

2021 Annual Report
First Lutheran Church

RETHINK • RESHAPE • RETURN



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Mission Statement

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

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.



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared for the Annual Meeting of the
First Lutheran Church Congregation
Sunday, February 6, 2022 | 12:10 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, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022 | 12:10 P.M. | SANCTUARY

1. Meeting Called to Order President Martin Oyos
2. Opening Prayer Pastor Lars Olson
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Adoption of the Minutes
 January 31, 2021 Annual Meeting
5. Remarks by the Congregation President Martin Oyos
6. Remarks by the Interim Senior Pastor Pastor David Zellmer
7. Reports as Found in the Published Annual Report for 2021 (adopted as published)
8. Financial Report and Vote on Proposed 2022 Budget Randy Eide
9. Capital Campaign Report Jean Hoff
 Motion to narrow the focus of the Capital Campaign
10. First Lutheran Church Foundation Annual Meeting Called to Order Somer Anderson
 - a. Adoption of the Minutes
 January 31, 2021 First Lutheran Church Foundation Annual Meeting
 - b. Report of the Foundation President Somer Anderson
 - c. Financial Report Chris Nelson
 - d. Other Business
 - e. First Lutheran Church Foundation Board Adjournment
11. Nomination and Election of First Lutheran Church Officers and Board Members for the 2022 Term
12. Adjournment with Prayer Pastor Jeff Backer

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—JANUARY 31, 2021

Meeting called to order at 10:09 by President Oyos

Opening prayer by Pastor Lars Olson

A motion was made to approve the agenda. There was a 2nd. Call for a vote. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the last annual meeting. There was a 2nd. Call for a vote. Approved unanimously.

Report of the President: President Oyos provided thanks to pastors and staff for adapting this year. Thank you offered to the congregation for the faithfulness. The President's report was adopted as published.

Report of the Senior Pastor: Pastor John pointed to page 7 for his report. He called out Jodi Hoyt's commitment. Thanks to Martin for his leadership. Thanks to the COVID task force. Thanks to the congregation for prayerful and financial support.

- Jean Hoff reported being down \$1.4M from a year ago. \$434,000 in debt payments have been made, and the banners are completed and will be unveiled on February 14. Thanks was offered to the family of FLC.

Annual Reports: A motion to adopt the annual reports as printed was made. There was a 2nd. Call for a vote. Approved unanimously.

Financial Report & Annual Budget: Randy Eide gave an update regarding the financials and budget. Thanks was offered to Ginger Miller and Jody Bymers for helping with the budget.

Reviewed the budget that was published in the Annual Report. Motion was made to approve the budget as presented. There was a 2nd. Call for a vote. Approved unanimously.

Martin thanked Randy.

Annual Meeting was suspended to move into the Foundation Meeting

Foundation Annual Meeting

Foundation annual meeting called to order.

Chris Nelson (Treasurer for the Foundation) provided the Foundation report as Somer was not able to attend. Her report was as submitted.

There was a discussion on the nominations for the Foundation. The proposed candidate(s) were approved by a unanimous vote.

Foundation Board meeting adjourned

FLC Annual meeting went back into session

Nomination and Election of FLC Officers and Board Members for the 2021 Term

Barney Brandenburg gave the nominating committee update. Offered thanks to all who said yes to serve.

- Officer slate was presented
 - o Call for slate approval
 - o Call for uncontested ballot. There was a 2nd. Approved
- Slate of Board Chairs was presented
 - o Corrected the Evangelism & Outreach chair to be Leslee Barness
 - o Call for slate approval
 - o Call for uncontested ballot. There was a 2nd. Approved
- Slate of Board Members was presented
 - o Call for slate approval
 - o There was a 2nd. Approved and presented.
- Barney's closing remarks asked for all to get involved. Time and talent are just as important as treasure.

Closing remarks by Martin Oyos. Thanked all for their commitment to the mission and ministry of FLC.

Call for a motion to adjourn. There was a 2nd. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45

Pastor Jeff provided the closing prayer.

Suzie Hernes
Secretary

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION

MARTIN OYOS



Martin Oyos

The past year has involved continued changes and challenges for everyone, including the family of First Lutheran Church. Yet, God's people remain dedicated and strong, knowing that His love and care will support us through all things.

This annual report summarizes the ministry and mission that occurred at

First Lutheran Church in 2021 because of the gifts you offered. Thank you! As you will see in the photographs and read in the reports from staff and board chairs, this congregation gave witness to their faith in many varied ways throughout the year.

A few examples of First Lutheran's response to God's call over the past year include:

- Media Ministry continues to provide an essential link to worship for many people across the region. We are blessed to have the financial support and talented staff to support our broadcast each week.
- The HVAC loan was paid in full by the end of the year. This will allow the next phase of the Capital Campaign to move forward.
- The WELCA members persevered despite the pandemic and held a Mini Bazaar, which will benefit others locally and across the world.

Carefully stewarding the church through pastoral and staff changes, the church council has been committed to fostering an environment that encourages ministry and

mission by all members while planning for growth and new opportunities in 2022 and beyond. I offer special thanks to Randy Eide for his faithful and dedicated service as treasurer these past three years. The church council was assisted in navigating the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic by a task force consisting of church staff, pastors, and members. Special thanks are offered to the physicians and nurses of the task force who provided invaluable advice and recommendations to the church council.

Undoubtedly, questions exist about the future because of Pastor John's retirement and Pastor Lars' accepting full-time employment with Luther House of Study. Please know that congregational leadership remains committed to seeking new pastors who will preach the gospel, lead and cultivate ministry, and shepherd Christian education for all ages. By doing so, this remarkably diverse and talented congregation will continue the tradition of its forebearers by giving glory to God in all that we say and do.

Scripture reminds us in Hebrews 13:8 that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." With change comes opportunity. Please join me in embracing the changes that lie ahead for our congregation, knowing that Christ's constant presence will guide and sustain us in the year ahead.

Martin Oyos
Congregation President

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE CONGREGATION

RANDY EIDE



Randy Eide

I begin this report once again thanking you, the congregation of First Lutheran Church, for again doing a tremendous job of meeting your pledges and supporting the church this past year!

- The first quarter ended with a profit of \$101,969 versus a projected loss of \$3,000 and gave the church a strong start to the year.
- The second quarter also ended good but fairly flat with a small increase in YTD net income, following on the tails of the impressive first quarter. YTD net income was \$116,871.
- The third quarter ended with a profit YTD of \$25,326 even with revenues down \$161,955. The summer months are always a challenge. While concerning, expenses were also down substantially—\$188,280—and mostly attributed to reduced personnel expense.
- The year ended strong, especially December. The last quarter is always our strongest. Thanks to you, we ended the year within 2.1% of forecasted revenues, \$2,145,982, and total expenses were \$156,249 (7.1%) less than projected, totaling \$2,035,133. That left us with a nice Net Profit of \$110,848 for the year.

We will use that net profit as follows:

- \$40,000 will be carried over and used in the 2022 budget, and
- \$70,840 will go into our operating reserve account, which was set up to hold about 10% of our annual budget to be used for “a rainy day.” I read somewhere that we need to “Plan ahead—It wasn’t raining when Noah built the Ark.” There are always difficult budgeting decisions to be made, and this year is no different.

We are now moving to 2022. I believe we have planned well and look forward to another fruitful year! I give many thanks to Pastors Dave and Lars for much help and insight provided in formulating the new budget. Pastor Lars is quite talented with a spreadsheet! Finance Director, Jody Bymers, of course is always instrumental providing us with historical numbers and much-appreciated information. Our finances are complex, but she understands them well and is always willing to “put in the time” that it takes.

The First Lutheran Church Foundation does a tremendous job and continues to be a blessing to the Church. They have managed their resources well and are presenting a gift of support to the church in the amount of \$463,279. As I have said in the past, we are blessed with a strong Foundation Board that allows us this support and also supports various other activities of the Church.

Finally, thanks to a very capable Finance Advisory Team of Pat Kyte and Orrin Anderson. This team serves as an advisory/oversight committee. They are both appreciated and are valuable to the Church with many years of experience, knowledge, and expertise.

I again leave you with fond appreciation for your much-needed support and generous giving to this wonderful church home we have. I referenced this verse in my last report, and I think it bears repeating when considering our support for First Lutheran: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET

Proposed 2022 Budget		2021		2022
Description		Budget	Actual	Proposed Budget
REVENUES				
Offerings				
	Pledge Responses	\$ 1,373,150	\$ 1,485,535	\$ 1,190,651
	Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 208,500	\$ 73,358	\$ 220,975
	Special Offerings	\$ 37,500	\$ 21,049	\$ 34,500
	Total Offerings	\$ 1,619,150	\$ 1,579,942	\$ 1,446,126
Gifts				
	Media	\$ 79,000	\$ 68,759	\$ 84,000
	Foundation	\$ 394,344	\$ 394,344	\$ 430,849
	Total Gifts	\$ 473,344	\$ 463,103	\$ 514,849
Other Income				
	Fee Income	\$ 83,188	\$ 94,007	\$ 86,858
	Non-Budgeted	\$ 15,700	\$ 9,030	\$ 15,700
	2021 Carry Over	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000
	Total Other Income	\$ 98,888	\$ 103,037	\$ 142,558
	Total Revenues	\$ 2,191,382	\$ 2,146,082	\$ 2,103,533
**EXPENSES				
	Education and Discipleship	\$ 4,300	\$ 4,622	\$ 4,300
	Youth & Family	\$ 48,700	\$ 52,595	\$ 55,000
	Evangelism & Outreach	\$ 52,500	\$ 51,547	\$ 54,250
	Care & Health	\$ 11,700	\$ 9,179	\$ 21,200
	Personnel	\$ 1,483,151	\$ 1,342,083	\$ 1,408,441
	Finance, Property & Admin	\$ 309,181	\$ 292,979	\$ 276,667
	Worship & Music	\$ 61,175	\$ 56,670	\$ 63,175
	Stewardship & Giving	\$ 82,150	\$ 82,468	\$ 85,400
	Non Departmental	\$ 127,875	\$ 130,823	\$ 125,100
	Welcome & Community	\$ 10,650	\$ 12,167	\$ 10,000
	Total Expenses	\$ 2,191,382	\$ 2,035,133	\$ 2,103,533
	Profit / Loss	\$ -	\$ 110,949	\$ -
	Net Revenues/(Expenses)	\$ 2,191,382	\$ 2,146,082	\$ 2,103,533

GOD'S GRACE: OUR HERITAGE AND FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

JEAN HOFF, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



Jean Hoff

COVID-19 continued to impact the capital campaign in 2021. We did not begin making phone calls for visits until May. It took some time to find members who would again be willing to make the calls and visits. It was a very slow start and continues to be challenging. Though the members are making the phone calls, return phone calls are slow. We held forums with our former mayor, Dave Munson, sharing his thoughts on the campaign and some historical information with the attendees. These forums did result in additional pledges received for the campaign. Through all the challenges, the AMAZING NEWS we shared with the congregation on Sunday, January 2, was that the HVAC loan had been PAID IN FULL before the end of 2021. Our first goal of the campaign has been accomplished.

Now we need to look at the projects that are next on the priority list. The first project that needs attention is the tuck pointing of the bell tower and north side of the church building. This project was approved by the Church Council, and a contract for the work has been signed. The work will begin in the spring. The cost of this project is \$121,000. These two areas are crucial to the integrity of the building. We are also concerned about the stained-glass windows cracking or breaking so we have to

complete this project first. Additional tuck pointing needs to take place on the south and east sides of the church building but is not an immediate concern. The additional tuck pointing would cost \$109,000.

The Church Council has not prioritized but has noted the other projects that need to be completed:

- Sanctuary ceiling estimated at \$750,000
- Atrium remodel to have additional safety for members, staff, and guests; estimated at \$160,000 (does not include the additional cameras needed)
- Sanctuary sound system estimated at \$250,000



We accomplished much in 2021, but we still have work that needs to be done. Thank you for your prayers, pledges, and gifts. Your prayers for the campaign continue to be important.

REPORT OF THE INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR DAVID B. ZELLMER



Pr. Dave Zellmer

I write this brief report as I start my fourth week with you and my first as your Interim Senior Pastor. My work at First began on December 13, and I was serving as a consultant to the staff, Council, and pastors. As of January 1, my role has changed, and my work as the Interim Senior Pastor has begun. I am most appreciative of

the fine reception I have received from Pastor Lars and Pastor Jeff, the staff, and the Church Council. I look forward to our time together as we walk through this year as faithful servants of Christ, carrying out Christ's ministry here in downtown Sioux Falls.

In Christ's Love
Pastor David B. Zellmer
Interim Senior Pastor

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR LARS OLSON



Pr. Lars Olson

The last year of ministry at First Lutheran has been a roller coaster ride. The ongoing COVID issues shifted policy, priorities, and possibilities throughout the entire year. In addition, we had significant staff turnover. Mark Nassen and Elias Johnson-Youngquist left our Youth & Family ministry to start pastoral internships. Ginger Miller was with us for a short time as Director of Administration. Donna Jahr resigned after years of faithful service. Kristy Zuraff and Bonnie Lindgren retired. And of course, Pr. John Christopherson retired before the year ended.

The ups and downs have also given opportunity to develop new patterns and welcome new faces and new gifts for ministry. Instead of refilling staff positions, we have taken time to reassess job duties, reorganize our ministry structure, and

become more adaptable for moving into the future. Matt Tylutki will re-energize our children and youth music programs. Skylar Schwab and Sarah Skajewski are helping move our youth ministries forward. Brian Schipper (Reception) and Sarah Maag (Office Manager) are bringing changes to administration focused on hospitality.

I do expect the roller coaster to continue because we already know this is a year of transition. My role is changing again this year. I will be preaching and teaching and providing pastoral care while Pr. Dave Zellmer will lead with faithfulness and with calm as Interim Senior Pastor through the anxiety and ups and downs that come in these transition times.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and partnership in the ministry of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Lars Olson

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

JEFF BACKER



Pr. Jeff Backer

God is faithful!

Twenty-twenty-one has certainly been a year of joys, challenges, and transitions. What we had anticipated as being a year eventually actualizing being free from the COVID pandemic . . . well, was not. As I write this report, we are in the midst of suffering increasing infection rates from the

Omicron variant, and planning for 2022 is full of anticipation.

“God is faithful!” There is no doubt. You as the congregation of First Lutheran have allowed and been part of some amazing opportunities for God to speak into the lives of people. I give thanks for the ministry that we were able to carry out this year and for the amazing new opportunities that were offered. Here are just a few highlights.

Mobile VBS Trailer

A dream came true this year, as through the generous support from individuals and families, we were able to purchase and outfit a new evangelism and outreach tool. The Children’s Outreach Trailer is outfitted with all that we need to host off-site VBS or day camp opportunities. This includes tables, chairs, tents, games, signage . . . all that we need.

Working with Youth & Family and Education & Discipleship, we recognized a need for offering an alternative way to engage children in our neighborhood. The Youth and Family staff, along with the E&O Board and other volunteers hosted our first off-site VBS on the Lowell Elementary playground on August 16. We hosted 45 children that day, and much fun was had by all. Val Pherson, Children’s Minister, developed an activity/coloring book focusing on the Old Testament Bible stories about Creation, Noah’s Ark, and Abraham & Sarah. I taught lessons on each of those stories that day. Kids played games, did crafts, and got to know those of us from FLC that day. It was a great event! We have hopes for doing more events in 2022, making connections with kids and young families—sharing faith together!

Lowell Elementary

Our partnership with Lowell Elementary and the Lowell community was a little different for most of 2021. Due to COVID restrictions, we were not able to be as “hands-on” involved as we have in the past. We have an amazingly dedicated group of volunteers and classroom sponsors who still supported teachers, administration, and students in some amazing ways this past year. We have been able to host fun, family events

again this fall including a literacy night, where students and their parents engaged in a Trunk or Treat style event where stories were read and kids rotated around to the back of vehicles that had been decorated to create engagement with the particular story being offered. Teachers dressed in character costumes—really a fun event! First Lutheran sponsored the cost of the event including providing volunteers and food for those who came.

We were also able to host a Polar Express movie night that was attended by 150 people in December.

Lastly, I want to thank those in the congregation who sponsored a classroom this year. We were able to sponsor 23 classrooms, the office staff, and the art and music classes.

Lowell is a Title 1 school and does not have a PTA, so classroom sponsorships are an important way to give teachers financial resources to purchase items not provided by the school district for parties or special projects. It also helps to ensure teachers do not pay for things out of their own pocket.

Events

This year we were able to reprise some of our special worship and community events.

Over the summer, we hosted worship at McKennan Park, which is always well attended by you, the congregation, and attracts many others as well. We were able to do this three times last summer, with the final Sunday being a special event with Blessing of the Backpacks and celebrating Elias Johnson-Youngquist as he transitioned to his internship. We also hosted a free picnic lunch that was well attended.

In August, we again hosted the Block Party. More than 650 neighborhood people attended that event with food, games, and live music played by Larry Olson and the band. A highlight this year was that Police Chief Jon Thum, Lowell Elementary Principal Diane Kennedy, Pr. Lars, and I were in the dunk tank. Several people who joined FLC in October and more recent new member groups first came to the Block Party.

Future Evangelism & Outreach Thoughts

It is no secret that in-person worship attendance has not bounced back to pre-COVID numbers, which at face value is concerning. Something the E&O board has been talking about for several years is that due to our media presence, we have an amazingly strong reach beyond the walls of our church. The question is: Knowing that there is a virtual campus out there,

how do we engage those who do not sit in the pews but are a regular part of our congregation through broadcast media? Each day, some of these people call us, we are asked to visit them in the hospital, some even receive visits from our visitation pastors.

Another conversation is how to shift the culture of First Lutheran to attract younger people/families. Much of what happens here caters to those who can meet during weekdays. This does not accommodate people who have a regular 8-5 work day. Recognizing and changing this pattern is the first step in engaging a new segment of younger people.

These are just a couple of the things we will focus on this year in our conversations. In this time of transition, it is important to remember that God is faithful and that God will provide. We are truly blessed as a congregation, and I am grateful for all of the ways we work to make the gospel of Jesus Christ known in the world.

Grace and Peace-

Pr. Jeff

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Officers

(1-Year Terms)

President – Martin Oyos

Vice-President – Michael Kedik

Secretary – Suzie O’Meara Hernes

Treasurer – Orrin Anderson

Member-At-Large – Jaci Aberson

Member-At-Large – Lori Wilbur

Church Council Members

(Board Chairs)

Care and Health – Barney Brandenburg

Education and Discipleship –

Ryan Hoffman

Evangelism & Outreach – Leslee 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 WELCA – Jean Hoff

Care and Health

(3-Year Term)

Sandy Christopherson

Jean Eidsness

Gene Erickson

(Filling an unfulfilled term)

Stan Christopherson (1-year remaining)

Donna Jahr (2-years remaining)

Education and Discipleship

(3-Year Term)

Erika Earl-Bertrand

Laura Brown

Evangelism and Outreach

(3-Year Term)

Jordan Brockhoff

Dan Lindquist

Jenifer Wollman

(Filling an unfulfilled term)

Bill Bentzinger (1-year term)

Rose Linsner (2-year term)

Maria Neely (2-year term)

Finance, Admin, and Property

(3-Year Term)

Mike McElroy

Marc Toft

(Filling an unfulfilled term)

Courtney Van Horn (2-years remaining)

Financial Advisory Team

(1-Year Term)

Pat Kyte

_____ Open Position

(To be named at a later date by Finance, Admin, and Property Board)

Stewardship and Giving

(3-Year Term)

Aaron Aadland

Mason Van Essen

Welcome and Community

(3-Year Term)

Dave McElroy

Barb Murray

Amanda Olinger

Amy Entenman

Worship and Music

(3-year Term)

Heidi Tooley

Kristen Herbst

Brock Morgan

Youth and Family

(3-Year Term)

Kelsey Heinert

Haylee Kruger

Nathan Zeeb

Nominating Committee Members

Barney Brandenburg (spokesperson),

Marilyn Van Demark, Jody Elton, Linda

Gores, Pastor Jeff Backer

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.

New programs this year:

As we began 2021, we were still challenged by the limitations placed on us all due to the pandemic. We began meeting in person in April, with our first meeting focused on development of a Dementia caregivers support group. We asked representatives from the SD Alzheimer’s Association to make a presentation to help guide our process. With their advice, some additional research, and careful consideration, we developed a plan to begin a support group with emphasis on developing community, emotional support, and education regarding the disease process. It is currently meeting monthly. The Board continues to be involved in supporting, coordinating, or assisting many ongoing programs as in previous years.

Current programs which emphasize Health and Wellness activities include:

- Walking programs such as “Stepping into Health” and the “Church Walkers” program
- Pickleball
- Delta Dental Mobile
- The Bloodmobile returned in October for a successful drive at FLC
- Medical equipment lending program and medical equipment recycling program is available

Current programs which emphasize Christian support include:

- Visitation ministries to the hospitalized, home bound, or residents of assisted living and long-term care facilities, utilizing our visitation pastoral staff
- Grieving with Grace support group
- Project CAR received increased financial support due to utilization by our members

- Sad isn’t Bad continues under the expert guidance of John Hegg
- Support for mental illness through NAMI continued
- Meals on Wheels
- Phone Buddies
- Prayer chain and prayer shawl ministries continue
- Cancer support through the music of Sue Severson CDs

Additional financial support was provided to:

- ALS Foundation
 - Parkinson’s Foundation
 - Alzheimer’s Association
- Future areas for consideration include:
- End of life, palliative care, hospice support
 - Support for victims of human trafficking and prevention
 - Support for families facing crisis in meeting everyday necessities
 - Marriage counseling support
 - Additional mental health support through Sioux Empire Mental Health
 - Elder care ministry support
 - Addiction ministry support in addition to resumption of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Without the hard work of the board members, these ministries would not be possible. I personally want to give thanks for the members who have served the board so diligently: Linda Braun, Jean Eidsness, Gene Erickson, Donna Jahr, Michelle Nelson, Brenda Roberts, Cheryl Satterlee, and Jason VanRuler. Staff support includes Pastor John and Pastor Jeff. Our board welcomes further input for program development in areas of perceived need within our congregation or in the broader community that fits our mission

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

EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

LINDSEY GRAY, CHAIR



Lindsey Gray

Mission:

The Board of Education and Discipleship 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.

The Education & Discipleship board continues to carry out ministries that teach the Christian faith. We use the best practices and resources available to provide classes, devotions, Bible studies, and small groups that encourage growing our faith with the Gospel.

Key Ministries of 2021:

- First Friday Book Club: This new book club meets on the first Friday of every month at R Wine Bar



in downtown Sioux Falls. The club that represents a diverse population of First Lutheran Church members and has built relationships around commonalities shared amongst the group. The First Friday Book Club has been a great way to create and sustain small group fellowship amongst congregational members while sharing thoughts about the book, events in our lives, and a meal together.

- Lent 2021: A Lenten devotional centered around the Apostles' Creed was developed with the help of First Lutheran Church staff and congregational members.



The devotional featured many diverse authors sharing their beliefs on the different Articles of the Creed. Each article featured a devotional from a congregational member and a corresponding sermon from Pastoral staff on featured Lenten Sundays. In addition to the Lenten Devotional, a short podcast series featured various members of the congregation as well. The podcasts followed a similar structure to the devotionals, focusing on the articles of the Apostles' Creed, and featured high school students through founding members of our congregation.

- New Worship Schedule: Many board worked in collaboration to adjust the worship schedule to ensure all members of our First Lutheran Church family are able to not only worship together but also learn together as a family on Sundays.
- Scripture First: The Welcome and Community Board, Youth and Family Board, and the Education and Discipleship Board collaborated to "restart" Scripture First practices in a "post-COVID" era. Scripture First was offered on Sunday mornings



as well as on Wednesday evenings. Both were aimed to engage families not only to participate in education together but also to give opportunities for families to worship together. Sunday morning Scripture First features a short teaching from the non-preaching pastor, a hymn sing-a-long led by Zachary Brockhoff and Matt Tylutki, as well as a time to spend in learning and fellowship with other congregational members. Scripture First is open to all members of the congregation.

Goals for 2022:

- Sustain, promote, and grow the First Friday Book Club
- Build on the success of Scripture First programming
- Restart the monthly Senior Meals while navigating a post-covid world
- 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 videos

Board Members:

We are thankful for board members who have and continue to serve in a leadership capacity at First Lutheran Church: Lindsey Gray (Chair), Andrea VanEssen (Co-Chair), Soren Leiseth (Secretary), Jody Elton, Will Hangman, Ryan Hoffman, Jim Sturdevant, and Jodi Hoyt (staff)

The Education & Discipleship Board looks forward to new leadership in 2022 as we continue to focus on carrying out ministries that teach the formation and continuation of Christian faith by providing programming and encouraging engagement with the Gospel.

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

LESLEE BARNES, CHAIR

Mission:

The Board of Evangelism and Outreach carries out ministries that proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to our neighbors and the world. We support global and local ministries with volunteer efforts and financial gifts given through the generosity of our congregation.



Leslee Barnes

Global Ministries:

- Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem
- Bread for the World
- Companion synods in Cameroon and Nicaragua
- Emmaus Road Ministries and IELCO (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia)
- Lutheran World Relief

Local and Synod Ministries:

- The Banquet
- Bishop Dudley House
- Bread Break
- Center of Hope
- Church on the Street
- The Community Outreach
- First Lutheran African Ministries
- The Furniture Mission
- Neighbors in Solidarity
- Pine Ridge Retreat Center
- Prison Ministries: St. Dymas/Family Connections
- Pueblo de Dios/Vecinos Unidos
- St. Francis House
- Union Gospel Mission

A Few Ministry Highlights for 2021 (not all inclusive):

- Colleen Kokenge serves as the First Lutheran representative on the Charis Ministry Board, which coordinates ministries including the Food to You Mobile Food Pantry, Healthy Rides, and Necessities for Neighbors. Colleen is also the coordinator for Necessities for Neighbors held monthly at First Lutheran Church every third Tuesday evening.
- Pastor Jeff serves as President of the Board of Directors at the St. Francis House, which is a transitional housing program for the homeless in Sioux Falls.



- Sarah Herbert leads our ministry efforts with Lowell Elementary. In 2021, FLC continued building our relationship with Lowell staff, its students, and families by:
 - Supporting Lowell as a surrogate PTA by sponsoring 19 classrooms as well as music teachers and office staff
 - Serving at Family Literacy Night and providing a meal
 - Funding the Book Vending Machine and supporting the Golden Moments initiative.
 - Hosted The Polar Express movie night in December, complete with popcorn and drinks
 - Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Providing meals during conferences
 - Funding the Family Crisis Fund, which allows staff to provide critical support to Lowell families in acute crisis to help them through a difficult time



Support for the following ministries continues:

- The Nightwatch Program, which provides hot meals on Sunday nights in collaboration with seven other churches
- Church on the Street by hosting their Parking Lot Easter worship in April and Laundry with Love in September
- Theological education and support to seminary students Adam Guthmiller, Elias Johnson-Youngquist, and Valerie Pherson, as well as direct support to Luther House of Study
- FREE Coffee and Prayer at FLC on Wednesday mornings with a drive-thru coffee and prayer with a First Lutheran pastor or member

First Lutheran Church favorite ministries resumed this year:

- Three Worship in the Park services were held at McKennan Park throughout the summer, with the final service in August celebrating the Blessing of the Backpacks followed by the Picnic in the Park for approximately 265 churchgoers
- The Block Party returned in August with approximately 600 attending to enjoy the food, music, games, and more
- Purple reusable bags with the FLC logo were a hand-out hit at the Sidewalk Arts Festival in September



• **New ministry highlights:**

- o Vacation Bible School was held at Lowell Elementary in August using the new Children's Outreach Trailer, which is equipped to transport and store all the necessary games, food, drinks, and supplies and makes travel TO the children a breeze; approximately 45 youth attended the inaugural mobile



VBS event, and we look forward to additional opportunities to use this “church school on wheels”

- o \$5,000 was gifted to IELCO in Colombia for student scholarships, allowing students to continue receiving education during these difficult times

Goals for Next Year:

- Maintain our ministry partnerships
- Evangelism training
- Investigate connections to be made between the virtual and in-person congregations
- Continue to support and collaborate with other Boards
- Bring back Trunk or Treat

Thank you to our 2021 Board Members:

Leslee Barnes, chair; Jenifer Wollman, secretary; Jordan Brockhoff, Cherie Hopper, Dan Lindquist, Jon Martin, Val Peters, Jason Schramm, and Pastor Jeff Backer (staff)

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, safe, attractive, and welcoming home in which the guests, professional staff, and members of First Lutheran may work and worship.

Accomplishments in 2021:

- Annual fall cleanup—The emphasis this year was the hedge on the south border (15th street) of campus
- Addressed water damage issues along the north exterior wall of the church
- Stopped the seeping of water into interior wall along the north and east walls; this also involved new plaster and paint for affected areas
- Removed brick in two areas of exterior that had separated from the wall; discovered the cause was moisture getting into the affected area; checked by architectural and structural engineers; found that damage was local and the building is sound; cleaned and replaced bricks

A special thank you to members of First Lutheran. Four years ago, the Church Council and Property Board came to you in a special congregational meeting and asked you to approve a \$1,400,000 project, which involved a loan of some amount to

replace our entire HVAC system—a request you unanimously approved. No less than four years later, due to your faith and generosity, our new HVAC system is 100% paid for. Thank you!

Looking at 2022:

One new project will be addressed in 2022. We were told by the inspecting engineers that the brick in our bell tower and steeple must be tuck pointed as soon as possible to avoid a major problem. A contract with a local contractor is in place to complete this as weather allows in the spring. Money for this project is on hand.

Support Staff:

With the retirement of longtime First Lutheran Business Administrator Marilyn McNeill and the sudden resignation of her replacement, we had to do a quick shuffle. Our Board owes a sincere thank you to the two employees who stepped up and made sure that we continued to function and things got done. Thank you, Jody Byrners and Jean Hoff. We also lean heavily on our Facilities Manager, Kent Wilson, and his staff: Jeff Hartnett and Rick East. Thank you.

2021 Board Members:

Again, it was an honor for me to serve with the knowledgeable and dedicated team that served in 2021. Board members include: R.J. Lunny, Colin Barron, Jon Beatch, Orrin Anderson, Mike McElroy, Marc Toft, and Todd Smith.

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

MASON VAN ESSEN, CHAIR



Mason Van Essen

2021 Goals and Accomplishments:

At the beginning of the year, the Stewardship and Giving board categorized its main goals as follows:

- Fundraising Campaign—Give everyone the opportunity to participate.
- Education—Assess what is needed to learn about giving.

- Generous Giving—Lift up individual stories about what brings people joy in giving, and work to better connect people with their giving passions.
- Engagement—Provide congregational challenges (six small steps) to invite people to try new things.

After a year in which congregational engagement with First Lutheran through time, talent, and treasure was disrupted in such a large way, the Stewardship and Giving board sought to lift up the many ways the congregation supports the ministries of the church in spite of the pandemic. The board firmly believes that those who are connected to the church community and involved in ministries will find a deeper sense of meaning and a willingness to give back.

One of the ways we highlighted the congregation's stewardship of their time and talent was through the development and implementation of the annual fall stewardship campaign. The board chose the theme, "Joyfully, We Give" as a reflection of the great comfort God granted us through the pandemic in his promise of life and gift of daily bread. To highlight this theme, the board created an interactive visual display on the atrium windows that asked, "What ministry are you thankful for?" The resulting vinyl oak tree featured dozens of leaves representing ministries the congregation participated in. This was the first time this board has created an interactive display, and it gave everyone an opportunity to reflect on the joy they've felt as part of a ministry at FLC and to see what ministries others were thankful were funded by the stewardship campaign.

Additionally, the board helped to expand the congregation's touchpoints with giving to solidify that stewardship is more than just a financial ask one time per year—it's a year-round

opportunity to care for the resources God has given us.

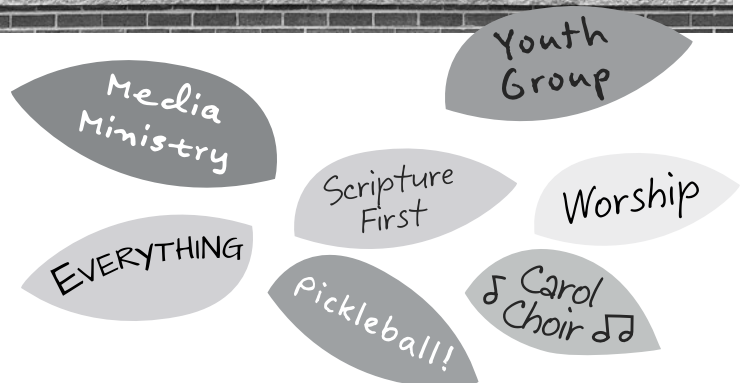
2022 Goals

- Partner with the Education & Discipleship board to expand "Joyfully, We Give" into a multi-board and congregation-wide Lenten devotional with a ministry engagement focus.
- Develop a series of "small steps" the congregation can participate in to continue making stewardship a year-round concept in daily church life.
- Develop a new stewardship campaign to increase pledges.

The congregation charges the Stewardship and Giving board to "connect passion to ministry." We were blessed to be a part of that mission in 2021, and we look forward to continuing to celebrate and call attention to the congregation's time, talents, and treasures in 2022.

Thank you to Birgit Peterson, Erin Kaiser, Sadie Klemme, Alma Kallesen, Shad Carney, Brad Jankord, Martin Oyos, and our staff representative, Pastor Lars Olson, for all that you do. I am blessed to serve with you.

Respectfully submitted,
Mason Van Essen



WELCOME 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.

As the year began, we continued to support the check-in process created that was based on COVID protocols and looked at ways to connect with our members as we moved toward what we might consider normal. We served (outdoors) coffee and juice after Easter services but didn't support any indoor coffee or treats until fall.



After a year and a half of not having Sunday morning coffee, we started serving donuts between the 9 and 11 o'clock services in Katie's Commons in the Gathering Room as fall activities started in September. We expanded our support on Sunday mornings to Scripture First and are serving snacks to those who come for learning and building community. It has been fun having friends and family gathering once again for conversation and laughter.

New member classes continued, and we helped host two classes for 34 new members. In the spring, we hosted a virtual session and, in the fall, we once again connected in person at the church for an evening meal, conversation, and sharing. One of the changes we made during COVID was to introduce new members at the service they generally attend. That process was well received

and has continued since. When you see a new member in your vicinity on New Member Sunday, please introduce yourself and welcome them to the congregation!

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.

The Welcome & Community Board looks forward to 2022 as we continue to focus on hospitality and its role in building community at First Lutheran.

Accomplishments in 2021:

- Supported the greeting and check-in process in response to worship services protocol changes this year
- Conducted two New Member classes, welcoming 34 new members
- Reimagined Katie's Commons and hospitality on Sunday mornings, as we worked our way out of the current pandemic

Our focus in 2022:

- Determine hospitality changes that need to be made
- Support and encourage members to participate in the self-check-in process
- Engage New Members as they join FLC
- Continue to enhance information in the FLC database to ensure ease in connecting members to our ministries

Board Members in 2021: Amanda Olinger, Chad Kucker, Dave McElroy, Jean Hoff, Kiri Jacobsen, Deb Nelson, and Sharyl Wolf.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRIES

JAMES MOORE, CHAIR



James Moore

Mission: 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.

Capital Campaign: The Board continued to discuss capital campaign priorities that affect worship and music, in particular the proposed new sound system for the sanctuary and replacement of the aged and worn-out ceiling panels in the sanctuary. Dave Hosbach, a consultant from Milwaukee, visited FLC for a second time in July to discuss progress toward a new sound system. Hosbach will complete a final design, prepare bid documents, oversee the bidding process, and supervise installation. Determining the priority and authorizing funding for capital campaign projects belongs to the Church Council.

Paraments: The new paraments, which were paid for with dedicated gifts, were delivered in January, and the white paraments were first used on Transfiguration Sunday in mid-February. We are awaiting delivery of two additional green wall banners to be used in ordinary time. Volunteers



have been recruited and trained in caring for, storing, and changing the paraments from season to season. Many thanks to Cami Jacobsen and the rest of the

parament committee who worked tirelessly on this project: Diane Atchison, Marilyn Vandemark, Cathy Christopherson, and Shirley Barlow.

Staffing: Bonnie Lindgren retired as director of the Carol Choir after 47 years. Her retirement led to a search for a new full-time staff member dedicated to youth music ministry. Matt Tylutki joined the FLC staff in August and is working with a parent committee to design and implement a new youth music curriculum. In addition, Matt, Zachary, and Larry Olson have been working with confirmation staff to include music teaching as part of the confirmation curriculum.



Return to Worship: We shed some Covid-protocols from 2020 throughout the year, returned hymnals and Bibles to the pew racks, and resumed congregational singing in March. The Board worked closely with the pastoral staff to implement a new worship schedule in the fall, with two Sunday morning services and a dedicated time between services for education and fellowship. The fall schedule also marked the beginning of weekly communion at all services, which required much planning to address time constraints and to ensure adequate staffing. We are grateful to the many new communion servers, the members of the Altar Guild, the ushers, and the lectors. The Board continues its oversight efforts with these volunteers to help with recruiting, training, teaching, and scheduling.

Fall Choir: After almost two years of not singing, adult choir members returned in the fall to a single choir that rehearses weekly for one hour and sings approximately every other week. That schedule will continue until summer.

Harpichord Gift: A generous donor provided funds to be used for the purchase of a new harpichord to be used in worship. The process of finding an appropriate instrument is ongoing.

September 2022 Concert: The 100th Anniversary concert originally scheduled for September 2020 with Paul Jacobs, the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, and Transept, at which a newly commissioned piece composed for choir, orchestra, and organ by Wayne Oquin of the Julliard School will be performed, has been rescheduled for September 2022.

Members of the Board in 2021: Mary Ryrholm, Mary Oyos, Mary Eich, Jean Bubak, Marti Thompson, Tracie Osthus, John Hegg, James Moore, and Pete Hoelsing. Pastor John Christopherson, Shirley Barlow, served as staff representatives to the Board, and we will miss Pastor John’s guidance and collaboration.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

SUZY SCHRAMM, CHAIR



Suzy Schramm

Once again, 2021 was a year of change and challenges. Thank goodness our God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow! We are thankful we were able to meet in person, gather to learn together, and share snacks, thoughts, and prayers. Thank you to EVERYONE for their support of these ministries. Please continue to pray for pastors and staff,

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:

Suzy Schramm (Chair), Katie Bossman, Sarah Muller, Kristin Skogstad, Les Smith, Corey Visscher

FLC Youth and Family Staff: Marnie Dahle Backer, Director; Valerie Pherson, Children's Minister; Skylar Schwab, Youth Minister; Sarah Skajewski, Coordinator

2021 Highlights:

- Youth Minister position filled! Welcome, Skylar.
- Y&F Coordinator position filled! Welcome, Sarah.
- Milestone Ministries
- Family Scripture First in Reformation Hall (Jan.-May)
- Drive-thru Shrove Tuesday
- "Lent at Home" kits delivered pre-K through high school
- Preparation and fundraising for the next Youth Gathering (pushed to 2022) and a Colombia mission trip
- Summer Bible lessons delivered to families
- Summer Bible camp to Metigoshe, Flathead, and NeSoDak
- Day Camp at FLC for pre-K through 5th grade
- Care packages mailed out to 18-22 year olds
- Block Party in the parking lot
- VBS with Lowell Elementary—first time using the trailer
- Water bottle filling stations installed in Reformation Hall and Y&F hallway
- Changes to worship and education schedules on Sunday mornings starting fall 2021
- Empty tomb experience during Easter
- Christmas program
- Scapulars for acolytes to match new worship paraments
- Children's messages during worship
- Youth Group and summer bonfires
- Facebook groups
- Christmas Eve treat bags provided
- Return of Wednesday night meals



AUXILIARY: FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (FLCW)

JEAN HOFF, PRESIDENT



Jean Hoff

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.

The Women of the ELCA, often referred to as First Lutheran Church Women, has had a challenging year during 2021. For most of the year, we only had board meetings to conduct business. We followed the guidelines established by the church for holding meetings by wearing masks and social distancing.

We accomplished revisions to our bylaws which were approved in May 2021. This project was the combined efforts of a bylaw committee consisting of Kathy Stelzer, Arlene Bich, Connie Nelson, Jane King, Jeanne Buren, and me.

Two large events highlighted 2021. The first event was the celebration of the FLCW's 100th anniversary. We invited all the



women of the congregation, and especially celebrated members of the congregation 90+ years young. Jane King and Arlene Bich did a great job creating and presenting a



program celebrating women and their contributions to First Lutheran in the first 100 years. A big part of the evening for me was observing and listening to the conversations going on around me. We have missed each other and everyone was joyful and happy to be together.

Our next big event was the Mini-Bazaar. Yes, we canceled, then thought and talked, then voted to have it. In just two and a half weeks, we put together everything but the Kaffe Stua and



Attic Treasures. Without those two areas, the bazaar still brought in well over \$18,000. The public was so excited for us we have even the smaller version of the annual bazaar!

The other area that brought in money for the women to give to missions were six garage sales. A core group of nine women put these garage sales together, and they were able to



bring in over \$15,000. A special thank you to Sharyl Wolf and Kathy Stelzer for hosting these garage sales at their homes.

Our first distribution to missions totaled \$28,850.

2021 FLCW/WELCA FUNDS DISBURSEMENT

Center of Hope	\$1,000	Lutheran World Relief – World Hunger`	\$2,000
Church on the Street	\$2,500	Meals from the Heart`	\$1,000
Colombia – Emmaus Road Foundation	\$2,000	Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center`	\$1,000
Destiny Healthcare.	\$1,000	Project Car	\$1,000
Empire Mental Health	\$1,000	Pueblo de Dios.	\$2,000
Family Visitation Center	\$2,000	Sad Isn't Bad.	\$500
First Lutheran African Ministries	\$2,500	Union Gospel Mission – Love Gift.	\$1,200
Helping Hands for Haiti	\$500	Union Gospel Mission – Art Project.	\$750
Helpline Center	\$500	University Center – SDSU Campus	\$1,000
LSS – Center for New Americans.	\$1,600	Christmas and Mother's Day broadcasts	\$2,600
Luther House of Study – Podcasts	\$1,200		

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



Orrin Anderson

“A cheerful look brings joy to the heart; good news makes for good health.” -Proverbs 15 30

After limited activity due to the COVID virus in 2020, Lutheran Men in Mission volunteers were able to return to their mission of physical assistance as well as fund raising in 2021. The primary source of income generated by LMM is working the First Lutheran Church parking lots

during activities at the Washington Pavilion. 2020 was almost totally without events. Events started to open up early in May 2021. Between May 5, 2021, and the end of the year, there were 17 events worked by LMM. In addition to income generated for the benefit of LMM, 40% of income generated goes to the maintenance and repair of the First Lutheran Church parking lots. The parking lots are worked by two teams of five individuals.

The other area of ministry of LMM is the physical construction of and repairs of areas at First Lutheran Church. Items completed in 2021 were the construction of racks for the new paraments, production of small crosses for new members and baptized individuals. Other contributions were repair of the door to the Chancel, setup of areas for the mini Bazaar, working of the parking lot during the mini Bazaar, putting up the manger scene for Christmas, and construction of the framework for the tomb of Jesus at Easter. Funds disbursed include:

- Sponsor of TV broadcast in 2022
- Sponsor a radio broadcast in 2021
- Donation to The Luther House of Study
- Honored a member of the custodial staff for years of service

O M Anderson
Chairperson



PARISH STATISTICS

For the Year Ending December 31, 2021 (Unaudited)

Description		Audited			Unaudited
		2018	2019	2020	2021
Regular Member Giving					
	Pledge Responses	\$ 1,320,328	\$ 1,375,150	\$ 1,342,066	\$ 1,485,435
	Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 234,801	\$ 221,361	\$ 213,429	\$ 73,358
	Special Offerings	\$ 38,429	\$ 40,697	\$ 20,054	\$ 21,049
	Regular Member Giving	\$ 1,593,558	\$ 1,637,208	\$ 1,575,549	\$ 1,579,842
	Average Giving To Gen Offering Per Confirmed Member	\$ 583	\$ 569	\$ 699	\$ 700
DESIGNATED Member Giving					
	Capital Campaign & God's Gifts, Our Heritage	\$ 76,006	\$ 547,382	\$ 757,681	\$ 714,010
	Media Sponsorships/ Bulletins / First Word	\$ 58,158	\$ 64,123	\$ 98,538	\$ 68,789
	Care and Health	\$ 10,959	\$ 23,280	\$ 10,540	\$ 1,246
	Property / Archive / Vol Shop	\$ 7,495	\$ 2,533	\$ 401	\$ 18,589
	Special Gifts	\$ 32,765	\$ 9,580	\$ 10,671	\$ 38,814
	Worship & Music / Choirs / Organ / Piano	\$ 9,934	\$ 11,512	\$ 8,212	\$ 46,689
	Youth / Children / Family	\$ 24,068	\$ 15,304	\$ 18,596	\$ 21,792
	Luther House (Paulsen)	\$ 47,357	\$ 43,562	\$ 40,027	\$ 22,451
	Total Designated Member Giving	\$ 266,743	\$ 717,275	\$ 944,667	\$ 932,379
Benevolence - Designated - Member Giving					
	Disasters	\$ 5,195	\$ 823	\$ 893	\$ 400
	FLC Seminary Students	\$ 1,346	\$ 4,902	\$ 1,646	\$ 3,672
	Holiday Flowers (Easter / Christmas)	\$ 6,397	\$ 7,610	\$ 1,825	\$ 3,493
	Missions Around the World	\$ 13,648	\$ 3,999	\$ 4,238	\$ 996
	Missions In our Area	\$ 10,197	\$ 24,853	\$ 23,693	\$ 46,291
	Missions Misc	\$ 3,422	\$ 12,138	\$ 5,936	\$ 5,075
	Total Benevolence - Designated -Member Giving	\$ 40,205	\$ 54,325	\$ 38,231	\$ 59,927
Total Member Giving (Reg, Desig & Benevolence)		\$ 1,900,505	\$ 2,408,808	\$ 2,558,447	\$ 2,572,148

Benevolence - Payments - Designated Funds					
	In our Area Benevolence	\$ 36,442	\$ 46,796	\$ -	\$ -
	In our Area Benevolence (Capital Campaign)	\$ 6,030	\$ 3,100	\$ -	\$ -
	Around the World Benevolence	\$ 9,104	\$ 5,021	\$ -	\$ -
	Disaster Benevolence	\$ 5,133	\$ 1,043	\$ -	\$ 200
	Congregational Benevolence (Camperships/Caring Min)	\$ 37,407	\$ 40,968	\$ 36,022	\$ 36,022
	Luther House (Paulsen)	\$ 50,000	\$ 51,500	** -	\$ 77,500
	Total Designated Benevolence Payments	\$ 144,116	\$ 148,428	\$ 36,022	\$ 113,722
Benevolence - Payments - Budgeted Funds					
	In our area Benevolence	\$ 33,823	\$ 38,200	\$ -	\$ -
	Around the World Benevolence	\$ 4,455	\$ 3,473	\$ -	\$ -
	Congregational Benevolence (Camperships/Caring Min)	\$ 12,790	\$ 9,053	\$ -	\$ -
	SD ELCA Benevolence	\$ 68,375	\$ 70,000	\$ 72,000	\$ 74,000
	Total Budgeted Benevolence Payments	\$ 119,443	\$ 120,726	\$ 72,000	\$ 74,000
Total Designated/ Budgeted Benevolence Payments		\$ 263,559	\$ 269,154	\$ 108,022	\$ 187,722

** No payment made in 2020 due to compromised checking account. Waiting for new checks to arrive.

PARISH STATISTICS CONTINUED

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Membership	Baptized Members	3651	3509	3482	3437	2969	2999
	Confirmed Members	2731	2644	2618	2599	2253	2257
	Households	1819	1769	1757	1725	1626	1674
	Members Received	85	98	101	98	97	116
	By Child Baptism	33	36	37	31	30	36
	By Adult Baptism	2	2	1	1	2	2
	By Transfer	25	18	35	42	41	32
	By Affirmation	22	38	21	20	14	23
	By Reactivation/Statistical Readjustment	3	4	7	4	10	23
	Members Removed	92	240	128	143	565	65
	By Death	41	47	40	47	56	35
	By Transfer/Release	49	74	70	82	65	13
By Dismissal/Inactive Status	2	119	18	14	444	17	
Participation	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	862	862	789	632	197	317
	Church School Enrollment	310	166	212	141	170	158
	Average Weekly Church School Attendance	120	105	102	113	44	55
	Confirmation Enrollment	107	113	101	85	96	98
Ministerial Acts	Baptisms	35	40	38	32	35	38
	Confirmations	33	22	22	29	14	23
	Weddings	16	13	13	12	7	6
	Funerals	49	44	48	60	67	49

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES
CASH BASIS

Description	Audited		Unaudited
	12/31/19	12/31/20	12/31/21
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash	\$ 402,195	\$ 212,714	\$ 502,627
Assets Not Available for Current Needs			
Cash	\$ 503,463	\$ 1,273,584	\$ 1,115,996
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 145,508	\$ 145,500	\$ 145,500
*Foundation	\$ 12,667,176	\$ 13,633,851	15,654,257
Total Assets Not Available for Current Needs	\$ 13,316,147	\$ 15,052,935	\$ 17,418,379
Fixed Assets			
Land & Land Improvements	\$ 3,462,362	\$ 3,462,362	\$ 3,462,362
Buildings - Church & Parish Hall	\$ 10,378,506	\$ 10,396,468	\$ 10,339,430
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	\$ 2,243,240	\$ 2,357,104	\$ 2,474,924
Vehicles	\$ 24,171	\$ 24,171	\$ 24,171
Subtotal	\$ 16,108,279	\$ 16,240,105	\$ 16,300,887
Construction in Progress			
Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (6,854,164)	\$ (7,276,944)	\$ (7,624,723)
Total	\$ 9,254,115	\$ 8,963,161	\$ 8,676,164
Deferred Assets			
HyVee Gift Card Receivable	\$ 9,725	\$ 5,750	\$ 5,750
Accounts Receivable	\$ -	\$ 2,100	\$ -
Total Deferred Assets	\$ 9,725	\$ 7,850	\$ 5,750
Total Assets	\$ 22,982,182	\$ 24,236,660	\$ 26,100,293
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS			
Liabilities			
Accrued liabilities	\$ 66,312	\$ 71,861	\$ 104
Notes Payable			
First Dakota National - HVAC	\$ 1,104,082	\$ 464,158	\$ -
Contract For Deed - Ideal Party Store	\$ 137,979	\$ 66,118	\$ 66,118
Copier Lease	\$ -	\$ 33,887	\$ 67,775
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,308,373	\$ 636,024	\$ 133,997
Net Assets			
Without donor restrictions	\$ 14,129,151	\$ 14,751,066	\$ 16,498,331
With donor restrictions	\$ 7,544,658	\$ 8,849,570	\$ 9,467,965
Total Net Assets	\$ 21,673,809	\$ 23,600,636	\$ 25,966,296
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 22,982,182	\$ 24,236,660	\$ 26,100,293

*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, 2021 (Unaudited)

Description	2020	2021		2021
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES				
Offerings				
Pledge Responses	\$ 1,342,066	\$1,373,150	\$ 1,485,535	\$ 112,385
Non-Pledge Responses	\$ 213,429	\$ 208,500	\$ 73,358	\$ (135,142)
Special Offerings	\$ 20,054	\$ 37,500	\$ 21,049	\$ (16,451)
Total Offerings	\$ 1,575,549	\$1,619,150	\$ 1,579,942	\$ (39,208)
Gifts				
Media	\$96,973	\$ 79,000	\$68,759	\$ (10,242)
Foundation	\$374,820	\$ 394,344	\$394,344	\$ (0)
Total Gifts	\$471,794	\$ 473,344	\$463,102	\$ (10,242)
Other Income				
Fee Income	\$92,075	\$ 83,188	\$94,007	\$ 10,819
Non-Budgeted Income	\$15,764	\$ 15,700	\$9,030	\$ (6,670)
Operating Reserve		\$ -		
Total Other Income	\$107,838	\$ 98,888	\$103,037	\$4,149
Total Revenues	\$2,155,182	\$2,191,382	\$ 2,146,081	\$ (45,301)
EXPENSES				
Education & Discipleship	\$4,063	\$ 4,300	\$4,622	\$ 322
Youth & Family	\$37,995	\$ 48,700	\$52,595	\$ 3,895
Evangelism & Outreach	\$47,300	\$ 52,500	\$51,547	\$ (953)
Care & Health	\$10,646	\$ 11,700	\$9,179	\$ (2,521)
Worship & Music	\$28,868	\$ 61,175	\$56,670	\$ (4,505)
Non Departmental	\$155,136	\$ 127,875	\$130,823	\$ 2,948
Property & Administrative	\$282,614	\$ 309,181	\$292,979	\$ (16,202)
Personnel	\$1,435,477	\$1,483,151	\$1,342,083	\$ (141,068)
Stewardship	\$78,500	\$ 82,150	\$82,468	\$ 318
Welcome & Community	\$8,259	\$ 10,650	\$12,167	\$ 1,517
Total Expenses	\$2,088,856	\$2,191,382	\$2,035,133	\$ (157,766)
Profit / Loss	\$66,326		\$110,948	
Net Revenues/(Expenses)	\$2,155,182	\$2,191,382	\$2,146,081	

STATEMENT OF LOAN ACTIVITY

For the Year Ending December 31, 2021 (Unaudited)

Description	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	Paid on Debt
DEBT SERVICE			
First Dakota National Bank - HVAC	\$ 464,158	\$ 12,581	\$ 476,739
Contract for Deed (Ideal Prop)	\$ 71,861	\$ 8,438	\$ 80,298
Total Debt Service	\$ 536,019	\$ 21,019	\$ 557,038

DEBT	12/31/20 Balance	12/31/21 Balance	Net Change to Debt - (Inc/Dec)
First Dakota National Bank - HVAC	\$ 464,158	\$ -	\$ (464,158)
Contract for Deed (Ideal Prop)	\$ 137,979	\$ 66,118	\$ (71,861)
			(Decrease)
Total Debt	\$ 602,137	\$ 66,118	\$ (536,019)
			(Decrease)

SUMMARY OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

For the Year Ending December 31, 2021 (Unaudited)

Description	Beginning Balance	Cash Receipts and Adjustment	Cash Disbursements and Adjustments	Ending Balance
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Temporarily Restricted				
General Operating Fund	\$270,901	\$ 75,168	\$ (57,470)	\$288,600
(Prepaid Pledges)				
God's Gift Our Heritage	(\$447,759)	\$ 733,752	\$ (91,960)	\$194,033
God's Gift Our Responsibility	\$0			\$0
Designated Fund	\$1,019,739	\$ 1,022,091	\$ (1,118,199)	\$923,632
(Totals of all Boards Designated)				
Trust Fund	\$10,500			\$10,500
Total Temporarily Restricted	\$853,382			\$1,416,764
Permanently Restricted				
Trust Fund	\$135,000			\$135,000
Total Restricted Funds	\$988,382	\$ 1,831,011	\$ (1,267,629)	\$1,551,764

SYNODICAL REPORTS

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD OF THE ELCA



South Dakota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

"In the beginning was THE WORD, and THE WORD was with God, and THE WORD was God. ... THE WORD became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

Dear partners in ministry 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! – **Thank you** for your generosity to the ministry of the South Dakota Synod as we *journey together in Christ*. Because of your generosity and our ministry partners, hope and new life in Christ is cultivated in people and communities.



You have made a difference in Susanne's¹ life. Susanne faces daily challenges as she roams the streets of Sioux Falls as a person who is housing insecure. But because she connected with "Church on the Street" she now has a monthly worship to look forward to and a community to connect with as she hears the good news of Christ's love for her. On behalf of Susanne, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in Dillon's life. Dillon grew up on the farm and a caring church family. After his high school graduation, he set out to attend college. While the first few days were new and exciting, the excitement soon wore off, and Dillon fell in a hole of anxiety and depression, wondering if he would make it. Then he remembered the speaker from Lutheran Campus Ministry that had visited his home church one Sunday and decided to look them up on campus. Dillon still goes to college, and while life at times can still be overwhelming, he now has a community which supports him and cares for him when he is away from home. On behalf of Dillon, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in Pedro's life. Pedro lives in Nicaragua with his family. His family doesn't have much, but they survived by farming a small plot and sharing a small space they call home. All that changed when first a drought and then hurricanes devastated the little the family had. His parents would prepare the little food the family had for their children, but the family would go to bed hungry each night. But because of the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua's partnership with the South Dakota Synod and 'Helping Kids' Round First', Pedro and his family received meal kits that provided much-needed nourishment for the family. On behalf of Pedro, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in Tony's life. Tony admits that he has made some bad choices and deserves to be incarcerated. But because of St Dysmas' weekly worship services at the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, Tony has found new life in Christ. He hears weekly that his choices are not what defines him, but instead Christ's mercy is for him. On behalf of Tony, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in the life of the synod staff. As we travel the state and work with you, we see the impact your generosity makes in people's lives. Every time THE WORD of THRUTH is proclaimed in the pulpit, washed over a person in the waters of baptism, and celebrated at the Lord's Table we give thanks for your faithfulness. Our gathering makes a difference, because when we gather God shows up. Your witness, you showing up, and your generosity make a difference in your neighbor's life as the community of Christ bears witness to the defeat of sin and death. On behalf of your synod staff, **THANK YOU!**

It is my sincere hope that your synod staff has made a difference in the life of your congregation as we strive to live our shared vision of journeying together in Christ. Please know that your synod staff is always happy to be in conversation with you. We are committed to show up – just let us know where, when, and why.

Looking forward to the continued journey,

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

¹ Names and stories are fictitious and altered to protect the individuals.

CHARIS MINISTRY PARTNERS

2021 REPORT TO CONGREGATIONS



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of Charis Ministry Partners, I would like to thank you for all the ways you have supported our ministry in 2021. Our partner congregations are the backbone of our organization; and without you we could not do what we do. You are the ones that support us financially, the ones that serve on our board, the ones that help with distributions, and you are our prayer partners.

My name is Cindy Haiar, and I started October 1, 2021 as the Director for Charis Ministry Partners. While I am new to this position, I am not new to Charis. I am a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and have served on the Charis board as their representative for over six years. I've also been a weekly volunteer at Food to You since the beginning of 2019 and have helped at the Necessities for Neighbors distribution every month at First Lutheran Church since that distribution started in September of 2018. I love the ministry that Charis is able to provide to our neighbors in the Sioux Falls area, it's far more than just handing out food and necessities. Our last distribution of the year was a dual distribution of both Food to You and Necessities for Neighbors together at First Lutheran Church. It was a busy night and we had record numbers for both programs, but the one moment that sticks out in my mind the most was when I received a gift. One of our regular guests, one that I visit with every month, because you truly do build friendships with them, stopped at my station even though they already had their food and necessities. They wanted to wish me a Merry Christmas and give me a gift, a tin of popcorn. There are no words to express what that gift meant, for someone who doesn't have much, to have thought of me and spent what was probably a lot to them on a gift for me. This is ministry, this is Charis, and this is why I love being a part of what we are doing.

With the help of one of our partner churches, WestSide Lutheran Church, we're in the process of building a new website. The new website (charissf.org) will be much more user friendly and easier to find. With their help, we have also updated our logos so they look more uniform and up to date. Next on my list is to start working on updating the brochures for both Food to You and Necessities for Neighbors, then I can start spreading the word in our community who Charis is and what we do.

2021 continued much like 2020, we stayed outside with our distributions for both Food to You and Necessities for Neighbors. We were able to bless over 3,700 families through Food to You and over 4,500 families through Necessities for Neighbors. We had generous people in our community step up and purchase turkeys at both Thanksgiving and Christmas; it was such a joy to be able to offer families a turkey for those holidays. Healthy Rides is our third program and it is normally pretty self-sufficient, however Covid-19 shook things up in the health industry and in other areas where rides were being given. A normal year for Healthy Rides was 1,200-1,400 rides; however in 2021 we will be well over 3,500 rides and 2022 is looking to be very similar.

Again, on behalf of Charis Ministry Partners, I would like to thank your congregation for all you do to help us help others. Because of your generosity, we don't just hand out food, necessities and give rides; we show God's love and grace to each and every guest we come in contact with.



BE A PARTNER IN HEALING OUTREACH



2021 Annual Report to Congregations

Making Life Better Today & Into a Second Century of Service



LSS is where lives are transformed through high standards of quality service and service delivery. LSS monitors and reviews client outcomes as a gauge of programmatic quality. With congregational support, we are better able to carry out our mission 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 long into the next century of service.

Bethlehem is grateful for the partnership with LSS. LSS is able to do ministries that we ourselves are not able to do directly—from our neighbors nearby at the New Beginnings Center, to our new neighbors at the Center for New Americans, and the many other ministries across South Dakota. Together we can better fulfill our shared calling to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.”

Jeff Whillock, Lead Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran, Aberdeen

■ The COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges. Thankfully, LSS was able to react quickly, safely and compassionately to continue services. In addition to serving clients on-site where possible, many of our services utilized telehealth technology. For individuals and families experiencing the overwhelming impact associated with separation and anxiety, services delivered through telehealth technology provided an alternative to continuing care.

■ Students in the PATH program of LSS Behavioral Health Services exceeded expectations. **96%** of participants improved or maintained their academic progress; **93%** improved or maintained behavior incidents, and **92%** improved or maintained school attendance.

■ New refugee arrivals through the LSS Center for New Americans were successful in finding and keeping employment. **100%** of new arrivals were self-sufficient within eight months with an average starting wage of \$15.87 per hour.

A TRADITION of Compassion, Vision and Leadership



I have been blessed to spend twenty years of my professional career with LSS.

Throughout my time here, I have witnessed the team at LSS follow in Christ’s footsteps and respond to community needs with creativity, compassion and a deep respect for those we serve. I feel honored and humbled to carry on the tradition of strong leadership and compassion that began 100 years ago and help shape the agency’s vision in its next century of service.

Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen
COO, Incoming President/CEO



Farewell —

It has been the greatest blessing to be entrusted with the stewardship of LSS and its glorious ministry. I am grateful for all of the prayerful congregational support over the past fifteen-plus years. Thank you for choosing to walk in this journey with LSS to serve others—sharing both the burdens and the joys. It’s not just one person’s life today, it’s about what do we do to make things better into the future for individuals, families and communities in South Dakota.

Betty Oldenkamp
President and CEO



Church on the Street 2021 Annual Report



Well, hello! I am Pastor Chris Matson, the new pastor at Church on the Street. It is an honor and a thrill to accept this new call. At the same time, both Church on the Street and I miss Pastor Rebel Hurd! It was a beautiful day in October when she blessed us during her final worship. This past year, Pastor Rebel accepted a call to serve as Bishop Bill Tesch's Director of Evangelical Mission, to accompany other Mission Developers and new churches in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. Thankfully, she is still behind the scenes mentoring me into this new call. For the past 13 years I've served as a pastor in the South Dakota Synod, most recently at Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls where I oversaw Worship and Music as well as serving with many of the mission partners, such as Church on the Street.

While I'm the new pastor, much of the amazing ministry remains the same. Long time staff and volunteers are active. Harriet Munson, Laundry with Love Director, stepped up and led during the pastoral transition. Her position is possible because it is financially underwritten by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Thank you for this partnership! The board is a *working* board, volunteering at a moment's notice to provide the support needed.

The Lord continues to provide new opportunities for relationships to grow and flourish. New churches are entering into a covenant partner relationship. Every time we're running short on a kit someone is looking for, another shipment of donations arrives - often from places we weren't even expecting. On top of donations of needed supplies, we've been blessed to have many people use Thrivent Action Team cards to provide financial support to buy kit supplies. Thank you Thrivent members for supporting Church on the Street!

It's amazing what being Church together does for all of God's beloved children. Giving and receiving the love of God happens in so many ways. In my short tenure, I have walked with families moving from a shelter into their own home, and others who are facing eviction. Still others are reeling from the effects of addiction, trafficking, and mental illnesses. In the hardest times in people's lives, Church on the Street is there providing a meal or a prayer or some other form of support. Whenever a Church on the Street staff or volunteer walks the streets we quite often meet with a smile because people know that person is there to offer a little something for their day and often a conversation begins. Communion is served out of backpacks and in the office at the Bishop Dudley where weekly pastoral care is available.

In times such as these, gathering as the people of God wherever we find ourselves is the only thing that can see us through because we are a people of a promise: that no matter what, we are God's and, in the words of the Apostle Paul, nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Being Church together means we pray for one another and celebrate what God is up to. God is at work providing a place for those often overlooked in our community. You are part of God's work in the world providing tangible grace and goodness. Thank you for all the ways you support this ministry! You are a blessing!

God's peace,
Pastor Chris Matson



First Lutheran Church

327 SOUTH DAKOTA AVENUE | SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104

FLCSF.ORG | 605-336-3734