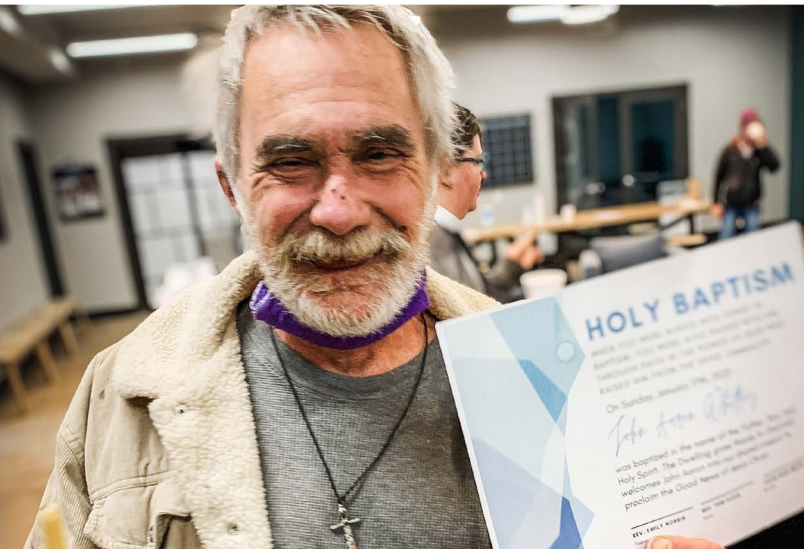


ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eldridge, IA

Sunday, January 30, 2022 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

Minutes of the previous Annual Congregational Meeting, January 31, 2021

Presentation of Reports

Page 5	Minutes of January 31, 2021 (Joni Schneider)
Page 8	Pastors Reports (Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather)
Page 11	Financial Report (Deanna Nielsen)
Page 12	2021 Fund Balance Sheet (Deanna Nielsen)
Page 13	2022 Budget (Deanna Nielsen)
Page 14	Audit Report (Josh Rassmussen)
Page 17	Council President Report (Linda Golinghorst)
Page 18	Church Council Directory (Linda Golinghorst)
Page 19	Teams and Committee Members (Linda Golinghorst)
Page 20	Church Records Summary (Pastor Carrie)
Page 21	Membership Information (Pastor Carrie)
Page 22	Christian Ed Report (Theresa White)
Page 23	Evangelism Report (Matt Peck)
Page 24	Feed Our Children Ministry
Page 25	Fellowship Report (Melody Sawvell)
Page 26	Property Report (Mike Garner)
Page 27	Service in the World Report (Joni Schneider)
Page 29	Worship and Music Report (Nina Looney)
Page 30	Youth Committee Report (Joni King)
Page 33	Endowment Committee Report (Myron Scheibe)
Page 34	Memorial Committee Report (Mary Ann Anderson)
Page 35	Memorial Account Activity Report (Carolyn Scheibe)
Page 36	Women of Faith Report (Linda Szemkus)
Page 37	Women of Faith Treasurer's Report (Karen Schmitt)
Page 38	North Scott Food Pantry Report (Deanna Nielsen)
Page 39	Luther Properties Report (Kim Wilkins), Mission Statement Update Team and Library Committee
Page 40	2020 Fund Balance Sheet (Revised, For Approval)

Old Business

- 2020 Annual Report Update: corrected the Fund Balance Sheet to change the "11/30/2020" heading to "12/31/2020", and to include the \$122.57 of interest earned on the First Central CD.

New Business

Thank you to Outgoing Council Members

Joni Schneider served 3 years as Service In the World Ministry Team Leader and 2 years as Secretary. Joni King served 3 years as Youth Ministry Team Leader. Ryan Harms served 1 year as Stewardship Ministry Team Leader.

Election of Council Members

Council members are elected for a three year term except where noted. Vote for four: Nina Looney (Worship and Music, two years remain on term), Dan O'Flaherty (Property), TBD (Service In the World), TBD (Youth)

Election of Endowment Committee Members

Endowment Committee Members are elected for a three year term. Vote for two: Janice Hartwig, Annette Tomlinson (second term)

Election of Nominating Committee Members

Nominating Committee Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for five: Linda Golvinghorst (outgoing council member), Jared Penning, Michelle Rassmussen, Melody Sawvell (outgoing council member), Joni Schneider

Election of Synod Assembly Voting Members

Synod Assembly Voting Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for two: TBD, TBD

Election of Synod Assembly Voting Member Alternates

Synod Assembly Voting Member Alternates are elected for a one year term. Vote for two: TBD, TBD

- Adoption of 2022 Budget
- Other

Adjournment

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
Called to Share, Seek, and Serve Christ
Jan 31, 2021 9:00 am

Call to Order

Linda: We gather in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit C: AMEN

Linda Golinghorst (President) called the meeting to order with 54 voting members in attendance, which exceeded the quorum of 40.

Liturgy : Led by Pastor Carrie (O God of all power and love...)

Adoption of Agenda: Motion made by Scott Wiley to adopt the agenda, seconded by Duane Miller, motion carried by majority vote.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Motion made to approve the minutes of last year's meeting, motion carried by majority.

Presentation of Reports:

Pastors' Reports (Pr. Carrie and Pr. Heather) Comments from the pastors were heard regarding the challenges of the past year, and that many positive things came out of the year. Question posed by Pastor Heather-Who does God call us to be for our neighbors today? How can we radiate Christ? She would like to see our congregation use our social media and platform to radiate Christ and lead us in service and love.

2020 Financial Report : Scott Wiley (Treasurer) presented the 2020 Financial Report. He stated that we met our financial commitment to the Synod of \$43,200. He shared that total operating funds as of 12/31/2020 were \$42,864, which was an increase of \$2,228 from the same time last year. Total deposit accounts as of 12/31/2020 were \$249,556 which was up \$10,923 from the prior year. In 2020, we realized 91.9% of the budgeted income (\$330,792 actual income versus \$360,000 budgeted income). At the same time, the church spent 80.1% of the budgeted expenses for 2020 (\$324,714 actual expenses versus \$404,275 budgeted expenses). The church continues to be in a very solid financial position, thanks to the generosity of the congregational members. A question was asked about where to find information about the Synod financials. Pastor Carrie replied that information is available on the Synod website.

Scott Wiley: Our congregation stepped up in December and our income was \$67,000 which was huge and very much appreciated, and showed that the membership is willing to support the future.

Pastors' salaries-Change in Pastor Carrie's salary reflects a change in child care reimbursement which is promised in her call letter, so we have offset that in a different way. Pastor Carrie only uses individual health care, which is a savings for us.

2021 Budget: Scott Wiley (Treasurer) presented the proposed 2021 budget of \$402,971 for expenses and \$360,000 for income. He shared that the proposed budget is staying the same as 2020 and is based upon hope that we will get back to normal in 2021. Scott shared that the Sr. Pastor's compensation reflects that the added benefits can be used for expenses other than child care. The added benefits are available to her since she has a 'member only' health care plan, which costs the church significantly less money than a 'member and family' health care plan. He also mentioned that the Pastors were given a choice of two comparable health care plans this year. A question was asked whether we should account for inflation in the proposed budget. Scott replied that we expect expenses to be down (like 2020) in 2021, and that we will continue to manage actual expenses to actual income. A question was asked as to what falls into the budget item 'Contingency and Misc'. Scott replied that a big portion is for unbudgeted repairs. Pastor Carrie mentioned that this also includes miscellaneous office expenses.

President's Report: Linda Golinghorst: Comments shared from the year, it was an inspiring year. We have learned new ways to engage our young people, we have a new office manager, have better supported our

pastors and staff. Many great things have occurred this year although we miss meeting in person. Linda expressed her gratitude for everyone's contributions to the year. She asked us to review the other reports from committees.

Motion : Motion made by Annette Tomlinson to file the 2021 reports, seconded by Lynda Miller, motion carried by majority.

Old Business: None

New Business

Outgoing Council members: Scott Wiley (3 years as Treasurer/Finance Committee Leader), Michelle Rasmussen (2 years as Christian Education Ministry Leader), Amy Murray (3 years as Worship and Music Leader), Beth Ann Anderson (8 months as Stewardship Ministry Leader) Our thanks for their leadership and hard work, we hope that they return to serve again some time in the future.

Election of Council/Committee Members: Council members are elected for a three year term except where noted.

Council Member nominees (vote for 5) :

Sheila Baustian (Worship and Music)
Deanna Nielsen (Finance)
Ryan Harms (Stewardship-1 year remaining on term)
Theresa White (Christian Education)
Kaycee Newman (Youth)

Endowment Committee Member Nominees (3 year terms/vote for 2):

Kenneth Oetzmam, Kim Wilkins

Nominating Committee Member Nominees (1 year term/vote for 5)

Brad Yanke, Brea Harms, Donna Darnall, Kelly Dircks, Lynda Miller, Nancy Meyer, Sue Kirst

Synod Assembly Voting Members (1 year term/vote for 2)

Diane Krebs, Kelly Penning

Synod Assembly Voting Member Alternates (1 year term/vote for 2)

Amy Powell, Beth Ann Anderson, Carrie Keppy (if virtual), Janet Merrick (if in-person)

Linda opened up nominations from the floor, none were given, so nominations were closed. Linda Golvinghorst (President) instructed voting members to print and fill out their ballots and then return them by 4:00 pm by dropping them off at the church or by sending them electronically.

Adoption of the 2021 Budget

Motion to adopt the 2021 Budget made by Jared Penning, seconded by Bob White. Motion carried by majority vote.

Adjournment

Linda Golvinghorst (President) gave thanks for the presence of our members and all of their help behind the scenes. Thanks to the council for their hard work in this challenging year. Our work has been noticed within our congregation and in our community.

Motion made to adjourn by Kim Wilkins, seconded by Scott LaPlante. Motion carried by majority.

Continuation:

Annual Meeting Election Results:

42 Ballots were returned on 1/31 by 4pm, cross checked against the voting members in attendance, and counted by VP Melody Sawvell and Secretary Joni Kuehl-Schneider. All new Council members were elected by majority vote.

New Council members: Sheila Baustian, Deanna Nielsen, Ryan Harms, Theresa White, Kaycee Newman

Endowment Committee: Kenneth Oetzmman, Kim Wilkins

Synod Assembly Voting Members: Diane Krebs, Kelly Penning

Elected by majority vote to the **Nominating Committee** from the slate of nominees were Donna Darnall, Brea Harms, Sue Kirst, Kelly Wyatt and Brad Yanke.

Elected by majority vote as **Synod Voting Delegate Alternates** from the slate of nominees were Beth Ann Anderson and Amy Powell.

The 2021 Annual Report of the Senior Pastor

Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante

It is that time of year again when we look back at the year that has been, and we look ahead to all that we hope for as God continues to call us to be God's presence for mission and ministry in the world. While I usually love this time of year to look back and celebrate and to look ahead and dream, this year, I have to be completely honest. The year that has just past has been really hard. In many ways, 2021 was more difficult than 2020. The longer that the pandemic carries on, the wearier we become of the precautions, the more exhausting the numbers and the facts and the figures become, and the harder it seems to be to find grace for those who think and act differently from us.

Do not get me wrong. There was a lot of really amazing things that happened through the ministry of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church this year that is worth celebrating. While we were not able to bring back every event that we have traditionally done, we did find ways to offer many opportunities for worship and outreach this year that we had missed in 2020.

We were able worship together in-person for more of the year than we were not. When the power went out on Ash Wednesday, we made the best of things and had our first Candlelight Ash Wednesday Service, which carried with it a different sense of promise and hope. We made amazing use of our refurbished outdoor chapel for a spectacular celebration of Easter, a meaningful Confirmation service, a send-off for our seniors, and for many of our summer worship services. On Christmas Eve, we celebrated indoors, and had some fun guessing what the gifts of Christmas were all about. Through all of this, we have continued to improve our ability to livestream our worship for those who are not able to come to worship for whatever reason, and to provide other worship opportunities for those who do not have access to that technology.

Our high school youth and Confirmation students were able to begin gathering again during last winter, and they loved being together again, and new groups have started up this fall. We made use of our amazing outdoor facility for Knights of North Castle VBS this summer, even as we had to keep a close eye on the weather. We took 38 youth and 11 adults spanning ages 9 to 91 to Lutheran Lakeside Camp again this summer for learning, fun, mission and growing in faith. This fall, we were able to kick off Sunday School with a pancake breakfast and our kids did an amazing "Instant Christmas Program" which involved the whole congregation.

We have had times to gather and to study in different ways. During Lent, we did "Why Jesus?" conversations on Zoom. We hosted a second round of *Dialogues on Race* conversations in the spring. Tuesday morning Bible study has returned, and Sunday morning studies on *The Walk: Five Essential Practices for the Christian Life* and the story of Jesus' birth from the four Gospels have been well attended. This summer, we gathered around tables in the parking lot for our Parking Lot Picnic.

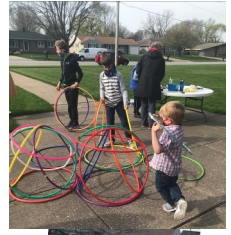
We have had opportunities to reach into the community more again this year. We have been able to bring Wednesday worship back to Grand Haven, which is a blessing on both sides, and our Confirmation Youth were able to go Christmas Caroling at Grand Haven in December. We provided water for the North Scott Junior High Color Runs in both the spring and fall. We were able to celebrate Final Friday at the end of the school year, and we hosted our Homecoming Tailgate party once again in September. Service in the World has been able to serve the Churches United Meals again. We ended the year with our Giving Tree, giving gifts totally more than \$1,000 to combat hunger and poverty in the lives of many of our siblings around the world.

There is more exciting mission and ministry coming in 2022 as well. We have 16 youth and three adults making the trip to Minneapolis this summer for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering, with all of the fun and





preparation that will lead up to that, including the chaotic cinnamon roll baking. We are looking forward to another fun summer at camp. We have a Sanctuary Update Team that is working diligently and deliberately on updates to the worship space to make worship more accessible in nearly every sense of the word. There are people who are dreaming about new ways that we can reach out with God's love to people within the congregation and beyond even as we try to find ways to carry out some of our favorite mission and ministry that we have been missing.



I am grateful for all of the mission and ministry that has happened through the use of so many gifts of time, talent and treasure in spite of the challenges that we have faced. I am humbled by the work that have been put forth to continue to shine God's love and serve God's people in and through this place. I am also well aware of the disappointment, the frustration, the sadness and grief that this past year has carried and the ways in which it has caused separation among us. And for this, my heart is deeply grieved.



Therefore, along with all of the ministry dreams for the year ahead, my hope and prayer for 2022 is that it will be a year of coming together. My prayer is that we can find ways in our families, in the church, and in the community to move forward together in ways that communicate care and compassion for one another, that show the love of Jesus for everyone around us, and where forgiveness for wrongs done can be found.

One of my favorite pieces from scripture, comes from Paul's letter to the Colossians (I like it so much that it was one of the readings at Scott and my wedding nearly 16 years ago). Paul is writing this letter to a church that is struggling with finding ways to live together as God's people when the people within the church and those in the society around them have very different understandings of how to live the best life. Those within the church were struggling to see a way forward in the midst of the disagreements, much as we are doing today. Into this situation, Paul writes these words:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:12-17)

While I know that I do this imperfectly to be sure, I have sought to live my life with compassion, kindness, humility meekness, patience, and most importantly, love, putting Christ at the center of all things as I seek his peace in the midst of the turmoil of life. I strive to forgive those who hurt me, and I try to seek the forgiveness of those whom I have hurt. And when I fail at any or all of the above, as I do, perhaps more this year than in years past, I turn everything over to Jesus, giving thanks for God's forgiveness in the midst of it all.

I have put these words from Colossians in places where I can see them regularly – on my computer home screen, on my bathroom mirror, on my dashboard, and who knows where else they will eventually be found – so that I can be reminded to whom I belong and what that means for how I live each day, centered in the promises of Christ. I will challenge myself to live into these words each day, to the best of my ability. I invite you to do the same, to find scripture or a quote or something of meaning to you to help you to live each day in the light of Christ in the year ahead so that we all might shine the light of God's love into the all too often dark days of life.

As we move ahead in this year, I give thanks for what has been, and I continue to pray that more of us will find ways to gather together to dwell in the word of Christ; to talk to, really listen to and learn from one another, especially those with whom we do not agree; to sing together; and to carry out the mission of God's love for the world in and through this place. You are missed, our congregation gathered is missed, and I believe God is calling us together to move into this new year to share God's love with our community and the world, perhaps in ways we have not imagined before, and doing it all with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and most importantly, love.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante

Pastor Heather's 2021 Report

Transitions. Struggles. Joys. Beginnings. Endings. Living through a lingering pandemic has been anything but predictable. Our sense of regular routines and normalcy for congregational life has been stretched thin. The differences and tensions are often overly magnified when we are unable to connect with one another on a regular basis. And yet, I believe this community has accomplished so much that is worthy of celebration. Throughout the past two years our Council members, and other dedicated leaders have worked hard to provide a caring and safe environment for worship and learning activities. We have focused on listening to the needs of our neighbors and seeking creative ways to respond with God's love. Regardless of successes or our marked failures, I believe God is still at work in and amongst us. We do not know what our future looks like together, but we do know that God is with us and that God is faithful. Listed below are three of things I appreciate most about our congregational life together.

Sense of adventure:

While change may be difficult, we are not afraid of trying new things. It seems like we will try anything at least once, even if we are not quite sure how it will turn out. Our Sunday School is a perfect example of this sense of adventure. For our Christmas program this year we held an instant Christmas program that included not only our Sunday school children, but also encouraged the participation of the whole congregation. This summer our Vacation Bible School utilized our front lawn. The kids had a great time armoring up with God's love at the Knights of North Castle. Other ministry possibilities that have yet to come to fruition include: a Men's Bible Study, the Mary Martha light house-keeping ministry, Empowering Our Elderly Team, as well as a Congregational Book Study. There is a myriad of ministry opportunities that are inhibited by our current circumstances. We continue to see opportunities, maintain what is essential, and hope for a renewal in comprehensive programming that we had come to expect.

Caring for others:

The people at Faith Lutheran are committed to serving and deeply caring for each other and those in our community. Whether it is our Women of Faith sending cards, the prayer team or members making phone calls to one another to check in, we are trying to stay connected. The Service in the World Team, Home Coming Tailgate Party, Grand Haven Worship, the North Scott Food Pantry, or Final Friday are ways we continue to serve the neighborhood. There are so many people that make a difference in our congregation and this community. In the last few years our church has really focused on responding to local needs and being Christ's presence within our local community. I am humbled by your generosity and faithfulness to the gospel.

Faithful Worship:

Worship is the pulse of our life together. While we continue to keep the health and concerns of our neighbors at the forefront of our life together, we have never stopped giving thanks and praise to God for all blessings continually bestowed on us. I am grateful for so many talented musicians and soloists. The dedication of our organists/pianists, the videographers, altar guild, and so many others really come together weekly to make our worship a centering place to be rooted in Word and Sacrament. It is a gift to be physically present with one another after months of virtual worship with limited face to face interactions. Being able to see people in worship is the highlight of my week. Your presence makes a difference. It is also great joy to partner in ministry with Pastor Carrie in leading this congregation in worship.

On a personal note, I have really enjoyed watching my three children grow and sharing them with all of you. Working part-time at Faith Lutheran provides me with the two things I value most in life: family life and serving Christ. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve Christ in this place.

Finance Committee

The finance committee works to oversee the financial aspects of the church. Members of the committee are Allen Lewis, Kevin Lee, Carolyn Scheibe and Deanna Nielsen. The committee meets as needed.

Since the financial records had not been completely audited for 2018 – 2020, the committee developed an audit charter and audit guide with guidance from an ELCA template. The financial procedures were also updated. Josh Rasmussen, Neal Becker and Scott Rochau reviewed the financial records in August. Supporting documentation was missing for a few expenses. Corrective actions have been implemented to address the audit recommendations.

Offerings are counted weekly by a team of two people and deposited in First Central State Bank. Because of pandemic precautions, the counters met on Mondays and made the weekly deposits. Our financial secretary, Carolyn Scheibe, enters all the contributions including online giving into our financial database, thus providing separation of duties and ensuring confidentiality.

Disbursement vouchers are submitted and approved according to the budget. The checks are written by our office manager, Beth Ann Anderson and presented, along with the supporting paper work to the treasurer for approval and check signing. This ensures complete separation of monies received and disbursed, with at least 2 people checking and involved in each step of the process.

Payroll is processed by Fahrenkrog Accounting. Church employees submit data to Pastor Carrie. She reviews the payroll before submitting it to the accountant for processing. The payroll checks are issued via electronic deposit.

The finance committee reviewed the budget concerns and recommended cuts for 2022. The council members reviewed their team's area of the budget and made adjustments. Most line items will remain the same for 2022. Increases to the pastors' salaries and benefits are made following the synod's recommendations and their call letters. All non-rostered employees will receive at least a 2% raise. For the past several years, 3% of the income has been budgeted for additional synod mission giving. For 2022 this 3% will be used on the budgeted mission line items and can be designated throughout the year for additional mission needs, as determined by the council.

Respectfully submitted,
Deanna Nielsen, Treasurer

2021 Faith Lutheran Church
Fund Balance Sheet

	12/31/2020				12/31/2021
Operating Fund	Balance	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	Transfers	Balance
Payroll tax withholding	42,863.82	334,327.92	(346,357.37)		30,834.37
					23.17
Total Operating Funds				-	30,857.54
Special Funds					
Adult Mission Trip	408.00	-	(408.00)		-
Christmas		905.00	-	-	905.00
Continuing Ed Assoc Pastor	1,468.81	600.00	(487.10)		1,581.71
Continuing Ed Sr Pastor	1,864.40	1,000.00	(1,668.28)		1,196.12
Disaster Relief		-	-		-
Easter		1,950.00	(1,950.00)	-	-
Endowment Fund		21,115.00	(21,115.00)		-
Food Pantry	-	1,830.00	(1,830.00)	-	-
Food Pantry Ramp		-	-		-
Memorials		-	-		-
Misc In/Out	(1,996.14)	4,106.48	(1,004.89)		1,105.45
Missionary Support	(10.00)	540.00	(540.00)		(10.00)
Mission Trip	7,785.44	3,865.00	(6,905.00)		4,745.44
Operation Christmas Child	64.20	1,245.00	-		1,309.20
Outreach	1,147.44	1,680.00	(2,514.24)		313.20
Outside Plantings	290.85	500.00	(19.23)		771.62
Rooftop AC		7,500.00	(7,500.00)		-
Sanctuary Update	16,222.50	-	-		16,222.50
Summer Food Project	9,823.63	200.00	-		10,023.63
Sunday School		214.40	-		214.40
Teddy Bear	108.50	-	-	-	108.50
Thanksgiving		560.00	(560.00)		-
Unbudgeted Repairs/Mntc		23,128.00	(20,550.00)		2,578.00
VBS		8.00	-		8.00
Women of Faith		578.00	(578.00)		-
World Hunger	-	374.01	(374.01)	-	-
Youth Junior High	310.47	-	-		310.47
Youth Senior High	897.31	100.00	-		997.31
Total Specials	38,385.41	71,998.89	(68,003.75)	-	42,380.55
Bank Accounts	12/31/2020	Deposits	Withdrawals	Transfers	12/31/2021
Checking	81,249.23	406,326.81	(414,361.12)		73,214.92
Payroll tax withholding					23.17
Net checking					<u>73,238.09</u>
Savings					
Operating Fund	10,000.00				10,000.00
Unbudgeted Repairs/Maint	55,513.35		(20,550.00)	5,000.00	40,001.72
Rooftop AC	15,000.00		(7,500.00)	5,225.00	12,725.00
Sanctuary Updates	-			5,000.00	5,000.00
Interest		38.37			
Total Savings					67,726.72
Memorial Savings	34,841.86	6,698.21			41,540.07
Endowment Savings					
First Trust & Savings CD	46,553.10	935.72			47,488.82
First Trust & Savings CD 2		4,016.13			4,016.13
First Central CD	5,122.57	52.35	(5,174.92)		-
First Central Savings	1,860.94	25,176.61	(5,115.00)	(20,000.00)	1,922.55
Sentinel Security Life Annuity	-	20,000.00			20,000.00
Total Endowment Savings					73,427.50
TOTAL ACCOUNTS	250,141.05	463,244.20	(452,701.04)	(4,775.00)	255,932.38

Faith Lutheran Church 2022 Budget

	2020	2021		2022
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Mission				
SE Iowa Synod (12% of income)	\$39,473.69	\$39,967.77	\$43,200.00	\$39,600.00
Additional Mission (3%)	\$3,726.31	\$0.00	\$10,800.00	\$3,340.00
Iowa City Chaplaincy	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Bible Camp	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
North Scott Clergy	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Seminary Student Fund	\$920.00	\$920.00	\$920.00	\$920.00
Luther Manor				\$200.00
Compassion Child	\$972.00	\$836.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Missionary Support				\$540.00
Total Mission	\$48,992.00	\$45,623.77	\$59,820.00	\$49,500.00
Senior Pastor				
Salary	\$61,252.85	\$56,373.12	\$56,373.00	\$57,733.00
FICA Allowance		\$5,482.08	\$5,482.00	\$5,588.00
Pension/Insurance	\$21,705.88	\$21,915.48	\$21,916.00	\$25,366.00
Housing Equity Allowance	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Furnishing Allowance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Mileage/Prof. Expenses	\$1,795.74	\$1,039.92	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
Additional Benefits	\$382.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Continuing Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Senior Pastor	\$90,636.47	\$94,310.60	\$96,471.00	\$101,387.00
Associate Pastor (PT)				
Salary/Housing	\$33,422.72	\$31,450.32	\$31,450.00	\$32,238.00
FICA Allowance		\$2,073.12	\$2,073.00	\$2,065.00
Pension/Insurance	\$25,300.62	\$26,408.28	\$26,408.00	\$27,959.00
Continuing Education	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
Mileage/Prof. Expenses	\$390.84	\$432.21	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Assoc. Pastor	\$59,714.18	\$60,963.93	\$61,531.00	\$63,862.00
Total Support Staffing	\$56,310.00	\$64,225.84	\$67,078.00	\$68,904.00
Total Fellowship	\$245.36	\$671.36	\$1,800.00	\$1,350.00
Total Service in the World	\$100.00	\$2,442.03	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00
Total Evangelism	\$2,777.78	\$1,975.97	\$2,665.00	\$1,908.00
Total Worship/Music	\$6,750.98	\$8,108.72	\$8,140.00	\$9,330.00
Total Education/Youth/Family	\$6,251.37	\$13,960.27	\$29,800.00	\$27,275.00
Total Stewardship	\$492.07	\$477.57	\$875.00	\$900.00
Total Contingency & Misc	\$5,248.88	\$5,038.50	\$6,775.00	\$5,500.00
Total Administration	\$18,365.57	\$13,745.50	\$18,950.00	\$20,609.00
Total Property	\$32,556.03	\$34,813.31	\$45,165.00	\$34,365.00
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$328,440.69	\$346,357.37	\$402,970.00	\$388,790.00
Total Operating Income	\$330,792.48	\$334,327.92	\$360,000.00	\$330,000.00

Faith Lutheran Audit Report

2018-2020

Audit Team

- Neal Becker
- Scott Rochau
- Joshua Rasmussen (Chair)

Audit Scope

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2020

Audit Sections

- Banking and Investments
- Banking Reconciliations
- Petty Cash
- Income: Benevolence
- Income: Offerings
- Disbursements
- Credit Card Transactions
- Payroll
- Endowment Funds

Audit Contacts

- Pastor Carrie La Plante
- Beth Ann Anderson
- Deanna Nielsen
- Carolyne Schiebe

Observations & Recommendations

Banking & Investments

Observation

No deficiencies observed

Banking Reconciliations

Observation

- 2018-2020 – year-end balance sheets are performed prior year end and special adjustments are made in January the following years
- 4 Cash debits were found without receipts o 06/25/2018 - \$3,410 (Youth Gathering) o 07/13/2018 - \$900 (VBS) o 05/16/2019 - \$50 (?) o 07/02/2019 - \$1,660 (Mission Trip)

Recommendation

Create a spreadsheet that converts the year-end register reconciliation into the amounts used for reporting the annual Faith Lutheran Church Fund Balance Sheet.

While each of the cash debits can be explained, there are no receipts or journal entries made in the check register to validate. Document these cash debits in order to keep record of the purpose of the cash debit.

Petty Cash

Observation

- Petty cash is not used currently and most transaction are via credit card transactions

Recommendation

If petty cash is necessary, adhere to the current standard to always keep the balance at \$20 through a combination of cash and receipts. If petty cash is no longer necessary, consider using credit card transactions to have a better control going forward.

Income Benevolence

Observation

- 12/2018 - No Synod support form found in the Synod folder
- 06/2019 - Calculation error on Synod 12% resulting in an underpayment to the Synod of \$157.80
- 11/2020 - Included sponsored child amount of \$160 in Synod calculation amount

Recommendation

Make sure a copy of the half-page Synod support form is included in the Synod folder each month. This document helps verify the percentage of giving calculation. Make sure the Synod share is computed on the same base offering amounts each month, not to include the specialized offerings.

Income Offering

Observation

No deficiencies observed

Disbursements

Observation

- Two invoices in the three-year period were found to have been paid from a second request for payment from the vendor. It's unknown if the first invoice was received in the office or not.
- 3/2020 – 3/11 check #18553 to Gunder for drawings for the sanctuary update was not found to have been charged to an account. \$232.50

Recommendation

Invoices are routinely paid in a timely manner. The notation of account numbers was not always consistent over the three years, probably in part due to turnover in the office secretary position. All purchases should have the proper sub-account number recorded either on the check stub or the purchase invoice or both. If the account name is there too, that's of course ok, but the account number is important for tracking back to the general ledger.

Credit Card Transactions

Observation

- 12/2019 Statement – 11/15 charge for Southwest Airlines Midway to Nashville for Continuing Ed., no receipt or invoice \$278.96
- 04/2020 – No expense receipts for Pastor Carrie

- 05/2020 – No expense receipts for Pastor Carrie
- 06/2020 – Most expense receipts are missing
- 07/2020 – 6/14 Amazon, no invoice, charged to Evang. Media \$663.40

Recommendation

The majority of credit card transactions has an auditable trail from the source document to the request for reimbursement to the general ledger, but there are some gaps. Invoices or receipts should be retained and available to verify all credit card purchases. Sometimes a single expense sheet is used to itemize transactions for Pastor Carrie. It would be helpful if this procedure is used to document all credit card transactions for each statement. This sheet would include account numbers (and if desired, account names) for each line item. This could eliminate the small handwritten account names on the credit card statement copy.

Payroll

Observation

- 2018 - Missing time submission reports
- 03/31/2019 - Missing time submission report
- 09/30/2019 - Information not fully available on report
- 11/30/2020 - Missing time submission report

The auditor did review supporting documentation for any possible outliers in the payroll information but did not see observe outliers from the typical routine so no official discrepancies were noted.

Recommendation

While 2018 had some supporting documentation, the time submission reports were not available. It would be a good practice to keep time submission records for at least the prior 3 calendar years.

There were 2 reports (1 in 2019 and 1 in 2020) that were also not in the records. Ensure that each report is included in the archived folders.

There was 1 time submission report that had some information cut off due to the printout being in a landscape layout instead of the standard portrait layout. Ensure that all information is on the printed copy before filing.

Endowment Funds

Observation

No deficiencies observed

2021 Council President Report

As usual, we started off the year with our annual retreat to do planning for the year. First, we agreed upon a new theme to center on for the year:

Serving Christ. Serving God's People.

Matthew 25:35-36, 40 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

We also reviewed our three strategic priorities, and updated them just a bit to better reflect current needs (the underlined words were added):

Matthew 6:21 (NRSV) 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1. **Build and strengthen relationships with Jesus and others through worship, prayer and bible study.**
2. **Engage and empower children, youth and young adults by strengthening intergenerational relationships.**
3. **Expand community involvement and outreach by understanding our neighbors' needs and by seeking to be instruments of empathy, unity and peace.**

As we were gradually starting to return to in-person activities, we defined the following other congregation wide goals for the year, which we have made progress towards:

- **Re-engage the congregation and the community in our regular ministries by fall.**
- **Offer varied adult education opportunities to grow people's faith.**
- **Support members to identify their spiritual gifts and empower them to serve.**

In addition to typical council activities, we updated portions of the Employee Handbook, approved a new Audit Committee Charter, kicked-off the Mutual Ministry Committee, approved a new Safety and Security Policy, approved the use of our building for two new community groups (Lions, VFW).

Thanks to our generous congregational giving for regular and special offerings, we supported: Churches United, Growing Hope Globally via Hearts to Harvest, Humble Dwellings, ELCA World Hunger, Luther Services of Iowa, Lutheran Disaster Response, Iowa City Chaplaincy, Lutheran Lakeside, North Scott Clergy, Seminary Student Fund and the Southeast Iowa Synod.

Overshadowing the year were the impacts of the continuing pandemic. The trauma we are experiencing has elevated anxiety and stress, and has contributed to conflict and strained relationships. There has been overwhelming stress for our pastors. We are working to support our pastors in new ways, as an example, we are defining a 'respite care' plan for them in 2022.

There are some good things we have been learning. We have been learning to listen more, to seek an understanding of different viewpoints, and to debate ideas without being "for" or "against" people. We are learning to ask ourselves "what is the most loving thing we can do in this situation?". We don't have to all agree, but we do need to show respect for one another.

As we look to 2022, I pray for unity in Christ and a renewed focus on 'why' we are brought together by Him as a community of believers for His purpose.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths (Prov. 3:5-6).

Respectfully,
Linda Golvinghorst

2021 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	Mike Garner (2nd Term)	Term Ends January '23
Treasurer	Deanna Nielsen	Term Ends January '24
Secretary	Joni Schneider	Term Ends January '22
	Ministry Team/Committee Chairs	
Christian Education	Theresa White	Term Ends January '24
Evangelism	Matt Peck	Term Ends January '23
Fellowship	Melody Sawvell (2nd Term)	Term Ends January '23
Finance	Deanna Nielsen	Term Ends January '24
Property	Mike Garner (2nd Term)	Term Ends January '23
Service in the World	Joni Schneider	Term Ends January '22
Stewardship	Ryan Harms	Term Ends January '22
Worship and Music	Sheila Baustian (Feb-Jun) □ Interim Nina Looney (Sep-Jan)	Term Ends January '24
Youth	Joni King	Term Ends January '22
	Youth Members	
	Austin Lee	Term Ends January '22
	Erin Peck	Term Ends January '22
	Grace Kirst	Term Ends January '22
	Council Resources	
Financial Secretary	Carolyn Scheibe	
Women of Faith Liaison	Joni Schneider	

2021 Teams, Committees, Synod Assembly Members

Ministry Teams & Task Teams	
Christian Education	Theresa White (Chair), Pastor Heather, Marla Zabel, Teachers: Terry Behr, Carrie Keppy, Tracy Lindaman, Amy Powell, Amanda Strom, Theresa White, Alexis Yankee, Marla Zabel, Kathryn Zelinko, Kara Zidarich, Sub: Samantha Yankee
Evangelism	Matt Peck (Chair), Linda Golinghorst
Fellowship	Melody Sawvell (Chair), Diane Cole, Carolyn Lewis, Janet Merrick, Deb Peterson
Sanctuary Update Task Team	Amy Murray (Sponsor), Tom Bauer, Sue Becker, Donna Darnall, Pastor Carrie La Plante, Amy Powell, and Brad Yanke
Stewardship	Ryan Harms (Chair)
Worship & Music	Sheila Baustian (Feb-Jun)/Nina Looney (Sep-Jan) (Chair), Pastor Carrie, Sue Becker, Lucas Golinghorst, Nancy Meyer, Linda Szemkus, Christy Lebeck, Carol Judge, Teri Wittkowski, Faith Families, Alter Guild, Video Crew
Property	Mike Garner (Chair), Ron Arp, 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, Carol Kuehl
Youth	Joni King (Chair), Pastor Carrie, Sue Kirst, Mentors
Committees	
Audit	Josh Rasmussen (Chair) 2020-23, Neal Becker 2021-24, Scott Rochau 2021-22
Endowment	Myron Scheibe (Chair) 2019-22 (2nd term), Ken Oetzmman 2021-24 (2nd term), Scott Rochau 2020-23, Annette Tomlinson 2019-22, Kim Wilkins 2021-24
Finance	Deanna Nielsen (Chair), Carolyn Scheibe, Kevin Lee, Allen Lewis
Memorial	Mary Ann Anderson (Chair), Karen Schmidt, Carolyn Scheibe
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather, Amy Murray (1 yr), Annette Tomlinson (2 yrs), Mary Moore (2 yrs), H.O. Nelson (2 yrs), Terry Fenn (1 yr), Open (1 yr)
Nominating	Linda Golinghorst, Brea Harms, Sue Kirst, Kelly Wyatt, Brad Yanke
Other	
Synod Assembly Voting Members	Diane Krebs, Kelly Penning
Women of Faith Board	Linda Szemkus (President), Joni Schneider (Vice President), Lynda Miller (Secretary and Mission Discipleship), Karen Schmitt (Treasurer), Sue Strazewski (Mission Stewardship), Sue Sissel (Mission Justice)

SUMMARY OF CHURCH RECORDS 2021

MARRIAGES

Joseph Brodersen & Alauna Gentz

CONFIRMATIONS

Cash Thomas Bowe
Everett Timothy Broberg
Ella Margaret Budde
Abigail Johanna La Plante
Zachary John Powell
Brody Michael Westendorf
Grace Catherine Bunn
Lukas Michael Fenn
Cole Joseph Randall Johnson
Kennedy Jane Tagtmeier
Jesse Lee Eller
Samantha Emily Garner
Gehrig James Don Kirst
Hayden Richard Matzen
Lainey Carolyn Wall

MEMBER DEATHS

Marian Behrens
Phyllis Hamann
Walter Dengler

NON MEMBER FUNERALS

Arnie Lindaman

BAPTISMS

Jensen Joshua Spencer
Tegan Kathryn Kieger
Hazel Tracy Cronkleton
Adrianna Michelle Rogers

NEW MEMBERS

Cash Thomas Bowe
Grace Catherine Bunn
Jensen Joshua Spencer
Tegan Kathryn Kieger
Hazel Tracy Cronkleton
Adrianna Michelle Rogers
Koby Hillman
Sue Hillman
Mike & Betty Strom
Sean & Tamlyn Polson, Tayven, Alec and Kyler

INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERS

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership, end 2020:	927	811

Members received during 2021:

By baptism/children (15 years & younger)	4	0
By baptism/adults (16 years & older)	0	0
By affirmation of faith	2	2
By transfer from ELCA congregations	2	2
By transfer from other Lutheran congregations	2	2
From non-Lutheran congregations	5	2
From other sources and statistical adjustment	0	0

Total members received this year	15	8
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Baptized members who were confirmed in 2021:	13
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Subtotal	942	832
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Members removed during 2020:

By death	3	3
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	3	3
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Membership, end 2021:	939	829
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2021 Christian Ed Annual Report

We started the year out with Sunday School in a Box because of Covid. Pastor Heather, Amy Powell and I delivered 25 boxes and hopefully were used among the families. Vacation Bible School in June was directed by Amy Powell with Theresa as her assistant to learn the ropes! We had an okay turnout and met 4 out of the five nights! Dinner was not served as Covid rules were in place but we all had fun and the stations of learning were great! Fall began with Sunday School in Person with curriculum for K-6 all together and every Sunday our average was 12. The students did an awesome job with wearing masks as they are use to it. Several adults took turns teaching the lessons every Sunday. This worked out well. The students collected over \$200.00 for offering every Sunday and purchased 2 goats, 2 pigs, 2 chicks and 2 honeybees for God's Global Barnyard! Now we move into Winter/Spring semester and are gathering up adults again to teach the lessons through April. Looking forward to a fun 2022 year for our youth at Faith Lutheran this year!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa White,
Christian Education Team Leader

Annual Report: Evangelism

2021 had a continued emphasis on our online footprint for the evangelism team as we have continued to maneuver through the ongoing pandemic. The church, with the help of various members, improved the quality of the online experience through audio hardware solutions. The implementation of this hardware had an immediately and significant impact. The biggest challenges for the online platform is the availability of trained personnel to run online worship services. Scott LaPlante, Lucas Golinghorst, and church staff have been instrumental in continuing the online experience. Going into the future, there is an immediate need for members time and talents to help keep this platform going on a consistent basis. If you have a calling to help, please contact the church office so that members of the evangelism team can help you help you understand the process of live streaming.

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.

Matt Peck
Committee Chair



North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry 2021 Annual Report

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 summers of 2017-2019, we served more than 8,750 lunches in our community through our twice a week ministry.

Due to the current pandemic, and related supply chain issues, as well as COVID precautions, Feed Our Children was not able to safely distribute sack lunches during the summer of 2020 or 2021. However, the North Scott Community School District served over 1,100 children 12 meals a week each (6 breakfasts and 6 lunches) during the school shut down and summer of 2020, and an average of 720 children received 12 meals a week during the summer of 2021. 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 2022 season, we ask for your continued prayers for the children and families in need, as well as the many people working behind the scenes to grow, harvest, transport, package, purchase, prepare and serve nutritious food to our children. Please keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to reach children in need. If you hear of children in a neighborhood that could benefit from this ministry let us know!

We look forward to a safer, healthier 2022! Blessings to you all!

Amy Powell and Beth Ann Anderson
Co-Chairs
Feed Our Children Ministry

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The Fellowship Team started 2021 out with a Virtual “Cheeseburger In Paradise – Quarantine Style” event in February. Since we weren’t able to be together in person, we featured a slideshow of pictures from previous years and posted it on Faith’s website.

In August, we hosted our Annual Parking Lot Picnic with great success. The Fellowship Team served hotdogs, many various salads, watermelon, chips and ice cream bars to 47 Faith members. Yard games and much needed fellowship was enjoyed by all.

We were invited to help the Service in the World Team serve food at the Homecoming Tailgate Parade in October. This was a first for us and a fun way to help serve the Eldridge community a complimentary meal from Faith’s front lawn.

Our final event of the year would have been our Couples Anniversary Dinner, but since we were not able to be together in doors, we thought we would do something different this year. We invited members that have been or would have been married 50+ years to a sweet treat via a gift card to the Eastern Iowa Baking Company in Eldridge, Iowa.

We are very anxious to host Coffee Hour again, and are hoping that we will be able to sometime next year. We have purchased “sneeze” guards for sanitary purposes and when we are back in business so to speak, the sweets behind glass will be served to you! We have reduced our “Coffee” budget in half for 2022 since we have not had the expense of purchasing coffee and supplies this past year. Even though the pandemic has still plagued us yet another year, we are hopeful that sometime in 2022, we can be together again in a more normal way.

Many Thanks to you all for your participation in any of our events (when possible) this past year and look forward to being together again in 2022!

Fellowship Team Members: Janet Merrick, Carolyn Lewis, Diane Cole

Fellowship Chair: Melody Sawvell

2021 Property Team Annual Report

The highlights of 2021 for the Property Team involve large projects and small projects. The Team members once again cared for the property of this congregation in many ways. Large projects were met with thoughtful deliberation considering the wise use of money and the best outcome to meet the needs of the moment. Small projects were tackled as individuals or small groups to keep the building and parsonage ready to be an asset for our mission in this place.

The largest and most difficult decision that the team addressed this year was the replacement of the roof over the office and gathering space area. That area was plagued by multiple leaks, especially during snowmelt, but caused no major damage. A leak would drip right next to a computer, or file cabinet, but not on it. Bids were received from both White Roofing and Jim Giese Roofing. A special team meeting was called to decide between the two as the Giese bid was slightly higher, but could be performed within weeks as the materials were on hand, and the White bid was next summer with materials not yet on hand. With all of the supply chain concerns, and the leaks of last snowmelt on our minds, the bid from Giese was accepted. The work was completed this fall and we look forward to a leak free future.

Another large project that goes smoothly is lawn care. Ron Arp and Brad Merrick, along with others keep the lawn mowed and looking great. This past year in an attempt to save some money, the contract with Tru Green was canceled, and Myron Scheibe volunteered to fertilize and apply weed control. Thank you to all who help keep the lawn looking so well cared for.

Along the way, water pipe leaks were fixed, a railing was installed on the front steps of the parsonage, door numbers were installed to aid first responders if necessary, the food pantry installed a new sign, and many other small projects kept the team busy throughout the year.

Finally, as the year winds down, a Safety and Security plan is being developed to guide us through emergencies we hope to never see. The plan is designed for our needs in the community of Eldridge, with a realization of the realities of the world around us at this time. Many thanks to Tom Bauer for his work to help us be prepared in the case of the emergency.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Garner, Property Team Lead,

Service in the World 2021 Annual Report

Members: Tom and Pam Carlson, Chris Copley, Carrie Keppy, Carol Kuehl, Joni Kuehl-Schneider, Brad and Janet Merrick

The Service in the World committee strives to enable our church to practice Christ's teaching of showing love and compassion in very practical ways. We greatly appreciate our congregation's support of our projects throughout the year and welcome any suggestions of new ways to serve the community.

Summary of the activities of the Service in the World Team in 2021:

- **Souper Bowl Event-** We coordinated the Souper Bowl event with North Scott Foods and set up a collection barrel at their store, which was publicized to the community in the North Scott Press. 127 cans of soup and other items 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 began to serve meals again in September and November and were grateful for the congregation's support of the food collection through the God's Work, Our Hands Service Project held during Rally Day in September. Attendance was low at first but is steadily increasing at the meal site.
- **Missionary Support-** We renewed our sponsorship covenant with missionaries Patrick and Jackie Bencke in Japan and recruited sponsors from the congregation using a Signup Genius.
- **Compassion Sunday** was held in May, and 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 are loved and that they matter to you. We appreciate our generous monthly sponsors.
- **Final Friday** returned and was held at the end of the school year with some activities modified for safety.
- **Homecoming Parade Tailgate event-** We sponsored a tailgate event and served hot dogs, chips, cookies, snack items, and water to the community on the afternoon of the Homecoming parade.
- **Christmas Project/ELCA Good Gifts-** Thank you for your support of the ELCA Good Gifts program. It is a fun, meaningful way to honor friends and family with gifts that make a difference in the world by selecting from more than 50 gift-giving options, each with the ability to make real, lasting change to the life of someone in need.
- **Outreach Funds-** SIW coordinated the distribution of outreach funds to a variety of causes listed below.

January - Churches United (\$150) February - Coats for Kids (\$150) March/April - NS Student needs through the school nurses (\$425) May - King's Harvest (\$200) June - Bread for the World (\$150) July - Bethany for Children and Families (\$150)	August - Humility Homes and Services (\$150) September - Red Cross Hurricane Relief October - The Center (\$200) November - Women's Choice Center (\$200) December - Christmas gifts for children in need through LSI (\$225)
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Respectfully submitted,

Joni Kuehl-Schneider
Service in the World

Photos from Service in the World Projects



Souper Bowl Collection at North Scott Foods



ELCA Good Gifts Tree



ELCA Good Gifts Tree

Worship and Music Team Annual Report 2021

The Worship and Music Team facilitates all aspects of worship at Faith with the help of many individuals. A thank-you to the members of the team that started this year: Sheila Baustian, Leader, Sue Becker, Nancy Meyer, Jackie Snyder, Pastor Carrie, and Terri Wittkowski. The team continued to provide worship in doors, outdoors and online thanks to our volunteers and staff.

I was asked to take the lead of the team in September, and we restructured the team to include these faithful volunteers as heads of sections.

Pastor Carrie – Worship experience
Linda Szemkus - Alter Guild
Sue Becker – Music
Lucas Golinghorst – Video (Online Worship)
Carol Judge – Faith Families

We thank the pastors, staff, ushers, readers, vocalists, video crew, alter guild, choirs, and family heads that keep our worship going in a meaningful way. Our choirs are active in worship again: People of Praise (Sr. Choir) adding 2 new members Mary Moore and Lucas Golinghorst, Resounding Joy (bell choir), and Jubilation. A special thanks to Neil, Sue, Jim and Kelly P. for their support with reading and vocals for the online worship. Neil and Sue kept our Lenten dramas meaningful.

The Sanctuary Update committee made up of Amy Murray, Tom Bauer, Sue Becker, Donna Darnell, Pastor Carrie, Amy Powell, and Brad Yanke has met consistently throughout the year. We are working with a designer and have the basic design elements of the sanctuary planned. We've also obtained bids for sound and flooring. We are working on selecting color scheme and materials. Once that is completed, we will receive finalized renderings from the designer. We will have more information to share with the congregation after the beginning of the year.

I prayerfully ask all to consider serving, as we need 3 members to lead Faith Families that find ushers and readers coming up next year. The video crew is also in need of additional members.

Our love of God and each other is alive at Faith and I pray for a return to worship for all in the New Year.

Respectively Submitted,
Nina Looney

Annual Report of 2021

Faith Lutheran Confirmation and High School Youth Groups

Joni King, Chair

After a year of Covid and variant disease concerns, we have tried to be creative, in order to make our youth excited to participate, with the primary goal of keeping everyone safe. After spending most of the year 2020 with online Zoom studies, both at school and church, the kids just wanted to get back to live gathering/ learning with their friends, even if it meant wearing a mask and social distancing. And who can blame them? Therefore, on January 20, the High School Youth returned to inside gathering in the Youth Room (with CDC guidelines), followed on February 3 by the Confirmation Youth learning live in the Fellowship Hall.

Monthly fun activities for Confirmation and High School, such as going to movies and eating out were put on hold, in consideration of the health and safety of our Youth.

The semester prior to summer break, we studied some the New Testament – the Books of Acts and John, the sometimes misunderstood Revelations, and Paul's letters. We learned that Paul was instrumental in spreading Christianity into new lands, by proclaiming God's Grace and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The High School kids were thrilled to be back live with friends, and I have to admit, it was great hearing laughter and playing games in the church again. We were often delighted when one of the kids would bring a friend along to Youth Group, and all were loved and accepted as if they had been a part of the group all along.

Due to Covid precautions and in lieu of the live Easter breakfast, the High School Mission kids sold 36 Easter breakfast boxes (prepared by Mama's Parlor in Parkview) to the congregation, netting \$360!!! Thank you for supporting our Youth!

April 21 plans were for the Confirmands and their parents to enjoy a box lunch outside on the patio; however Mother Nature had other ideas and the day was cold with a chance of flurries. But wait! Natalie Kruse of Traditions to the rescue! She offered her venue free of charge, so that we could have our meals and a short meeting in the comfort of a large facility. You're the best, Natalie!

On Sunday, April 25, sixteen 8th Grade students were confirmed at a ceremony held at the Outdoor Chapel. Although rain was predicted, the showers held off until the afternoon, producing a beautiful morning for this special service. Thank you, God!

Then we honored our 13 graduating Seniors on a gorgeous May 23 morning in the Outdoor Chapel, followed by a cupcake reception on the front patio.

July 18, a caravan of 38 youth in grades 3-12 and 11 adults descended upon Lutheran Lakeside Camp for a week of fun for the youth, mission work and fun for the adults. These 11 adults spent the mornings repairing the ropes and hinges on cabin windows, clearing brush, repairing planters, clearing trails in preparation for a Frisbee Golf course, cleaning and putting a coat of polyurethane on propane tanks (that years earlier our youth had transformed into fun objects, like a Yellow Submarine, a hot dog, a



watermelon, a ladybug and butterfly, and an aquarium) and filing paperwork in the office. The adults had their afternoons free to participate in Camp activities or relax.

As the summer flew by, it was again time to think about Confirmation and High School Youth Group. August 25 kicked off with a Pizza Party and informational meeting for the Confirmation Youth and their parents. Also beginning August 25, was the High School Youth Group and their parents, with an informational meeting regarding the 2022 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis on July 24-28.

On September 22, we took advantage of the beautiful fall evening and unleashed the Confirmation Youth on the City of Eldridge in four groups of six for a Cellphone Scavenger Hunt. The groups took off from the church in different directions to see how many items on their list they could capture on their cellphones. Fun time!

The following week, 25 Confirmation youth and 6 small group leaders began studies with the 10 Commandments, and later The Apostles Creed, God the Father and Creator, God's son, Jesus who was given to die for our sins, and the Holy Spirit, who walks with us throughout life, centering our lives on God and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

High School Youth met on the front patio most of the time when we were blessed with nice evenings. We discussed highs and lows for the week, had a short Bible study and played games, like Family Fued and Guestures, a charades game. As the nights grew colder, we continued to meet on the patio for as long as we could, snuggled in warm blankets, and sometimes Pastor Carrie would bring her fire pit. The kids were real troopers! They endured the cold in order to spend time with their friends in the Youth Group they love.

Finally, we had to succumb to the cold and move activities inside. The High School Youth met in the Youth Room, practicing CDC guidelines. We tried to find activities that would entice them to come back every week. A favorite was Blindfolded Musical Chairs.



On October 27, Confirmation Youth traveled to St. Paul's Lutheran Church to join with other Confirmation kids in churches throughout the Quad Cities for the annual Ignite Event. Held outdoors on a



gorgeous evening, our youth enjoyed singing, games, fellowship with other churches, then Communion at the end of the evening. What a great time!

December 11/12, we were excited to be able to continue our pre-Covid tradition of the Cinnamon Roll Sale! We had three shifts of parents and youth, some setting up and mixing the dough and letting it rise, some rolling out the dough creating rolls and placing them in the pan to rise a second time, and a "clean-up crew", who baked and packaged some of the rolls for



Look at all of these rolls!!!



sale, and cleaned the kitchen. We all worked like a fine tuned machine, netting 100 DOZEN pans of cinnamon rolls, and a little over \$1,000 profit, the proceeds going to help send our 19 youth and 3 adults to the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis this July. Watch for Cinnamon Roll Sale again around Easter. Thank you for supporting our Youth!



On December 15, our Confirmation Youth, loaded with a TON of Holiday Cheer, traveled to Grand Haven Retirement Community to sing familiar Christmas Carols with the residents. This put EVERYONE in the Holiday Spirit!



So, as I wind down my term as Youth Representative for the Church Council, I want to especially thank all of you for your support in the activities of our Youth, the future of our church. Although I will not be on the Council, I plan to continue to be actively involved in the activities, to help to form these young people, to carry the Love of our most wonderful God and follow the Word of Jesus Christ as they continue throughout their lives. Pastors Carrie and Heather, Children's Education Chair, Theresa White, as well as Sue Kirst and me, and the many others volunteering their time to help form our youth, all hold these children near and dear to our hearts, now and as they grow and continue on the paths they have chosen. And God will send the Holy Spirit to walk that path with them. Amen!

Respectfully submitted,
Joni King, Youth Chair



These are the goofball Confirmation kids at my small group table. Jennie, Audree, Brooklyn, Derrick and Ryan have given me so much joy! There is NEVER a dull moment at our table!

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Since this report was prepared prior to the end of the year, account balances were estimated only. The Endowment fund is estimated to finish 2021 with a balance of \$72,956. A very generous, anonymous donation in the amount of \$20,000 was received in 2021, which accounts for the increase in the principle balance. This fund was started in 1999 and accumulated funds, without distribution, until it reached \$50,000. Since the account reached the \$50,000 threshold in 2018, income is being 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 2021 was \$1,115 with funds going to the following:

- \$225 to Faith Lutheran's Capital Improvement Fund
- \$320 to ELCA Disaster Response.
- \$225 to the SE Iowa Synod for Derecho Disaster Assistance
- \$225 to Lutheran Lakeside.
- \$120 to the University of Iowa Chaplaincy Outreach.

The interest amount from 2021 available for 2022 distribution is estimated at \$953, and the 2023 distribution is estimated at \$1600, with the current fund balance. 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 Oetzmam

Kevin Krebs

Annette Tomlinson

Scott Rochau

Pastor Carrie (Advisory as Sr. Pastor)

Linda Golvinghorst (Advisory as Council President)

Memorial Committee Report for 2021

Members who are deceased and recorded in our memorial book for 2021 are: Marian Behrens, Phyllis Hamann and Walter Dengler,

Carolyn Schiebe will include in her report memorials received in memory of our deceased members. There were no projects completed in 2021.

We had 4 baptisms in 2021. 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 Schmit; Carolyn Scheibe; Pastor Carrie LePlante; and Pastor Heather Geest

MEMORIAL ACCOUNT ACTIVITY FOR 2021

Balance 12/31/2020			\$ 34,841.86
Inflow 1/1/2021 thru 12/31/2021			
Gifts Received		\$ 6,660.00	
Interest Received	\$ 38.21		
Total Inflow 1/1/2021 thru 12/31/2021			\$ 6,698.21
Outflow 1/1/2021 thru 12/31/2021			
Total Outflow 1/1/2021 thru 12/31/2021			None
Balance 12/31/2021			\$ 41,540.07

Prepared by Carolyn Scheibe
3 Jan 21

Women of Faith 2021 Year End Report

This last year we held a plant sale in May. We served the funeral luncheon for Phyllis Hamann. In September the quilting group started meeting again. Christmas cards were sent to those needing some Christmas cheer. Throughout the year cards were sent to members of Faith for 80th+ birthdays, 50th+ anniversaries, get well and new babies.

Prayer shawls are available for anyone in need of comfort. Many thanks to everyone that supports the Women of Faith.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Szemkus, President

WOMEN OF FAITH 2021 YEAR END REPORT

Expenses

SERVICE PROJECTS		\$77.34
Kitchen Supplies	\$65.74	
Postage/Christmas cards for shut-ins	\$11.60	
WOMEN OF THE ELCA		\$300.00
UNIT GATHERING/OFFERING		\$95.00
APPRECIATION DAY FOR STAFF		\$51.44
FUND RAISING (Ad in NS Press for Plant Sale)		\$20.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$543.78

Gross Income

OFFERINGS	\$25.00
FUNERAL LUNCH/RECEPTION	\$50.00
THRIVENT	\$479.00
INTEREST/DIVIDENDS	\$70.97
FUND RAISING/PLANT SALE	\$566.50
TOTAL GROSS INCOME	\$1466.47

Checking account as of December 14, 2021	\$ 1529.84
Savings account as of November 30, 2021	\$ 3688.90
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 2796.37

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 2021 include:

- Precautions due to COVID 19 continued in 2021. January – April, the clients received a prepacked allotment of food. In June clients that could show proof of vaccination were able to select food via client choice. Non vaccinated client still receives the prepacked allotment of food. A total of 349 visits were logged in 2021 compared to 717 in 2020. Before the pandemic (fall of 2019), about 80 families came to the pantry each month. In 2021 the pantry served an average of 29 families each month.
- The pantry is well stocked for 2022. The community has been very supportive with many groups, businesses and families donating food and/or money to the pantry. The NSFP continues to purchase food from River Bend Food Bank and receive a monthly allotment from MidWest Food Bank, Peoria. The pantry received 32,800 pounds of food down from 41,000 pounds in 2020 and 63,000 pounds in 2019.
- Notable donations: Howard & Carole Harkins Charitable Trust donated \$10,000. St. Ann's Knights of Columbus annual golf open raised \$16,500. Ed White School collected 530 boxes of cereal. That's enough cereal for each family to receive at least 3 boxes through October 2022! Hometown Holiday food collection weighed in at 437 pounds. North Scott Foods' customers purchased 21 bags of food costing \$20 each. Those bags will be given out in the next month.
- Updates – A new logo was implemented. With grant money, another upright freezer was purchased replacing an old chest freezer. To make the pantry more visible, a permanent sign was installed. Also an open sign and outdoor bulletin board were purchased.
- School supplies were collected in July. Each school in the district received a large box of supplies.
- Clients received additional food the month prior to Easter and Thanksgiving. Clients received a 4# ham, cheese and a bag of shelf stable food along with coupons for eggs, milk and produce. 26 families received the Easter food and 37 families received Thanksgiving food. Christmas food boxes and angel tree gifts were given out December 17 & 18. The same precautions were taken as in 2020. A small group from the Eldridge Lions Club packed the food boxes in early December. On distribution days, a small group of volunteers added the perishables and loaded the food into the client's vehicles. 68 boxes of food were distributed to 61 families. Christmas gifts provided by St. Ann's and the Scott County Library's angel trees were distributed to about 90 children. This year the registration included the child's interests and clothing sizes to help with purchasing gifts.

We have wonderful volunteers that staff the pantry, 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 February 11 and April 1. If you would like to help, please contact Deanna Nielsen (285-6194). If you are interested in helping on the Tuesday evenings, call the food pantry (285-8444) and leave a message.

Thank you to everyone that donated their time, food and/or money to the food pantry. A big thank you to Faith Lutheran for housing the pantry!

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Nielsen

Luther Properties 2021

We put a new management company in place this year. Cardinal Management was replaced by Young Management of Kansas City this fall. Young Management is a long time family business centered in Kansas City but also has some properties in Iowa in addition to Luther Properties. Kelli Cogdill and her husband Dan continue to manage us on a day to day basis. We are very lucky to have them managing our properties.

Kelli and Dan and staff have done an exceptional job, as always, in keeping our finances and maintenance top notch. Though the Covid pandemic has presented the staff as well as residents challenges the past 2 years, Luther Properties has stayed the course. Facility improvements are on-going. Generally, residents love living here.

Kevin Krebs and I, Kim Wilkins, continue representing Faith Lutheran on the Board of Directors of the Scott County Luther Properties. We meet every other month at a different facility on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. Visitors are cordially invited. The Annual Meeting is coming up on the third Monday of March. We are looking for up to 4 volunteers to attend this meeting. Please let Kevin or myself know if interested.

Thank you for allowing Kevin and myself to participate in this Board. Luther properties is primarily a low-income senior housing facility with 5 different buildings in Davenport and Bettendorf. Please feel free to contact Kevin or myself for inquiries or answers to questions.

Thank you,

Kim Wilkins
Kevin Krebs

Mission Statement Update Team

The mission statement update team was established in 2020. The objective to update our Mission Statement and Logo. They did not meet in 2021.

Library Committee

The library committee did not meet in 2021.

**2020 Faith Lutheran Church
Fund Balance Sheet**

	12/31/2019				12/31/2020
	Balance	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	Transfers	Balance
Operating Fund	40,636.12	330,792.48	(328,440.69)		42,987.91
Payroll tax withholding					(124.09)
Total Operating Funds				-	42,863.82
Special Funds					
Adult Mission Trip	408.00	-	-		408.00
Christmas	1,806.00	1,765.00	(3,571.00)	-	-
Continuing Ed Assoc Pastor	1,211.34	590.91	(333.44)		1,468.81
Continuing Ed Sr Pastor	1,838.17	850.78	(824.55)		1,864.40
Disaster Relief		20.00	(20.00)		-
Easter		1,875.00	(1,875.00)	-	-
Endowment Fund		45.00	(1,115.00)	1,070.00	-
Food Pantry	-	2,520.00	(2,520.00)	-	-
Food Pantry Ramp		26,740.00	(26,740.00)		-
Memorials		344.85	(344.85)		-
Misc In/Out	(483.64)	2,962.71	(4,475.21)		(1,996.14)
Missionary Support	(10.00)	785.00	(785.00)		
Mission Trip	4,466.73	4,718.00	(1,399.29)		7,785.44
Operation Christmas Child	(119.80)	643.00	(459.00)		64.20
Outreach	977.71	2,380.00	(2,210.27)		1,147.44
Outside Plantings	319.27	-	(28.42)		290.85
Rooftop AC		-	-		-
Sanctuary Update	16,100.00	355.00	(232.50)		16,222.50
Summer Food Project	9,680.92	1,250.00	(1,107.29)		9,823.63
Sunday School	167.14	101.07	(268.21)		-
Teddy Bear	108.50	-	-	-	108.50
Thanksgiving	326.00	630.00	(956.00)		-
Unbudgeted Repairs/Mntc		521.00	(521.00)		-
VBS		-	-		-
Women of Faith	(8.00)	221.00	(213.00)		-
World Hunger	-	533.78	(533.78)	-	-
Youth Junior High	655.47	326.00	(671.00)		310.47
Youth Senior High	1,302.13	20.00	(424.82)		897.31
Total Specials	38,745.94	50,198.10	(51,628.63)	1,070.00	38,385.41
Bank Accounts	12/31/2019	Deposits	Withdrawals	Transfers	12/31/2020
Checking	79,382.06	380,990.58	(380,069.32)	1,070.00	81,373.32
Payroll tax withholding					(124.09)
Net checking					<u>81,249.23</u>
Savings					
Operating Fund	10,000.00				10,000.00
Unbudgeted Repairs/Maint	49,957.46	5,521.00			55,513.35
Rooftop AC	10,000.00	5,000.00			15,000.00
Interest		34.89			
Total Savings					80,513.35
Memorial Savings	36,210.99	18,265.44	(19,634.57)		34,841.86
Endowment Savings					
First Trust & Savings	45,552.69	1,000.41			46,553.10
First Central CD	5,000.00	122.57			5,122.57
First Central Savings	2,530.12	400.82		(1,070.00)	1,860.94
Total Endowment Savings					53,536.61
TOTAL ACCOUNTS	238,633.32	411,335.71	(399,703.89)	-	250,141.05

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY



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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

You have called us for such a time as this.

God of the Fertile Fields

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

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

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

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

All Creation Sings #1063

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

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

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

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

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

ANNUAL REPORT

2021