program Director on Feb. 23 and three weeks later everything was turned upside down. Amanda has done a great job adapting and rising to the challenge of camp programming during a pandemic. Unfortunately, we were not able to do all our programs in 2020.

During these times, we have had to be very creative to carry on our mission. Obviously, a big part of our mission is our summer programs for youth and families. But another part of our mission is the faith formation and leadership development of the young adults who serve on our summer ministry team. Many of them go on to serve the church in rostered leadership positions and/or lay leadership. We committed to hiring our summer staff of 20 this past season, not knowing if we'd be able to have overnight camp or not. We want to support their development along with their summer employment. Several scenarios were being planned.

In the middle of June, the MN Department of Health came out with guidelines for overnight camp and we put our plans into action. Most camps cancelled all their summer onsite programs but we felt if there was a way to offer programs as safely as possible, we wanted to try, for the sake of the campers who would have an opportunity to attend. Safety is a high priority and we followed the CDC guidelines and MN Dept. of Health recommendations and worked with our local public health officials. Our programs were adapted and we ended up with 5 weeks of programming from July 5 to August 7 with 265 participants.

Even though this was a difficult summer with a lot of extra work to make it happen, it was well worth it. Our summer ministry team learned to adapt, were very creative and learned resiliency! Our campers were very thankful to have an opportunity to come to camp even though it was different from previous years. We are very thankful also that we had no incidents of COVID-19.

Our "Building on the Foundation" capital campaign was on hold for most of the year. We started the congregational phase in Feb. but then had to suspend it in March. The Board voted at the end of September to begin some of the infrastructure work, so we have started on the building to house our new water treatment equipment. Our plan is to get the equipment in this winter and switch the system over next spring. The architect is almost finished with the plans for the Adult/Youth Lodge and we hope to begin in the spring of 2021 on the first new building! We are at \$1,100,000 in gifts and pledges towards our goal of \$1,500,000.

Some improvements in 2020 – painted the ceiling in the kitchen and the ceiling and back hallway in Dakota and painted the apartment building and cabin #5. We also had to repair a sewer line by the dining hall. Thanks to wonderful volunteers we have a new deck and stairs on the back of the chapel and we removed several dead trees and stumps. Many other improvements also happened.

I am thankful for the year round staff who have struggled this year with fewer campers, retreats and programs. They have been positive and supportive of each other through everything. I hope we can return to something more normal soon.

I'm also thankful for the Paycheck Protection Program loan we received along with some grants. Those have been very helpful. Compared to 2019, we will be about \$180,000 lower in program income and about \$60,000 lower in retreat/rental income. However, in the face of all the uncertainty, our donors and congregations have responded with incredible generosity and I can't say "THANK YOU" enough for your support and prayers!!

Mary Nysetvold, Executive Director

Shetek's Board of Directors – Ashley Benson, Stacy Frost, Lora Hopp-Hansen, Sarah Kirchner, Brian Matson, Pastor Jeanette McCormick, Leon Mortland, Laura Phillips, Pastor Charles Swanson and Rhonda Youngquist.

Shetek's staff in Dec. 2020 – Sandy Carlson, Tom Carlson, Katie Chapman, Nora Dahlhoff, Michelle Flanigan, Sharon Haugen, Jean Larson, Marv Nysetvold, Amanda Randall, Joe Stefanick, Bonnie Steilow, Danelle Taveirne, Jessica Van Dam, Ella (Jane) Wahl, Mary Zabel.



2020 Annual Report to Congregations

Life Stories Take Shape at LSS

LSS helps to transform the lives of people of all ages, faiths, races and economic status with professional, confidential and affordable services. With vital services offered statewide, LSS touched the lives of those we serve 38,099 times last year. LSS is where life stories take shape. We strive to care for, support and strengthen those in need, bringing clarity, stability, family and support to people of all ages, families of all kinds and communities of all sizes.



"I honestly don't know what we would be doing without LSS. The extra bit of normalcy is what matters most right now (COVID-19 pandemic). If my daughter didn't have routine, I think she would be more scared or confused about what is happening."

— first responder parents of children at LSS Childcare & Education Services

LSS has assisted with 4, 184 ADOPTIONS SINCE 1920. We are ready for a second century of service.

The COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges. LSS has reacted quickly, safely and compassionately to offer many of our services using telehealth technology. It is a good alternative for individuals and families experiencing overwhelming stress and anxiety associated with separation and isolation.

Clients receiving outpatient counseling experienced a 23% reduction in symptoms from the first session to the fourth session.

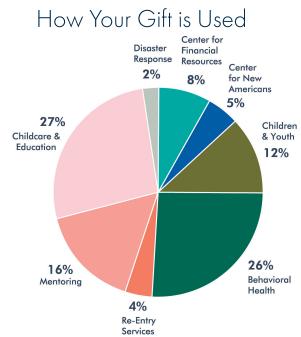
LSS continues to improve its capacity to deliver trauma-informed care. **91%** of youth in Psychiatric Residential Treatment and **83%** of youth in Foster Care showed a reduction in trauma symptoms upon discharge.

85% of clients who received financial counseling reported reduced stress after their session. **88%** of clients participating in a debt management plan successfully completed their payments.

100% of the residents of the New Alternatives Intensive Independent Living Services improved their independent living skills and improved their overall wellness and health.

Youth who participate in the Arise Shelter Care are successful. **90%** of youth are discharged to safe and stable housing.

For 100 years, LSS has not just been about looking at one person and trying to help them with their situation, but coming from a bigger, more holistic picture. It's not just one person's life today, it's about what do we do to make things better into the future, for other people.



Betty Oldenkamp President and CEO

LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA









2020 CONGREGATIONAL

Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota welcomes all to explore and experience Christ's love in community and creation.

The year 2020 may not have allowed Lutherans Outdoors to share four beautiful ministry sites with you, but it has not stopped Lutherans Outdoors from continuing its mission. Lutherans Outdoors is still a vibrant, meaningful ministry that will continue to provide life-giving and faith-growing experiences for people of all ages for years to come.

PROGRAM

On March 15, 2020, the Lutherans Outdoors Board of Directors made a decision to stop all programming at our camp sites for a 10-week period. On April 7, 2020, the Board of Directors made the decision to cancel the summer program at Outlaw Ranch, Joy Ranch, NeSoDak, and Klein Ranch. This was the right decision, yet very difficult.

The empty camps continued in this way for the rest of the year, except for some horse riding programs at Joy Ranch and some family rentals at Outlaw and NeSoDak. It will continue to be quiet during the first months of 2021.

Lutherans Outdoors found several ways to keep the relational ministry happening last summer through successful special event fundraisers. Klein Ranch had many supporters participate in the Adopt-A-Horse program. Joy Ranch held special drive-thru Chef Nights. NeSoDak had a fun Road Runner 5K Run/Walk. Outlaw Ranch offered a Thursday night Concert Series featuring Family Camp musicians from past years with a special Christmas Concert in December.

We look with optimism and excitement to Summer 2021! Lutherans Outdoors is moving forward in providing summer camp programs at a 60% capacity for the summer of 2021. We are hopeful that retreats and gatherings can begin again this fall. It will be wonderful to hear the laughter and music and life that has been missing for too long.

We hope that your congregation can feel safe at camp and allow Lutherans Outdoors to provide an important and much needed faith-growing experience called Bible Camp for members of all ages. We will see you at camp!

FINANCIAL NEED

During the course of our need to cancel summer camp and not nost retreat groups, Lutherans Outdoors lost approximately 1.7 million dollars of anticipated income. The loss of revenue will continue into 2021 with the hope that revenue streams can begin again with summer programs---but they are not quaranteed.

Thus, there has been a great need for financial help from our ministry donors. And many, many of them did indeed make wonderful financial contributions to help fill the revenue need. Lutherans Outdoors also was able to receive a Federal PPP loan.



But the financial need is still great and we will be making a large financial ask during 2021 through our Keep The Campfires Burning Appeal. Your congregation will be receiving and sharing information on how you can make a vital decision to help Lutherans Outdoors continue to be a strong ministry through a generous donation.

Thank you for making our campfires burn bright into the future with your positive response to this appeal. Page 32 of 35



Church on the Street Annual Report-2020

Twenty-twenty was a year like no other, and we're not even talking about the pandemic! Let us celebrate what God has done! Church on the Street (COTS) celebrated the 5th Year of worshipping as a Congregation. This milestone included a village of people who loved their neighbor and followed God's plan and the Holy Spirit's guidance. Congratulations to all who played a role in this significant milestone!

As the congregation and ministry of COTS have continued to grow, the church structure and leadership also grew. Harriet Monson was named Laundry with Love Director with financial

support for the position underwritten by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Elizabeth Yoder, after providing generous staff support during my shared time of internship at St. John American Lutheran and COTS, resigned her employment and now sits solely on the COTS Board. Formal Board positions were identified and filled, and a Pilot Project between Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Church on the Street commenced in September, providing a one-year opportunity for Pastor Shelly Gehring to come on board as Associate Pastor.

And this, from the COTS Board, "After a Ministry Site Study, including prayer and reflection, Church on the Street selected a Lead Pastor to serve, and through the SD Synod Council, on December 12th, 2020, a Letter of Call was extended to Rebel Hurd, Founding Mission Developer, to serve as Pastor of Church on the Street." We continue to dream forward with genuine faith and trust in God's plan.

By God's grace and faithfulness, and your faithfulness, too, we made it through 2020 together. There was pain and death, changes of in-person events, political division, racial trauma, job loss, sickness, sadness, and evictions. The emotional dexterity it took to simply be human during this time is overwhelming. And yet, as Christians, you have modeled genuine faith, a steady calm, unwavering support, and trust in God's plan for the ministries of Church on the Street.

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ROMANS 8:31

What then, when people hear the Good News for the first time, and they are changed forever? What then, when we become a church who loves our neighbors in reality instead of illusion? What then, when grace, mercy, and justice overflow to bring peace to the hurting? What then, when generosity is poured out like a dam breaking, and gratitude spills over? What then, when denominations work together, with all of God's people, as a response to 2020?

By God's grace, we will continue to ask, "What then?" We will continue to live into the answers. God promises to be with us, and our faith propels us forward. We invite you to bring your "What then?" questions, and together we will live into becoming a faith community that feels like family - a community of witness, in the good, the bad, the beautiful, and the ugly.

In God's Mission together.

Rebel Hurd

"Journeying Together in Christ."

As a partner ministry of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota (LPGSD) was created to join you on your journey to discover ways to create your personal legacy plan—one that expresses your faith in Christ with gratitude and generosity. LPGSD also walks alongside congregations hoping to create or revitalize their own legacy through an endowment fund, offering members the opportunity to share in the ministry



Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota

and outreach of their Christian family. Walking and working together, we can create **greater impact** because of intentional plans and shared visions.

While the past year brought challenges and heartbreak, it also exposed genuine care and love for neighbor as many **shared from their abundance** to meet desperate needs created by the economics of a pandemic and the destruction of natural disasters.

Perhaps you are considering where your own **generosity journey** will lead in 2021. LPGSD would be honored to serve as your travel guide as you explore some of these destination options:

- Income for You Now—Gifts to Ministry Later. A charitable gift annuity provides you with fixed payments for life, with the remainder of the gift benefiting the ministries of your choice.
- **Gifts Beyond the Checkbook.** Grain, Cattle, Stocks, Mutual Funds, Real Estate—almost any appreciated asset can create a tax-efficient gift.
- Qualified Charitable Distribution. Use your IRA to make tax-free gifts and reduce your adjustable gross income, even if you no longer itemize deductions on your tax return.
- **Give It Twice Trust.** A tool to create income for you and/or your family **and** the ministries you care about, oftentimes doubling the impact of your assets because of the elimination of taxes.
- **Legacy Gifts.** Name your favorite ministries as beneficiaries on an insurance policy, a bank account or an IRA, or even your home via a life estate or TOD (transfer on death) designation.
- Congregational Endowment and Gift Policies.
 - ◆Newly updated document templates
 - ♦ Workshops for individuals, church councils and endowment committees

Ready for the journey?

Contact Kathy McHenry at **605.274.5030** or **kmchenry@sdsynod.org**. Visit our website at **www.lpgsd.org** or find us on Facebook.

Regardless of your personal or financial situation,

Page 34 of 35

our life can make a difference

AUTHORIZATION FORM:

endorsed by

Name of the organization: First Lutheran Church, Colton, SD



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	Authorized Signature:				Date:_	

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check at the bottom of this page.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

LITANY

- L. O God of all power and love ...
- C. ... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.
- L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...
- C. ... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
- L. O God of all power and love ...
- C. ... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask you ...
- C. ... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...
- C. ... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...
- C. ... wherever and however we gather.
 Unite us in common prayer and
 send us in common mission, that
 we and the whole creation might
 be restored and renewed, through
 Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



In the early verses of Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus, a city on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of a river and at the intersection of three trading routes. The letter was written about ten years after the church had started. During the early years of this congregation, Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities had come together to form "one body." Paul was aware that they had done well and commended them for their faith and love.

The word "one" appears more than seven times in the first four verses. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the "unity of Christ." He wanted to note that, although many of the church members came from far off, there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." This oneness reflects God's gift of reconciliation in Christ.

A second emphasis from Paul was that, as believers, they were to "bear with one another in love." This would require humility, gentleness and patience as each of them practiced their faith. It would require tolerance to "maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew in faith, each person contributed to building up the body of Christ.

The fourth and final emphasis was that by "speaking the truth in love," each person must grow into Christ. This means taking time to learn about one another and their gifts. Knowing these gifts, we can do God's work both within and beyond the faith community. When there are decisions to make or relationships to reconcile, we know to begin with prayer and reflection, always desiring to speak the truth in love — not for our own benefit but for God's glory, that we might become more complete.

As our members and friends gather today, whether face-to-face or online, we are reminded of our calling into "unity in Christ." We come from many places and work in many contexts, and yet we recognize "one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

Whether new to a worshiping community or further along the journey, we realize that humility, gentleness and patience are required both in the good times and especially in times of uncertainty and struggle. God wants us to be more complete through our work. Christ provides the way. The Holy Spirit is with us for guidance and courage. Each of us has been given the gifts to be complete, and through our faithfulness we will grow stronger and work together as one body.

LET US PRAY: LORD, LET THE WORDS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL DWELL IN US DEEPLY. MAY WE EMBRACE THE RECONCILING POWER OF ONENESS WITH CHRIST. MAY THIS ONENESS GUIDE OUR CONGREGATION AS WE LIVE INTO THE NEW REALITIES OF THESE TIMES. AS WE MEET NEW PARTNERS IN MINISTRY, MAY WE TAKE TIME TO GET TO KNOW THEM WITH PATIENCE, HUMILITY AND LOVE. HELP US TO SEE HOW SHARING OUR GIFTS WILL MAKE YOUR WORK EASIER AND MORE FULFILLING WHILE BRINGING ALL OF US CLOSER TO CHRIST. MAY THE BLESSINGS YOU GIVE EACH DAY STRENGTHEN US TO A LIVING, DARING CONFIDENCE IN YOUR GRACE. AMEN.