



ANNUAL REPORT

— 2020 —



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





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,

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

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eldridge, IA

Sunday, January 31, 2021 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order – Linda Golinghorst

Adoption of Agenda

Minutes of the previous Annual Congregational Meeting, January 26, 2020

Presentation of Reports

Pages 5-8	Minutes of January 26, 2020
Page 9	Minutes of Special Congregational Meeting
Page 10-12	Pastors' Reports
Page 13	Financial Report
Page 14	2021 Budget
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Page 20	Christian Ed Report (Michelle Rasmussen)
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Page 22	Feed Our Children Report (Amy Powell)
Page 23	Fellowship Report (Melody Sawvell)
Page 24	Property Report (Mike Garner)
Page 25	Service in the World Report (Joni Schneider)
Page 26	Worship and Music Report (Amy Murray)
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Page 30	Endowment Committee Report (Myron Scheibe)
Page 31	Memorial Committee Report (Mary Ann Anderson)
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Page 33	Women of Faith Report (Linda Szemkus)
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Page 35	North Scott Food Pantry Report (Deanna Nielsen)
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Old Business

New Business

- Thank you to Outgoing Council Members
Scott Wiley served three years as Treasurer/Finance Committee Leader. Michelle Rasmussen served two years as Christian Education Ministry Team Leader. Amy Murray served three years as Worship and Music Leader. Beth Ann Anderson served eight months as Stewardship Ministry Team Leader.
- Election of Council Members
Council members are elected for a three year term except where noted. Vote for five:
Sheila Baustian (Worship and Music), Deanna Nielsen (Finance), Ryan Harms

(Stewardship, one year remains on term), Theresa White (Christian Education), Kaycee Newman (Youth)

- Election of Endowment Committee Members
Endowment Committee Members are elected for a three year term. Vote for two: Kenneth Oetzmann, Kim Wilkins
- Election of Nominating Committee Members
Nominating Committee Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for five: Brad Yanke, Brea Harms, Donna Darnall, Kelly Dircks, Lynda Miller, Nancy Meyer, Sue Kirst
- Election of Synod Assembly Voting Members
Synod Assembly Voting Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for two: Diane Krebs, Kelly Penning
- Election of Synod Assembly Voting Member Alternates
Synod Assembly Voting Delegate Alternates are elected for a one year term. Vote for two: Amy Powell, Beth Ann Anderson, Carrie Keppy (if virtual), Janet Merrick (if in-person)
- Adoption of 2021 Budget
- Other

Adjournment

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 26, 2020 10:30 a.m.
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Carrie Keppy called meeting to order.

Adoption of Agenda

Carrie Keppy asked for a review of the agenda and any changes; there were none. Carrie Keppy called for a motion to approve the agenda. Tom Bauer motioned to approve the agenda, Kelly Penning seconded the motion, and it was carried.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting, January 27, 2019

Carrie Keppy asked for a review of the previous Annual Congregational Meeting and any corrections; there were none. Carrie Keppy asked for motion to accept minutes of the previous Annual Congregational Meeting. H.O. Nelson motioned to accept the minutes of the previous Annual Congregational Meeting, Melody Sawvell seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

Greetings from Lutheran Lakeside

Paige McGrath, Lutheran Lakeside Program Director visited our church on this day to share information about Lutheran Lakeside. She shared the Lutheran Lakeside Mission and some of the many things the camp offers. She underscored that it is a 'place where you belong'. She and the children who were present shared a camp song while she played the ukulele. Pastor Carrie presented a check to Paige for \$1,066 for Lutheran Lakeside from the Thanksgiving and Christmas Special Offerings. Pastor Carrie also shared that Sunday School offerings were provided to Lutheran Lakeside for specific items needed at camp.

Presentation of Reports

Pastor's Report

Pastor Carrie shared her view on all of the amazing things that have occurred over the past year. She reflected back on her Call Letter and how she learned that we wanted to be more of a community church. She said it is just awesome how we have grown in our ministry and how we are known in the community for many things that have to do with the ministry of Jesus, e.g. Feed Our Children lunch program, the Homecoming Tailgate party, participation in Confirmation, VBS, and Youth programs.

She shared thanks and said she was humbled by the many notes and gifts of the congregation during Pastor Appreciation month. Pastor Carrie also thanked the congregation for the time, energy, and financial giving over the past year which made our ministries possible.

Pastor Carrie highlighted to the congregation that in the Gospel reading, Jesus says, follow me and I will make you fishers of people. He does the same to us, He calls us for who we are so that we can be the light of Christ. Thank God that Jesus continues to call us in the place at this time.

Financial Report

Scott Wiley expressed thanks to everyone for their financial giving. Because of the generosity of the congregation, we have no debt.

In 2019, We realized 96.8% (\$344,600) Of the planned \$356,065 operating revenue for 2019. (Please note, the planned operating revenue was not included in the annual report.) Our expenses were 88.5% (\$350,712) of the \$396,184 budgeted expenses. Our balance sheet shows our total of all accounts is at \$231,928.

The 2020 operating budget is \$404,274 with increases in Mission, Staffing, Worship and Music, Education/Youth/Family (due to stronger participation), Stewardship, and Administration. There is a decrease in Property due to lower than budgeted energy costs in 2019. For several years prior to 2019, the Mid American meter tracked incorrectly resulting costs that were lower than our actual use. Also, Programmable thermostats were implemented in 2019 which also contributed to lower energy costs.

Carrie Keppy pointed out the new Financial Giving chart in the Annual Report. The Church Council wanted to share the Financial Giving chart for informational purposes and for individual reflection. Carrie Keppy thanked everyone for their time and talents that were contributed as well in 2019, which is immeasurable.

President report

Carrie expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve the congregation over the past six years on Council, and especially for the amazing ministries that are occurring in this church.

Carrie Keppy commended the remaining reports to the congregation to read.

Carrie Keppy asked for a motion to approve the reports. Carol Marten moved to approve the reports, Melody Sawvell seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Old Business

Ratification of the revised Constitution and Bylaws.

Carrie Keppy stated that two weeks ago, at a Special Congregational Meeting, the revised Congregational Constitution and Bylaws were approved and that we are now looking for ratification.

Carrie Keppy called for any discussion or questions; there were none.

Carrie Keppy called for a vote to ratify the revised Constitution and Bylaws. H.O. Nelson motioned to ratify the revised Constitution and Bylaws, Joni Schneider seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

New Business

Election of council members

Carrie Keppy presented the following Council nominees: Beth Ann Anderson, Matt Peck, Mike Garner, Linda Golinghorst, Melody Sawvell, Austin Lee, Erin Peck, and Grace Kirst, and Scott Wiley.

Carrie Keppy called for other nominations; there were none.

Carrie Keppy called for a motion to close nominations for Council. Scott Wiley motioned to close the nominations for Council, Tom Bauer seconded the motion, the motion was carried.

Scott Rochau asked if we could take a single vote for the slate of nominees, instead of using written ballots listing each nominee. Carrie agreed it would be simpler, but informed the congregation that our Constitution requires a written ballot.

Carrie Keppy called for votes by written ballots from voting members of the congregation who were present. Ballots were collected and counted. The nominees were elected by a majority vote.

Thank you to outgoing council members: Carrie Keppy

On behalf of everyone, Pastor Carrie thanked Carrie Keppy for her years of service on Council, and especially for her service as President in the past year. She lead many things, including the revision of the Constitution and Bylaws. The Congregation gave a round of applause to show appreciation for Carrie Keppy's service on Council.

Election of Endowment Committee Member

Carrie Keppy presented Scott Rochau as nominee for the Endowment Committee.

Carrie Keppy called for other nominations; there were none.

Carrie Keppy called for a motion to close nominations for the Endowment Committee. Brea Harms motioned to close the nominations for the Endowment Committee, Jared Penning seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Carrie Keppy called for a vote to elect Scott Rochau to the Endowment Committee. Scott was elected by majority vote.

Election of Nominating Committee Members

Carrie Keppy present the following list as nominees for the Nominating Committee: Donna Gruenhagen, Tom Carlson, Tim Broberg, and Amy Powell.

Carrie stated per the revised Constitution and Bylaws, there is still one open position to fill.

Carrie Keppy called for any other nominations; Tom Bauer was nominated.

Carrie Keppy called for a motion to close nominations. H.O. Nelson motioned to close the nominations, Joni King seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Carried Keppy called for a vote to elect Donna Gruenhagen, Tom Carlson, Tim Broberg, Amy Powell, and Tom Bauer to the Nominating Committee. Donna Gruenhagen, Tom Carlson, Tim Broberg, Amy Powell, and Tom Bauer were elected by majority vote.

Election of Synod Assembly Voting Officers

Carrie Keppy presented Diane Krebs and Austin Lee as nominees for the 2020 SEIA Synod Assembly. She noted that Kelly Penning was listed in the Annual Report as nominee, but Kelly had to withdraw due to personal commitments.

Carrie Keppy called for any other nominations; there were none.

Carrie Keppy called for a motion to close nominations. Scott Wiley motioned to close the nominations, Joni Schneider seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Carrie Keppy called for a vote to elect Diane Krebs and Austin Lee to the Synod Assembly. Diane Krebs and Austin Lee were elected by majority vote.

Other

No other topics were discussed.

Adoption of the 2020 Budget

Carrie Keppy called for any questions or adjustments; there were none.

Carrie Keppy called for a motion to approve the 2020 Budget. Joni Schneider motioned to approve the 2020 budget, Carol Judge second the motion, and the motion was passed.

Adjournment

Carrie Keppy called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott La Plante motioned to adjourn the meeting, Tom Bauer seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

Carrie Keppy adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Golinhorst
Secretary

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Special Congregational Meeting
Approval of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws
Sunday, January 12, 2020 10:30 a.m.
Meeting Minutes

Carrie Keppy presided and called the meeting to order.

Carrie explained that our Congregational Constitution and Bylaws are being revised to a) include updates from the ELCA Synod Model Constitution since our last revision in 2007 and b) combine three separate documents (Congregational Constitution, Bylaws, and Endowment Committee Bylaws) into a single Congregational Constitution and Bylaws document to follow the Synod Model guidelines.

A summary of the changes, the revised Constitution and Bylaws, and a marked up version of the prior Constitution with revisions were provided to the Congregation previously and at this meeting. An informational meeting regarding the revisions had taken place previously as well.

Carrie briefly overviewed some of the changes, e.g. the quorum needed for a congregational meeting changed from 35 to 40, and the council will include at least 1 young adult and 1 youth member, and asked for further discussion or questions. There was no further discussion or questions.

Carrie stated that the Church Council approval of the revised Congregational Constitution and Bylaws, which had already taken place, serves as the first motion to approve.

Carrie called for a second motion to approve the revised Congregational Constitution and Bylaws from the voting members present at the Special Congregational Meeting.

Kevin Lee seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Carrie called for a motion to adjourn the Special Congregational Meeting.

H.O. Nelson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mike Tomlinson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The Special Congregational Meeting was Adjourned.

Respectfully,
Linda Golinghorst
Secretary

The 2020 Annual Report of the Senior Pastor Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante

What has come into being in [Christ] was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:3b-5)

Dear Friends in Christ,

These words from the first chapter of the Gospel of John have really spoken to me in recent days. I think that we can all probably agree that 2020 was not what we expected it to be. When I look back at the reports that were written a year ago, they carried so much hope for what 2020 would bring. We celebrated the vision that we had already cast for the year, and we were looking forward to all of the things we could not yet quite imagine.



We never would have imagined what would actually come in 2020... a global pandemic, protests and uprisings surrounding the killing of several black brothers and sisters around the country, a divisive election season and its aftermath, sickness, death, separation, worshipping apart, loss of all kinds. For many, most, maybe all of us, this past year has carried with it a heavy darkness that has weighed on us. We have sought light and hope, promise and peace to get us through the days that seem to be too much. Which is why these verses have been so pivotal for me in these last days as I, along with all of you have tried to make sense of it all. Where is the light shining these days?



What John reminds us is that Jesus brought life, new life, into this sometimes very dark world, and that life is light that shines through us into this world. Even when things are feeling heavy, when the darkest days come, there is still that light of Jesus, that light given to each one of us in our baptisms, that continues to shine. There is no darkness that can overcome that light of Christ that shines around us, in us, and through us, though some days it seems very dim and other days it shines bright as the sun.

At the beginning of 2020, the Congregation Council chose as the theme for this year, "Let your light shine for Jesus," because we believed that promise in our baptism that we have the light of Christ to shine, and we take seriously the invitation that comes in baptism, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give Glory to your Father in heaven: (Matthew 5:16). My friends, in this past year, we have held to that theme and shown that light into the world, albeit in ways very different than how we had planned, but in ways that were significant indeed. Many of these activities you can see in the pictures in this report.

Throughout this past year, we have learned about flexibility and have sought to continue to create community and support for our congregation and the community around us. We started the year quite normally with our Sunday School and

Congregational breakfasts, the high school youth prepared sub sandwiches and snack mix to help us celebrate the Super Bowl. We did Souper Bowl of Caring and Cheeseburger in Paradise. We held our Confirmation Conversations, Youth Group gatherings and Adult Bible Study. We were shining out light in ways that we knew, in the ways that we expected.

But when things quickly changed at the beginning of March, we had to quickly learn new ways of being together, find new ways of connecting, figure out how to shine our light into a world we still did not fully comprehend, and we did that as we worked together.

We met the darkness of not being able to be in worship in the building together by shining our light with an online format, first using phones and later moving to our new camera system, and by creating and mailing at-home worship materials for those who could not join us online.

When we were able to worship together again, we had a newly refurbished and upgraded outdoor chapel in which to worship, and we shared the joy of Jesus with our neighbors. One evening, a neighbor who could hear our music drove until she found us, joined





worship, and has continued to worship with us online. For Christmas, we had the joy of 14 families helping us to share the Christmas story, found ways to incorporate special music, and even worshiped outdoor to share the story of Christ's birth together and with the neighborhood. A light shines in the darkness.



We met the darkness of not being able to meet for Sunday School and Confirmation and High School Youth Group by shining our light in new ways. Pastor Heather and I started creating goofy Sunday School introduction videos and we transitioned this fall to Sunday School in a Box to bring God's love into the home. For Confirmation, we finished the spring semester on Zoom, we celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism with our Confirmands over three services, and we did some hybrid Confirmation this fall with those who could not gather in person, either outside or indoors, joining us on Zoom. For High



School Youth Group, we have found ways to meet on Zoom, gather outdoors, even in 25 degree weather, and when possible, gather indoors. A light shines in the darkness.

We met the darkness of the economic impact of pandemic and natural disaster came by shining light for our neighbors to help them through this time. We wrote and won a Daily Bread Grant from ELCA World Hunger to provide \$1000 to North Scott Cares to help provide food and necessity items to those who needed them through their Porch Pals project. After the derecho in August, we collected a van full of food to take to our siblings in Christ at Hope Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids to provide for their lunch program for their neighbors who were without electricity and food. We were also able, through your generous giving, to provide for all of the mission outreach that we had scheduled in our budget for 2020 to continue to serve our neighbors through the North Scott Clergy Fund, to support Lutheran Lakeside Camp, to support our chaplain at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, to support the Behnke family and our Compassion International children, to support seminary students at Wartburg Theological Seminary and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and to support the Southeastern Iowa Synod. A light shines in the darkness.



We met the darkness of racial unrest and the isolation that we have all felt by shining our light through gathering and reaching out in new and different ways. A small group gathered on Zoom in the fall to discuss *Dialogues on Race* where we found a safe space to learn and discuss our own discomfort with the racial tension in this country. We have had Faith Connects gathering on Monday evenings as a place to touch base with others and to share a devotion and prayer. Beer Bible Study has met



on Zoom and in person to continue to build relationships and study God's word together. Our Faith Family heads have made calls to their families to check in and pass on concerns to the pastors for us to follow up on. The hearts that we placed in our front window and the new electronic sign have allowed us to share messages of hope with those who pass by. Our participation in Hometown Holiday with the live nativity shared the light of Christ. A light shines in the darkness.



When the darkness of having to make hard decisions that affect so many people crept in, the light of the leadership of this congregation shined bright. I am grateful to the Congregation Council and the COVID-19 Subcommittee for their tireless work throughout this year to keep on top of what is going on to help us to be most faithful in our decisions. I give thanks for the staff here at Faith who carry out their duties with the love of Christ. I give thanks for those

who help to make worship happen each week, regardless of format, as we have changed several times through the year, and for the Ministry Teams of the church that help to keep us focused on shining the light of Christ in the world. A light shines in the darkness.



Thank you to each and every member of this congregation for all of the ways that you have continued to shine your light for Jesus throughout this year and for the support you have provided throughout this year. As we move in to 2021, may our light continue to shine brightly for Jesus as we look forward with hope for brighter days ahead, trusting that God continues to lead and to guide us through it all.



Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante

Good News for Today

Dear friends in Christ,

There is no more exciting time to be a part of this congregation at Faith Lutheran Church than the time we are living in right now. We have a message the world is longing to hear. As people of faith we know the truth about God and ourselves, and we believe that God makes all things new. God is continually at work, refashioning, reforming and redirecting our lives towards a greater purpose and bigger mission than we can accomplish on our own. We are the body of Christ, the church, a people who are called to live our faith out loud, outside the walls of this church building, and to make a difference in our family, neighborhood and world.

We strive to tell the truth about ourselves and the world as we see it. We know we fall short, but as people of faith we believe in the person and promises of Jesus Christ who gives us new life, hope and second chances. We believe that through the power of the Holy Spirit, God actively turns us away from our selfish desires, idols of our choice and making and recreates us to be a people who were made to shine with God's glorious light. Every day is a new beginning in the Lord!

As the year 2021 begins around the world it brings the hope of liberation from lockdowns, the end of spiraling numbers of death certificates, and the end of social distancing for a people who were never meant to be alone. The year 2021 brings the hope of social peace instead of a marketplace of division, defensiveness and discord. We will not be led astray by hatred, lies, contempt, and lawlessness. While there is no doubt the mystery of sin and evil still lurk in our own lives, we rest in God's assurance and promise of forgiveness. We are not defined by our sinfulness but by our godliness. The fruits of the spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. This new year, 2021, is a year of God's favor. This is good news for you and to all. God brings good news to the poor, feeds the hungry, binds up the broken hearted, and proclaims joy and gladness to replace our sadness and mourning.

It is an exciting time to be the church and we are called into God's mission and purpose for GOOD. This is God's church and not our own. Rest assured, it will be here long after we are. We are part of the great cloud of witnesses to the Risen One.

Our big question is this: Who does God call us to be for our neighbor today? What does it look like? And what do we need to do, so that within three years, we can look back at this pandemic as the best thing our church has ever experienced.

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Heather

**2020 Faith Lutheran Church
Fund Balance Sheet**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		12/31/2019					12/31/2020
2							
3		Balance	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	Transfers		Balance
4	Operating Fund	40,636.12	330,792.48	(324,714.38)			46,714.22
5	Payroll tax withholding						(124.09)
6							
7	Total Operating Funds				-		46,590.13
8							
9	Special Funds						
10	Adult Mission Trip	408.00	-	-			408.00
11	Christmas	1,806.00	1,765.00	(3,571.00)	-		-
12	Continuing Ed Assoc Pastor	1,211.34	590.91	(333.44)			1,468.81
13	Continuing Ed Sr Pastor	1,838.17	850.78	(824.55)			1,864.40
14	Disaster Relief		20.00	(20.00)			-
15	Easter		1,875.00	(1,875.00)	-		-
16	Endowment Fund		45.00	(1,115.00)	1,070.00		-
17	Food Pantry	-	2,520.00	(2,520.00)	-		-
18	Food Pantry Ramp		26,740.00	(26,740.00)			-
19	Memorials		344.85	(344.85)			-
20	Misc In/Out	(483.64)	2,962.71	(4,475.21)			(1,996.14)
21	Missionary Support	(10.00)	785.00	(785.00)			(10.00)
22	Mission Trip	4,466.73	4,718.00	(1,399.29)			7,785.44
23	Operation Christmas Child	(119.80)	643.00	(459.00)			64.20
24	Outreach	977.71	2,380.00	(2,210.27)			1,147.44
25	Outside Plantings	319.27	-	(28.42)			290.85
26	Rooftop AC		-	-			-
27	Sanctuary Update	16,100.00	355.00	(232.50)			16,222.50
28	Summer Food Project	9,680.92	1,250.00	(1,107.29)			9,823.63
29	Sunday School	167.14	101.07	(268.21)			-
30	Teddy Bear	108.50	-	-	-		108.50
31	Thanksgiving	326.00	630.00	(956.00)			-
32	Unbudgeted Repairs/Mntc		521.00	(521.00)			-
33	VBS		-	-			-
34	Women of Faith	(8.00)	221.00	(213.00)			-
35	World Hunger	-	533.78	(533.78)	-		-
36	Youth Junior High	655.47	326.00	(671.00)			310.47
37	Youth Senior High	1,302.13	20.00	(424.82)			897.31
38	Total Specials	38,745.94	50,198.10	(51,628.63)	1,070.00		38,385.41
39							
40	Bank Accounts	12/31/2019	Deposits	Withdrawals	Transfers		12/31/2020
41	Checking	79,382.06	380,990.58	(376,343.01)	1,070.00		85,099.63
42	Payroll tax withholding						(124.09)
43	Net checking						84,975.54
44							
45	Savings						
46	Operating Fund	10,000.00					10,000.00
47	Unbudgeted Repairs/Maint	49,957.46	5,521.00				55,513.35
48	Rooftop AC	10,000.00	5,000.00				15,000.00
49	Interest		34.89				
50	Total Savings						80,513.35
51	Memorial Savings	36,210.99	18,265.44	(19,634.57)			34,841.86
52	Endowment Savings						
53	First Trust & Savings	45,552.69	538.24				46,090.93
54	First Central CD	5,000.00	-				5,000.00
55	First Central Savings	2,530.12	400.82		(1,070.00)		1,860.94
56	Total Endowment Savings						52,951.87
57	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	238,633.32		(395,977.58)	-		253,282.62

	2019	2020		2021
	Actual	Budget	Actual YTD Thru Dec 31	Budget
Mission				
SE Iowa Synod				
Additional Mission (3%)	\$ 2,000	\$ 10,800		\$ 10,800
SE Iowa Synod (12%)	\$ 37,484	\$ 43,200	\$ 39,473.69	\$ 43,200
Iowa City Chaplaincy	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000
Bible Camp	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500
North Scott Clergy	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400
Seminary Student Fund		\$ 1,000	\$ 920.00	\$ 1,000
Compassion Child	\$ 836	\$ 920	\$ 972.00	\$ 920
Total Mission	\$ 44,420	\$ 59,820	\$ 45,265.69	\$ 59,820
Senior Pastor				
Salary/Housing	\$ 54,428	\$ 55,172	\$ 61,252.85	\$ 56,373
FICA Allowance		\$ 5,483		\$ 5,482
Pension/Insurance	\$ 19,787	\$ 25,028	\$ 21,705.88	\$ 21,916
Housing Equity Allowance	\$ 2,750	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000
Furnishings Allowance	\$ 1,375	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500
Mileage/Profess. Exp	\$ 3,040	\$ 3,200	\$ 1,795.74	\$ 3,200
Additional Benefits	\$ 2,044	\$ 6,000	\$ 382.00	\$ 4,000
Continuing Education	\$ 171	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000
Total Senior Pastor	\$ 83,595	\$ 100,383	\$ 90,636.47	\$ 96,471
Associate Pastor (PT)				
Salary/Housing	\$ 29,665	\$ 30,752	\$ 33,422.72	\$ 31,450
FICA Allowance		\$ 2,353		\$ 2,073
Pension/Insurance	\$ 22,256	\$ 25,416	\$ 25,300.62	\$ 26,408
Continuing Education	\$ 50	\$ 600	\$ 600.00	\$ 600
Mileage/Profess. Exp	\$ 962	\$ 1,000	\$ 390.84	\$ 1,000
Total Assoc. Pastor	\$ 52,933	\$ 60,121	\$ 59,714.18	\$ 61,531
Total Support Staff		\$ 67,261	\$ 56,310.00	\$ 67,079
Total Fellowship		\$ 1,800	\$ 245.36	\$ 1,800
Total Service in the World	\$ 2,402	\$ 3,900	\$ 100.00	\$ 3,900
Total Evangelism	\$ 2,251	\$ 3,050	\$ 2,777.78	\$ 2,665
Total Worship & Music	\$ 5,290	\$ 8,325	\$ 6,750.98	\$ 8,140
Total Education Youth & Family	\$ 19,658	\$ 28,450	\$ 6,251.37	\$ 29,800
Total Stewardship	\$ 518	\$ 875	\$ 492.07	\$ 875
Total Contingency & Misc	\$ 42	\$ 6,775	\$ 5,248.88	\$ 6,775
Total Administration	\$ 14,542	\$ 17,850	\$ 18,365.57	\$ 18,950
Total Property	\$ 29,380	\$ 45,665	\$ 32,556.03	\$ 45,165
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	\$ 311,038	\$ 404,275	\$ 324,714.38	\$ 402,971
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 344,600.34	\$ 360,000	\$ 330,792.48	\$ 360,000

2020 President's Report

Linda Golinghorst

*'While driving down the road, it is important to glance at the rear view mirror.
However, if you stare too long at the rear view mirror, you will crash!'*

Needless to say, 2020 was full of unimaginable obstacles, pain, and suffering due to the global pandemic. The stress of the pandemic then seemingly stoked tensions between people on many fronts.

We prayed a lot. We prayed for lost lives. We prayed for healing. We prayed for peace.

Although we were separated and everything had to be rethought, we never stopped our focus on our ministries. In a year when there was so much darkness, we thank God for Jesus and for the light that our congregation was able to shine into the world to serve His purpose.

Shine Your Light for Jesus!

		
<p>1. maintain relationships with Jesus and each other through prayer and worship</p>	<p>2. engage and empower youth by strengthening intergenerational relationships</p>	<p>3. expand community involvement and outreach by understanding our neighbors' needs</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online, Outdoors, At Home, Limited Indoor Worship - Chime Choir, Vocal, Instrumental Recordings - Christmas Eve Family Worship Recordings - Beer Bible Study, Faith Connects, Advent Pause 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheeseburger in Paradise - Sunday School Videos, Sunday school 'In a Box' - Confirmation Conversations - Youth Group and Mentors - Youth Council Members - Council Book Study: Growing Young 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Souper Bowl Sunday - Food Pantry Ramp - Outdoor Sign and Altar - Derecho Food Collection - Operation Christmas Child - Hometown Holiday Live Nativity - Dialogues On: Race

Now, let's take what we learned and how we grew this year, and look down the road to where we are going next. We don't know what 2021 will bring, but we are resilient and we will keep working as one body in Christ to help other people. When we are able to gather together in person, we will praise God for the joy of collective experiences once again!

I give thanks to the congregation for their financial support. I give thanks to our Pastors and Staff who work so tirelessly. I give thanks to the Council, Ministry Teams, Committees and the volunteers who sacrifice their time and talents. We are so blessed to be able to fulfill our ministries in the name of Jesus!

2020 Congregation Council

The Congregation Council has general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Pastors		
Senior Pastor	Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante	
Associate Pastor	Pastor Heather Geest	
Officers		
President	Linda Golinghorst (2nd Term)	Term Ends January '23
Vice President	Melody Sawvell (2nd Term)	Term Ends January '23
Treasurer	Scott Wiley	Term Ends January '21
Secretary	Joni Schneider	Term Ends January '22
Ministry Team/Committee Chairs		
Christian Education	Michelle Rasmussen	Term Ends January '21
Evangelism	Matt Peck	Term Ends January '23
Fellowship	Melody Sawvell (2nd Term)	Term Ends January '23
Finance	Scott Wiley	Term Ends January '21
Property	Mike Garner (2nd Term)	Term Ends January '23
Service in the World	Joni Schneider	Term Ends January '22
Stewardship	Beth Ann Anderson (Until October '21)	Term Ends January '22
Worship and Music	Amy Murray	Term Ends January '21
Youth	Joni King	Term Ends January '22
Youth Members		
	Austin Lee	Term Ends January 2022
	Erin Peck	Term Ends January 2022
	Open	
Council Resources		
Financial Secretary	Carolyn Scheibe	
Women of Faith Liaison	Joni Schneider	

2020 Teams & Committees

Ministry Teams & Task Teams	
Christian Education	Michelle Rasmussen (Chair), Pastor Heather, Amy Powell, Sunday School teachers and parents
Evangelism	Matt Peck (Chair), Carol Judge, Carol Marten, Dave Golinghorst, Greeters
Feed Our Children	Amy Powell, Beth Ann Anderson
Fellowship	Melody Sawvell (Chair), Diane Cole, Carolyn Lewis, Janet Merrick, Deb Peterson
Mission Statement Update Task Team	Matt Peck (Sponsor), Pastor Carrie, Brea Harms, Amanda Strom, Annette Tomlison, Brianna Rogers, Katie Garner, Kim Wilkins, Linda Szemkus, Pam Carlson, Tim Broberg
Sanctuary Update Task Team	Amy Murray (Sponsor), Tom Bauer, Sue Becker, Donna Darnall, Pastor Carrie La Plante, Amy Powell, and Brad Yanke
Stewardship	Beth Ann Anderson (until October)
Worship & Music	Amy Murray (Chair), Sue Becker, Teri Wittkowski, Nancy Meyer, Jackie Snyder, Faith Families, Altar Guild
Property	Mike Garner (Chair), Ron Bainter, Al Kluever, Brad Merrick, Jared Penning, John Powell, Myron Scheibe, Kim Wilkins, Bob White, Bill Wittkowski, Brad Yanke
Service in the World	Joni Schneider (Chair), Pam Carlson, Tom Carlson, Chris Copley, Brad Merrick, Janet Merrick, Lynda Miller, Carol Kuehl, Ida Weibel, Lexie Yanke
Youth	Joni King (Chair), Pastor Carrie, Sue Kirst, parents of youth, mentors
Committees & Sub Committees	
Audit	Kelly Hazen (Chair), Darin Anderson, Josh Rasmussen
COVID-19	Linda Golinghorst (Chair), Pastor Carrie, Mike Garner, Gary King, Amy Murray, Matt Peck, Joni Schneider
Endowment	Myron Scheibe (Chair), Kevin Krebs, Ken Oetzmann, Annette Tomlinson, Scott Rochau
Finance	Scott Wiley (Chair), Carolyn Scheibe, Kevin Lee, Allen Lewis
Library	Lynda Miller (Chair), Karen Schmitt, Sue Sissel
Memorial	Mary Ann Anderson (Chair), Donna Darnall, Marian Behrens
Nominating	Tim Broberg (Chair), Linda Golinghorst, Donna Gruenhagen, Tom Carlson, Amy Powell
Other	
Synod Assembly Voting Members	Diane Krebs, Austin Lee

SUMMARY OF CHURCH RECORDS 2020

MARRIAGES

Timothy Winter & Koralee Patzer
Koby Hillman & Shelby Oetzel
Nathaniel Ihrig & Lindsay Puls

CONFIRMATIONS

Rylee Theresa Daniels	Drew Alan Eller
Kyler Stephen Gerardy	Connor Allan Peck
Brody Joe Schoenthaler	Naomi Paige Ubel
Carter John Harms	Ryan Charles Stickler
Makenzie Marie Housenga	Kalob Douglas James-Kroeger
Kaycee Rose Newman	

MEMBER DEATHS

Myra Tunwall	Velda Arp
Sue McBride	Arlene Glunz
Ardelle Kraft	Janet Nagle
Bob Reese	Don Baustian
Dennis Peterson	Richard Puls
Jacklyn Snyder	Shirley Stoltenberg
Melvia Ewoldt	Lois Braden
Dale Moore	

NON MEMBER FUNERALS

J.B. Straley

BAPTISMS

Jack Miller	Rowan Murray
Colsen Logan	Shawn Logan
Charlotee Lueder	Brantley Copley
Bryce Gray	Emery Gray

NEW MEMBERS

Jack Miller	Rowan Murray
Colsen Logan	Shawn Logan
Charlotee Lueder	Brantley Copley
Bryce Gray	Emery Gray
Kim Claeys-Hemphill	Mark Hemphill
Kylie Gray	Pat Kroeger
Leah Kroeger	Sawyer Kroeger
Christy Lebeck	Val Zelinko
Kathy Zelinko	

INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERS

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership, end 2019:	925	805

Members received during 2020:

By baptism/children (15 years & younger)	6	0
By baptism/adults (16 years & older)	2	2
By affirmation of faith	0	0
By transfer from ELCA congregations	6	5
By transfer from other Lutheran congregations	1	1
From non-Lutheran congregations	2	2
From other sources and statistical adjustment		

Total members received this year		
	17	10

Baptized members who were confirmed in 2020:

11

Subtotal		
	942	826

Members removed during 2020:

By death	15	15
By transfer to other ELCA congregations	0	0
By transfer to other Lutheran congregations	0	0
To non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
For other reasons & statistical adjustment		

Total members removed this year		
	15	15

Membership, end 2020:		
	927	811

2020 Christian Education Annual Report

Michelle Rasmussen

As it was a year of extreme challenges and transitions, I am extremely thankful to Pastors Carrie and Heather to help continue to drive Christian education at Faith Lutheran. In a similar fashion to many schools and places of employment, difficult decisions were made with the onset of the pandemic. However, the love of God and Jesus prevailed, which allowed Sunday School to pivot to a home-led model.

Some of the highlights from this past year include:

- Welcomed Paige McGrath, Program Director of Lutheran Lakeside to lead Sunday School in January.
- In February, decorated brown paper bags for use for Feed Our Children.
- In March, quickly pivoted with lead support from Pastors to distribute electronic resources, such as Faith Formations and Sparkhouse. Offers were made to print materials at church for distribution to families upon request. Pentecost flames and other craft opportunities were provided for families to complete and send back to church for participation. Artwork was displayed facing LeClaire road for passersby to view.
- In April, Pastor Heather and Carrie began creating and distributing Sunday school lessons via video posted on YouTube.
- This summer, due to the ongoing pandemic, VBS was cancelled. Thank you to Amy Powell for her support and planning for 2020. VBS curriculum was distributed and virtual campfires were held via Zoom to allow families and children a time to connect.
- In September, Sunday School kicked off again virtually with supplemental materials happening through “Sunday School In A Box”. Families could sign up to receive a box and have it delivered to their home. The boxes were beautifully crafted, with all necessary supplies, equipment, and instruction to simulate an at-home Christian education experience.

Thank you to all the families who joined us in the journey of Christian education in a way that no one has experienced before. Thank you to the families for upholding the spirit of Christian education even when we could not gather in person. Thank you to the families who now can call themselves “Sunday School teachers”—we appreciate your willingness to teach and share the love of Jesus within your home with our youngest generations.

Thank you to the support of the Faith Lutheran church, parents, and leadership during my time on council. It has been an honor to serve and support this mission. I wish my successor the best of luck in all that comes in the near future.

Sincerely,
Michelle Rasmussen

Annual Report: Evangelism

The challenges of 2020 brought unexpected opportunities to shine our light for Jesus for the Evangelism Committee, with new and exciting changes that will be lasting for years to come within the church.

The beginning of 2020 began normally for committee members, reaching out to members and the community via letters, cards, and other correspondence for the community. On April 9th, members of Evangelism and Property committees could be seen out in the front of the church watching the new electronic sign being installed in front of the church. During the rest of the year, council members and staff familiar with the workings of the sign displayed messages of hope throughout the rest of 2020.

The biggest unexpected opportunity for the evangelism committee and the church in general was the expansion of the church's electronic footprint. As the church looked for new ways to worship, social media and streaming services became more important for connection to God's Word. Initially, church services were recorded via phone and posted online. This ended up being a great short-term solution as the church obtained a different setup. The new and current streaming process uses a video teleconferencing camera with audio through the church's indoor and outdoor audio setups. This has been used for the last half of the year in recording and live-streaming church services to our members. These services can be found on the Faith Lutheran Facebook account and YouTube accounts. The committee appreciates any feedback on the quality of the churches live streaming services and has continued to improve the quality based upon this feedback.

Although we as individuals and collectively as a church have made a lot of temporary changes in the past year, we hope to build on the opportunities presented to our committee in the upcoming year.

Matt Peck
Committee Chair



North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry 2020

Feed Our Children Ministry was organized by Faith Lutheran Church in June 2017 to provide a free lunch opportunity to our children in the North Scott community during the summer break. During a typical summer, almost 25% of children in our neighborhoods are underserved through the loss of the weekday free and reduced lunch program. Over the last 3 summers, we have served more than 8,750 lunches in our community through our twice a week ministry.

Due to the current pandemic, months-long shut down and strict food handling guidelines, Feed Our Children was not able to safely distribute sack lunches during the summer of 2020. However, the North Scott Community School District has been serving over 1,100 children 12 meals a week each (6 breakfasts and 6 lunches) since the school shut down. The expense of these meals was reimbursed by the Federal Government under emergency Covid-19 funding, and continued until the beginning of the school year.

As we prepare for our 2021 season, please pray for this ministry – for those in need, as well as those who prepare and serve. Please share the good news of this ministry in and around your neighborhood. Please keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to reach children. If you hear of children in a neighborhood that could benefit from this ministry let us know!

We look forward to a safer, healthier 2021! Blessings to you all!

Amy Powell and BethAnn Anderson
Co-Chairs
Feed Our Children Ministry

Thank you to our sponsors: Moonlight Chase and ELCA

Fellowship Team 2020 Annual Report

Council Chair: Melody Sawvell, Team Members: Janet Merrick, Deb Petersen, Carolyn Lewis, Diane Cole

2020 began with our Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings between the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services. Cookies, coffee, lemonade, and the selections from the cappuccino machine were enjoyed by young and old alike.

Our first main event was the 13th Annual Cheeseburger In Paradise Party held on February 8th after the 5:00 p.m. service. We had over 40 people attend with burgers, great side dishes and desserts along with a selection of Beach Boys and Jimmy Buffet music! The kids entertained limbo and hula hoop for some tropical fun while the adults enjoyed the companionship of those in attendance! The evenings 'Best Dressed' were Norm and Faye Harvey! The Limbo contest winner was none other than Violet Geist. Raffle baskets were also awarded to two lucky winners: Pastor Carrie LaPlante and Gretta Geist.

Below are some pictures of the fun that was had by all!



The Fellowship team focuses on in-person gatherings to build fellowship among our congregation. This past year has been a challenge to say the least. We were not able to gather for the Parking Lot Picnic or the Annual Couples Anniversary Dinner this year. Our team met when in-person gatherings were allowed outside the church to discuss how we could build fellowship during this difficult time.

We are planning a 'virtual' Cheeseburger In Paradise event for next year by having members submit pictures of themselves in their Hawaiian / Tropical clothing to the church office to be part of a picture slideshow that will be featured on the website in February. We also are making plans on how we can host the Parking Lot Picnic next year safely.

We look forward to a new year and the anticipation of being together again! We did not change our budget for next year as we are optimistic that we will be gathering again soon! We pray for everyone's health and safety for the new year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Melody Sawvell, Fellowship Chair

Property Team

We all wish that we had more time together in our church building this past year. However, the property team would like to assure you that we were working all year to maintain the building we all love, and to make it as safe and accessible as possible when we did return indoors briefly in the fall, and for when we return again in 2021.

First I would like to celebrate the exciting changes that have been made around the building. First was the beautiful changes to the outdoor chapel. Generous donations from our member's time, treasure, and talent provided a new deck, beautiful stone work, and landscaping around the chapel make it such a nice place to worship. Artwork was added to the front and top of the alter. I encourage you to walk over and look at it this spring once the alter is out of storage to protect its new look.

The second big change was the addition of an access ramp to the food pantry door on the north side of our building. This ramp ends the days of hauling all of the food up and down a set of steps and makes the food pantry, and our lower level, accessible to all for the first time. Thanks to all who donated their time, talents, and treasure to this project.

The large oak tree at the north end of the sidewalk was found to have a large rotten area about 15 feet up the trunk, and was taken down to prevent damage to persons or property. This loss was easier to take as I was approached by Barb Elmegreen's family about planting a tree in her honor on the church grounds. The symbol of renewal resonated with me, and I hope with others as well.

The main focus for much of the year has been on ways to reduce the COVID 19 risk to our congregation, employees, and volunteers as the work of the Church is carried out in or around our building. Words like: social distancing, disinfecting, and contact tracing all became part of our world last year. The property team worked to apply these realities to our worship, education, and community efforts. Marking six foot distances inside and out, purchasing the same kind of disinfectant sprayers as the airline industry uses, and facilitating the needs created by video recording/live-streaming worship services were some of the new challenges that were addressed. The property team also worked with the North Scott Food Pantry so they could use some of our unused space for their continuing programs.

As we look forward to 2021, I invite you to join the property team. If you would like to lend your time, talent, or treasure in the future, I encourage you to do so. "Many hands make light work" is a phrase I have heard my whole life. I do not know who to credit that phrase to, but I know it is true. The challenges 2020 presented, were met head on by a group dedicated to the goal. We all now know how important connections are as humans, I invite you to connect to the mission of this congregation however you are called to do so. I promise you this: you will find that you will gain more than you give.

Mike Garner, Property Team Chair 563-349-4459

Service in the World Team 2020 Annual Report

Members: Brad and Janet Merrick, Carol Kuehl, Chris Copley, Tom and Pam Carlson, Ida Weibel, Lynda Miller, Lexi Yanke, Carrie Keppy and Joni Kuehl-Schneider

In a time when serving others is more critical than ever, our committee is pursuing ways to reach out to our community to serve individuals and families facing challenging circumstances. Our current situation has made many of our typical Service in the World activities challenging to continue this past year, especially since we rely on word of mouth and in person services to encourage participation. We are looking for opportunities to safely reach out to those in need, so if you have any suggestions or see a need that is not being met, please contact our committee or the church office. We appreciate the congregation's input and ideas.

Summary of this year's events and activities:

- **Souper Bowl Event-** 126 cans of soup were collected and donated to the North Scott Food Pantry. Thanks to the sports fans for their enthusiastic response to the challenge!
- **Churches United Meals-** We served a meal in January, but after that meals were discontinued during 2020 due to the pandemic. We had been scheduled to serve meals for January, July and November and hope to continue as soon as they begin serving again.
- **Missionary Support-** We continue to support candidates Patrick and Jackie Bencke in Japan.
- **Compassion Sunday** was supposed to be held in the spring, but was postponed and then cancelled until a better time. We continue to sponsor John in Tanzania and Denisse in Ecuador. The sponsorship assists with critical resources to meet immediate needs, educational support, medical care, health and hygiene training, access to special services like surgeries and disaster relief, nutritious meals, Christian care to help them be all God has called them to be, and hope – knowing they're loved and they matter to you.
- **SIW Brochure-** We successfully completed an update of our brochure and information on the website regarding our committee's role and responsibilities.
- **Outreach Funds-** SIW coordinated the distribution of outreach funds to a variety of causes such as Animal Rescue in Australia, NSHS Food Pantry, Lutheran World Relief-Tornado Relief, Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund, ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund, Abby Nass/Africa Inland Mission, Disaster Relief in Cedar Rapids (Derecho) through our Synod, and a local family in need.
- **Final Friday** was unable to be held due to the pandemic. We hope to do some sort of modified activities next spring as the circumstances allow.
- **Blood Drive** – We were unable to host a blood drive in our facility but have been encouraging people to give blood at the Blood Center.
- **Homecoming Parade Tailgate event-** Due to changes and the cancellation of all major Homecoming activities, we did not hold a tailgate event.
- **Operation Christmas Child** –A total of 51 boxes were packed and cash donations were received for the postage from individuals as well as the Women of Faith. Boxes were picked up and dropped off by members. Lexie Yanke coordinated the project and made delivery. We appreciate everyone's generosity.

Respectfully submitted.
Joni Kuehl-Schneider
Service in the World

Worship and Music Team

Annual Report 2020

The Worship and Music Team plans and makes arrangements for all the major aspects of each worship service. Our team members include: Sue Becker, Pastor Carrie La Plante, Nancy Meyer, Amy Murray, Jackie Snyder, and Teri Wittkowski. Thank you to each of these members for their time and dedication to providing a joyful worship experience for our congregation and guests.

This year, our team adapted to find new ways to worship safely during this pandemic. We worshiped together online, outdoors in our new outdoor chapel, and indoors with modifications. While the setting of our services may have looked different this year, our worship and love of God remained the same. Many thanks to all of our volunteers and staff who play critical roles in our worship experience. A special thanks to the Faith Family leaders who work diligently to secure volunteers to assist with worship.

Some highlights of the Worship and Music activities throughout the year were:

- Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, which was served with the help of Confirmation families
- Faith Families making calls to the congregation to connect throughout the year
- Worship in new settings: outdoors and online
- Renovation of our outdoor chapel
- Worship volunteers helping to implement new usher processes
- Creation of the hand chime choir

The Sanctuary Update committee continued their work in 2020. Our members include Tom Bauer, Sue Becker, Donna Darnall, Pastor Carrie La Plante, Amy Powell, Amy Murray, and Brad Yanke. This year they met with multiple design firms and moved forward working with Gunder Church Furniture from Humboldt, Iowa. The committee is working with Gunder to develop preliminary designs to create the vision for our updated sanctuary space. They look forward to further progress in 2021!

The Worship and Music team looks forward to the expansion of our hand chime choir in 2021! What started as an outlet to fill the void of singing has become a blessed addition to our musical offerings at Faith!

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Murray



2020 Annual Report of the Youth Committee

The 7th and 8th Grade students began this year with an Ignite Quad Cities event. This event brings students from Quad Cities churches together for fun and fellowship.



Our Mission Trip kids spent a fun-filled day on Saturday, February 1, preparing Super Bowl Subs and Caramel Chex Mix, to raise money for their upcoming Mission Trip to Franklin, West Virginia. 110 submarine sandwiches and 46 bags of Caramel Chex Mix were prepared and sold, netting approximately \$600 for the trip.

February 26, the Confirmation kids helped to serve the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper.



On April 15, last year's 8th graders were finally able to complete their Confirmation requirements via Zoom conferencing. After a long wait to ensure safe gathering during the Coronavirus, they celebrated their Confirmation outside in three September services.



Since the Covid-19 put in-person get-togethers on hold, we have had to be creative and look into other avenues to meet with the kids, and to make the meetings fun. As fall approached and school resumed, the Confirmation and High School kids met outside the front of the church, six feet apart and with masks. The High School kids often wanted to play “The Survey Says” (an online version of Family Feud). The Lord blessed us with many beautiful, warm evenings under the stars, and the kids seemed not to mind wearing masks, as long as they were able to spend time with their friends.

When the weather turned cold, the Covid numbers were such that we were able to meet with Confirmation and High School Youth Group inside. However, when the Coronavirus numbers began again to rise, we had to resume “meeting” on Wednesday nights via Zoom. Although Zoom is a great way to get together in light of this year’s virus, we have found that on Zoom, the kids aren’t quite as vocal as usual!

Initially, the turnout for the High School kids was not too bad with the Zoom meetings (about 8-12 per evening). Later, when school classrooms also were teaching on Zoom, the kids seemed to have had enough of computer learning, and we began to see High School attendance drop. We discovered that if we could meet on nice evenings outside on the front church patio, we would have a better turnout (even if it means meeting in the cold, around a fire pit, snuggled in blankets and warm clothing, six feet apart and wearing masks).



This year, Confirmation Camp for the Jr. High kids was canceled. However, Lutheran Lakeside is planning to proceed with Camp in 2021, with Covid restrictions and a possible refund for any Coronavirus-related cancellation.

The High School Mission Trip to West Virginia was also cancelled. A decision has not yet been made, whether or not there will be a High School Mission Trip for 2021. Should 2021 Mission Trips be canceled, options for the High School Youth may be to do mission work with the adults at Lutheran Lakeside, or do a High School Church camp.



Faith Lutheran presents this year's living nativity. From left: Evan Keppy, Madelyn La Plante, Grace Kirst, McKenna Santee, Abigail La Plante (the angel behind), Austin Lee, Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante, Nathan Anderson.

Friday, December 4, some members of our youth groups and a few adult members braved the cold, to perform a live nativity scene for the Hometown Holiday.



It's been a challenging year, but through God anything is possible.

In good times, and not so good times, remember that God is always with you!

Respectfully submitted,

Joni King, Youth Chair



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment fund ended 2020 with a December fund balance of \$53,351.87 This fund was started in 1999 and accumulated funds, without distribution, until it reached \$50,000. Since the account has now reached the \$50,000 threshold, income can be expended in accordance with the following:

Minimum of 20 percent for outreach into the community and synod, including, but not limited to grants to, ELCA seminaries, colleges or students attending such schools, social service agencies, institutions and agencies to which this congregation relates, and to special programs designed for those persons in our parish area who are in spiritual and/or economic need.

Minimum of 20 percent for missions of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in this continent and worldwide, including, but not limited to, grants to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for new congregational development in North America, professional leadership, educational ministries, global mission, ecumenism, evangelism, social ministries and capital financing.

Minimum of 20 percent for capital improvements, debt reduction or a building program of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Up to 40 percent for any or all of the above designated areas in any proportion as determined by the committee are consistent with the fund purpose of enhancing the mission outreach of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The amount of funds that were distributed at the beginning of 2020 was \$1,070 with funds going to the following:

- \$355 for preparation of plans for the sanctuary update.
- \$355 to ELCA Disaster Response.
- \$120 to the North Scott High School Food Pantry.
- \$120 to Lutheran Lakeside.
- \$120 to the University of Iowa Chaplaincy Outreach.

The interest amount from 2020 available for 2021 distribution is about \$1,118. As the principal of this fund grows, obviously more income would be available for the above uses. If you have any questions on this fund, please contact Pastor Carrie or Myron Scheibe

The Endowment Committee
Myron Scheibe, Chair
Ken Oetzmann
Kevin Krebs
Annette Tomlinson
Scott Rochau
Pastor Carrie (Advisory as Sr. Pastor)
Linda Golinghorst (Advisory as Council President)

Memorial Committee Report for 2020

Members who are deceased and recorded in our memorial book for 2020 are: Myra Tunwall, Velda Arp, Sue McBride, Arlene Glunz, Ardelle Kraft, Janet Nagle, Bob Reese, Don Baustian, Dennis Peterson, Richard Puls, Jacklyn Snyder, Lois Braden, Shirley Stoltenberg, Melvia Ewoldt, Dale Moore.

Carolyn Scheibe will include in her report memorials received in memory of our deceased members.

Projects:

Memorial Projects: remaining balance on the electronic sign, banner stand, outdoor sound equipment, ramp for easy pickup at food pantry, and chimes. Projects approved but not yet purchased/reimbursed: communion chalices – 2 sets, outdoor cross, urn pall.

We had 8 baptisms in 2020. Michele and Mark Mess, in memory of Maddie Mess, has now been presenting a rose to baptized infants.

A note of memorial monies received is mailed to all non-members when notification is received.

The family has 12 months to make a decision unless designated for a specific memorial. When the memorial is less than \$100.00 the committee makes the decision unless the family has a special memorial request in mind.

All memorials must be approved by the church council and recorded in the memorial book.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Ann Anderson, Chairman; Karen Schmitt; Carolyn Scheibe; Pastor Carrie LaPlante; and Pastor Heather Geest

MEMORIAL ACCOUNTY ACTIVITY FOR 2020

Balance 12/31/2019		\$	36,210.99
Inflow 1/1/2020 thru 12/31/2020			
Gifts Received	\$ 17,182.00		
Interest Received	\$ 63.44		
Total Inflow 1/1/2020 thru 12/31/2020		\$	17,245.44
Outflow 1/1/2020 thru 12/31/2020			
Electronic Sign	\$ (8,992.26)		
Banner Stand	\$ (324.85)		
Outdoor Sound Equipment	\$ (1,986.41)		
Food Pantry Handicap Ramp	\$ (5,000.00)		
Chime Bells	\$ (2,311.05)		
Total Outflow 1/1/2020 thru 12/31/2020		\$	(18,614.57)
Balance 12/31/2020		\$	34,841.86

Prepared by Carolyn Scheibe
5-Jan-20

Women of Faith 2020 Report

This year we were unable to gather together for usual events. Hopefully we will be able to offer these events in the future. Prior to the changes in March, we did serve 4 funeral luncheons for the families of Myra Tunwall, Sue McBride, Arlene Glunz and Janet Nagle. Instead of cookies for our shut-ins and those needing some TLC, we sent Christmas cards with a small gift. Prayer shawls are available for anyone in need of comfort. Many thanks to everyone that helps support the Women of Faith.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Szemkus, President

WOMEN OF FAITH 2020 YEAR END REPORT

Expenses

SERVICE PROJECTS		\$ 750.58
Kitchen Supplies	\$112.93	
Sunshine	110.65	
NS Schools (Nurses)	280.00	
Postage/Christmas Shoebox	225.00	
Postage/Cards for Shut-ins	22.00	
WOMEN OF THE ELCA		300.00
SOCIAL/GENERAL MEETINGS (Sweet Treats)		24.43
MISC (Triennial Stipend)		1300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$2375.01

Gross Income

OFFERINGS		\$ 52.00
FUNERAL/RECEPTIONS		410.00
FUNDRAISING (Sweet Treats)		280.00
THRIVENT		144.00
INTEREST/DIVIDENDS		73.46
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 959.46

Checking Account as of December 9, 2020	\$ 873.07
Savings Account as of October 31, 2020	\$3687.07
Certificate of Deposit as of October 31, 2020	\$2727.75

Karen Schmitt
Treasurer of WOF

North Scott Food Pantry

The North Scott Food Pantry, located in the basement of Faith Lutheran Church, is open to assist families in need on Tuesday evenings, 5:30 – 7:00 PM and Friday mornings 9:30 – 11:00 AM.

Highlights for 2020 include:

- Carolyn and Myron Scheibe pursued replacing the steep outside stairs with a handicap accessible ramp. They were able to find funding, even being awarded a grant, and worked directly with the contractor to get the project done. We are thankful for all the work Carolyn and Myron did and grateful to Faith Lutheran for allowing us to put in the ramp. Now the carts of food can go right out the door to the parking lot without navigating any stairs. Also it's great to be able to back right up to the door to unload large orders.
- The Pantry added a voicemail box (563-285-8444). It gives people a way to leave us a message and for the pantry to give information such as hours we are open, how to donate food and/or send a monetary donation.
- Due to the pandemic, client choice distribution was discontinued in April. Since then, the clients have received a prepack allotment of food. Also, the pantry was not required to register clients so some of the normal statistics such as how many families served are not available. A total of 717 visits were logged in 2020 compared to 800 in 2019. The pantry received over 41,000 pounds of food down from 63,000 pounds in 2019.
- River Bend Food Bank distributed the USDA's Farm to Family boxes. This government program offered fresh produce and dairy items at no cost to the pantry. Over 50 of these boxes were given out at our pantry.
- As North Scott Schools closed for the 2019-2020 school year, the pantry provided extra food for families with school age children. Even with the school providing lunches, the extra items were much appreciated.
- The North Scott community continues its strong support of our mission. Most of the annual food drives were cancelled but the community continued to donate food and money. At times it was very difficult to purchase certain food items but the clients always received a generous supply of food. North Scott Foods' customers purchased 68 bags of food costing \$25 each. St. Ann's Knights of Columbus were able to hold their annual golf open raising \$13,000. The Harkin Trust gave \$10,000.
- Clients received additional food the month prior to Thanksgiving. 73 families received a bag of shelf stable food, 2 turkey roasts and coupons for eggs, milk and \$5 produce.
- Christmas food boxes and angel tree gifts were given out December 18 & 19th. The process was adjusted with a small group of volunteers packing the food boxes in early December and then the perishable food was added when distributed. 100 food boxes were given out. Christmas presents provided by St. Ann's and the Scott County Library's angel trees were distributed to about 150 children. Kay Picolet along with her husband, Ron, and daughter, Shannon, administered the gift distribution.

We have wonderful volunteers that staff the pantry, assemble holiday food baskets, pick up and deliver items, stock shelves and put in many hours working on projects. Many volunteers use their gifts to make sure the food pantry functions efficiently. Friday hours are staffed by local churches in a 7 week rotation. Faith is scheduled for January 29 and March 19. If you would like to help, please contact Deanna Nielsen (285-6194). If you are interested in helping on the Tuesday evenings, contact Jody Boland at 285-6804. Contact Deanna about other volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to everyone that donated their time, food and/or money to the food pantry.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Nielsen

LUTHER PROPERTIES LLC 2020

We all know the year we have experienced so I won't dwell on it.

Our annual meeting in March was canceled just a few days prior to the meeting. The Board of Directors decided to forego the annual meeting for 2020 and focus on the 2021 annual meeting this year. No decisions have been made for this year, but a virtual meeting is probable. An announcement will be made soon.

Skipping a meeting or two because of the pandemic, we resumed in-person meetings mandating masks and socially distanced. We decided to resume meetings virtually. We had an elevator replaced so that inconvenienced some residents for a while, and the derecho cut power for a few days at some facilities. Talks began for the Knoll to provide a stairway to the HyVee grocery store nearby. The City of Bettendorf and multiple other agencies are helping to provide the stairs to come to fruition.

HOMZ Management has retired and is no longer our management company. Cardinal Management in Cedar Rapids is now managing our 5 facilities. Our local management team, headed by Kelli, continues and has done a fantastic job in taking over seamlessly. Kelli and her staff should be commended for their everyday operations of our facilities.

Our facilities continue to be nearly full at all times and our maintenance is top notch.

After 25 years of covering our insurance, Nationwide notified us they would no longer cover us. Nelson Brothers, locally, came up with the low bid. The hail storms and derecho have not been kind to us.

Please contact me with any questions or problems. kimwilkins@ruhlhomes.com or 563-370-1393.

Thank you.
Kim Wilkins

Mission Statement Update Team

The mission statement update team was able to meet twice in 2020 in-person. The objective to update our Mission Statement and Logo, and have new visitor and congregational 'ad' items by Rally Day in September 2020. We hope that after the new year, that we will be able to reinvigorate the team to complete our objective in 2021.

Matt Peck

Library Committee

The library committee didn't do our normal activities because of COVID in 2020. If we are able and feel safe going into the church building in 2021 we hope to continue the use of our church library. The committee wishes everyone a safe 2021 and hope things do get back to normal.

Lynda Miller
Karen Schmitt
Sue Sissel

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.

Build Us Up, Lord



1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our



us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our



ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.



Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us



guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us



world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.



Refrain
Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in



faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your



word to spread the news of your Son!

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952
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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.