



"Jesus said to them, come and see." • John 1:39 NRSV

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# 2019

First Lutheran Church  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
Annual Report



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## MISSION STATEMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### MISSION STATEMENT

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First Lutheran Church welcomes all people into the community of Jesus Christ, equipping and sending them forth to serve and witness in Jesus' name.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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We are grounded in the great commandment of Jesus (Matthew 22:34-40). We love God and people, according to the mandate of Christ.

We are grounded in the great commission of Jesus (Matthew 28:16-20). Christ's mandate is that we are to take the Gospel to all people. We are a Christ-centered, missionary presence in all segments of society.

We are committed to welcome and minister to all people. We strive to be accessible to as many people as possible. Therefore, we maintain the highest standards of face-to-face ministry, inviting, welcoming, and nurturing people at every stage of their walk with Christ.

We are committed to equipping people for ministry. We believe when people commit to membership in First Lutheran Church, they are committing to prayerful, spiritual growth, which they reveal through Christian acts of service. First Lutheran members discover, develop, and deploy their gifts for the transforming work of Christ in their lives.

We are committed to service in our community and world. We are strengthened through Word and Sacrament so we may witness to and serve those in need in, around, and beyond First Lutheran Church. As a member congregation of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, we support mission and evangelism in partnership with our sister congregations.

We are committed to a ministry of relationship building. We believe life transformation takes place most significantly through the power of the Holy Spirit in prayerful, personal relationship with God and others.

We are committed to our heritage and identity as a reforming church. We treasure the rich tradition of the faith of our forebearers. We are a church of the Reformation, which inspires us to carry out the mission work of the unchanging Gospel of Jesus Christ in a constantly changing world in which God calls us to serve.

We are committed to excellence in broadcast ministry. We are uniquely blessed by God to reach a much larger population with the Gospel proclamation of our worship through radio and television ministry. We believe providing excellence in this technical mode of ministry enhances receptivity to the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the community and region.



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared for the Annual Meeting of the  
First Lutheran Church Congregation  
Sunday, January 26, 2020 • 12:15 p.m. • Sanctuary

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*Special thanks to Gene Smith who took many of the photos throughout this publication.*

**AGENDA**  
**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA**  
**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020 | 12:15 PM | SANCTUARY**

1. Meeting Called to Order . . . . . President Aaron Ellingsen
2. “Rise Up, O Saints of God!” . . . . . ELW #669
3. Opening Prayer . . . . . Pr. Katherine Olson
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Adoption of the Minutes
  - 3 February 2019 Annual Meeting
  - 29 September 2019 Special Congregational Meeting
6. Report of the President. . . . . Aaron Ellingsen
7. Report of the Senior Pastor. . . . . Pr. John Christopherson
8. Reports as Found in the Published Annual Report for 2019. . . . . (Adopted as published)
9. New Business:
  - a. “God Grace: Our Heritage & Future” – Capital Campaign Reveal . . . . . Jean Hoff
  - b. “A Heritage of God’s Grace” – 100th Anniversary Report . . . . . Pr. Jeff Backer
10. Financial Report and Vote on Proposed Budget . . . . . Randy Eide
11. **First Lutheran Church Foundation Annual Meeting Call to Order** . . . . . Somer Anderson
  - a. Adoption of the Minutes – 4 February 2019
  - b. Report of the President . . . . . Somer Anderson
  - c. Financial Report . . . . . Larry Hamre
  - d. Other Business
  - e. First Lutheran Church Foundation Board Adjournment
12. Nomination and Election of FLC Officers and Board Members for the 2020 Term
13. Adjournment with Prayer. . . . . Pr. Lars Olson
14. “Now Thank We All Our God” . . . . . ELW #840

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—FEBRUARY 3, 2019 – 12:15 P.M.

President Brian Aamlid called the meeting to order and gave opening remarks. The congregation sang a hymn, and Pastor Lars opened with prayer.

The agenda for the Annual Meeting of 2019 was approved. The February 4, 2018, Annual Meeting minutes; the June 3, 2018, special meeting minutes; and the August 5, 2018, special meeting minutes were all approved.

Brian Aamlid gave his final report as president of First Lutheran Church. Brian offered further explanation of a letter sent to the congregation regarding Pastor John. He talked about a probable capital campaign that would tie in to the 100-year anniversary of First Lutheran Church. Brian shared the importance of First Lutheran staying vital in downtown Sioux Falls, which is full of diversity and opportunity. Brian thanked the pastors, Executive Committee, Council, and staff for all their great work this past year.

Pastor John gave his report as Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church. He gave many thanks for all First Lutheran staff, pastors, Executive Committee, and Council. Pastor John gave thanks to Zachary Brockhoff and Paul Nesheim for their leadership each week and especially the Epiphany of Light service. He discussed the ordination of Jeff Backer and Alex Clark. Right now, First Lutheran Church has the most seminary students per capita in the ELCA. He thanked Pastor Jeff for all his work with evangelism and outreach ministries in Sioux Falls. Pastor John thanked Marnie Dahle Backer, Heather Smith, and Elias Johnson-Youngquist for their continued great work with the youth and children.

The reports as found in the published Annual Report for 2018 were approved.

Eric Severson gave the financial report of the 2018 financials and proposed 2019 budget. 2018 was a good year from beginning to end. Eric discussed the 2018 budget in detail. He thanked the Foundation for their gift to First Lutheran in the amount of \$344,696. Eric went through the proposed 2019 budget with the congregation. He mentioned First Lutheran is starting 2019 with a full staff. A motion was made to approve the 2019 budget. Ron Moegenburg discussed the First Lutheran gift to the ELCA and the South Dakota Synod. He felt that \$70,000 is not enough of a gift and that First Lutheran should do more. Ron proposed taking \$12,000 from the \$75,000 operating reserve and adding that to the \$70,000 gift. Pastor Lars commented that the Stewardship Committee has discussed how to increase this gift. Ron did not make a motion to amend the budget. A motion to approve the 2019 budget passed unanimously.

The annual meeting was suspended in order that the FLC Foundation could hold its annual meeting.

Upon reconvening the First Lutheran annual meeting, Martin Oyos of the Nominating Committee shared the names of the nominees and current members of the boards of First Lutheran Church. The slate of candidates for 2019 were approved.

Pastor Jeff shared comments about Luther House. First Lutheran's commitment to Luther House of \$50,000 per year for five years is a great thing. This \$50,000 commitment is not in the budget but from individual gifts.

Pastor Jeff closed in prayer, and the annual meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Moore  
Secretary

# MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

President Aaron Ellingsen called the meeting to order. A hymn was sung. Pastor John gave opening remarks and opened in prayer.

Aaron gave some remarks and asked for the approval for the meeting agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Aaron presented and read the Motion to approve a capital campaign to the congregation. *See motion right.*

An Amended Motion was presented to the congregation by Bill Huffman. Ken Stark seconded the motion. *See amended motion below.*

After many comments and much discussion, Judy Ryan called the question to end debate. This was seconded. This passed.

A standing vote was taken on the amended motion. There were 61 votes to pass the amended motion and 123 opposed. The motion failed.

Aaron then brought the original motion to the congregation. Mindy Moore called the question and this was seconded to end debate on the motion. This was voted on by paper ballot. There were 124 votes to pass the motion and 71 opposed. The motion passed.

President Aaron Ellingsen adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Moore  
Secretary

### **Motion**

To authorize a capital campaign and certain capital projects in connection with the 100th Anniversary of First Lutheran Church to begin in the fall of 2019 with major activities to be concluded in the spring of 2020. The goal of this campaign is to raise \$5.390 million for the following projects:

HVAC Loan Repayment . . . . .	\$1,400,000
Sanctuary Improvements . . . . . ceiling replacement, sound system, chancel paraments, repair and artistic painting	\$1,475,000
Atrium and Welcome Center Remodel . . . . . Welcome Center, Atrium and Reception, Gathering Room and classroom, kitchen, furniture, allowances, signage, construction	\$1,350,000
Building Maintenance and Reserve Funds . . . . . tuck pointing, steeple repair, windows, flooring, parking lot, reserve fund, misc. projects	\$675,000
10% Mission Support (10% of projects) . . . . .	\$490,000
Total with Mission Support . . . . . (total projects – \$4,900,000)	\$5,390,000

The projects will be funded as determined by the Church Council as pledged funds are received and available, recognizing that pledges may be designated for specific projects and recognizing that priority will be given to paying the existing long-term debt on the HVAC loan. No long-term debt will be incurred in connection with any project.

The Church Council is authorized to manage the projects listed above, with advice from outside contractors, architects, designers, and consultants, as well as all boards and special committees of the Congregation organized for the purpose of providing technical assistance and advice with respect to particular projects. All council and committee meetings are open to the public unless convened in executive session as authorized by the bylaws.

### **Amended Motion**

Move to submit the following:

1. Pay off existing Debt with First Dakota National Bank (estimate \$1,400,000.)
2. Complete Tuck Pointing of the Building including the Steeple (estimate \$250,000.)
3. Window and Floor repair (estimate \$56,295.00)
4. Establish Fund for Ceiling Repair (estimate \$650,000.)
5. Install new Sound System (estimate \$250,000.)
6. Move the Welcome Receptionist Desk and Sanctuary Entrance, and Entrance Doors to the Atrium, Bathrooms per the Architectural Drawing. (estimate \$375,000.)
7. Leave the Gathering Room unchanged
8. Mission Support at 10% Not to Exceed \$100,000.

# REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION

## AARON ELLINGSEN



Aaron Ellingsen

First Lutheran Year End Report: 2019 – A year of honoring our past while looking toward the future.

2019 marks the 99th year of existence for First Lutheran Church! Now that is a remarkable statement to consider. In an era in which churches are being forced to close their doors due to the declining membership, First Lutheran continues to

be a Welcoming Home in the Heart of Sioux Falls. Sure, we have our own challenges. We also have a membership base that is gradually shrinking. For the past number of years our pastors have conducted on average 70 funerals annually. 2019 proved to be no different as we had to say goodbye to many longtime members. Thankfully, First Lutheran continues to be a destination church that attracts a steady stream of new members, and our pastoral staff was encouraged by the number of new members who elected to join First Lutheran in 2019.

Much of 2019 has been spent as a preparation year for the year 2020, which will mark our 100-year anniversary. Two notable campaigns were undertaken in 2019 that required much time and energy from our members.

Leadership and staff have already put considerable planning around next year's 100-year celebration. And a celebration it will be! Kicking off in the February 2020, First Lutheran will enjoy a string of former pastors making "cameo" appearances that will take us through the fall of the year. Additionally, with our rich history of music excellence, we're also honored that a number of former directors of music will be present on select Sunday's as guest musicians. It should be quite a year!

Of course the other notable campaign that is now well underway is our current Capital Campaign. Starting with a feasibility study that looked at the needs and prospects of what should be included in a capital campaign, the focus group tasked with this project spent countless hours with leadership, pastors, administration, and facility staff to try to understand what types of projects need attention as we move into a new era at First Lutheran. This proved to be more difficult than many of us expected. With a hundred-year-old campus and many infrastructure needs, the list of possible projects that require attention is substantial. Even when the task force finally agreed upon a proposed project list, that list continued to grow when

we were informed by our facilities staff that our sanctuary ceiling was failing. Alas, yet one more capital intensive project to add to our list of projects that will require our attention to keep the structural integrity of our physical structure sound.

The process of discussing and having an ongoing dialogue with our members through the feasibility portion proved fruitful. As with any membership body, 100% consensus is an impossibility, and the focus group meetings fostered much heartfelt conversation, debate, and dialogue. Having the good fortune to be part of many of those meetings, I was touched by how much our members genuinely care for this church. Although we didn't always see "eye-to-eye" so to speak, we ultimately settled on a campaign that honors our rich heritage while also positioning First Lutheran to remain relevant as we move into our second 100 years of existence. In late September of 2019 at a special congregational meeting, our new capital campaign was resoundingly approved, and I'm excited to report that we are well underway to raising the needed dollars to complete a successful campaign.

The number of ministries that take place at the church simply put is remarkable. As most of you know and understand, First Lutheran is a seven-day-a-week organization that provides a variety of ministries and services to those in our community while also addressing global needs. With too many to possibly mention in this writing, I would encourage all of you to page through our annual report in which each board highlights the ministries they oversee. The list is truly humbling, and you'll gain a real sense of appreciation for the incredible work that goes on at First Lutheran on a daily basis. I would remiss to mention as you read that literature if there is an area of ministry that moves you or draws your interest in wanting to take part, please reach out to a board member. The only downside to having so many robust ministries not surprisingly is manpower, and we are always encouraging our members to get involved in a ministry in which you are passionate.

By the time you are reading this, the calendar will have turned, and I offer you a Happy New Year. More importantly, I look forward to this year in which the entire year will be one of celebration for the many blessings God has bestowed on this congregation.

God's Blessings,  
Aaron Ellingsen



# REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE CONGREGATION

## RANDY EIDE



Randy Eide

The year is over, and your Treasurer is feeling much better about the year than the first few months of operations! We started very, very slowly, which initially was blamed on our poor South Dakota weather:

- The first quarter ended with our having an ending Budget Profit/Loss of (\$105,204). Granted, we budgeted for a loss, but our YTD actual was about \$93,403 below budget, and we still had bad weather yet to experience!
- The second quarter ended with our having an ending Budget Profit/Loss of (\$86,712) versus a budgeted loss YTD of (\$56,120), so we did make up some ground due to a good April and May.
- The third quarter ended with our reporting a YTD Budget Profit/Loss of (\$145,671) and a monthly deficit of (\$35,636), and we thought it was time to bring some congregational attention to the situation. A note from Pastor John was included with the quarterly giving statements. Almost immediately, weekly offerings improved, and we finished the year strong.

Total year-end revenues were \$2,147,316 with \$9,889 over our expenses surpassing the budget of -\$75,000. Pledges for the year were \$1,364,421 and the actual offerings caught up and surpassed with the year-end actual offerings of \$1,380,249.

- Expense control was monitored closely with all boards being close to their annual budgeted expenses. At the end of the year, total expenses were \$2,137,427 compared to the annual budget of \$2,183,862. Personnel continues to make up by far the greatest expense we have.

We now are moving to 2020 having made some difficult budgeting decisions, but I am certain that our faithful congregation will continue to provide for our mission and ministry. The First Lutheran Church Foundation continues its support of the Church's ministry by presenting a gift of support in the amount of \$374,820 to the 2020 budget. We are blessed with a strong Foundation Board that allows for a wonderful amount of support. Of course, the Foundation also supports various other activities of First Lutheran.

I personally want to thank the Finance Advisory Team with Pat Kyte serving as chair and Orrin Anderson who blesses us with his many years of experience, knowledge, and expertise. This team serves as an advisory/oversight committee for the church's finances. We had several somewhat stressful meetings watching our financial affairs over the last year, and their steady hands were much appreciated.

Finally, I am most appreciative of the great staff team of Marilyn McNeill and Jody Bymers for their day-to-day service to First Lutheran. Our finances can be somewhat complex, and these two were always at the ready to produce a report or answer a question.

As I wrap up, I sincerely want to thank ALL OF YOU for your support of First Lutheran Church and encourage your future support and would leave you with this:

2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Let's have a great 2020!



## PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET

Description		2019		2020
		Budget	Actual	Proposed Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>				
<b>Offerings</b>				
	Pledge Responses	\$ 1,346,550	\$ 1,380,250	\$ 1,376,422
	Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 223,110	\$ 221,361	\$ 223,550
	Special Offerings	\$ 36,800	\$ 40,697	\$ 38,500
	<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 1,606,460</b>	<b>\$ 1,642,308</b>	<b>\$ 1,638,472</b>
<b>Gifts</b>				
	Media	\$ 66,500	\$ 62,772	\$ 59,000
	Foundation	\$ 344,687	\$ 344,686	\$ 374,820
	<b>Total Gifts</b>	<b>\$ 411,187</b>	<b>\$ 407,458</b>	<b>\$ 433,820</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
	Fee Income	\$ 78,215	\$ 86,718	\$ 84,658
	Non-Budgeted Income	\$ 13,000	\$ 10,833	\$ 10,000
	Operating Reserve	\$ 75,000		
	<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$ 166,215</b>	<b>\$ 97,551</b>	<b>\$ 94,658</b>
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 2,183,862</b>	<b>\$ 2,147,316</b>	<b>\$ 2,166,950</b>
<b>**EXPENSES</b>				
	Education and Discipleship	\$ 7,700	\$ 4,710	\$ 4,100
	Youth & Family	\$ 48,500	\$ 48,437	\$ 45,950
	Evangelism & Outreach	\$ 47,000	\$ 42,682	\$ 52,500
	Care & Health	\$ 6,770	\$ 10,290	\$ 11,700
	Personnel	\$ 1,518,001	\$ 1,499,645	\$ 1,505,000
	Finance, Property & Admin	\$ 312,500	\$ 288,147	\$ 294,970
	Worship & Music	\$ 70,650	\$ 60,471	\$ 61,375
	Stewardship & Giving	\$ 75,100	\$ 74,501	\$ 77,850
	Non Departmental	\$ 87,641	\$ 99,422	\$ 104,855
	Welcome & Community	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,122	\$ 8,650
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,183,862</b>	<b>\$ 2,137,427</b>	<b>\$ 2,166,950</b>
	Profit / Loss		<b>\$ 9,889</b>	
	<b>Net Revenues/(Expenses)</b>	<b>\$ 2,183,862</b>	<b>\$ 2,147,316</b>	<b>\$ 2,166,950</b>

# REPORT OF THE SENIOR PASTOR

## JOHN CHRISTOPHERSON



Pr. John  
Christopherson

### FOREWORD

#### Defining Hospitality: “Great Grandma Lil”

*“Home is the place where, [whenever you] go there, they always [welcome] you in. I should have called it something you somehow haven’t to deserve ... [like God’s grace].”*

(Robert Frost; *Death of the Hired Man*, l. 122-125)

How do we define “hospitality”? What does it look like ... feel like ... sound or smell like? Is it a person who defines hospitality? Or is it a special act or, maybe even place? Or maybe it’s some kind of space, rather sacred, that tucks us in-between... From a lesser to greater degree, we’ve been asking this question – and a whole constellation of other connective tissue terms, like “evangelism,” “ministry,” and “mission” – as the ongoing body of Christ, among the priesthood of ALL believers of First Lutheran Church, for now nearly a century (b.1920).

In the early 1920s through post-WWII and into the “church booming” years (that began to taper off in the late '60s), hospitality was a question that was simple to define. Folks were just getting “off the boat” or to Sioux Falls, and simply wondering where they could find the nearest *Lutern* Church so they could mingle with other folk whose last names ended in “-son”; experience traditional worship with a solid Sunday School 'n Confirmation program; and enjoy a good shot of egg-coffee in the fellowship hall. Then, in the '70s and '80s, most mainline Protestant churches, like First Lutheran, were on auto-pilot – with hospitality defined, if at all, in terms of internal concerns that focused on emerging worship styles or external concerns that gave primary focus to social ministry programs. Now, in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, mainline Protestantism began to realize that there was a slow and subtle, but then rapid and rather scary decline – in terms of people being involved in worship or the life of a congregation. The jingles of this spirit-of-the-times are still ringing in December of 2019: “I’m not into institutionalized religion.” or “I’m a spiritual person, not religious.” (Cf. The “*Sheilaism*” of privatized religion in America, analyzed by R. Bellah’s *Habits*

*of the Heart* p.221 or Phil Yancey’s *Church: Why Bother?*). Theologians, such as D. J. Hall, started speaking of our “*Post-Christendom Era*” at the same time church growth gurus such as Lyle Schaller, Bill Hybels, and Brian McLaren began to appear on the scene – with their formulas for “success.” It’s important that we continue to address this perennial question: “How can the church address the ever-changing spirit of the times, in ways that are that are innovative and engaging, without losing its center; namely, proclaiming the good news of the gospel in Jesus Christ?” (Cf. Wm. Butler Yeats’ “*The Second Coming*” here.)

First Lutheran also finds itself in a similar tension in our time, as we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as a Christian congregation informed by the Lutheran Confessions. How do we balance a foundational Word and Sacrament ministry that is Christo-centric on the one hand, and be attentive to the use of cutting-edge media, realize strategized initiatives (recall our congregational CAT study and the birthing of eight strategic initiatives with “*Exemplary Youth & Young Adult Ministry* as #1), and grow into a leadership structure that functions with a respectful and affirming interdependency/synergy. Please read the various reports in this booklet for some of the highlighted bullet points. Are we growing stronger into what it means to be a “*Welcoming [and Inviting] Home in the Heart of Sioux Falls: Building a Campus for Christ*” (a motto coined with our capital campaign, now some 14 years ago)? As Deb Nelson, Chair of our *Welcome & Community Board*, brought this question of “hospitality” to the Church Council earlier this month (on December 19), it reminded me of an article I wrote for an issue of *First Word* back in Feb. of 2009. This question of Deb Nelson’s needs to be addressed again – one that is key for our times – by way of a simple, everyday illustration. Drawing upon the sacramental language of our Lutheran heritage, that “in, with, and under” our various initiatives and strategies, there is an evangelical spirit, a spirit of hospitality, relationally centered in Christ, that must always serve as our founding and driving first principle for future ministries and missions: “*For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ*” (I Corinthians 3:11; Ps. 127:1). “*A house divided will not stand*” (Mark 3:25).

Continued on page 29

# REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR

## LARS OLSON



Pr. Lars Olson

A few years back, First Lutheran began a process of examining our ministries, exploring hopes for the future, and developed a set of documents called “First & Foremost.” As happens with strategic planning documents, the initial excitement that accompanies the process is more visible than the hard work that it takes to accomplish the plans. Additionally, the monthly news and

invitations to current ministries are more urgent than an update on the behind-the-scenes work taking place, but rest assured the staff, boards, and council continue to collaborate in moving in the direction laid out in First & Foremost, especially how we have made strides in the recurring themes.

- **Small Groups & Ministry Teams.** This has been both the most difficult and most exciting area. There is a deep desire to form deeper community and offer more opportunities, but we are not yet well outfitted to organize and support such an endeavor broadly across our congregation. However, a number of in-roads have been made, most significantly over Lent. The Education & Discipleship board organized ten weekly small groups, recruited leaders, and offered weekly support and training. It was a massive undertaking that was well received by all who attended. Since then, other ministries have expressed interest in doing similar things around stewardship, parenting, and evangelism. There is still great interest and excitement that we can do this more.
- **Leadership & Volunteer Development** The restructuring of council was the first step in improving our leadership functions. Having a consistent council has made a huge

improvement in their ability to discuss issues and provide direction. The next step was to begin to develop leaders, which has taken two main paths. First, new leaders have been sought by looking year round for people with leadership skills. Second, the month of January was used to orient and develop board leadership. “Strengthsfinder” allowed board members to learn about their God-given gifts and how they fit, mesh, and complement those of others on their board.

- **Communication.** In a church as large as First Lutheran, there are always challenges to communication. There are so many things happening, so many important ministries, and so many diverse people and families and communication mirrors the complexity of the congregation. Last year we began to see a huge benefit by reorganizing our communications department. Jodi Hoyt and Susan Bell do an amazing job providing graphics, artwork, articles, signs, social media posts, website updates, broadcast oversight, and more. Give them thanks for leading the way for all of us to communicate better.

There is too much thanks to give for all that goes on in our congregation, so I’ll just give thanks to God for all our members, guests, staff, board, and council, whom God has gathered in this place around his Word and sacraments, building up his church so that Christ would be known to the world in all that we do. And that includes things like strategic planning, leadership development, and exploring how we can give the joy and hope of knowing Jesus Christ to everyone. May the peace of Christ keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Pastor Lars

# REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CARING MINISTRIES

## KATHERINE OLSON



Pr. Katherine Olson

2019 was another year that will be remembered with gratitude as I continued my ministry as the Associate Pastor of Care and Health. Our chair, Barney Brandenburg, hits many of the highlights of the Care and Health ministry in his report. One of the most exciting developments I engaged with was the prioritization of

some new programming around the theme of "Faithful Aging." This ministry was developed by board member Rev. Kathleen Moulton and given additional support by me and our Care and Health Coordinator, Jordan Stone. This ministry led to a joyful Senior Adult VBS this July and an event in the fall focused on the theme of Gratitude. We hope to further these ministries with senior adults in the year to come.

In 2019, we also furthered the scope of our Senior Living worship services together with the visitation

pastor team and staff coordinator Donna Jahr. With the collaboration of presenter Rev. Kathleen Moulton, we also held a Spirituality of the Psalms retreat in February.



Visitation Pastors David Houck, Bob Chell, Roger Noer, and Dennis Tranberg

Together with some of our board's new members, Jordan Stone did much to nurture programming related to the ministries of health, as well as continue the work of Kin Ministry, which connects volunteers from the church with some of our seniors experiencing isolation and loneliness. Under my direction, our church's grief ministry has continued to expand and grow, with new topics gaining in the interest of the community such as "grieving the death of a pet." And this past summer, relationships among our staff deepened as I conducted reviews with each member of our visitation team and Jordan Stone.

Engaging in congregational ministry is a joy and an honor, and I look forward to entering a new year of this exciting work along with my other sisters and brothers in Christ at First Lutheran Church. 2020 will be unique as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our congregation and achieve some of the top priority goals associated with the 100th Anniversary Capital Campaign.



Faithfully Aging Milestone led by Rev. Kathleen Moulton

Many years ago, the Apostle Paul said to the Christians in Philippi: "I thank my God every time I remember you... because of your sharing of the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil 1:3-6) God began a great work among our forebears in this place 100 years ago and can be trusted to lead and guide his church into a bold new future.



# REPORT FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

## JEFF BACKER



Pr. Jeff Backer

When I first started working at First Lutheran three years ago, council president Dr. Aamlid charged me with focusing our outreach efforts emphasizing building relationships and impacting the lives of individuals.

Looking back on 2019, this has certainly been a year of doing just this. We have taken this year to try some things that are different in an effort to build relationships. As a whole, we developed several events over the course of the year that the entire congregation could get behind.

One of the key ways we have made an opportunity to build relationships has been in the Lowell Elementary community. Sarah Herbert has been the coordinator for this focused ministry effort and has done an amazing job of making students, the administration at Lowell, and the teachers/EAs that work with children feel special. This is accomplished with the help of many volunteers who respond to the needs to help the Lowell staff. Reading Buddies are still an integral part of this process and are greatly valued by the Lowell staff. We have had the opportunity to host newer family friendly movies at the school, allowing families a time to just relax together. We have tried to prioritize some educational opportunities as well. This last year we hosted a book drive and were overwhelmed with the response. The volunteers in the wood shop built new planter boxes so students could learn how to grow food and care for a garden. I am truly amazed every day for the access that we have to



FLC volunteers paint games on the playground at Lowell

these beautiful children and their families.

These relationships have transmitted to some great events that were hosted this year. We again held our annual Block Party in August where over 1,200 people attended. The dunk tank was certainly a hit! We partnered with First United Methodist,



First Congregational, LifeLight, and the YMCA to host Trunk or Treat on Halloween. Again, a very well attended event!



One new undertaking was hosting Downtown Worship at Fawick Park over the summer, partnering with several other churches. Though each worship night was hot, it was fun to gather along the river, sing praises to God, and hear some fun preachers deliver God's Word. Communion was served, and many downtown residents came to take part.

Necessities for Neighbors has continued to grow over this year. Held the third Tuesday of each month, we are now consistently serving over 100 families each month. Mark Nassen has done a great job of guiding this ministry.

The Nightwatch ministry has become an effective partnership. Every eight weeks, we serve those in need of a warm meal on Sunday nights in downtown. Each Sunday evening, an average of 150 people are served. The Nightwatch partnership also served Holiday Hot Lunches at Lowell Elementary each day of the Christmas/Holiday Break. We served over 330 meals this year.

I am thankful for the directors, boards, staff, and volunteers who have worked so hard to carry out these ministry opportunities. I am grateful for the Evangelism & Outreach Board and the focused ministry teams that I also get to work with. There has been some great collaboration and imagination to do some things differently. We continue to maintain many strong partnerships with other agencies, allowing us to love and help our neighbors.

As we look to 2020, I am excited that this year we celebrate the 100th celebration of this congregation. As we do so, I would like to encourage each person who finds community in this place to recognize the people in your lives who do not know the joy and freedom of Jesus Christ. Tell others, invite them to worship and events in this place, be ministers of God's grace in Christ Jesus. This is the MOST important thing we can do. God's peace be with you...

Thanks be to God,  
Pastor Jeff Backer

# REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## **Nominating Committee Members**

John Kittelson, James Moore, Suzanne Toll, Martin Oyos,  
and Pastor John Christopherson

## **Officers**

(1-Year Term)

President – Martin Oyos

Vice-President – Michael Paulson

Secretary – Suzie Hernes

Treasurer – Randy Eide

Member-At-Large – Michael Kedik

Member-At-Large – Lenae Schwartz

## **Council Members (Board Chairs)**

Care and Health – Barney (Verdayne) Brandenburg

Education and Discipleship – Lindsey Olson

Evangelism and Outreach – Colleen Kokenge

Finance, Admin, and Property – Lyle Eidsness

Stewardship and Giving – Birgit Peterson

Welcome and Community – Deb Nelson

Worship and Music – James Moore

Youth and Family – Suzy Schramm

Foundation President – Somer Anderson

First Lutheran Church Women – Kathy Stelzer

## **Care and Health**

(3-Year Term)

Barney Brandenburg

Brenda Roberts

Cheryl Satterlee

## **Education and Discipleship**

(3-Year Term)

Jody Elton

Will Hangman

Ryan Hoffman

## **Evangelism and Outreach**

(2-Year Term)

Jenifer Wollman

(3-Year Term)

Leslie Barness

Val Peters

Jason Schramm

## **Finance, Administration, and Property**

(3-Year Term)

Collin Barron

Lyle Eidsness

R J Lunn

## **Stewardship and Giving**

(1-Year Term)

(2-Year Term)

Alma Kallesen

(3-Year Term)

Shad Carney

Erin Kaiser

## **Welcome and Community**

(3-Year Term)

Jean Hoff

Kiri Jacobsen

Sharyl Wolf

## **Worship and Music**

(3-Year Term)

James Moore

Mary Eich

Mary Oyos

## **Youth and Family**

(3-Year Term)

Suzy Schramm

Kristin Skogstad

Corey Visscher

# CARE AND HEALTH MINISTRIES

## BARNEY BRANDENBURG, CHAIR



Barney  
Brandenburg

*The Care and Health ministries of FLC promote the health and well-being of body, mind, and spirit, as well as tend to needs of healing and comfort in these areas. We do this work remembering that God ultimately “heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds” (Psalm 147:3). Our ministries exist for the members of First Lutheran Church and the wider community, striving to empower and equip all Christians to care compassionately for others, following the example of Jesus.*

This year has been a busy, yet gratifying one for our board. The Board has been involved in supporting, coordinating, or assisting in many ongoing programs throughout the year.

### Current programs that involve health and wellness activities include:

- Walking programs such as “Stepping Into Health,” the “Church Walkers,” and a staff walking challenge
- Support for Lutherans Outdoors camping ministry with a 5k run/walk
- Pickleball for both novice and experienced players
- Yoga and chair exercise programs
- Foot clinic
- Supporting the Blood Mobile and the Delta Dental Mobile
- Medical equipment lending program and medical equipment recycling program
- Blood pressure screening at senior luncheon



### Current programs with emphasis on Christian Support include:

- Senior Living worship and communion services in the spring and fall each year
- Visitation ministries to the hospitalized and homebound members of First Lutheran
- “Grieving with Grace” support group, including a holiday breakfast
- “Sad isn’t Bad” partnership and referrals
- Support for mental illness through NAMI



FLC's NAMI Walks 2019 Team

- Kin Ministry, which connects isolated senior members to trained volunteers from First Lutheran
- “Compassionate Connections,” hygiene kits and other necessities for those in crisis
- Prayer Chain ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Sue Severson CDs
- Addiction Recovery support through AA, now meeting at First Lutheran on Mondays
- “G.A.P.” Give, Act, Pray—email lists allowing members of FLC to help with specific needs
- Help line 2-1-1 coordination through SE Network of Care

### New Programs for this year include:

- VBS for Seniors held in July with great attendance and material presented by Rev. Kathleen Moulton
- Spirituality of the Psalms retreat
- Senior “Faithfully Aging Milestones” retreat about “Gratitude” in October
- Senior Luncheon presentation on “Aging”



### Future areas being developed include:

- Programming to support patients and caregivers with Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementia
- Senior exercise classes with emphasis of balance, strength, and coordination with desire to help with fall prevention

Our Board invites members of the FLC congregation to submit ideas for program needs that you feel are not currently being met. Without the hard work of the board members these ministries would not be possible. I give great thanks for the board members who have served the board so diligently:

Linda Braun  
Jean Eidsness  
Gene Erickson  
Cindy Forsburg

Kathleen Moulton  
Brenda Roberts  
Cheryl Satterlee  
Marilyn VanDemark

And essential to our process are First Lutheran staff members Pastor Katherine Olson and Jordan Stone.

Respectfully submitted,

V. R. “Barney” Brandenburg, Chair



# EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

## CAMI JACOBSEN, CHAIR



Cami Jacobsen

### Mission Statement:

*The Board of Education & Discipleship is a ministry that teaches the formation of Christian faith by providing programming and resources through various platforms to encourage engagement with the Gospel and its relation to issues of broad social and cultural concern. Education aims to be evangelical, relevant, accessible, and of the best orthodox tradition.*

### Key Ministries of 2019

- Regular educational programs were offered throughout the year. Some examples were: President Stephanie Herseth on Augustana; Pastor Dave Johnson on President Teddy Roosevelt; Pastor John on Henri Nouwen's book, *Life of the Beloved*; Pastor Lars on the Sacraments and on Stewardship; an Advent podcast series hosted by Pastor Jeff; and LaMoynes Pederson on Miracles
- Sunday morning Scripture First educational offerings— Sunday morning adult sessions mirror the scripture offerings of the week
- Senior Luncheon— free lunch and lecture offered on the second Tuesday of each month for First Lutheran seniors and their friends
- Bible Studies— Pastor Dave Johnson's Thursday morning study, weekly Scripture study on Wednesday mornings, and a summer series for women called "The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi" by Kathy Lee Gifford to name a few



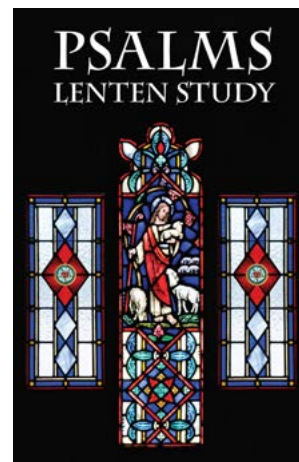
- Lenten Psalms Study—In collaboration with Luther House of Study, a Psalm Study was created for Lent. This included studying a different Psalm each week through a weekly devotional, podcast, small group discussion, and Wednesday evening sermon.

### 2019 Board Members

Cami Jacobsen (chair), Lindsey Olson (co-chair), Soren Leiseth (secretary), LaMoynes Peterson, Andrea Van Essen, Adam Smith, and Pastor John Christopherson

### Goals for 2020

- Refine educational offerings to make them as accessible as possible to FLC members and others
- Continue to develop and use a variety of delivery vehicles to reach the different demographics in our congregation with educational offerings
- Offer interesting and pertinent educational offerings that meet the criteria of our mission statement to teach the Christian faith and encourage with the Gospel
- Offer educational events that aid in understanding the historical development of the Christian faith and how it has shaped our thinking and our churches today
- Continue to develop, support, and promote Adult Scripture First





# EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

## COLLEEN KOKENGE, CHAIR



Colleen Kokenge

*This board serves the congregation of First Lutheran Church and the world by serving our neighbors and spreading the gospel as Christ calls us to do. This board provides support to some global ministries as follows:*

- Bread for the World
- ELCA World Hunger
- Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem
- The Lutheran Church of Palestine
- Lutheran World Relief



Colombia summer mission participants

- Emmaus Road Ministries (formerly LIZWAN) and EELCO (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia). Group visit in July 2019.
- Companion synods in Cameroon and Nicaragua

### Small group ministry teams in 2019 (not all-inclusive):

- Pastor Jeff supports the Downtown Outreach steering committee.
- Pastor Jeff is a board member for the St. Francis House, an independent homeless shelter in Sioux Falls.
- A ministry team serves our neighbors at The Banquet.
- A ministry team comprised of many boards focused on evangelism and spreading the gospel at the Sidewalk Arts Festival
- Worship in the Park is a once-per-summer off-site worship and picnic.
- Jeff Backer, Cherie Hopper (most of 2019), and LeAnne Klemme served on the Charis Ministry Board, which includes Food to You Mobile Food Pantry, Healthy Rides, and Necessities for Neighbors.
- Sarah Herbert continues to lead a ministry team building relationship with Lowell Elementary School through providing activities that include First Thursday Movies, Bingo, Christmas parties, and the reading buddies program.

- Pastor Jeff maintains relationships with the Multi-Cultural Center and is a board member.
- Coffee and Prayer is held Wednesday mornings with drive-thru coffee and prayer with a First Lutheran member or pastor.
- We collaborated with the Youth and Family board for the Trunk or Treat event with 1,000-plus attending.
- We collaborated with all boards and the executive committee for the Block Party for our neighbors in August. Postcards were sent to our neighbors with an invite to this event and an outdoor worship event.
- We collaborate with First United Methodist Church to provide meals on Sunday evening each eight weeks through the Night Watch program. We also participated with other churches to cook and serve daily lunch meals to students at Lowell during Christmas break.



- Pastor Jeff is president of the Vencinos Unidos board, partnering with nine other ELCA congregations to support needs of the Hispanic population in Sioux Falls.
- We continue to collaborate with Rebel Hurd and Church on the Street along with eight other SD Synod-sponsored missions that are not self-sustainable.
- This board supports Christian Education and discipleship for seminary student Elias Johnson-Youngquist in 2020 as well as support of the Luther House of Study.

### 2019 Board Members:

Our board members along with Pastor Jeff Backer work diligently to identify those ministries that we can build relationships with in this community and worldwide. We are thankful for the board members who served in 2019: Colleen Kokenge (chair), Leslee Barnes, Cherie Hopper, Jordan Brockhoff (secretary), Dan Lindquist, Suzie Hernes, and Jason Schramm.

### 2020 Goals

The Evangelism and Outreach board will place emphasis on building relationships, sharing the gospel, and ensuring that Evangelism is shared by all people.

# FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, AND PROPERTY

## MICHAEL KEDIK, CHAIR



Michael Kedik

*The Finance, Administration, and Property Board's mission is to provide for and maintain a clean, attractive, comfortable, and welcoming home in which our professional staff, guests, and members of FLC may work and worship.*

### Accomplishments in 2019

- Spring and fall cleanup of our campus, and pre-Easter cleaning of the entire sanctuary
- Installation of our new heating and cooling system



- Working with Eagle Scout and church member Adam J. Monson, over 50 new beautiful perennials were installed in formerly barren rock gardens in the parking lots
- Working with Eagle Scout and church member Adam J. Monson, a South Dakota historical marker was ordered and will be dedicated on the 100-year anniversary of our church; placement will be near the main Dakota Avenue parking lot entrance
- Remodeling of north balcony to be used as a permanent home for the bell choirs
- For safety reasons, railings in both the north and south balconies were raised and made safe

### 2019 Board Members and Support Staff

This was my fifth year as a member of the Finance, Administration, and Property Board and first year as chair of this talented, dedicated, and hardworking board. I feel compelled to sincerely thank the awesome people who have tirelessly served on this board over the years as well as the Church Council and the members of First Lutheran for the support of the efforts of this board. Those serving in 2019 were Tom Christopherson, Orrin Anderson, Jon Beatch, Marc Toft, Mike McElroy, and R. J. Lund. Our board advisor is FLC Business Administrator Marilyn McNeill, and our facilities manager, David Wilson, is ex-officio member of our board along with his staff of Jeff Hartnett and Rick East. It is indeed an honor and privilege to work with these awesome people.

### 2020 and Beyond – Capital Needs – Tier 1 (Highest Priority)

- HVAC loan repayment
- Relocate Information Desk
- Library, Gathering Room, Atrium, Sanctuary, Welcome Center remodel
- Sanctuary and Chapel sound system updates
- Tuckpointing, brick repair, and steeple wood repair
- Welcome Center restrooms update (to include handicapped door openers)
- Replace glass on Chapel windows
- Security alarm update – additional cameras needed
- Intercom system
- Many windows leak cold/hot air and need to be replaced

### 2020 and Beyond – Capital Needs – Tier 2 (Medium to High Priority)

- Update restrooms in Quilt Service Center area
- Truck replacement to move snow and ground maintenance (current truck is 1993)
- Tractor
- Sanctuary hearing impaired system
- North Sanctuary exit door (original door)
- Flooring upgrades:
  - 1) Quilt Service Center
  - 2) Fellowship Hall carpet
  - 3) Bride's Room, Groom's Room, and hallway carpet
  - 4) Den

### 2020 and Beyond – Capital Needs – Tier 3 (Wish List)

- Lower level of Parish Hall restroom update
- Chancel marble refinish
- Design painting in Sanctuary

# STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

## BIRGIT PETERSON, CHAIR



Birgit Peterson

### Stewardship and Giving 2019 Goals:

At the beginning of 2019, the board defined a set of three interlocking goals to drive its activities for the year:

- Inspire generosity through monetary giving
- Identify pathways for both new members and current congregants of First Lutheran to fully engage in the life and missions of the church
- Grow the enthusiasm for engagement by member of the FLC congregation to the life and missions of the church

The Stewardship and Giving Board has identified member engagement as a key indicator of congregational willingness to support the life and missions of the church. Members who feel a connection to the church community and its various missions will tend to support these through giving, not only of monetary resources but also time and talent. Therefore, the Stewardship and Giving Board has focused on developing pathways to better connect members to the ministries of the church by taking greater consideration of the member skills, interests, availability, and involvement. Planning Center, introduced last year, is a tool that can help collect, maintain, and share this relevant information and is beginning to be utilized by various groups within the church. Indeed, the various tablet-enabled, digital check-ins now used by members at various activities allow for an efficient collection of information that can be used for follow-up, communication planning, and scheduling, among others.

One of the main tasks of the Stewardship and Giving Board is to develop and carry out the annual fall stewardship campaign. The 2019 fall campaign built on last year's "Graced, I Give" theme, focused on God's blessings to us. We also adopted much of the communication strategy adopted for last year's campaign, hoping to promote reflection and communication regarding the meaning of stewardship in our daily lives. The board wishes to thank everyone for their generous giving in 2019.

### 2019 Accomplishments:

The primary goals of the Stewardship and Giving Board for 2019 were:

- "Blessed, I Give" fall campaign. This theme presented a follow-up to last year's "Graced, I Give" stewardship campaign. The intent of the theme was for members to consider how the blessings bestowed by God to each of us frees us to give back joyfully and freely.
- Member Engagement. The transition to the new Planning Center database platform continued throughout the year

*Blessed, I Give*

You are blessed! God has provided you with too many blessings to count—your talents, gifts, possessions, family and friends, time, and even a community of believers to encourage you in the faith and to reach out to others with the good news of Jesus Christ. Join us between services in the Atrium to learn about opportunities to share your blessings:

- September 29 – Your FLC Adventure, hosted by Birgit Peterson, Stewardship Board Chair
- October 6 – Online Giving, hosted by Jody Byrnes, FLC Financial Administrator
- October 13 – Legacy Society, hosted by the FLC Foundation Board
- October 20 – Online Giving, hosted by Jody Byrnes, FLC Financial Administrator, and Marilyn McNeill, FLC Business Administrator

**First Lutheran Church**  
2020 Stewardship Campaign

with various ministries and boards adopting the functionality of the program to promote connectivity between members and the needs of the church.

### 2020 Goals:

We look forward to continuing our work in this coming year. Some of the goals we hope to accomplish are:

- Continue to develop process for updating, curating, and leveraging member data
- Assist ministries and boards in leveraging Planning Center functionality identifying needs and engagement opportunities
- Promote member engagement through targeted and intentional communication
- Build on this past fall's "Blessed, I Give" stewardship campaign theme for messaging throughout the year
- Develop educational/small group discussions centered on the concept of stewardship and how this is meaningful to our daily lives and well as the life of the church
- Encourage automatic giving

In conclusion, the above shows how we have carried out the direction given to us by the congregation: "The Board of Stewardship and Giving carries out ministries to help congregation members care for God's resources, including the sharing of their time, talent, and treasure through the ministries of First Lutheran Church. Using the best appropriate practices and resources available, the Board of Stewardship and Giving connects passion to ministry."



# WELCOMING AND COMMUNITY

## DEB NELSON, CHAIR



Deb Nelson

**Mission:** *The Board of Welcome and Community carries out ministries that connect people into a life of faith through First Lutheran Church. Using the best appropriate practices and resources available, the Board of Welcome and Community provides a warm welcome to new people and encourages community among the members of First Lutheran Church.*

### What is hospitality:

How do we sustain being “A Welcoming Home in the Heart of Sioux Falls”? We focus on hospitality – what are we doing that works and what could we do better? But what does hospitality done well look like?

There are several Bible verses in which hospitality is referenced. As I write this update, this one spoke to me: “When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13

Hospitality is the friendly and generous reception and interaction with each other as members of this congregation or with guests or strangers in our midst. Hospitality isn’t a role for only one person or group of people, but rather a responsibility that we all can take on at First Lutheran. It doesn’t need to be hard. It is giving someone a smile, listening for someone’s need, comforting when appropriate, being willing to interact with people, and maybe even letting a relationship grow. These are actions we can take to sustain being a welcoming home.

The Welcome and Community Board looks forward to 2020 as we continue to focus on hospitality and its role in building community at First Lutheran.

### Accomplishments in 2019

- Implemented online scheduling for bakers, servers, greeters and information desk workers
- Celebrated the first anniversary of Katie’s Commons and the move of fellowship back to the Gathering Room
- Introduced a shepherd process to the New Member integration process
- Wrote role descriptions for Sunday morning support
- Attended hospitality training

### Our Focus in 2020:

- Implement changes identified during Hospitality Training
- Enhance roles of Katie’s Commons Servers, Greeters, and Information Desk support
- Improve our ability to identify and then engage new members
- Expand everyone’s perspective of what hospitality is for First Lutheran and everyone’s role in it
- Encourage a broader willingness to engage in serving

## Welcome 2019 New Members



January



May



September



# WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRIES

## JAMES MOORE, CHAIR



James Moore

*According to the bylaws, the Board of Worship and Music is charged with carrying out ministries that proclaim Christ in worship; the board "cares for music, instruments, and worship instruction so that God's Word may be heard, and God's praise may be sung."*

The board does not micromanage worship planning, which is done by the Pastors and Director of Music. Instead, we address

capital needs, special projects and services, presenting concerts by outside groups, and the maintenance and enhancement of resources necessary for worship.

### 2019 Accomplishments:

- On May 12, 2019, we hosted David Cherwien, Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and Director of the National Lutheran Choir, who led a hymn festival celebrating the work of Paul Manz. The Augustana Choir participated. The event was part of the Lankford Arts Series and was well attended.
- Planning continued for the 100th Anniversary, including plans for the concert scheduled for September 13, 2020, featuring a commissioned work for organ, orchestra, and choir by Wayne Oquin of The Julliard School. Julliard organist Paul Jacobs and the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra have been engaged for the event. Planning also continued for congregational worship services on All Saints Sunday to mark the 100th anniversary, which will include another commissioned piece, a setting by Dr. John Schwandt of "For All the Saints" for organ, brass, and choir. The Augustana Choir will join First Lutheran choirs in leading worship on November 1. We have also scheduled guest pastors and musicians throughout the calendar year, as recently published in the First Word.
- The Board addressed several items related to the proposed capital campaign, including the replacement of paraments as reported in last year's report, the design of a new sound system for the sanctuary, and replacement of the sanctuary ceiling. The ceiling became an issue during the year when a ceiling panel came loose and fell. Investigation and repair revealed that the panels have exceeded their useful life, are



in poor condition, and cannot be satisfactorily repaired. The Executive Committee retained Scott Riedel of Riedel and Associates to consult with the architects to find an appropriate material to replace the ceiling panels and to develop a construction plan and cost estimate. We have received the acoustical report with a recommended material and are working with the Council to develop further plans.

- The Board worked with the Property Board and the Council to provide a permanent home for the handbells in the north balcony. Locating the handbell tables there will reduce the amount of time spent setting up and tearing down tables and will provide a more visible location for the handbells, as well as a good acoustic for projection of sound into the nave. As part of the project to remove the pews, the Property Board arranged for a contractor to raise the balcony railings on the north and south sides to provide better safety.
- The Board worked with the pastoral staff to discuss moving the announcements from the beginning of the service to just before the prelude. Many of the announcements do not concern the television worshipers, and we have heard many complaints over the years that the end of the service is rarely included in the telecast. After experimenting with the change during Lent, the Board approved the change beginning in the fall and will continue to review whether it is appropriate.
- Zachary Brockhoff and Mary Ryrholm implemented a new curriculum for the youth choirs designed to teach more music fundamentals and enable more collaboration with other youth activities. Consultation with youth and family staff and the board is ongoing.
- The Board approved a new series of Wednesday worship services during Advent, which were well received.



### Members of the Board in 2019 were

Mary Ryrholm, Marti Thompson, Jim Speirs, John Hegg, Joel Nevin, Todd Jacobsen, Tracie Osthus, and James Moore. Starting in 2020, we will miss Marti Thompson and Jim Speirs, who have completed their second terms, and we are grateful for their service. Pastor John Christopherson, Zachary Brockhoff, and Shirley Barlow serve as staff representatives to the Board. Soli Deo Gloria.

# YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

## BENJAMIN READY, CHAIR



Benjamin Ready

*In 2019, we continued our efforts to ensure First Lutheran ministries share Christ's gospel through various educational and activity platforms for youth, young adults, and families. The board recognizes its important role in expanding First Lutheran's efforts to offer a variety of opportunities and programming for members—through traditional education, regular events, and fun activities during the year.*

### 2019 Highlights:

#### The Cornerstones of our Faith Education

Making certain our youth and families are provided a solid foundation for Christ's gospel, the Youth and Family board and staff continually review our Milestone, Scripture First, and Confirmation programs. We have seen Milestone attendance grow each year, and the Scripture First and Confirmation programs continue to be enhanced. Youth Group and Bible studies for young adults continue to expand to further age-appropriate, post-Confirmation opportunities for FLC members.



#### Sharing Christ's Gospel Message Outside the Walls of FLC

Working with other First Lutheran boards, Youth and Family has been blessed to share our ministry to those who are not necessarily members of



First Lutheran. The Block Party, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed, and Trunk or Treat continue to grow in numbers, providing fun opportunities and activities for families in the surrounding neighborhood. Through Christmas giving, the Peru Mission Trip, and other service activities throughout the year, our youth and members of the congregation are given the opportunity to make a positive impact for those in need.

#### Board Members who served in 2019:

Katie Bossman, Sandy Fink, Sarah Muller, Maria Neely, Benjamin Ready, Eric Sather, and Suzette Schramm.

#### FLC Youth and Family Staff

Marnie Dahle Backer, Director  
Elias Johnson-Youngquist, Youth Minister  
Mark Nassen, Coordinator  
Heather Smith, Children's Minister



#### Photos clockwise from top left:

Pastor Lars serves fifth graders their First Communion; the 2019 Confirmation class; Scripture First children sing for worship in May; FLC youth rafting on Flathead Lake

in Montana, and Katie Bossman helps her daughters, Priya and Miriam, with a craft at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed.



# AUXILIARY: FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (FLCW)

## KATHY STELZER, PRESIDENT



Kathy Stelzer

### Mission Purpose

*We are a community of women of the Evangelical Church of America, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit our selves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the*

*society, and the world.*

### 2019 Accomplishments

- Ten FLCW Circles met throughout the year in homes and at the church for Bible study and fellowship.



- Circles, under the leadership of Lyla Petersen, hosted and served food at 43 funeral receptions at First Lutheran this year.
- A Sioux Falls Union Gospel Monthly Meeting was served and hosted by Dorcas Circle the month of February.
- In April, FLCW assisted Church on the Street with its Easter Service in Reformation Hall, and Norwegian desserts were prepared and served at an LSS Fundraiser.
- The FLCW Executive Committee updated the FLCW Constitution in a series of spring meetings.
- Circles coordinated the cleaning of all First Lutheran kitchens in the spring.
- Jane King and Kathy Stelzer worked to create a trifold brochure highlighting FLCW activities as an informational handout.



- The quilters, under the leadership of JoAnn Gibson, continued their great works by sending 270 quilts to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), 300 to local agencies, and one to each FLC graduating high school senior. Also, LWR received 80 layettes, 65 health care kits, and 31 dress kits.



- FLCW members attended the Crossroads Spring and Fall conferences. In June, Jane King and Kathy Stelzer attended the SD State Synodical Convention in Aberdeen.
- The Card Shoppe has been made more available and serviceable by the work of Jane King and others.
- Other special offerings were received and distributed for Ephphatha Services, Thank Offerings, Love Gift for LifeScape, and others.
- There were recommendations shared with the First Lutheran Capital Campaign proposal.
- Throughout the year, donations were repurposed for redistribution and reuse.



- The “Rejoice” Annual Bazaar was held November 2 with the help of many volunteers
- Throughout the year, individual “Circle Stories” were included in the First Word.

**Programs**

WELCA held monthly meetings with programs and accompanying board meetings every month except February (weather cancellation) and July (summer recess).



- January – Call to Freedom
- March – Luther House of Study
- April – Lutheran Social Services
- May – Salad Supper with speaker, Shirley Halleen
- June – Arc of Dreams and Sculpture Walk with Jim and De Ann Clark
- August – An Inspiration Hills Retreat with “Maggie and David”
- September – Dessert and coffee with speaker, Jennifer Peterson

- October – FLC Caring Ministries with Pastor Katherine Olson and Jordan Stone
- November – Marilyn Korsten with Hope Haven International
- December – All Circle “Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration” with speaker Jeff Gould and harpist Anna Vorhes-Sandberg

**2019 Officers**

Kathy Stelzer, President; Connie Nelson, Treasurer; Jeanne Buren, Financial Secretary; Arlene Bich, Recording Secretary; and Carol Knapp, Recording Secretary Assistant.

**Goals for 2020**

- Invite all women of First Lutheran to participate in and support FLCW missions and goals.
- Host 11 monthly WELCA programs and/or Bible studies, as well as individual circle meetings.
- Assist the First Lutheran 100th Anniversary Celebration by hosting receptions for guest preachers, musicians, and speakers.
- Celebrate the women of First Lutheran and their 100 years of ministry contributions locally, nationally, and globally.
- Host the WELCA South Dakota Synodical State-Wide Meeting.
- Maintain a presence on the First Lutheran Church Council.
- Support the mission of FLCW and the congregation of First Lutheran in prayer and action.

**DISTRIBUTION OF 2019 FLCW BAZAAR FUNDS**

Total Bazaar Receipts . . . . .	\$56,468
Bazaar Expenses . . . . .	- \$6,688
Available Funds . . . . .	\$49,780
Initial Mission Distribution in 2019* . . . . .	\$42,350
On-Going Mission Distributions during 2020 . . . . .	\$7,430
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTION FOR 2019 BAZAAR . . . . .</b>	<b>\$49,780</b>

**\*Distribution Detail**

FLC –Middle and High School Youth. . . . .	\$750
–Elementary Camp Assistance . . . . .	\$750
–Nightwatch . . . . .	\$1,200
–Lowell – Lunch & Special Projects. . . . .	\$1,500
Seminary Students – Rebel Hurd. . . . .	\$500
–Elias Johnson-Youngquist. . . . .	\$500
–Mark Nassan . . . . .	\$500
–Jordan Stone. . . . .	\$300
–Adam Guthmiller. . . . .	\$500
FLC – Media Broadcasts . . . . .	\$2,600
Call To Freedom . . . . .	\$1,000
Charis Ministries –Food To You . . . . .	\$750
–Healthy Rides . . . . .	\$750
–Necessities For Neighbors . . . . .	\$1,200
Church On The Street. . . . .	\$1,000
Colombia Emmaus Road Foundation. . . . .	\$2,000
Companion Synod – Cameroon . . . . .	\$500
Companion Synod – Nicaragua Destiny . . . . .	\$500
Healthcare International . . . . .	\$1,000

Family Connection . . . . .	\$750
Family Visitation . . . . .	\$1,000
Feeding South Dakota – Backpack Program . . . . .	\$500
Glory House . . . . .	\$750
Helpline Center – Outreach Support . . . . .	\$500
Hope Haven International. . . . .	\$500
Inter-Lakes Community Action. . . . .	\$500
Lake Shetek . . . . .	\$500
Laura B. Anderson. . . . .	\$100
Lunch Is Served . . . . .	\$1,000
Laundry With Love . . . . .	\$500
Lutheran Outdoors . . . . .	\$1,000
Lutheran Social Services. . . . .	\$1,000
Lutheran World Relief – Hunger. . . . .	\$1,000
Multi-Cultural Center . . . . .	\$1,000
NAMI . . . . .	\$1,000
Pine Ridge Retreat Center. . . . .	\$2,000
Project CAR. . . . .	\$2,000
Pueblo De Dios . . . . .	\$2,500
Sad Isn't Bad . . . . .	\$500
St. Dysmas Prison Ministry. . . . .	\$1,500
St. Francis House. . . . .	\$750
St. John Lutheran Church – Madison, SD . . . . .	\$1,000
Sioux Falls Cares . . . . .	\$1,000
Wheels To Work . . . . .	\$500
Union Gospel Mission. . . . .	\$1,200
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$42,350</b>



# AUXILIARY: LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION (LMM)

## ORRIN ANDERSON, PRESIDENT



*"He will not forget the work you did and the love showed for him by helping his people."*  
Hebrews 6:10

Orrin Anderson Mission continues to work for the First Lutheran Church both physically and financially. Funds are generated by working the church parking lots during special events at the Washington Pavilion.

In 2019 financial assistance was granted to:

- Seminary students
- A family suffering a total fire loss
- Lutheran House of Study
- Youth parking fund
- Easter breakfast
- Care and Health Ministry Psalm Retreat
- Comfort experience
- Paraphrase 2020 Lenten Service

**Physical participation covered a lot of areas including:**



- Though not visible but very important is John Odney's kitchen crew. John has a dedicated crew of kitchen cleanup for events at First Lutheran Church. In 2019 they worked 39 funerals, birthday parties, receptions, the annual Torsk dinner, and the annual Syttende Mai celebration.
- Set up the Christmas trees in the sanctuary and the nativity scene in the Atrium.
- Replaced the counter top in the financial office
- Repaired the doors at the 12th Street entrance

- Roger Lamp manufactured and installed flag holders on the exterior lights for Bazaar flags and LMM purchased American flags to be displayed on national holidays.
- Pulled computer wire from the southeast corner of the Church to both the northeast and northwest corners of the church building for HVAC computer controls
- Removed pews from the Chapel and moved pews in the sanctuary to facilitate handicapped seating



- Installed concrete platform for the "Homeless Jesus" statue outside of the atrium
- Built additional storage space for the music department and new book shelves for the new Assistant Bishop's office
- Created a crozier (staff) used by Bishop Constanze Hagmaier at her installation
- Over sixty wooden bowls were made and sold at the annual First Lutheran Church Bazaar.



More LMM/ volunteers are always needed and welcome. If interested contact:

Orrin Anderson, President; Ken Kessinger, Vice-President; Gerald Gackle, Treasurer; Howard Bich, Secretary; Larry Anderson, Director; or Norm Ekland, Director.

# PARISH STATISTICS

For the Year Ending December 31, 2019 (Unaudited)

Description		Audited			Unaudited
		2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>PARISH STATISTICS</b>					
<b>Regular Member Giving</b>					
	Pledge Responses	\$ 1,357,448	\$ 1,322,062	\$ 1,320,328	\$ 1,380,250
	Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 160,839	\$ 255,911	\$ 234,801	\$ 221,361
	Special Offerings	\$ 35,764	\$ 36,221	\$ 38,429	\$ 40,697
	<b>Regular Member Giving</b>	<b>\$ 1,554,051</b>	<b>\$ 1,614,194</b>	<b>\$ 1,593,558</b>	<b>\$ 1,642,308</b>
	<b>Average Giving To Gen Offering Per Confirmed Member</b>	<b>\$ 568</b>	<b>\$ 569</b>	<b>\$ 609</b>	<b>\$ 632</b>
<b>DESIGNATED Member Giving</b>					
	Capital Campaign & God's Gifts, Our Heritage	\$ 46,611	\$ 47,591	\$ 76,006	\$ 547,382
	Campus Improvement	\$ 189,173	\$ 215	\$ -	\$ -
	Adult Disc / Library / Book Studies	\$ 640	\$ 5,232	\$ -	\$ -
	Media Sponsorships/ Bulletins / First Word	\$ 72,054	\$ 71,107	\$ 58,158	\$ 64,123
	Care and Health	\$ 893	\$ 19,044	\$ 10,959	\$ 23,280
	Property / Archive / Vol Shop	\$ 2,945	\$ 5,157	\$ 7,495	\$ 2,533
	Special Gifts	\$ 4,440	\$ 19,663	\$ 32,765	\$ 9,580
	Worship & Music / Choirs / Organ / Piano	\$ 14,398	\$ 43,988	\$ 9,934	\$ 11,512
	Youth / Children / Family	\$ 8,367	\$ 25,446	\$ 24,068	\$ 15,304
	Luther House (Paulsen)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,357	\$ 43,562
	<b>Total Designated Member Giving</b>	<b>\$ 339,521</b>	<b>\$ 237,443</b>	<b>\$ 266,743</b>	<b>\$ 717,275</b>
<b>Benevolence - Designated - Member Giving</b>					
	Disasters	\$ 4,207	\$ 7,455	\$ 5,195	\$ 823
	FLC Seminary Students	\$ 3,807	\$ 4,198	\$ 1,346	\$ 4,902
	Holiday Flowers (Easter / Christmas)	\$ 5,948	\$ 6,571	\$ 6,397	\$ 7,610
	Missions Around the World	\$ 4,136	\$ 9,717	\$ 13,648	\$ 3,999
	Missions In our Area	\$ 3,510	\$ 12,487	\$ 10,197	\$ 24,853
	Missions Misc	\$ 10,682	\$ 10,254	\$ 3,422	\$ 12,138
	<b>Total Benevolence - Designated -Member Giving</b>	<b>\$ 32,290</b>	<b>\$ 50,682</b>	<b>\$ 40,205</b>	<b>\$ 54,325</b>
<b>Total Member Giving (Reg, Desig &amp; Benevolence)</b>		<b>\$ 1,925,862</b>	<b>\$ 1,902,319</b>	<b>\$ 1,900,505</b>	<b>\$ 2,413,908</b>

<b>Benevolence - Payments - Designated Funds</b>					
	In our Area Benevolence	\$ 33,468	\$ 29,326	\$ 36,442	\$ 46,796
	In our Area Benevolence (Capital Campaign)	\$ 21,492	\$ -	\$ 6,030	\$ 3,100
	Around the World Benevolence	\$ 8,161	\$ 17,246	\$ 9,104	\$ 5,021
	Disaster Benevolence	\$ 1,320	\$ 7,455	\$ 5,133	\$ 1,043
	Congregational Benevolence (Camperships/Caring Min)	\$ 8,928	\$ 8,060	\$ 37,407	\$ 40,968
	Luther House (Paulsen)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 51,500
	<b>Total Designated Benevolence Payments</b>	<b>\$ 73,369</b>	<b>\$ 62,087</b>	<b>\$ 144,116</b>	<b>\$ 148,428</b>
<b>Benevolence - Payments - Budgeted Funds</b>					
	In our area Benevolence	\$ 33,663	\$ 46,880	\$ 33,823	\$ 38,200
	Around the World Benevolence	\$ 7,450	\$ 6,700	\$ 4,455	\$ 3,473
	Congregational Benevolence (Camperships/Caring Min)	\$ 20,879	\$ 17,336	\$ 12,790	\$ 9,053
	SD ELCA Benevolence	\$ 75,400	\$ 63,365	\$ 68,375	\$ 70,000
	<b>Total Budgeted Benevolence Payments</b>	<b>\$ 137,392</b>	<b>\$ 134,281</b>	<b>\$ 119,443</b>	<b>\$ 120,726</b>
<b>Total Designated/ Budgeted Benevolence Payments</b>		<b>\$ 210,761</b>	<b>\$ 196,368</b>	<b>\$ 263,559</b>	<b>\$ 269,153</b>

## PARISH STATISTICS CONTINUED

		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Membership	Baptized Members	3658	3651	3509	3482	3437
	Confirmed Members	2735	2731	2644	2618	2599
	Households	1831	1819	1769	1757	1725
	Members Received	119	85	98	101	98
	By Child Baptism	36	33	36	37	31
	By Adult Baptism	0	2	2	1	1
	By Transfer	25	25	18	35	42
	By Affirmation	43	22	38	21	20
	By Reactivation/Statistical Readjustment	15	3	4	7	4
	Members Removed	122	92	240	128	143
	By Death	46	41	47	40	47
	By Transfer/Release	67	49	74	70	82
By Dismissal/Inactive Status	9	2	119	18	14	
Participation	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	909	862	862	789	632
	Church School Enrollment	238	310	166	212	141
	Average Weekly Church School Attendance	104	120	105	102	113
	Confirmation Enrollment	160	107	113	101	85
Ministerial Acts	Baptisms	36	35	40	38	32
	Confirmations	31	33	22	22	29
	Weddings	18	16	13	13	12
	Funerals	51	49	44	48	60



# STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

## CASH BASIS

Description		Audited		Unaudited
		12/31/2017	12/31/2018	12/31/2019
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
	Cash	\$ 512,051	\$ 504,735	\$ 402,195
<b>Assets Not Available for Current Needs</b>				
	Cash	\$ 574,664	\$ 619,676	\$ 503,463
	Certificates of Deposit	\$ 145,508	\$ 145,508	\$ 145,508
	*Foundation	\$ 11,806,876	\$ 10,903,206	12,667,173
	<b>Total Assets Not Available for Current Needs</b>	<b>\$ 12,527,048</b>	<b>\$ 11,668,390</b>	<b>\$ 13,718,339</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
	Land & Land Improvements	\$ 3,536,077	\$ 3,462,362	\$ 3,462,362
	Buildings - Church & Parish Hall	\$ 9,102,394	\$ 9,200,164	\$ 9,125,164
	Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	\$ 2,372,915	\$ 2,243,240	\$ 2,243,240
	Vehicles	\$ 50,349	\$ 24,171	\$ 24,171
	Subtotal	<b>\$ 15,061,735</b>	<b>\$ 14,929,938</b>	<b>\$ 14,854,938</b>
	Construction in Progress			
	Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (5,864,036)	\$ (6,461,775)	\$ (6,386,775)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,197,699</b>	<b>\$ 8,468,163</b>	<b>\$ 8,468,163</b>
<b>Deferred Assets</b>				
	HyVee Gift Card Receivable	\$ -	\$ 7,725	\$ 9,725
	<b>Total Deferred Assets</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 7,725</b>	<b>\$ 9,725</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$ 22,236,798</b>	<b>\$ 20,649,013</b>	<b>\$ 22,196,227</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
	Accrued liabilities	\$ 56,991	\$ 61,271	\$ 66,312
	Notes Payable			
	First Dakota National - HVAC	\$ -	\$ 281,675	\$ 1,104,082
	Contract For Deed - Ideal Party Store	\$ 265,562	\$ 204,290	\$ 137,978
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 322,553</b>	<b>\$ 547,237</b>	<b>\$ 1,308,372</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
	Designated	\$ 23,911	\$ 23,911	\$ 23,911
	Unrestricted	\$ 8,572,043	\$ 8,427,268	\$ 8,432,157
	Temporarily Restricted	\$ 4,659,015	\$ 3,617,973	\$ 4,399,162
	*Permanently Restricted	\$ 7,975,206	\$ 8,032,626	\$ 8,032,625
	<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 21,230,175</b>	<b>\$ 20,101,777</b>	<b>\$ 20,887,855</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>		<b>\$ 21,552,728</b>	<b>\$ 20,649,013</b>	<b>\$ 22,196,227</b>

\*We are required by Federal Regulations & Audit Guidelines to include the First Lutheran Church Foundation on the First Lutheran Church Balance Sheet. Gifts and Inflation Reserve to be reflected at audit.

# STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

For the Years Ending December 31, 2019 (Unaudited)

Description	2018	2019		2019
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance
<b>REVENUES</b>				
<b>Offerings</b>				
Pledge Responses	\$ 1,320,328	\$ 1,346,550	\$ 1,380,250	\$ 33,700
Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 234,801	\$ 223,110	\$ 221,361	\$ (1,749)
Special Offerings	\$ 38,429	\$ 36,800	\$ 40,697	\$ 3,897
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 1,593,558</b>	<b>\$ 1,606,460</b>	<b>\$ 1,642,308</b>	<b>\$ 35,848</b>
<b>Gifts</b>				
Media	\$51,689	\$ 66,500	\$62,772	\$ (3,729)
Foundation	\$339,131	\$ 344,687	\$344,686	\$ (1)
<b>Total Gifts</b>	<b>\$390,821</b>	<b>\$ 411,187</b>	<b>\$407,458</b>	<b>\$ (3,729)</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
Fee Income	\$76,495	\$ 78,215	\$86,718	\$ 8,503
Non-Budgeted Income	\$13,406	\$ 13,000	\$10,833	\$ (2,167)
Operating Reserve		\$ 75,000		
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$89,901</b>	<b>\$ 166,215</b>	<b>\$97,551</b>	<b>\$6,336</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,074,279</b>	<b>\$ 2,183,862</b>	<b>\$2,147,316</b>	<b>\$ (36,546)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Education & Discipleship	\$10,332	\$ 7,700	\$4,710	\$ (2,990)
Youth & Family	\$49,384	\$ 48,500	\$48,437	\$ (63)
Evangelism, Mission & Outreach	\$52,054	\$ 43,000	\$42,682	\$ (318)
Care & Health	\$10,302	\$ 10,770	\$10,290	\$ (480)
Worship & Music	\$70,901	\$ 70,650	\$60,471	\$ (10,179)
Non Departmental	\$108,634	\$ 87,641	\$99,422	\$ 11,781
Property & Administrative Serv	\$273,451	\$ 312,500	\$288,147	\$ (24,353)
Personnel	\$1,377,162	\$ 1,518,001	\$1,499,645	\$ (18,356)
Stewardship	\$75,935	\$ 75,100	\$74,501	\$ (599)
Welcome & Community	\$9,569	\$ 10,000	\$9,122	\$ (878)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,037,726</b>	<b>\$ 2,183,862</b>	<b>\$2,137,427</b>	<b>\$ (45,557)</b>
Profit / Loss	\$36,554		\$9,889	
<b>Net Revenues/(Expenses)</b>	<b>\$2,074,279</b>	<b>\$2,183,862</b>	<b>\$2,147,316</b>	

## STATEMENT OF LOAN ACTIVITY

For the Year Ending December 31, 2019 (Unaudited)

Description	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	Paid on Debt
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>			
First Dakota National Bank - HVAC	\$ 277,500	\$ 34,424	\$ 311,924
Contract for Deed (Ideal Prop)	\$ 61,271	\$ 19,027	\$ 80,298
<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$ 338,771</b>	<b>\$ 53,451</b>	<b>\$ 392,222</b>

DEBT	12/31/2018 Balance	12/31/2019 Balance	Net Change to Debt - (Inc/Dec)
First Dakota National Bank - HVAC	\$ 281,675	\$ 1,104,082	\$ 822,407
Contract for Deed (Ideal Prop)	\$ 265,561	\$ 204,290	\$ (61,271) (Decrease)
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>\$ 547,236</b>	<b>\$ 1,308,372</b>	<b>\$ 761,136</b> (Decrease)

## SUMMARY OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

For the Year Ending December 31, 2019 (Unaudited)

Description	Beginning Balance	Cash Receipts and Adjustment	Cash Disbursements and Adjustments	Ending Balance
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>				
General Operating Fund (Prepaid Pledges)	\$270,828	\$ 239,717	\$ (290,819)	\$ 219,725
God's Gift Our Heritage	(\$279,235)	\$ 598,065	\$ (1,418,247)	\$ (1,099,417)
God's Gift Our Responsibility	\$62,588	\$ 11,822	\$ (74,410)	\$ -
Designated Fund (Totals of all Boards Designated)	\$547,056	\$ 1,261,045	\$ (1,309,303)	\$ 498,798
Trust Fund	\$10,500			\$ 10,500
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>\$611,738</b>	<b>\$ 2,110,648</b>	<b>\$ (3,092,780)</b>	<b>(\$370,394)</b>
<b>Permanently Restricted</b>				
Trust Fund	\$135,008	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,008
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,185,071</b>	<b>\$ 2,110,648</b>	<b>\$ (3,092,780)</b>	<b>\$ (235,385)</b>



## AFTERWORD

One of the favorite “homes of hospitality” for our children to visit during their formative years in Bozeman, MT, was Lillian McGinley’s farm. When her husband, Bill, passed away, she graciously moved from their original farmhouse—in order to “**make-room**” for her oldest daughter’s growing family. Near a shed where she parked her yellow, late-model Cadillac, she’d cobbled together a double-wide trailer with a bright blue and white awning that gave shade for a beautiful cedar deck—one that was as big as Lillian’s heart for **entertaining guests**. The deck was positioned so that you could gaze across a big beautiful wheat field and then up toward the snow-capped Bridger Mountains. We still have pictures of the **kids sitting on Lillian’s lap** (a.k.a. “**Great Grandma Lil**”—which became their affectionate name for her)—sitting out on that deck like “*Up On A Roof*” by fretless James Taylor!



When we’d pull up into the yard for a country visit, the front screen door of the trailer would fly open as Lillian herself came bursting out, **arms-flung-wide**, in order to **give the kids a big hug**. Then she’d ply them with chocolate cookies ’n lemonade. And soon, even though she was in her late 80s, Lillian would join **hands with the three children and dance a jig** while her yellow lab set a tempo with his excited barking. Soon we’d be on that back deck, and **we’d share the stuff of our lives** ... at Lillian’s **prompting questions**: “What’s third grade like this fall, Johnny?” she’d ask. “My, how much you’ve grown!” “And Sarah, I just love your blonde curly locks!” “And Matt, would ya like another cookie? I’m not sure by the looks of things you got much of the first one!” she laughed. Matt stood smiling, looking up at Lillian with a sheepish grin (as most of the chocolate was smudged all over his face). “And Cathy, you look pretty as always!” If not for reasons of her poor **hearing** and refusing to wear any hearing aids, **Great Grandma Lil** talked with exclamation points and then **just sat back and listened**. And even our kids would set their ants-in-the-pants to the side so they **could sit and listen to her stories as well**.

Everything we talked about was always “the *most* amazing” or “the *most* horrible” or “the *most* thrilling” or “the *most* beautiful” or “the *most* lovely” we’d ever heard. All the stuff of life—how things were the worst ever in Congress, or how her Sunday School class was the best ever in her now 50-plus years of teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School (always, ***The Prophets and the Promise***), or how the church services should include more piano and organ duets. “O, there I go again,” she’d say. “How ‘bout another glass of wine? Pastor John, you really should. It’s good for what ails you!” ... All the stuff of life lifted up, offered to each other in all honesty and vulnerability. Not because the stuff mattered so much as **we mattered, each to the other**. When we went to visit **Great Grandma Lil** we

knew we mattered, we **belonged**. Each of us. All of us. Those were formative years for me as well as our children: for we were learning “*hospitality*” (not just “about” it) from an amazing matriarch in the faith.

*Hospitality* is a profound word, a holy word ... a word worth recovering in our crazy old world. A world where we send text messages to a colleague at work who sits in an office space just next to us, or as the Lily Foundation has just reported:

American families with teenagers, on average, spend only twice a week with everyone at dinner together. And at that, everyone is staring most of the time at their iPhones. *Hospitality* is a holy word worth recovering because it’s a word for describing the most powerful kind of human **relationship**. (In the Sunday, December 22, 2019 issue of ***The Minneapolis Star Tribune***, Pastor Ben Cieslik of Bethlehem Lutheran observes: “Relationships last longer than sermons or strategums” A8.) “*Hospitality*” comes from the Latin word, *hospes*. And it

can mean “host” or “guest” or both! *Hospitality*: as in “hospital,” as in “healing,” as in “making whole,” is what happens in the in-between—that sacred space between people that creates an open air of freedom and warmth of friendliness. *Hospitality* happens when we aren’t trying to pay someone back or make someone have a good time or make anybody do anything but be themselves and just **listen**. Miracles can happen in this kind of space. Miracles that bring people closer together with another word, one that’s a close cousin of *hospitality*, called “*God’s Grace*”: that “*something we somehow haven’t to deserve*” (Robert Frost).

Family of First Lutheran Church: read back through this little reflection and identify the various expressions of “*hospitality*” that live within it. And think about the different ways, or perhaps new ways, yes even simple ways, that we can be a family of faith—like a **Great Grandma Lil** and her Savior—who practice the coming together warmth and wonder of hospitality. And so we pray: “Come Lord, Jesus be our guest ...” (cf. Hebrews 13:2). And, oh yes, one more key to hospitality ...

*“By far the most common and important way in which we can [show hospitality] ... is by listening.” (M. Scott Peck, M.D.; ***The Road Less Traveled***, p. 121. Emphasis added.)*

*“[Listen attentively. And in doing so] you won’t try to offer answers to questions that aren’t even being asked.” (Paul Tillich; ***Systematic Theology***, II:13. Emphasis added.)*

The Lord bless and keep you in his “grace and truth” in this New Year! And a blessed 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Dr. John Christopherson  
Senior Pastor

# SYNODICAL REPORTS

## SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD OF THE ELCA



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

December 2019



Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

Little did I know last year, at this time, as I was writing my annual pastor's report to the congregation where I served as the administrative pastor that this year, I would be writing an annual report to all congregations of the South Dakota Synod as the Bishop. Now, a little over 120 days into this new call, I am still filled with a deep sense of gratitude for having been granted this humbling opportunity. Thank you for your trust, grace, and support.

Looking at the life of the synod in 2019, I would like to thank Bishop Emeritus David Zellmer and his associates, Bishop Bill Tesch and Deacon Susan Marone once again for their fine leadership the past twelve years. These were difficult times for the church, but your previous administration did an outstanding job in maneuvering through the difficulties and setting a new course for being church in South Dakota.

I hope to continue this legacy of excellence in leadership. Therefore I called two very gifted associates to lead with me. Pastor Renee Splichal Larson accepted the position for Candidacy, Congregation, and Rostered Minister Accompaniment and Pastor Jonathan Steiner accepted the call to serve as the synod's Director for Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop for Outreach and Stewardship.

For the first time in our synod's history, we will be having staff representation in Rapid City. Pastor Jonathan Steiner's office in Rapid City will be located at "The Garage", an office co-op in downtown Rapid City. When in Rapid, stop on over and check it out!

This Fall, my staff and I traveled the state to stop in all seven conferences for our "Listen, Learn and Care" events where we listened to your joys and challenges as we are being church in South Dakota together. We also learned from each other and gathered insight to determine how we can care for each other. These events were vital for the direction of our work together over the next five years. Please send a strong representation to the **synod assembly at Our Savior's in Sioux Falls on June 4-6, 2020** to hear about the future of how we are church together in South Dakota and around the world.

I am also delighted to invite you to join the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color, and the 10th anniversary of the ordination of our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Please take advantage of the many opportunities commemorating these historic milestones throughout 2020.

Last but not least, I would like to thank you for your faithfulness to the Gospel and it's proclamation. As our rural areas are shrinking, our agricultural communities are facing serious difficulties from this past year. Even though our state is seeing these challenges, in the midst of death, decline, and decay, you continue to faithfully proclaim the good news of Christ's death and resurrection. Thank you! God is faithful and with us always.

*To God be the glory,*

**Bishop Constanze Hagmaier**  
**South Dakota Synod, ELCA**

# LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

## 2019 REPORT TO CONGREGATIONS



2019 Annual Report to Congregations

## LSS: A New Vision for a Second Century of Service

As LSS prepares to enter its 100th Anniversary year of celebration, a new vision statement was recently incorporated—All people in South Dakota will be healthy, safe and accepted. This new vision was created to reflect what we hope for all people in South Dakota. The services offered by LSS contribute to achieving this vision. It is a succinct and clear statement that complements and supports the mission and values of LSS. Why we chose these specific words:

### HEALTHY

Our work has a direct impact on individuals' and families' well-being—physically, mentally and financially. LSS has specific services that focus on mental and financial health, however we also coordinate the physical well-being of children and youth in residential care, foster care, independent living services and many other services.

### SAFE

LSS listens, guides and offers coping tools to allow children, adults, and families to heal and grow after abusive and traumatic experiences. This includes LSS Behavioral Health, Residential Services for Children & Youth, Foster Care, Arise Youth Center, Independent Living, and Childcare & Education services to name a few. We want all people in South Dakota to be free from injury, free from abuse and neglect, and to be safe in their homes and work environments—physically and emotionally.

### ACCEPTED

Through our actions, advocacy and work, it is our hope that all people feel accepted, loved and valued. This is vital to a person's sense of wellbeing and existence. LSS works to restore or build family relationships in an environment that is non-judgmental and non-discriminatory. We want dignity and respect for all people; we love our neighbor and welcome the stranger. This includes all LSS services. Prime examples include the Center for New Americans, Re-Entry Services, Mentoring, Adoption, Pregnancy Counseling, and Kinship Services.

LSS touched the lives of those we **serve 45,781 times** last year. We strive to care for, support and strengthen those who are in need, bringing a future filled with hope—a future of success to people of all ages, families of all kinds and communities of all sizes.

*"It was you who made a big difference in my life.  
You showed me that I matter.*

*That is something I can never thank you enough for."*

— youth, Residential Services for Children & Youth and Arise Youth Center

I want to express gratitude on behalf of all those we serve. We sincerely appreciate your support and partnership. Every kindness and resource that we receive is utilized in serving others. For more information on LSS services and those we serve, visit [www.LssSD.org](http://www.LssSD.org).

Betty Oldenkamp, President/CEO

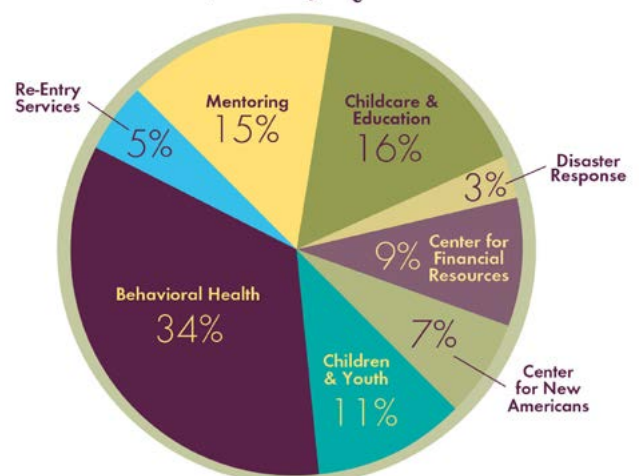
### Our Mission

Inspired by God's love, we care for, support and strengthen individuals, families and communities.

### Our Vision

All people in South Dakota will be healthy, safe and accepted.

### How Your Gift Served





# CHARIS MINISTRY PARTNERS

## 2019 REPORT TO CONGREGATIONS



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the Board of Directors of Charis Ministry Partners, representing Food to You, Necessities for Neighbors, and Healthy Rides! Thank you for being a member congregation of this important ministry which has and continues to serve so many families in the Sioux Falls area.

Our Ministry has come a long way in its ten years of existence and continues to grow. Food to You (the Mobile Food Pantry) celebrated its 10-year anniversary in March, and it is amazing what we have done together as a group. Two numbers demonstrate just how much we have accomplished: ***by the end of this year, we will have served almost 45,000 family units and distributed over one million pounds of food to families in need!*** It's amazing to think about the amount of food we have distributed and how many people we have fed at a time of need in their lives.

Our goal when we started Charis over ten years ago was to do things together that we could not do alone, and it has worked beyond our greatest expectations. While many things have changed over the past decade, one thing that has not changed is the need for the services we provide. We will serve over 4,000 families this year at both Food to You and Necessities for Neighbors distributions; 15% to 20% of those families will be new. Healthy Rides continues to serve new people every month as well. The need never stops and only seems to be growing with time.

Another thing that has not changed are the powerful stories of the difference Charis makes in the lives of the families we serve. The last time I served at a Food to You distribution, my daughter and I were distributing the pastries (my favorite job to do when I volunteer). A young lady came through the serving line and asked if we had any muffins. It just so happened that we had several boxes of blueberry muffins, and I gave her a box.

As I handed her the box, the young lady started to cry. "These are my kids' favorite!" she said. She was so grateful, she said, because she had just lost her job a couple weeks ago and did not have money for groceries. My daughter gave her a hug, and she went on down the line. When the serving line finally ended for the night, the young lady came back with her two children, telling them that we are the people that had given them all of this food, and had them tell us thank you. Now it was my turn to have tears. This is just one of many stories we have to tell, and I'm sure that anyone who has served as a volunteer would have similar stories to share.

I'm excited to share that we have hired a new Director, Aaron Matson, who will be helping us to share these stories through congregational visits, social media, and whatever other ways we can think of! Be sure to check out the new Facebook page he created to help share these stories and news about distributions and other opportunities to serve.

Thank you again for your support for Charis Ministry Partners. As your congregation sets its budget for the coming year, we ask that you continue your support, and prayerfully consider growing in your support to help us meet our growing expenses and the growing need we see in our community. And of course, please continue supporting us and the families we serve in prayer, as we may continue to show Christ's love for our neighbors in need.

Blessings,

Dan Paulson, Charis Ministry Partners Treasurer

# CHURCH ON THE STREET

## 2019 Church on the Street Annual Report



**Our Mission:** To walk alongside those struggling with homelessness and poverty while being the church together in the community.

**What does this mean?** We build a faith community where together we seek hope; we connect people in need of services, and we serve the neighbor through encouragement and grace, while administering the sacraments and following our call to proclaim the Gospel on the margins.

**#wearechurchtogether.**

*In God's Mission together, Rebel Hurd, Mission Developer*

### 2019 Worship

Our worship services have been very active with God's Holy Spirit showing up in many ways. Our church partners have been faithful to Jesus' call of being the church on the margins. We show up in the places where folks live, hurt, meet, hope, and gather to hear THE Good News. It is great to be church together. Amen!



### Street Ministry/Pastoral Care

We have been blessed with many groups of youth and church partners who have joined us in street ministry this year. Many of our outreaches are led with a Church on the Street, which has been a goal from the beginning.

Pastoral Care remains a large portion of this ministry as the need to be heard is great.



### Laundry with Love

1,150 loads of laundry were laundered with love by over 500 families in 2019. This allows folks the opportunity to feed and house their families with the money saved. When asked, people also told us that they used the money saved to pay for gas to get to work, clothing for their children, car repairs, and for bus tickets.



### Arts in the Park

What do you get when you put a few hundred congregation members in a park with tie-dye t-shirts, crafts, pizza, and Lakota prayers? So much fun! This event is our version of a family VBS that uses art as healing. We gathered in Christian community around art, fun, and fellowship and were able to let the hardships sit at bay for a time. Thanks be to God.



### Health and Healing

This annual event integrates faith into a day of wellness. Great care is taken to connect folks from the community who have skills, gifts, talents, compassion, and a genuine love of people to come together to help people feel as beautiful as we see them...As children of God. Health and healing comes in many ways.



### Faith Through Frames

This ministry has been a huge part of the ministry of COTS in 2019. Steve Johnson takes individual and family photos of COTS families and then frames them. He also makes ID's and backpack tags. We are honored to partner with this ministry to deliver a precious memory that may not otherwise be a financial possibility.





**First Lutheran Church**  
327 S. Dakota Ave. • Sioux Falls, SD • [flcsf.org](http://flcsf.org)