



# 2020

First Lutheran Church  
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 forbearers. 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.



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared for the Annual Meeting of the  
First Lutheran Church Congregation  
Sunday, January 31, 2021 • 10:10 a.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 31, 2021 | 10:10 AM | SANCTUARY**

1. Meeting Called to Order ..... President Martin Oyos
2. Opening Prayer ..... Pr. Lars Olson
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Adoption of the Minutes  
    January 26, 2020 Annual Meeting
5. Report of the President. .... (adopted as published)
6. Report of the Senior Pastor. .... Pr. John Christopherson
7. Reports as Found in the Published Annual Report for 2020. .... (adopted as published)
8. Financial Report and Vote on Proposed 2021 Budget. .... Randy Eide
9. **First Lutheran Church Foundation Annual Meeting Call to Order** ..... Somer Anderson
  - a. Adoption of the Minutes  
    January 26, 2020 First Lutheran Church Foundation Annual Meeting
  - b. Report of the President ..... Somer Anderson
  - c. Financial Report ..... Chris Nelson
  - d. Other Business
  - e. First Lutheran Church Foundation Board Adjournment
12. Nomination and Election of First Lutheran Church Officers and Board Members for the 2021 Term
13. Adjournment with Prayer. .... Pr. Jeff Backer

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—JANUARY 26, 2020 – 12:15 P.M.

President Aaron Ellingsen called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. After an opening hymn, Pastor Katherine Olson opened with prayer.

Approval of the Agenda unanimously passed.

The adoption of the February 3, 2019, Annual Meeting Minutes and the September 29, 2019, Special Congregational Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

President Aaron Ellingsen gave his report. He highlighted the success of the Bazaar. He also stated that after 99 years, there was a need to engage in a proposed Capital Campaign. After many meetings and focus groups, the congregation voted to go forward with a Capital Campaign. Aaron encouraged FLC members to invite people to worship. He thanked the pastoral staff, Marilyn McNeill, the facilities staff, administrative staff, council members, and the Executive Committee for their service and time this past year.

Pastor John Christopherson gave the report of the senior pastor. He gave thanks for the priesthood of believers and the board members. He shared reflections from Mark 4.

A motion was made to adopt the reports found in the published Annual Report for 2019. This motion was unanimously passed.

### **New Business**

Jean Hoff, Capital Campaign chair, gave an update regarding the “God Grace: Our Heritage and Future” campaign. Payments have been made to the HVAC loan. Jean also clarified questions regarding designated funds. As of today, \$1,454,039 has been pledged to the capital campaign.

Pastor John gave an update regarding FLC’s 100th anniversary celebration in 2020. It has been named “A Heritage of God’s Grace.” A logo has been created. A schedule of events has been shared with the congregation. Many pastors and musicians have been invited to FLC to

be a part of the celebration. Pastor John thanked the FLC women for hosting receptions. He also thanked Zachary Brockhoff for all the work he has done with regard to the planning of the celebration. Pastor John stated that it is good for us to look back but also so important to look forward, especially bringing the gospel to our region. He encouraged members to be involved with the celebration.

### **Financial Report**

Randy Eide, treasurer of FLC, gave a financial update. After a bumpy 2019, the year ended in the positive. Weather was a big part of the slow giving in the first quarter. The last quarter was exceptional, and the year ended great.

Randy went over the proposed 2020 budget in detail. A motion to approve the 2020 Budget was unanimously passed.

At this time the annual meeting was suspended in order that the FLC Foundation could hold its annual meeting.

Somer Anderson and Larry Hamre of the Foundation Board gave their reports.

Upon reconvening the First Lutheran annual meeting, James Moore of the Nominating Committee shared the names of the nominees and current members of the boards of FLC. The slate of candidates for 2020 was unanimously approved.

President Aaron Ellingsen shared that he is not seeking a second term for president of FLC. Martin Oyos will take his place as president.

Tom Simmons of FLC spoke at the meeting thanking Aaron and the Executive Committee for all the work they do. He also shared what a great heritage FLC has and will continue to have for many years to come.

The meeting was adjourned, a hymn was sung, and Pastor Lars closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Moore  
Secretary

# REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION

## MARTIN OYOS



Martin Oyos

The year 2020 was known for many things, including First Lutheran's 100th anniversary, the COVID-19 pandemic, and a politically divided nation, to name a few. But most importantly, 2020 A.D., short for 2020 Anno Domini, was 2020 the year of our Lord. Despite a topsy-turvy world filled with changed routines, cancellations, fear, anxiety, increased illness and death,

2020 was nevertheless a year of our Lord, just as every year has been since the birth of Christ. Social distancing and sheltering in place may have kept many of us apart, but none of us were socially distanced from God.

Ministry and mission continued at First Lutheran throughout 2020 due to the dedicated and creative pastors and staff, and you, as a supportive congregation. Great creativity and effort made it possible to move to an online ministry for several months, and those ministries continue to be offered. When it became clear that social distancing, mask wearing, and careful hygiene were significantly effective, we resumed in-person worship and ministries—although temporarily altered.

I am grateful for the First Lutheran COVID-19 Task Force, who met numerous times to provide guidance to the church council by recommending protocols, based upon the best medical and scientific advice for the resumption of in-person worship and ministries. This task force consists of First Lutheran members who are medical professionals as well as First Lutheran staff and pastors.

With vaccines now available, we look forward to the resumption of normal church activities later in 2021. So what will 2021 bring for First Lutheran Church? At least some of the postponed activities for the celebration of First Lutheran's 100th anniversary will be held. The capital campaign will restart. Other traditional activities, such as the annual bazaar, can hopefully be held. Of particular importance, we look forward to worshipping together without social distancing, giving thanks to God, hearing the gospel preached, singing familiar hymns, and greeting each other and guests.

We recognize that for ministry and mission to continue at First Lutheran, younger families are essential. In 2021, the church council will be focused on better understanding the factors that are important to community members who are under the age of 40 and who believe a traditional worship service is important for their faith.

In addition to giving great thanks to the pastors and staff who have worked hard in 2020, I also give thanks to the members of this congregation. You were supportive in your giving and in your prayers for the church. The members of this church are passionate about its ministry and mission. I am grateful to all of the church members who volunteered and served on boards, the church council, and the Executive Committee.

We are a people who place their hope and trust in the Lord. While 2020 was challenging, we were also blessed. No doubt 2021 will bring its own challenges. But we proceed optimistically and with confidence that God will be with us, His light shining through the darkness to guide and support us. Soli Deo Gloria!

## GOD'S GRACE: OUR HERITAGE AND FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

### JEAN HOFF, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



Jean Hoff

On March 13, 2020, after meeting with Pastor John Christopherson and Martin Oyos, it was determined that with the COVID-19 pandemic, the *God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future* capital campaign would go on hiatus, no longer holding meetings or making visits to homes. First Lutheran continues to be blessed by the 122 families and individuals who made a

pledge prior to the hiatus and the five families and individuals who made a pledge during the church closure. It has been amazing to see the money that has been paid on the HVAC

loan since October 2019, \$935,852. The outstanding loan amount is now \$464,158. The other joy has been the work of the parent committee in securing the exquisite paraments that the congregation will see on February 14, 2021. Gratitude and thanks to the five women who worked hundreds of hours on the paraments. I look forward to the time when we can be together again, when we can hug, and when we might be able to start visiting members again about the campaign. Until that time, I hope you will continue to pray for the campaign, looking forward to the many aspects of the campaign that are important to the life of our congregation.

# REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE CONGREGATION

## RANDY EIDE



Randy Eide

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! You, the congregation of First Lutheran Church, have done a tremendous job meeting your pledges for 2020:

- The first quarter ended with a profit of \$11,085 versus a projected loss of (\$69,550). Recall that COVID was just getting underway and to all of us, including your Treasurer, it felt as if the sky was falling. I was quite concerned about our offerings and budget.
- The second quarter was impressive. We ended with a year-to-date (YTD) profit of \$64,132 versus a projected loss of (\$26,423). By now, in-person worship had ended and again, I was concerned about our offerings and budget.
- The third quarter ended with a YTD profit of \$2,058 versus a projected loss of (\$76,432). I was becoming more impressed than ever with how First Lutheran was meeting the budgetary challenges of COVID, especially since the last quarter of the year is usually our best.
- The fourth quarter ended with a profit of \$66,326. We made it! Total year-end revenues were \$2,155,182, surpassing total expenses of \$2,088,856, for an ending profit of \$66,326. Total budgeted pledges for the year were \$1,376,422 and the actual pledges received for the year was \$1,342,066 and total offerings for the year was \$1,575,549

Expense control is always important. All the boards were mindful of their respective budgets with all of them spending at or below budget. Non-departmental expenses is the only expense item coming in at \$155,135, versus budget of \$104,856, due to COVID expenses that, of course, weren't budgeted for.

We are now moving to 2021 and will see what is in store for First Lutheran. I believe we have planned well. With the help of our new Administration Director, Ginger Miller, and Finance Administrator Jody Bymers, a budget for 2021 has been completed. There are always difficult budgeting decisions to be made, and this year is no different.

The First Lutheran Church Foundation continues to be a blessing to First Lutheran. Under their watchful eye, they have managed resources well and are presenting a gift of support for 2021 in the amount of \$424,581. We are blessed with a strong Foundation Board that allows us this support and also supports various other activities of the Church.

I personally want to express my gratitude to the Finance Advisory Team of Pat Kyte and Orrin Anderson. This team serves as an advisory/oversight committee. They both are much appreciated and are valuable to the church with many years of experience, knowledge, and expertise.

Finally, Ginger Miller, our Director of Administration replacing Marilyn McNeill, seems to have "hit the ground running." A big reason for that is the great help she and all of us receive from Jody Bymers. Our finances are complex, and these two are always ready to do what ever it takes.

I leave you with a big thanks for all your support and encourage your future support for this wonderful church home we have. I referenced this verse in my last report, and I think it bears repeating when we consider budgets, pledges, and so on: 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."

## PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET

Proposed 2021 Budget		2020		2021
Description		Budget	Actual	Proposed Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>				
<b>Offerings</b>				
	Pledge Responses	\$ 1,376,422	\$ 1,342,066	\$ 1,373,150
	Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 223,550	\$ 213,429	\$ 208,500
	Special Offerings	\$ 38,500	\$ 20,054	\$ 37,500
	<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 1,638,472</b>	<b>\$ 1,575,549</b>	<b>\$ 1,619,150</b>
<b>Gifts</b>				
	Media	\$ 59,000	\$ 96,973	\$ 79,000
	Foundation	\$ 374,820	\$ 374,820	\$ 396,984
	<b>Total Gifts</b>	<b>\$ 433,820</b>	<b>\$ 471,794</b>	<b>\$ 475,984</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
	Fee Income	\$ 84,658	\$ 92,075	\$ 83,188
	Non-Budgeted	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,764	\$ 15,700
	Operating Reserve			
	<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$ 94,658</b>	<b>\$ 107,838</b>	<b>\$ 98,888</b>
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 2,166,950</b>	<b>\$ 2,155,182</b>	<b>\$ 2,194,022</b>
<b>**EXPENSES</b>				
	Education and Discipleship	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,063	\$ 4,300
	Youth & Family	\$ 45,950	\$ 37,995	\$ 48,700
	Evangelism & Outreach	\$ 52,500	\$ 47,300	\$ 52,500
	Care & Health	\$ 11,700	\$ 10,646	\$ 11,700
	Personnel	\$ 1,505,000	\$ 1,435,477	\$ 1,483,152
	Finance, Property & Admin	\$ 294,970	\$ 282,614	\$ 311,820
	Worship & Music	\$ 61,375	\$ 28,868	\$ 61,175
	Stewardship & Giving	\$ 77,850	\$ 78,500	\$ 82,150
	Non Departmental	\$ 104,855	\$ 155,136	\$ 127,875
	Welcome & Community	\$ 8,650	\$ 8,259	\$ 10,650
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,166,950</b>	<b>\$ 2,088,856</b>	<b>\$ 2,194,022</b>
	Profit / Loss	\$ -	\$ 66,326	\$ -
<b>Net Revenues/(Expenses)</b>		<b>\$ 2,166,950</b>	<b>\$ 2,155,182</b>	<b>\$ 2,194,022</b>



# REPORT OF THE SENIOR PASTOR

## JOHN CHRISTOPHERSON



Pr. John  
Christopherson

### A Living Hope

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading ...”*

*(I Peter 1:3-4; RSV)*

Dear Family Members of First Lutheran Church:

With 2020 hind-sight, this past year began with high expectations: plans had been carefully laid-out for First Lutheran’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (with well-beloved former pastors and musicians returning throughout the year, a world-class concert orchestrated by Zachary Brockhoff on September 13, and an All Saints’ Sunday 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Worship) ... our capital campaign, “God’s Grace: Our Heritage & Future” had already received pledges nearing \$1.5 million by February ... Youth & Family Ministries even had 2020 Summer Bible Camp schedules readied for June 1 though August 14 ... a Lenten theme of “Witnesses” with an accompanying art exhibit by fellow artists of FLC had an extra splash of color as Pr. Jason Burggraff and Pr. Dave Johnson stepped into our pulpit with gusto once more (in February) ... and of course, our matriarchs of faith in WECLA, had their twelve month prospectus all polished, including our great heritage of all-things-Bazaar! But then the “*Ides of March*” (Shakespeare) hit. And they hit our congregation and our community, our nation and our world hard, very hard, with the dark pall of the COVID-19 pandemic – with its inexplicable, insidious, and for many, unbelievable nature.

The streets of Sioux Falls slowly became quiet. Many of the windows of stores and restaurants were darkened. Schools and hospitals went on “lock-down.” Loved ones in our retirement homes and various care centers were asked to stay “in place,” shuttered behind closed doors. And we all, to some degree, felt like those first disciples of Jesus after his crucifixion – accounted in St. John’s gospel – closed-in behind locked doors, frozen with fear (John 20:19).

However, if you continue to read this witness in St. John’s gospel, Christ enters through those closed doors and hearts with a word of comfort and hope: “*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you*” (John 20:21). And so this story of comfort and hope has continued these past 12 months among the “priesthood of all believers” (Luther) of First Lutheran Church. President Oyos gathered a top-flight COVID Task Force (including physicians and nurses, pastors, and professional staff) – often meeting twice a month – to serve

our Church Council with advisement on various decisions regarding our worship as well as ministry and missional life. Careful safety protocols have been put in place for funerals, weddings, small groups on campus, in-person worship, etc. And at various points along the way, many unprecedented and difficult decisions (that no one “didn’t care for”) had to be made: especially surrounding the time of Lent/Easter, the Bazaar, and Advent/Christmas. But we kept reminding one another that God is always with us as well as we for one another in a solidarity of faith (especially drawing upon a favorite Psalm: “*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change ... For the Lord of hosts is with us*” Ps. 46:1-2a, 7a). Paradoxically, I think our congregation in many ways has grown stronger in these days, coming to have a deeper understanding and appreciation for “the living hope” we have in Christ’s death and resurrection for us, as well as St. Paul’s observation: “When I am weak, then I am strong ... coming to understand that God’s grace is sufficient for [us]” (II Cor. 12:9-10). I encourage you to go back to the Nov. issue of **First Word** and take-in the wisdom of Dr. Barney Brandenburg’s article: “*Ten Things I Hope Never Go Back to ‘Normal’ After the Pandemic.*”

And it is here that I join in this refrain from Psalm 46, of the light of Christ’s inextinguishable flame of a living hope, and Paul’s humble witness of faith ... celebrating a “very present help in trouble” ... a “living hope” ... and “humble word of God’s grace” ... continuing in and through our leadership and staff of First Lutheran, especially for the creativity and innovation that has let Christ’s light shine through the darkness (John 1:5 Isn’t Jim Sturdevant’s Christmas Candlelight painting amazing?!). I think that our gifted Communication Director, Jodi Hoyt states it best:

*“If there’s been a silver lining through this universal time of COVID-19, it’s that we [as a family of First Lutheran Church] have discovered a great number of digital channels and pathways to stay connected with the members of First Lutheran. COVID didn’t close the church; it opened new doors to us all. Stay connected as we continue to navigate these new waters together”* (**First Word**; September 2020, p.1)

And so, just to mention a few of these creative innovations of continued ministry and mission: “*Phone Buddies*” and “*Drive-Thru Communion*” (Thanks you, Pr. Katherine and Jordan Stone), the “*FLC-Today*” daily posts by staff and “*Holy Time*” monthly posts by various families and individuals of FLC, *Live-Streamed Worship and Funeral Services* archived on our *YouTube Channel* (Thank you, Jodi, Susan and our Media Staff), “*Hymns For Home*” (Thanks, Zachary), *Summer Evening Parking Lot Worship* (Thank you, Larry Olson & Friends), the “*Do You*

*Know*” series, Virtual and In-Person *Family Style Scripture First*, “*Thanksgiving-To-Go*” Meals and “*Christmas-To-Go*” Worship Kits (Thank you, Marnie and Youth & Family Staff) ... and as of today (January 3<sup>rd</sup>) the church doors are back open for ministry and fellowship with Quilters, The Shop, Bible Studies, Worship Services ... Yes, a living hope, in Christ, “*the Light who shines in the darkness*” (John 1:5) ...

Friends and family of First Lutheran: Hope, a “living hope” in Christ, is stronger than COVID, yes, even over death. For it creates something new out of the destruction caused by death (Rev. 21:5); it bears everything and overcomes everything, it never ends (I Cor. 13:7). Our living hope in Christ is at work where the powers of death and destruction are strongest: in war and persecution, homelessness and loneliness, pandemics and poverty.

So, who can bear to look at the darkened picture of our world in such chaos in our time? Only those who can look at another picture behind and beyond it – the picture of Christ’s cross and resurrection for us, a picture of hope. Yes, hope is ever present, here and there, in the smallest and most hidden ways (Matthew 13:31-35) as in the greatest and most visible ones – rescuing life from death and all darkness. Yes, this gift of hope in Christ gives us strength to carry on, in ministry and mission – for hope is stronger than any pandemic, even death. Thanks be to God.

Blessings in this living hope, in Christ, in the New Year.



John R. Christopherson  
Senior Pastor

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR LARS OLSON



Pr. Lars Olson

The watch word for the past year has to be “Resilient” because through all of the losses and struggles, First Lutheran Church and its members didn’t just make lemonade out of the lemons life handed us. We had planned a yearlong celebration of this congregation’s glorious 100th year of ministry, but instead we were given a year of closing the building and keeping safe distance from one another.

We had planned a year focused on building community and welcoming new people into the life of faith, but we got handed a year of worrying about how to keep people safe and wondering if people would even want to come to church anymore. We had hoped for a year of stability and growth, but what God gave us was a year of clinging to Christ and his promises that give us hope through a challenging year. That is the definition of resilience, for as the events of this year twisted and deformed our intended shape and path, the hope of Christ kept us together, moving through every trial and allowing us to express gratitude and hope as our ministries shifted, morphed, and performed in ways we hadn’t even imagined.

A few highlights from the year:

- **Sabbatical**—Thank you for allowing me a three-month Sabbatical this year. I very much appreciate the congregation, my pastoral colleagues, the staff, and council making time and space for me to have this time of rest and rejuvenation. The extended break provided much needed stress relief as well as a whole summer to spend with my children riding bikes, visiting parks, and playing around. I cannot say thank you enough.

- **Staffing Changes**—Every year our staff changes, but this year had significant changes. Pastor Katherine resigned from her position overseeing our Care & Health ministries, along with Jordan Stone as the Care & Health Coordinator. Heather Smith resigned as Children’s Minister. Dave Wilson resigned as Facilities Manager. And finally, Marilyn McNeill resigned after serving for 18 years as our Church Administrator. Those are significant changes, but we have done well with our new hires as well. Kent Wilson (Facilities Manager), Valerie Pherson (Children’s Minister), and Ginger Miller (Director of Administration) have all added their talents toward the ministry of First Lutheran. We are grateful for them and look forward to all they will do in Jesus’ name for the people of First Lutheran.
- **Virtual Ministry**—Who could have imagined how quickly this congregation would make transitions to Zoom meetings, virtual classes, and daily video updates? It has been a steep learning curve for all, but there is so much to appreciate here. Even the WELCA Bible studies let me know how much they missed the one video lesson I didn’t record in December. It seems like there is a much greater ability to adapt and use technology in our congregation than we have assumed, and I hope we continue to expand and use all of these tools for the work of the church and sharing the gospel into the next century of ministry.

I hope the resilience of the past year continues into the next, and I have every reason to believe it will because of the hope we share in Christ Jesus. The losses may seem large, and the difficulties may overwhelm us some days, but together we endure and encourage one another in the life of faith trusting in the goodness, mercy, and love of God in Jesus Christ!

# REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

## JEFF BACKER



Pr. Jeff Backer

“Well...I am glad that’s over.” This, I am sure, will likely be a similar perspective of our ministry in 2020.

As most of you heard in my January 3 sermon, on New Year’s Eve, encouraged by my wife, we each went around the room to share something we were thankful for in 2020. And at first, what I thought would

be challenging turned out to be a blessing in and of itself as we named numerous things we were grateful for in 2020. I used that same logic in writing this. Even with all of this year’s challenges, when we take pause, we can see how God is at work in and through this family of faith. Here are just a few of those.

### Lowell Elementary

The relationship that has been developed and continues with the Lowell Elementary School staff and community is amazing. Our access to children and their families through this partnership has been truly amazing. Though we had to cease many of the things we had planned to do in the spring, we went into creative mode with Sarah Herbert, the regular volunteers, and the school administration and staff. When school resumed in the fall, we have found many creative ways to be a part of that community.

I am most proud and thankful for being able to provide a Family Crisis Fund for the school principal, Diane Kennedy, to use when a family is in crisis. This fund is not used to address chronic needs but acute challenges in school families. This idea was brought to the Evangelism & Outreach Board by Kristen Skogstad, a school principal at Garfield Elementary, FLC member, and member of the Youth & Family board.

Volunteers gathered in August and help assemble divider screens to help students social distance from each other. It was like putting together 100 jigsaw puzzles, but we had fun doing it!

I am also grateful we were able to sponsor 19 classrooms, along with volunteers—plus the music teachers were sponsored by our Agape Bell Choir and an anonymous donor. These sponsorships went to support teachers and students in an amazing way.

Lowell Elementary has no functioning PTA, so this gift was a great way to support their needs.

The last thing that absolutely was amazing was that we were able to partner with Lowell to purchase a book vending machine. This great gift will be used to encourage good attendance and good behaviors, and ultimately to encourage increased literacy. The principal of Lowell, Diane Kennedy, was SOOOO excited when I called her to tell her to get the machine ordered. This was the fulfillment of a long-desired dream. I look forward to hearing about the impact of this amazing gift to the Lowell community. I cannot thank Sarah Herbert, our Lowell coordinator, and all of the volunteers enough.

### Events

Because of COVID, many of the events we had planned for in 2020 were canceled or postponed. We look forward to the day when we can openly gather again, and we are excited to again host summer outside worships, the Block Party, Trunk or Treat, and many other community-building opportunities.

### Virtual New Member Class

In October, along with Deb Nelson, Jodi Hoyt, the Welcome & Community Board, and a zealous group of shepherds (current members of FLC), we hosted a virtual new member class. We installed 36 new members in that class, and due to the need to be intentional, many of those new members have built good relationships with their shepherds.

As we look forward to gathering again as a community of faith, I would encourage each of you to recognize the people in your life who do not know the joy and freedom of Jesus Christ. Tell them, invite them to worship here, encourage them to be a part of this community; be a minister of God’s grace in Christ Jesus. THIS is the most important thing you can do...

May your joy be complete in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!  
Pastor Jeff

# REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## **Nominating Committee Members**

Barney Brandenburg, John Kittleson, Suzanne Toll,  
Marilyn Van Demark, and Pastor John Christopherson

## **Officers**

(1-Year Term)

President – Martin Oyos

Vice-President – Michael Kedik

Secretary – Suzie Hernes

Treasurer – Randy Eide

Member-At-Large – Jaci Aberson

Member-At-Large – Lori Wilbur

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

Care and Health – Barney (Verdayne) Brandenburg

Education and Discipleship – Lindsey Olson Gray

Evangelism and Outreach – Leslie Barness

Finance, Admin, and Property – Lyle Eidsness

Stewardship and Giving – Mason Van Essen

Welcome and Community – Deb Nelson

Worship and Music – James Moore

Youth and Family – Suzy Schramm

Foundation President – Somer Anderson

First Lutheran Church Women – Jean Hoff

## **Care and Health**

(3-Year Term)

Starr Fedders

Michelle Nelson

Jason Van Ruler

## **Education and Discipleship**

(3-Year Term)

Soren Leiseth

Jim Sturdevant

Andrea Van Essen

## **Evangelism and Outreach**

(3-Year Term)

Leslie Barness (Chair)

Justin Goens

Cherri Hopper

Jon Martin

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

(3-Year Term)

Orrin Anderson

Jon Beatch

Randy Eide

Pat Kyte

Todd Smith

## **Stewardship and Giving**

(3-Year Term)

Sadie Klemme

Birgit Peterson

## **Welcome and Community**

(3-Year Term)

Chad Kucker

Amanda Olinger

## **Worship and Music**

(3-Year Term)

Peter Hoelsing

## **Youth and Family**

(3-Year Term)

Les Smith

# CARE AND HEALTH MINISTRIES

## BARNEY BRANDENBURG, CHAIR



Barney  
Brandenburg

**Mission:** The Care and Health Ministries of FLC promote the health and well-being of body, mind, and spirit, as well as tend to the 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 FLC and the wider community, striving to empower and equip all Christians to compassionately care for others, following the example of Jesus.

This year has been a challenging yet gratifying one for our board because of the limitations placed on us all due to the mitigation strategies related to the pandemic. The Board had been involved in supporting, coordinating, or assisting many ongoing programs as in previous years. However, many of our usual programs needed to be altered or placed on hiatus because of those mitigation strategies.

### **Current programs involving Health and Wellness activities:**

- Walking programs such as Stepping into Health and the Church Walkers were altered to encourage independent walking, running, or biking a marathon early in the year.
- Recently, another program entitled walk/pray for the vaccine this fall came to a successful conclusion with many participants.
- Pickleball shifted to outdoors when weather allowed.
- Yoga and chair exercise programs were placed on hiatus.
- Delta Dental Mobile was canceled for the season, and the money was used to encourage health-related activities at Lowell Elementary
- Medical equipment lending and medical equipment recycling programs are available.

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

- Visitation ministries to the hospitalized, home-bound, or residents in assisted living and long-term care facilities needed to be mostly changed to eliminate in-person contact.
- The Grieving with Grace support group continued using creative, safe methods.
- Project CAR received financial support.
- Sad isn't Bad continues with alterations.
- Support for mental illness through NAMI virtual walk.
- Prayer Chain and Prayer Shawl ministries continue.
- Addiction recovery support through AA on campus is on hiatus until we can reopen safely.
- Cancer support through the music of Sue Severson CDs

### **New Programs for this year include:**

- The Phone Buddies program matches people who committed to keeping in touch once or more each week by phone, sharing prayer and devotional readings to support each other spiritually.
- A senior exercise program called Faithfully Fit began in March but had to be placed on hiatus. Videos were created by Howard and Arlene Bich.

### **Future areas being developed include:**

- Programming to support patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and their caregivers.
- End of life/palliative care/hospice support and elder care ministry

The Care and Health Coordinator position had been ably filled by Jordan Stone from April 2019. She made the difficult decision in June 2020 to take a position with the 211 Helpline Services to help counsel callers who are struggling with the effects of the COVID pandemic.

In November 2020, Pastor Katherine also made the decision to resign her position to better assist their children with in-home education through the hybrid education offered by the Sioux Falls School District. Her leadership has been invaluable to our board, and her direction will be dearly missed.

Because the position of Care and Health Coordinator no longer exists at FLC and the pastoral position is currently unfilled, our board spent a great deal of time reviewing the needs of our congregation and looking at personnel opportunities to meet those needs. With the critical input of Pastor Lars, it was determined there is need for a director level position, and a job description was developed. It is hoped the position can be filled in early 2021.

Without the hard work of the board members, these ministries would not be possible. I give thanks for the members who have served the board so diligently.

**2020 Board members:** Linda Braun, Jean Eidsness, Gene Erickson, Cindy Forsburg, Kathleen Moulton, Brenda Roberts, Cheryl Satterlee, and Marilyn VanDemark.

We welcome further input for program development in areas of perceived need within our congregation or in the broader community that fits our mission. Please email if you have areas of concern you feel we could address, [brandenvfp@gmail.com](mailto:brandenvfp@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,  
V. R. “Barney” Brandenburg, Chair

# EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

## LINDSEY OLSON GRAY, CHAIR



Lindsey Olson Gray

**Mission:** The Board of Education and 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 2020

- Regular educational programs continued to be offered throughout the year, both virtually and in person. Some examples were Scripture First, Beyond Basics (offered in-person by Pastor Jeff), and Bible Studies (offered in-person and via Zoom).
- Lenten “Witnesses” Study—In addition to the Lenten services, weekly podcasts were offered. Our board also organized and arranged for a “Lenten Art Series” to highlight congregational members talents. We offered the art series one Wednesday evening prior to our COVID shut-down.
- Educational Forums continued to be offered through virtual means. “The Atonement” series started in May and ran for five sessions featuring Pastor John, Nick Christopherson, and Dr. Steven Paulson.
- “The Trial of Jesus” was presented and recorded virtually via Zoom. Professor Van Patten, USD Law, along with congregational members discussed the trial of Jesus from a legal standpoint on Palm Sunday.
- The “Holy Time” devotional series was created, developed, and written by congregational members. The devotionals were published weekly from March through August.

### 2020 Board Members

Lindsey Olson Gray (chair)  
Andrea VanEssen (co-chair)  
Soren Leiseth (secretary)  
Jody Elton  
Will Hangman  
Ryan Hoffman  
Adam Smith  
Pastor John Christopherson

### Goals for 2021

- Continue to refine educational offerings to make them as accessible as possible to all FLC members.
- Continue to develop and use a variety of media modes to reach the different demographics in our congregation.
- Offer interesting and pertinent educational offerings for all congregational members that meet the criteria of our mission statement.
- Offer educational events that aid in empowering congregational members for their participation through leading forums or book clubs, creating or showcasing artwork or music, and recording blogs/vlogs/videos.
- Continue to develop, support, and promote Adult Scripture First.



# EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

## COLLEEN KOKENGE, CHAIR



Colleen Kokenge

**Mission:** 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
- Emmaus Road Ministries (formerly LIZWAN) and EELCO (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia)
- Companion synods in Cameroon and Nicaragua

### Small group ministry teams in 2020 (not all-inclusive):

- 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.
- Worship in the Park is a once-per-summer, off-site worship and picnic.
- Jeff Backer serves on the Charis Ministry Board, which includes Food to You Mobile Food Pantry, Healthy Rides, and Necessities for Neighbors.
- Sarah Herbert leads a ministry team that builds relationships with Lowell Elementary School. Ministry support in 2020 included:



- Support for the divider project prior to the start of the school year

- Provided money for the Book Vending Machine
- Funded the Family Crisis Fund
- Support for teachers for 19 classrooms and for music teachers
- Participated with Youth and Family to provide trick or treat bags for Halloween and Christmas giving bags to students
- 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 collaborate with First United Methodist Church to provide meals on Sunday evening each eight weeks through the Night Watch program.
- 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. This board hosted flu shot clinics for undocumented individuals and those needing vaccines due to financial challenges in 2020.
- 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 students Elias Johnson-Youngquist and Adam Guthmiller as well as support of the Luther House of Study.

Due to the COVID virus, we were unable to host the block party or participate at the Sidewalk Arts Festival but hope to do so in 2021.

### 2020 Board Members:

We are thankful for the board members who served in 2020 along with Pastor Jeff Backer. They include Colleen Kokenge (chair), Leslee Barnes, Cherie Hopper, Jordan Brockhoff (secretary), Dan Lindquist, Jason Schramm, Val Peters, and Jennifer Abrahamson.

### 2021 Goals

The Evangelism and Outreach Board will continue to develop the Children's Evangelism program with the Youth and Family Board and the Discipleship and Education Board. In addition, emphasis will be placed on Evangelism training with Pr. Sarah Ciavarrri in order to enhance our ability to build relationships, serve our neighbors, and share the gospel.

# FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, AND PROPERTY

## LYLE EIDSNESS, CHAIR



Lyle Eidsness

**Mission:** 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 2020

- Spring and fall cleanup of the First Lutheran campus, and pre-Easter cleaning of the entire sanctuary
- Replaced a 60-year-old fan in the tower entrance
- Held a successful fall clean up—cleaned up flower beds and trimmed trees and shrubs
- Installed Historical Marker initiated in 2019 as an Eagle Scout project by FLC member Adam Monson. The marker commemorating First Lutheran's 100 years of history was installed on the southeast section of our Dakota Avenue lawn and dedicated July 20, 2020.
- Purchased and installed an air exchanger in the Sanctuary and the Welcome Center

### 2020 Board Members and Support Staff

I would like to thank the members of the Finance, Administration, and Property Board for their dedication to service in this difficult year for all of our FLC family. I continue to be amazed by the scope and breadth of knowledge and skill of these members. Those serving in 2020 were Colin Barron, Tom Christopherson, Jon Beach, Orrin Anderson, R.J. Lunn, Mike McElroy, and Marc Toft. We also said goodbye in 2020 to our board advisor and FLC Business Administrator, Marilyn McNeill, as well as our Facilities Manager and liaison board member, Dave Wilson. They will be greatly missed! However, we are looking forward to a full year of working with Director of Administration, Ginger Miller, and Facilities Manager, Kent Wilson, and his excellent staff, Jeff Hartnett and Rick East. I am privileged and blessed to work with this group of people.

### Goals for 2021

- Pay off HVAC loan
- Repair damaged brick and wood in steeple
- Replace windows throughout the facility that have broken seals
- Update the Welcome Center restrooms
- Replace the remaining fan in the tower entrance





# STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

## BIRGIT PETERSON, CHAIR



Birgit Peterson

### 2020 Goals and Accomplishments:

In early 2020, the board defined a set of objectives to guide its activities for the year:

- Inspire generosity through greater engagement of the FLC congregation in the life and missions of the church
- Identify opportunities to offer and encourage stewardship education

- Encourage online giving
- Develop the annual fall stewardship campaign

The Stewardship & Giving Board continued to focus on member engagement as an important aspect of congregational willingness to support the life and missions of the church. We believe those who feel a connection to the church community and its many missions will support these through various forms of giving. To help foster member engagement and inspire giving, the board decided to conduct a series of interviews with congregation members to learn and share all the different ways they find connection and community at First Lutheran and how they chose to give of their time, talent, and treasure.

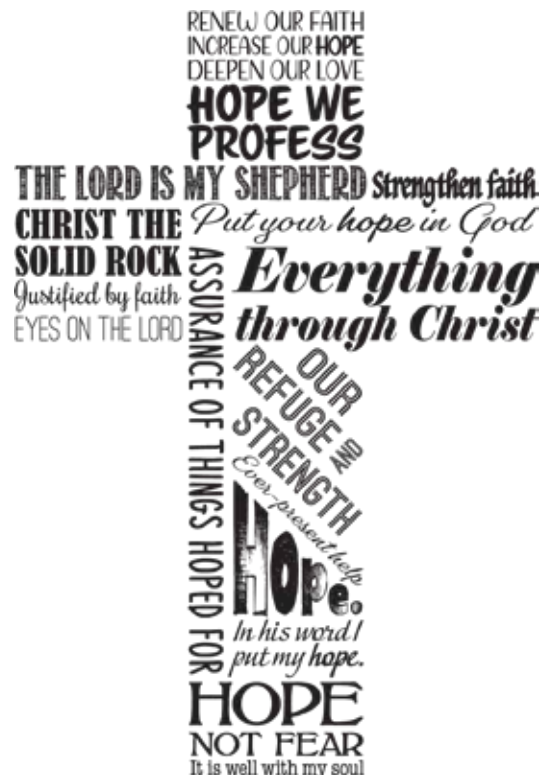
Unfortunately, the ability to focus on this, as well as to develop and offer stewardship education programs, was largely derailed by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic, as well as the harsh winter of 2019-20 also highlighted the value of online giving in times when we are not able to gather in person. We therefore continued with appeals for members to consider enrolling in online giving. We anticipate that all the planning and discussion that has occurred in 2020 will see fruition in 2021.

One of the main tasks of the Stewardship & Giving Board is to develop and carry out the annual fall stewardship campaign. As we were deciding on a theme for this year's campaign, the board reflected on the role of the church in times of trouble and uncertainty and selected "With Hope, We Give." Our desire was to emphasize that First Lutheran continues to be a source of hope and comfort for many. And, that through our collective giving, First Lutheran is enabled to do so much in God's name.

### 2021 Goals

- Conduct member engagement interviews that we can share with the congregation and learn from to inform messaging, educational opportunities, and discussion
- Develop virtual opportunities to encourage engagement until "normal" church activities can resume
- Build on this past fall's "With Hope, We Give" stewardship campaign through the winter and spring and into the 2021 campaign theme
- Develop educational/small group discussions centered on the concept of stewardship and how this is meaningful to our daily lives as well as the life of the church

In conclusion, the above show 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.

Excited to help make change happen, in January and February of 2020, the Welcome & Community Board spent time with each of the boards discussing hospitality, their board's role in hospitality, and their personal role in hospitality at First Lutheran. We discussed how hospitality helps us build relationships and community.

And then we started attending church services and activities from home. Hospitality didn't go away at that time; we just had to start thinking about how hospitality works during a pandemic. The timing of studying hospitality had been really good. We commend the staff and boards for continuing to build community by changing the way they thought through hospitality and communications "outside the walls" and eventually "inside the walls" of our physical building.

While we generally have three New Member classes each year, this year we only had two. The first was in February before the pandemic, and the second was in the fall. We made some changes, and we held the overview session virtually via Zoom. The new members were introduced in the weekend service that they chose to attend. Shepherds were assigned to the new members to guide and build relationships with them.

The Welcome & Community Board looks forward to 2021 as we continue to focus on hospitality and its role in building community at First Lutheran.

### Accomplishments in 2020:

- Supported the greeting and check-in process in response to worship services protocol changes this year
- Conducted a virtual New Member class to bring them in during a pandemic; the Shepherd process was expanded to encourage engagement of these new members
- Attended hospitality and communications training focused on each during a pandemic

### Our Focus in 2021:

- Determine hospitality changes that need to be made to support protocols that are set
- Engage New Members by supporting and enhancing the Shepherd processes
- Reimagine Katie's Commons and hospitality on Sunday mornings as we work our way out of the current pandemic
- Expand everyone's perspective of what hospitality is for FLC and everyone's role in it
- Implement changes identified during hospitality training conducted in early 2020
- Enhance information in the FLC database to ensure ease in connecting members to our ministries



# WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRIES

## JAMES MOORE, CHAIR



James Moore

**Mission:** According to the bylaws, the Board of Worship & 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 strategic goals, capital needs, special projects and services, outside concerts, and the maintenance and enhancement of resources necessary for worship, including volunteers and personnel.

Our plans for 2020 were greatly altered by the pandemic. We accomplished the following:

- Welcomed Pastors Jason Burgraff, Dave Johnson, and Peter Strommen to preach as part of the 100th Anniversary
- Deferred indefinitely other planned anniversary activities, including other visiting pastors and musicians, and the concert scheduled for September 13, 2020, to feature a commissioned work by Wayne Oquin and organist Paul Jacobs of the Julliard School
- Have maintained contact with all persons involved in deferred anniversary activities and hope to proceed with the anniversary concert in September 2021
- Worked with Wayne Oquin to add to the commissioned work
- Provided online and virtual worship throughout 2020 when in-person worship was not recommended or practical
- Adjusted Sunday morning worship schedules when we resumed in-person worship and worked closely with FLC’s COVID Task Force to follow protocols to keep worshippers safe—including extensive discussion about the distribution of communion
- Staff created extensive new digital media made available via YouTube and Facebook for members of the congregation and choirs, including “Here I Sing, Hymns for Home,” and online Carol Choir rehearsals



- Staff worked with individual musicians and members of FLC’s handbell choirs to provide live music as part of in-person worship services
- Worked with pastors, staff, and volunteers to address transitions and planning for the ushers, altar guild, and communion servers
- Worked with the volunteers on the paraments committee to complete the process of designing and obtaining from Ecclesiastical Sewing new paraments for all of the seasons of the church year. This project was supported by designated gifts to the capital campaign and approved by the Council. It included valuable work from the volunteers in the shop to build storage racks for the new paraments, which should be delivered early in 2021 and will be put to use upon arrival.
- Deferred until resumption of the capital campaign all other worship-related projects, including a new sound system and replacement of the panels in the Sanctuary ceiling, which have exceeded their useful life and have begun falling to the floor
- Have started conversation about worship life on the other side of the pandemic, including how to encourage people to return to worship and how to recruit new volunteers in all areas involving worship participation

We’re grateful beyond words to Doris Bushard for over 20 years of service as coordinator of the Altar Guild. Doris announced her retirement from that position in November. She has been extraordinarily effective in her role caring for robes for the pastors, cantors, and acolytes; caring for the linens used in the chancel and the chapel; supervising the cleaning of the chancel and the chapel; supervising the Altar Guild captains; and otherwise overseeing and fostering all of the activities of the Altar Guild. No one will be able to replace Doris, merely to succeed her

### Members of the Board in 2020:

Mary Ryrholm, Mary Oyos, Mary Eich, Jean Bubak, Marti Thompson, John Hegg, Joel Nevin, Tracie Osthus, and James Moore. Starting in 2021, we will miss Joel Nevin as he has completed his second term, and we are grateful for his service. Pastor John Christopherson, Zachary Brockhoff, and Shirley Barlow serve as staff representatives to the Board.

# YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

## SUZY SCHRAMM, CHAIR



Suzy Schramm

Jesus loves you! You are never alone! These are words all of us need to hear and that our youth and family ministry team proclaimed in 2020 every chance it got. While 2020 presented challenge after challenge, we carried on in order to assure folks knew these things to be true. We found new and unique ways to share the Gospel with children, youth, and families—and had a blast in doing so.

Thank you to EVERYONE for their support of these ministries.

Please continue to pray for pastors and staff, join our Scripture First parents' group on Facebook, subscribe to the FLC YouTube channel, send your financial support, and volunteer. It takes a lot of teamwork, and we could not do it without everyone.

### Board Members who served in 2020:

Katie Bossman, Sandy Fink, Sarah Muller, Eric Sather, Suzy Schramm, Kristin Skogstad, and Corey Visscher.

### FLC Youth and Family Staff

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

### 2020 Highlights:

- Milestone Ministries
- FAITH5<sup>®</sup> videos of our FLC families
- Lord's Prayer treasure hunt (outdoors at FLC)
- FLC Today videos from staff
- 4:12 gatherings and outdoor movie nights
- Virtual Scripture First
- Summer high school small Groups
- Preparation and fundraising for the next ELCA Youth Gathering (pushed out to 2022)
- Planning and fundraising for future mission trips (Colombia, Peru, others)
- Family Scripture First (in Reformation Hall)
- Children's messages during worship
- Youth Group (via Zoom and outdoors)
- Youth Group bonfires
- Middle school midweek Zoom gatherings
- VBS care packages delivered to families' doorsteps
- Monthly board meetings
- Facebook groups
- Many deliveries to families' doorsteps with activities, crafts, lessons, and more



Katie

Sandy

Sarah

Eric

Kristin

Corey



Marnie

Elias

Mark

Valerie



# AUXILIARY: FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (FLCW)

## KATHY STELZER, PRESIDENT



Kathy Stelzer

**Purpose:** As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves 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.

### Programs:

Regular WELCA monthly board, general, and circle meetings began with the WELCA General Meetings:

- January 9, Center of Hope
- February 6, John Cerwinski, retired FLC custodian
- March 5, Harmony South Dakota

During that time, FLCW circles hosted three receptions for former pastors as part of the First Lutheran Church 100-Year Celebration. These included Pastors Jason Burggraff and Dave Johnson in February and Pastor Peter Strommen in March.

But this was the beginning of a year like none other for FLCW because of the pandemic. Our nine circles either met in private homes, online, or canceled. With ongoing organizational concerns, the FLCW Executive Committee began to conduct voting via email, and FLCW Board Meetings were held according to guidelines. Of special note is the outstanding leadership contributed by the Executive Committee and the cooperation of the Board. These efforts enabled FLCW to facilitate the following:

- Faithful workers, many from Hannah Circle, conducted successful garage, coffee, and lefse sales.
- FLCW will host the S.D. Synodical annual meeting in 2021.

- Jean Hoff headed a silverware committee of Marcia Huffman, Lola Coon, Lyla Peterson, and Kathy Stelzer that led to the redistribution and replacement of silverware in all FLC dining areas. A \$500 donation will support future FLC needs.
- With limited access to the FLC campus, dedicated quilters, led by JoAnn Gibson, completed the following stewardship projects for 2020: 134 quilts sent overseas, 30 lap robes, 25 baby quilts, 30 knit caps and scarves, 100 layettes sent overseas, while dress kits and 100 personal care kits await distribution. Locally, 180 quilts were distributed (many requests). Over 400 laundry/carrying bags for Church on the Street were made by Janet Martin. A multifaceted amazing group, these quilters find joy in serving!
- The FLCW/WELCA Directory was updated.
- A FLCW/WELCA Bylaws Committee is updating them.
- Circles are ongoing in collecting donations and funds.

Finally, our great concern was, “What to do with our canceled annual bazaar and, therefore, its mission outreach?” Because of strong FLC community support, we decided to approach members, volunteers, and friends about donating in honor of the 100-year efforts of the First Lutheran Church Women. Letters were sent, and these gifts (listed on page 20) were added to the FLCW 2020 Bazaar Fund. Any additional gifts (totaling \$10,112 to date) will go to the 2021 Bazaar Fund. We “REJOICE” at this response and thank all who helped to continue the FLCW mission work!

Please see page 20 for the 2020 Bazaar Fund disbursements as well as offerings that were disbursed from 2019 Bazaar funds.



2020 FLCW/WELCA Officers

# 2020 FLCW/WELCA FUNDS DISBURSEMENT

## 2020 FLCW Bazaar Funds Disbursed:

Center of Hope . . . . .	\$1,000
Church on the Street . . . . .	\$2,000
Destiny Healthcare International . . . . .	\$1,000
Family Visitation Center . . . . .	\$2,000
FLC Broadcasts: Christmas & Mother's Day . . . . .	\$2,700
Helping Hands for Haiti . . . . .	\$500
Helpline Center . . . . .	\$500
Inter-Lakes Community Action . . . . .	\$500
Lutheran World Relief . . . . .	\$1,000
Lutheran World Relief - Hunger . . . . .	\$2,000
Multi-Cultural Center . . . . .	\$1,000
Pineridge Reconciliation Center . . . . .	\$1,000
Union Gospel Mission . . . . .	\$1,200
Pueblo de Dios . . . . .	\$2,000
St. Francis House . . . . .	\$500
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$18,900</b>

## Remaining 2019 Bazaar Funds Disbursed in 2020:

Hispanic Ministries (food) . . . . .	\$500
African Ministries (food) . . . . .	\$1,000
Meals from the Heart . . . . .	\$750
Project Car . . . . .	\$1,000
Food to You . . . . .	\$2,000
Empire Mental Health Support . . . . .	\$1,000
Church on the Street . . . . .	\$420
Church on the Street (Laundry with Love) . . . . .	\$1,400
Luther House of Study (Stormo Gifts Memorial) . . . . .	\$200
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$8,270</b>

## AUXILIARY: LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION (LMM) ORRIN ANDERSON, PRESIDENT



Orrin Anderson

*“The Rewards of work well done will be worth the effort.”* Nehemiah 4:6

Lutheran Men in Mission and Volunteers have in previous years completed work in many areas of First Lutheran Church and ministries of the Church. They have done it well and enjoyed the results of their efforts.

Funds have been generated by working First Lutheran Church parking lots adjacent to the Washington Pavilion.

In 2020, the pandemic curtailed both fund raising as well as performing physical tasks within the First Lutheran Church campus. We were unable to participate in the annual bazaar in set up, working the parking lot, and cleanup. Other areas include setting up the Christmas trees in the Sanctuary and providing help with funeral receptions.

Individuals were able to complete some physical tasks. First was the re-purposing of pews removed from the North Balcony. A more involved project was constructing several storage racks for the newly purchased paraments.

Funds available were disbursed to:

- Project CAR
- Lutheran House of Study as part of First Lutheran Church’s pledge
- The purchase of an air compressor for the shop
- The purchase of six American flags to be displayed outside the Church on appropriate days

As we look forward to 2021, we welcome all members of First Lutheran Church to join Lutheran Men in Mission and Volunteers in the woodshop, working funeral receptions, or working at the parking lots raising funds to disburse for worthy causes, as well as joining us for companionship.

# PARISH STATISTICS

For the Year Ending December 31, 2020 (Unaudited)

Description		Audited			Unaudited
		2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>PARISH STATISTICS</b>					
<b>Regular Member Giving</b>					
	Pledge Responses	\$ 1,322,062	\$ 1,320,328	\$ 1,375,150	\$ 1,342,066
	Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 255,911	\$ 234,801	\$ 221,361	\$ 213,429
	Special Offerings	\$ 36,221	\$ 38,429	\$ 40,697	\$ 20,054
	<b>Regular Member Giving</b>	<b>\$ 1,614,194</b>	<b>\$ 1,593,558</b>	<b>\$ 1,637,208</b>	<b>\$ 1,575,549</b>
	<b>Average Giving To Gen Offering Per Confirmed Member</b>	<b>\$ 590</b>	<b>\$ 569</b>	<b>\$ 630</b>	<b>\$ 699</b>
<b>DESIGNATED Member Giving</b>					
	Capital Campaign & God's Gifts, Our Heritage	\$ 47,591	\$ 76,006	\$ 547,382	\$ 757,681
	Campus Improvement	\$ 215	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Adult Disc / Library / Book Studies	\$ 5,232	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Media Sponsorships/ Bulletins / First Word	\$ 71,107	\$ 58,158	\$ 64,123	\$ 98,538
	Care and Health	\$ 19,044	\$ 10,959	\$ 23,280	\$ 10,540
	Property / Archive / Volunteer Shop	\$ 5,157	\$ 7,495	\$ 2,533	\$ 401
	Special Gifts	\$ 19,663	\$ 32,765	\$ 9,580	\$ 10,671
	Worship & Music / Choirs / Organ / Piano	\$ 43,988	\$ 9,934	\$ 11,512	\$ 8,212
	Youth / Children / Family	\$ 25,446	\$ 24,068	\$ 15,304	\$ 18,596
	Luther House (Paulsen)	\$ -	\$ 47,357	\$ 43,562	\$ 40,027
	<b>Total Designated Member Giving</b>	<b>\$ 237,443</b>	<b>\$ 266,743</b>	<b>\$ 717,275</b>	<b>\$ 944,667</b>
<b>Benevolence - Designated - Member Giving</b>					
	Disasters	\$ 7,455	\$ 5,195	\$ 823	\$ -
	FLC Seminary Students	\$ 4,198	\$ 1,346	\$ 4,902	\$ 1,646
	Holiday Flowers (Easter / Christmas)	\$ 6,571	\$ 6,397	\$ 7,610	\$ 1,825
	Missions Around the World	\$ 9,717	\$ 13,648	\$ 3,999	\$ 4,238
	Missions In our Area	\$ 12,487	\$ 10,197	\$ 24,853	\$ 23,693
	Missions Misc	\$ 10,254	\$ 3,422	\$ 12,138	\$ 5,936
	<b>Total Benevolence - Designated - Member Giving</b>	<b>\$ 50,682</b>	<b>\$ 40,205</b>	<b>\$ 54,325</b>	<b>\$ 37,338</b>
<b>Total Member Giving (Regular, Designated, &amp; Benevolence)</b>		<b>\$ 1,902,319</b>	<b>\$ 1,900,505</b>	<b>\$ 2,408,808</b>	<b>\$ 2,557,554</b>

## PARISH STATISTICS CONTINUED

		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Membership</b>	Baptized Members	3658	3651	3509	3482	3437	2969
	Confirmed Members	2735	2731	2644	2618	2599	2253
	Households	1831	1819	1769	1757	1725	1626
	<b>Members Received</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>97</b>
	By Child Baptism	36	33	36	37	31	30
	By Adult Baptism	0	2	2	1	1	2
	By Transfer	25	25	18	35	42	41
	By Affirmation	43	22	38	21	20	14
	By Reactivation/Statistical Readjustment	15	3	4	7	4	10
	<b>Members Removed</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>514</b>
	By Death	46	41	47	40	47	56
	By Transfer/Release	67	49	74	70	82	65
By Dismissal/Inactive Status	9	2	119	18	14	393	
<b>Participation</b>	<b>Average Weekly Worship Attendance</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>197</b>
	Church School Enrollment	238	310	166	212	141	170
	Average Weekly Church School Attendance	104	120	105	102	113	44
	Confirmation Enrollment	160	107	113	101	85	96
<b>Ministerial Acts</b>	Baptisms	36	35	40	38	32	35
	Confirmations	31	33	22	22	29	14
	Weddings	18	16	13	13	12	7
	Funerals	51	49	44	48	60	67



STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES  
CASH BASIS

Description		Audited		Unaudited
		12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
	Cash	\$ 504,735	\$ 402,195	\$ 212,714
<b>Assets Not Available for Current Needs</b>				
	Cash	\$ 619,676	\$ 503,463	\$ 1,273,584
	Certificates of Deposit	\$ 145,508	\$ 145,508	\$ 145,500
	*Foundation	\$ 10,903,206	\$ 12,667,176	13,633,850
	<b>Total Assets Not Available for Current Needs</b>	<b>\$ 11,668,390</b>	<b>\$ 13,316,147</b>	<b>\$ 15,265,648</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
	Land & Land Improvements	\$ 3,462,362	\$ 3,462,362	\$ 3,462,362
	Buildings - Church & Parish Hall	\$ 9,200,164	\$ 10,378,506	\$ 10,303,506
	Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	\$ 2,243,240	\$ 2,243,240	\$ 2,243,240
	Vehicles	\$ 24,171	\$ 24,171	\$ 24,171
	Subtotal	<b>\$ 14,929,938</b>	<b>\$ 16,108,279</b>	<b>\$ 16,033,279</b>
	Construction in Progress			
	Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (6,461,775)	\$ (6,854,164)	\$ (6,779,165)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,468,163</b>	<b>\$ 9,254,115</b>	<b>\$ 9,254,115</b>
<b>Deferred Assets</b>				
	HyVee Gift Card Receivable	\$ 7,725	\$ 9,725	\$ 5,750
	Accounts Receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,100
	<b>Total Deferred Assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,725</b>	<b>\$ 9,725</b>	<b>\$ 7,850</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$ 20,649,013</b>	<b>\$ 22,982,182</b>	<b>\$ 24,527,613</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
	Accrued liabilities	\$ 61,271	\$ 66,312	\$ 71,861
	Notes Payable			
	First Dakota National - HVAC	\$ 281,675	\$ 1,104,082	\$ 464,158
	Contract For Deed - Ideal Party Store	\$ 204,290	\$ 137,979	\$ 66,118
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 547,237</b>	<b>\$ 1,308,373</b>	<b>\$ 602,137</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
	Without donor restrictions	\$ 11,594,608	\$ 14,129,151	\$ 15,019,225
	With donor restrictions	\$ 8,507,168	\$ 7,544,658	\$ 8,906,251
	<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 20,101,776</b>	<b>\$ 21,673,809</b>	<b>\$ 23,925,476</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>		<b>\$ 20,649,013</b>	<b>\$ 22,982,182</b>	<b>\$ 24,527,613</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, 2020 (Unaudited)

Description	2019	2020		2020
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance
<b>REVENUES</b>				
<b>Offerings</b>				
Pledge Responses	\$ 1,380,250	\$ 1,376,422	\$ 1,342,066	\$ (34,356)
Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 221,361	\$ 223,550	\$ 213,429	\$ (10,121)
Special Offerings	\$ 40,697	\$ 38,500	\$ 20,054	\$ (18,446)
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 1,642,308</b>	<b>\$ 1,638,472</b>	<b>\$ 1,575,549</b>	<b>\$ (62,923)</b>
<b>Gifts</b>				
Media	\$62,772	\$ 59,000	\$96,973	\$ 37,973
Foundation	\$344,686	\$ 374,820	\$374,820	\$ 0
<b>Total Gifts</b>	<b>\$407,458</b>	<b>\$ 433,820</b>	<b>\$471,794</b>	<b>\$ 37,974</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
Fee Income	\$86,718	\$ 84,658	\$92,075	\$ 7,417
Non-Budgeted Income	\$10,833	\$ 10,000	\$15,764	\$ 5,764
Operating Reserve		\$ -		
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$97,551</b>	<b>\$ 94,658</b>	<b>\$107,838</b>	<b>\$13,180</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,147,316</b>	<b>\$ 2,166,950</b>	<b>\$2,155,182</b>	<b>\$ (11,768)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Education & Discipleship	\$4,710	\$ 4,100	\$4,063	\$ (37)
Youth & Family	\$48,437	\$ 45,950	\$37,995	\$ (7,955)
Evangelism, Mission & Outrea	\$42,682	\$ 52,500	\$47,300	\$ (5,200)
Care & Health	\$10,290	\$ 11,700	\$10,646	\$ (1,054)
Worship & Music	\$60,471	\$ 61,375	\$28,868	\$ (32,507)
Non Departmental	\$99,422	\$ 104,855	\$155,136	\$ 50,281
Property & Administrative Serv	\$288,147	\$ 294,970	\$282,614	\$ (12,356)
Personnel	\$1,499,645	\$ 1,505,000	\$1,435,477	\$ (69,523)
Stewardship	\$74,501	\$ 77,850	\$78,500	\$ 650
Welcome & Community	\$9,122	\$ 8,650	\$8,259	\$ (391)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,137,427</b>	<b>\$ 2,166,950</b>	<b>\$2,088,856</b>	<b>\$ (77,703)</b>
Profit / Loss	\$9,889		\$66,326	
<b>Net Revenues/(Expenses)</b>	<b>\$2,147,316</b>	<b>\$2,166,950</b>	<b>\$2,155,182</b>	

## STATEMENT OF LOAN ACTIVITY

For the Year Ending December 31, 2020 (Unaudited)

Description	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	Paid on Debt
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>			
First Dakota National Bank - HVAC	\$ 639,924	\$ 33,778	\$ 673,702
Contract for Deed (Ideal Prop)	\$ 66,312	\$ 13,987	\$ 80,298
<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$ 706,236</b>	<b>\$ 47,764</b>	<b>\$ 754,000</b>

DEBT	12/31/2019 Balance	12/31/2020 Balance	Net Change to Debt - (Inc/Dec)
First Dakota National Bank - HVAC	\$ 1,104,082	\$ 464,158	\$ (639,924)
Contract for Deed (Ideal Prop)	\$ 204,290	\$ 137,979	\$ (66,312) (Decrease)
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>\$ 1,308,372</b>	<b>\$ 602,137</b>	<b>\$ (706,236)</b> (Decrease)

## SUMMARY OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

For the Year Ending December 31, 2020 (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)	\$223,125	\$ 333,950	\$ (286,174)	\$270,901
God's Gift Our Heritage	\$374,791	\$ 767,750	\$ (116,091)	\$1,026,449
God's Gift Our Responsibility	\$0			\$0
Designated Fund (Totals of all Boards Designated)	\$793,421	\$ 1,308,337	\$ (787,396)	\$1,314,363
Trust Fund	\$10,500			\$10,500
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>(\$370,394)</b>			<b>\$2,622,213</b>
<b>Permanently Restricted</b>				
Trust Fund	\$135,008	\$ 60,000	\$ (60,008)	\$135,000
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$ (235,385)</b>	<b>\$ 60,000</b>	<b>\$ (60,008)</b>	<b>\$2,757,213</b>

# SYNODICAL REPORTS

## SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD OF THE ELCA



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



Dear Siblings in Christ of the South Dakota Synod,

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Now, as we move forward, let's commit ourselves to journey together in Christ, and in Christ alone.

C. Hagmaier

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



# 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



## 2020 Annual Report to Congregations

# Life Stories Take Shape at LSS

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

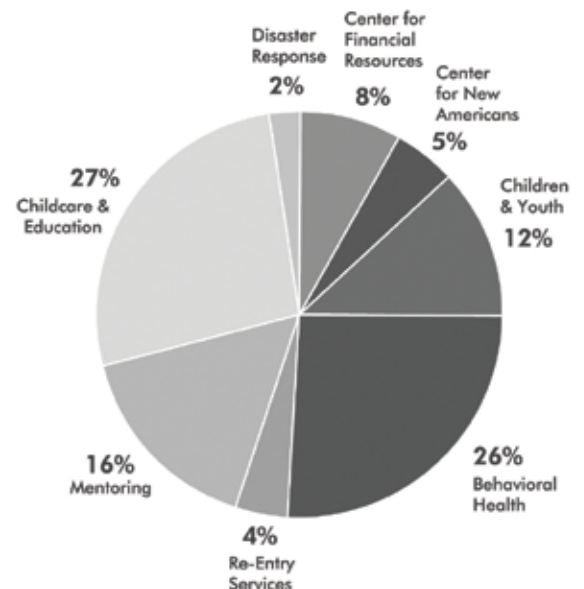
**100%** of the residents of the New Alternatives Intensive Independent Living Services improved their independent living skills and improved their overall wellness and health.

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

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

Betty Oldenkamp  
 President and CEO

### How Your Gift is Used





## Church on the Street Annual Report, 2020

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

As the congregation and ministry of COTS have continued to grow, the church structure and leadership also grew. Harriet Monson was named Laundry with Love Director with financial support for the position underwritten by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Elizabeth Yoder, after providing generous staff support during my shared time of internship at St. John American Lutheran and COTS, resigned her employment and now sits solely on the COTS Board. Formal Board positions were identified and filled, and a Pilot Project between Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Church on the Street commenced in September, providing a one-year opportunity for Pastor Shelly Gehring to come on board as Associate Pastor.

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

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

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

**What then might happen** when we put these two little words together to propel us into 2021?

**What then,** when people hear the Good News for the first time, and they are changed forever?

**What then,** when we become a church who loves our neighbors in reality instead of illusion?

**What then,** when grace, mercy, and justice overflow to bring peace to the hurting?

**What then,** when generosity is poured out like a dam breaking, and gratitude spills over?

**What then,** when we work together, with all of God's people, as a response to 2020?

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

In God's mission together.  
Rebel Hurd




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

