

Faith Lutheran Church

Hutchinson, Minnesota

2020 Annual Report

(Meeting, Sunday, January 31, 11:30 a.m.
in person and Facebook live-stream.)



OUR MISSION IS:

BUILDING FAITH

*"EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY,
FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST"*

EPHESIANS 4:12

TO LIVE OUT THAT MISSION, GOD CALLS US TO:
FOLLOW JESUS (*OBEY*)

ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL (*HEAR*)

INVITE ALL PEOPLE (*WITNESS*)

TEACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH (*LEARN*)

HELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED (*SERVE*)

2020 CHURCH PERSONNEL AND OFFICE ASSISTANTS

Church Council Officers

President..... Bob Kreie
Vice President..... Carl Horton
Treasurer..... Kathy Silvernale
Secretary..... Connie Stromseth

Pastoral Ministry

Pastors..... Scott Grorud, Dave Wollan
..... Paul Knudson (Part-time)
Visitation Pastor..... Paulus Pilgrim (Part-time)
Intern/Medical Leave..... Jeff Amundson (Part-time)

Lay Ministry Staff

Director of Children & Family Ministry..... Laura Weikle
Director of Music and Worship..... Will Holt/Austin Willhite
Director of Pastoral Care & Evangelism..... Marsha Schmit
Director of Youth & Family Ministry..... Kristen Matthews
Administrative Assistant..... Wendy Magruder
Finance Coordinator..... Sara Wegner
Maintenance/Custodial..... Jim and Virginia Brodd

Wedding Consultants

Niki Pokornowski and Wendy Magruder

Music Ministry

Worship Leaders – Sunday Morning..... Marc Vaillancourt and Tara Tepley
..... Ronda Eckhart and Mona Hjerpe
..... Lara Liepold
Organists..... Ronda Eckhart, Sharon Barton

Volunteer Office Assistants

Monday..... Gail Diehl, Jean Schlueter
Tuesday..... Sharon Romo
Wednesday..... LoAnn Hanson
Thursday..... Muriel Dobratz, Linda Nyman, Lynn Lange
Friday..... Gail Telecky, Jean Schlueter and Pat Boll

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, January 31, 2021 – 11:30 a.m.

In person in the sanctuary or via Facebook

Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

Opening Devotion

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Upon This Rock Plus Capital Campaign

Auditors' Report

Pastors', President's and Ministry Team Reports

Order of Business:

Election of Church Council and Ministry Team Members

Approve 2021 Budget

150th Anniversary Review/Preview

Other

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Please bring this report with you to the annual meeting.

Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2020

Type of Meeting: Faith Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting

Meeting Facilitator: Amanda Schueler

I. Call to order @ 12:01 by Congregational President Amanda Schueler.

II. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Action: Motion/Second/Pass – to accept the agenda as printed on page 2 of Annual Report.

III. Opening Devotions by Pastor Dave: The Life of Faith as we are celebrating our 150th Anniversary at Faith Lutheran Church throughout 2020. We celebrate our faith, give thanks for the gift of Faith Lutheran, and celebrating that we are still proclaiming our faith after 150 years.

“The life I live now in the flesh I live by faith.” Galatians 2:20

We sang the anniversary song: Life of Faith

Pastor Dave asked us each to write out a petition of prayer and place it on the altar. They will be prayed during worship throughout the year.

IV. Secretary’s Report

- a. Action: Motion /Second/Pass – to accept the Secretary’s Report.

V. Treasurer’s Report

- a. A summary report is printed on the last page of the Annual Report.
- b. Highlights include: Faith received \$16,133 more in offerings than it had in expenses. In mid-September, the checkbook was empty, but December giving was an all-time record amount. We give thanks and praise for these gifts.
- c. Action: Motion/Second/Pass – to accept the Treasurer’s Report

VI. Upon This Rock Capital Campaign is separate from the General Fund and is therefore separate from the Treasurer’s Report. Ian McDonald, Sharon Daniels, Mark Guggemos, and Niki Pokornowski serve on a Building Finance Team to help advise the handling of the Capital Campaign Funds. Mark stated the written report is on p. 12 of the Annual Report and the balance sheet on p. 13 of the Financial Report Addendum. The end of 2019 marked the ninth year of our 25 year mortgage. Of the original \$3.2 million balance, less than \$440,00 in principal is left. We give thank for the generous support for the ministry space of the church. There are approximately \$94,000 in pledges outstanding. Our regular payments will complete the loan before the end of 2021, more than 14 years ahead of schedule! The current Upon This Rock capital campaign ends year concluded at the end of 2020.

- a. Action: Motion/Second/Pass to approve the Capital Campaign Report

VII. Auditors’ Report

- a. Mark Guggemos, Carla Horton, and Ian McDonald conducted the review. No irregularities found. The report is found on p. 20 of the Financial Report Addendum.

VIII. Pastors’, President and Ministry Team Reports

- a. Pastor Scott presented. The report can be found on page 6 of the Annual Report.
- b. The language and constitution on what pastors are supposed to do and are called to do has not changed from year to year. As it notes in the report, the duties are the same as those Paul gave to Timothy long ago. The basic proclamation of Jesus does not change as other trends do in a church. Why are we at Faith sustaining so well? We remain with the basic core of the Church. Staff remains committed with this course and the life of Faith will continue.
- c. Amanda thanked the congregation for “letting me serve.”
- d. Ministry team written reports begin on p. 7 in the Annual Report.

IX. Order of Business

- a. Election of church council and ministry team members There is one two-year term open as a member of the Worship Ministry Team. Motion for the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the remaining positions Action: Motion/Second/Pass.
 - i. Church Council to fill the open position/Worship Ministry Team: Action: Motion/Second/Pass.
- b. Newly elected President Bob Kreie introduced himself and led the rest of the meeting.
- c. Budget for 2020
 - i. The personnel part of the 2019 budget increased by only a dollar, which is well below the norm. Also, the church will begin paying a small stipend to a pastoral intern in February. Overall, the personnel line has an increase of 5.8% from last year.
 - ii. The Missions/Benevolence line is based on 10% of last year's unrestricted offerings. It is adjusted at the end of the year to constitute a tithe of all general offerings received.
 - iii. Action: Motion/Second/ Pass to approve the budget as presented.
- d. 150th Anniversary Preview
 - i. Anniversary Team has been busy meeting and planning the year with monthly celebration events. Some highlights: History of the church during sermons, anniversary theme Lenten services, Danish service, congregation picnic, authentic Danish cuisine, weekend long gathering in October. There will also be an online order site for apparel.
- e. Introduction of Jeff Amundson's Internship by Pastor Scott
 - i. Jeff will be a part-time intern, paid a small stipend, and follow an apprenticeship role with Pastors Paul and Paulus. He will be learning and training behind the scenes in the mission work of the church, pastoral care, and senior ministry. The plan is for Jeff to fill in and over time take on these roles.

X. Closing Prayer – Pastor Scott

XI. Adjournment

- a. Bob thanked Kristen Matthews and FLY youth for serving lunch, and everyone who has served and is serving as elected leaders of the church. Thanks to Wendy and office helpers for the meeting preparations and all who attended the meeting.
- b. Action: Motion/Second/Pass - to adjourn the meeting @ 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Stromseth, Congregational Secretary

PASTORS' REPORT

With all wisdom and insight, (God) has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 1:8-10

When we look back on (or bid good riddance to!) 2020, the chief symbol for this troubled year may be the face mask. Trusted by some, questioned by others, and hated by all, wearing face masks became the most visible symbol of the pandemic that affected our lives, including the life of the church, in so many ways.

The masks that covered our faces in 2020, however, were not a new idea in the church. Martin Luther suggested that God wears “masks” in order to hide His divine will from mere mortals who want to know it, but are not capable of comprehending it, and to drive them instead to those places where God chooses to “unmask” Himself: the Word of God, the Lord’s Supper, prayer, devotions and the mutual conversation and consolation of the saints. Lutherans continue to distinguish the “masked” God—what God does not disclose to us—from the “revealed” God—the good news of God’s saving will shown in Jesus Christ.



In the events of 2020, we have experienced plenty of God wearing a “mask” that obscures His will:

- ♦ Holy Week worship with an empty Sanctuary and an On-line congregation
- ♦ The sanctuary transformed into a studio for live-streams
- ♦ Funerals delayed and forced into restricted attendance
- ♦ Will Holt, aka Ludwig von Bachzart, aka N.F.S. Grundtvig, resigned and moved to Texas
- ♦ Worship with masks and enforced social distancing
- ♦ And, of course, many 150th Anniversary events, including the big celebration in fall, postponed.

Yet, in those same events, we have been blessed by God showing His grace, mercy and steadfast love:

- ♦ A memorable—and chilly—Easter Sunrise service live from Oakland Cemetery
- ♦ An all-hands-on-deck COVID-19 response from our staff, pitching in with tech support, pastoral care, and out-of-the-box programming
- ♦ An expanded reach due to the live-streams with people joining worship from all over the world!
- ♦ Abundant and generous giving from the congregation that carried us through the lockdown months in a strong financial position
- ♦ Our new Director of Music and Worship, Austin Willhite, who has hit the ground running.
- ♦ Speaking of Austin, the resurrection of the Ringers of Faith! It’s wonderful to have the bells back!

This direct experience of the hidden and revealed God in 2020 reminds us to run, day by day, to the cross of Christ to receive forgiveness, life and salvation. It reassures us that whatever God chooses to hide from us cannot thwart the gracious will He has revealed to us. It drives us to cling to Christ Jesus, as Savior and Lord, in our worst days and our best.



As we gratefully leave 2020 in the dust, keep coming to the fountain of life to drink deeply from God's Word and to receive the body and blood of Christ. Keep pouring out your hearts in prayer and support one another in the walk of faith. Rest assured that the ministry of Faith Lutheran Church will continue to be dedicated to proclaiming *for you* "the mystery of (God's) will, according to His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ."

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Grorud

Pastor Dave Wollan

CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Yes! 2020 (fist pump)...150th Year Anniversary! No!...COVID-19. I guess that pretty much sums up the year 2020. Well, not totally. Was this supposed to be the year for our 150th celebration? Of course it was, but it didn't happen. Instead, the year started out as planned, but all of a sudden we were in "lock-down." No indoor services. Easter services and Sunday morning services had to be broadcast on the radio, streaming on-line, or on cable TV. This sure wasn't what I expected to include in my "President's Report" when I accepted this position. I was hoping to give an exciting report on how great all the 150th anniversary celebrations were and how much fun we all had.

Instead, I get to report on how awesome our staff was in continuing to bring each of us the Gospel of Jesus Christ through all sorts of new technology. I cannot thank them enough for all the hard work they put into providing services, meetings, Bible studies, etc. through on-line streaming. If it wasn't for their hard work and dedication, it would have been very hard for us to continue pretty much "as usual". It also gave them the opportunity to connect with all of Faith Lutheran members each day as they began D.F.E. (Daily Faith Encouragement), a daily devotional led by all members of the staff, each on a different day. They did an awesome job and gave us a great visit with God each day. Also, at 6:30 on Wednesday mornings, due to the pandemic, Pastor Dave or Pastor Scott led us in "morning prayer" to help us deal with it, but as the spring and summer went on and still today, we continue to meet on-line and pray for many other things. God does provide wonderful opportunities to be with Him, even in times of frustration!

When the pandemic hit, the council had a concern of how not having "in house" services would affect the weekly giving. As it turned out, there was no need for concern as the members of Faith rose to the occasion and provided Faith with an outpouring of gifts that no one could believe. Even though at the time of this writing we have a little ways to go yet to meet the budget, it was so amazing to have funds in the account all year long with no worries about

paying the bills. As president, I want to thank all of you for your financial support this year.

Because of the pandemic and not having all the celebrations for our anniversary, we did come short on the goal of paying off the mortgage in 2020, but with just a little effort and if everyone would extend their yearly pledge in the Upon This Rock Plus campaign just one more year, the loan should be paid off by November 2021...14 years early! That is a challenge I wish to give each of you at this time. We hope the pandemic will not last much into 2021 so we can celebrate our 150th a year later and also celebrate paying off the mortgage.

There were a couple of changes to the staff during the year. We said good-bye to Will Holt as he headed back to Texas to endure Covid and we welcomed Austin Willhite as our new Director of Worship and Music. Also, due to being diagnosed with cancer, Jeff Amundson is taking a leave as he had begun working as a staff intern. We pray for his healing and coming back again to work with Pastor Paul and Pastor Paulus.

I have enjoyed serving you as council president, even though it was a strange year. I guess you can blame the pandemic on my being president. Again, I want to thank everyone for all you do for Faith Lutheran. Praise be to God!

Bob Kreie, Congregational President



REPORT FROM PASTOR PAUL KNUDSON

In this year when person-to-person pastoral visits in homes, care facilities, and hospitals has been made difficult due to the virus restrictions, my focus has been more and more on seeking to connect with mission partners to encourage them in their witness and keep financial support coming to them. This has been fulfilling personally and, I hope, an extension of the concern of FLC for these partnerships.

I have appreciated the support of the pastors here in encouraging me to see this work as an extension of this congregation's witness. New Hope Mission Society continues to be the main focus of my energies in leadership. FLC is at the center of the support for this mission. Well over \$30,000 was given through our mission budget, the hunger appeal, the Endowment Fund, and members. This represents approximately one third of funds given to NHMS. On behalf of this mission partner, I extend their thanks to all the ways FLC supports them.

In the coming year, part of my energies will be directed to helping a vital Lutheran witness in Estonia to have the financial resources to meet its growing ministries. You can expect to hear from me and others on how meaningful and powerful this witness to Jesus Christ is in a once Lutheran country, now become highly secular and atheistic.

I would invite you, when you come through the reception area at the church, to take a look at the many totes that are filled or needing to be filled to meet local needs. Thanks goes to the congregation for this witness to our local community. Generosity is good for the soul and for those in need of it.

Pastor Paul Knudson



REPORT FROM PR. PAULUS PILGRIM, VISITATION PASTOR

Part of an annual report is usually to review what we accomplished during the year. This past year of 2020 seems like a good time to review what we were unable to complete. But that sounds too negative, so here are some things we did manage to do: Watch the progress of Main Street reconstruction. Day to day checking of Covid 19 numbers. Discuss the pros and cons of our favorite election ads. Ooh...that is negative! No denying how easy it has been to grieve what we couldn't accomplish, but wish we could.



Seriously, as we look back on 2020, we feel quite good about how we came up with ideas on how to work through adversity to provide ministry and strength, working with what we had to go on. While I could not enter homes, nursing homes and assisted living facilities or hospitals, I could maintain some contact through phone calls. We even read Scripture and prayed with people over the wires. As for Seniors' Potluck, we had two full blown meetings before we had to shut down, and we tried a new format once, then were shut down again. Perhaps our longing to be together, in meetings, visits and serving opportunities will increase our appetites for resuming our Christian fellowship.



Despite pandemic shutdowns, we were able to put a good number of Operation Christmas Child boxes together. Numerous quilts were sent to needy places—mostly done by elders. Many elders helped with community meals. Some of you discovered the power of sending cards and letters to those you know are especially disconnected by the coronavirus—and a whole lot more. So we were as active as the pandemic allowed, and as safety permitted.

For all this we thank our gracious and understanding God of the universe. He rules, even over pandemics, no less than over storms on the Sea of Galilee. He continues to send His saving Word forward in new ways during difficult times.

He also rules over the powers of evil as we experience them in the world and within our own selves. When Jesus said, *"It is finished"* from His cross, our salvation was sealed. We can never say enough thanks to Him. His grace is bigger than our sins, greater than our frustrations over pandemics.

As we wait for control over Covid, He is always present and empowers us with patience and hope.

We are convinced that 2021 will be different. We will emerge stronger and wiser in His Spirit and guidance. I thank God for your witnesses through it all. My fellow staff members have also worked in a God-given spirit of hope. Our elders do feel the love!

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE AND EVANGELISM

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." II Corinthians 1:3 & 4

Even though 2020 was hard and different and sometimes scary, our Father of compassion and comfort has been by our side through it all. We have all had to lean into our Father especially this past year, and we all witnessed the GOOD too! In 2020, we saw people at Faith share love and comfort through the Blessing Box, the Food Shelf, Common Cup, through gifts of money and gift cards for those in need, through cards and letters, commitment to Faith Lutheran and the staff with generous giving, kind words and continued volunteering to keep our church up and running so God's Word could be spoken and shared. There was and is SO MUCH GOOD! Thank you all for witnessing your faith AT Faith even during difficult times! YOU are appreciated!



A few of the highlights from 2020:

- **Pastoral Care** – Because this year looked so different, we had to look at doing Pastoral Care differently too. No visits at care centers, no communion services, home visits, etc. My coordination of those things turned into coordination of phone calls, emails, and cards. Although I enjoy those things too, I'll have to say, I really missed visiting people.
- **Grief Support Group** – Pastor Paulus and I were able to hold four sessions of the Grief Support Group in January. It was well received, and people seemed to benefit. We planned to hold another session in the fall, but with COVID and the timing of it, it just didn't work out. We will be starting a new session this month.
- **Caregiver Support Group** – The Caregiver Support Group had to take some time off as well, but we were able to hold it a few times this fall. We look forward to resuming in January and have had several requests about it.
- **Hours cut** – Although this isn't a highlight, it was part of the year. With everything happening this spring, I was relieved of my duties with ILT, so I was around here ten hours less a week starting in April. I am happy that the council has asked me to return to my forty hours and will be helping the pastors more this year.

Thank you for the privilege of working at Faith. May God bless you in the year ahead!

Together in Ministry,
Marsha Schmit

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

What an absolute honor to continue serving at Faith Lutheran Church. The year 2020 will go down in history as the year where we had to re-invent ourselves time and time again through a pandemic. Our youth ministry program at Faith has continued to be such a blessing to me even through times such as these and I will lay out all the things that we have done in youth ministry during an odd year.



- ◊ **Confirmation and Middle School Ministries:** Twenty-three students were confirmed on October 25 and it was a display of faith amongst tribulation as students shared how God used the pandemic to strengthen their relationship with Him. Our seventh- and eighth-grade students have been busy working on their memory work and sermon notes, as well as attending Sunday School, retreats, mentor meetings, Trick-or-Treat for the Food Shelf, and many other great events. These students have continued to put in effort and I am excited to see where God leads them.
- ◊ **High School Ministries:** Youth night has continued to flourish even in a pandemic. During our initial shut down from March-May, we were still able to connect via Zoom. Eventually though, my students began craving interaction with one another and we shifted to house group style youth group. These students desire connection between one another and my adult leaders; and once we were able to come back in person, we hit the ground running and we are continuing onwards. Being shut down during a pandemic has reminded my students that nothing is a given and they are thankful to be able to gather together once again and play hours upon hours of four square. Despite the pandemic, we were able to take our annual fall retreat to Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp and connect over the book of I John. I am always inspired by the heart I see in my high school students as they remind me to push deeper into my faith as they ask hard questions and have intentional conversations. This ministry has been the one encouraging me to keep my head up during such hard times and I owe that to my students.
- ◊ **Mission Trips:** The pandemic definitely had its hand in *trying* to undermine this ministry, but still we prevailed. In April, we were told that

our original plan of going to Nashville, TN was canceled and shifted to two trips. My students were not too happy about that and eventually YouthWorks canceled summer trips altogether. It became evident that the Summer of 2020 needed service from our students and we developed Plan C, which entailed a mission trip to exotic Hutchinson, Minnesota. This is a prime example of how God works through the hard to bring forth good. It really does take a village and this trip was a prime example. We were able to tour our own state and visit several state parks, as well as being hosted by wonderful hospitable churches. We started our week on that Sunday, surrounded by past youth of our congregation who had decorated the church for us and made us feel like we had truly arrived at a mission trip site. We were able to paint houses, host Kids, Club, decorate sidewalks with chalk, do landscaping, and work with many service organizations in Hutchinson. Though we were not able to travel to a new place, students loved this mission trip because it opened their eyes to see the need in our own community. We are excited for our next trip to Savannah, GA, but we know that regardless of whether we get to go there or not that the Lord will always provide for us.



- ◊ **College Ministries:** A highlight of my year was taking college students to Costa Rica to serve at Camp Penuel in early January. While able to do some touristy things, we also dived deeply into service work as we prepared the camp for students to arrive. We were able to end our trip with the students. Though we did not speak a lot of Spanish, we were still able to forge deep relationships with these students and this place definitely left a mark on our hearts. We are looking forward to more college ministries in the future.

- ◇ **Other Ministries:** "Other duties as assigned" has never meant more than in the year 2020. From helping with setting up a live-stream, becoming Zoom proficient, accompanying a sunrise Easter service in a cemetery (in the snow, mind you), implementing on-line ministries, and planning a mission trip completely locally; this year has left me filled but tired. I am thankful for the adaptability that all have shown during this year and it has been formative for future ministries here at Faith. I was able to graduate from the Hutchinson

Leadership Institute and I look forward to starting Leadership 2.0 soon.

- ◇ **Prayer Requests:** Please pray for our students and families as they continue to adapt to our ever-changing world, that through the change they realize how consistent God is in their lives.

I am so thankful to serve here alongside many of you in our youth ministries. I could not do any of this without your prayerful support.

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,
Kristen Matthews

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

2020 in review

SCHOOL YEAR

Release Time

Started October 21, on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

We have 32 children attend weekly

Activities include Bible Study, snack, and games

Pandemic Effects: children wear masks and try to be 6 feet away from each other. When school moves into hybrid learning (splitting children into two groups, A and B), we have Release Time on Wednesdays and Thursdays at the same times so every child can go each week. However, when school goes all distance, learning we could not have Release Time.

56ers

Started September 16, on Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

At most we have 16 children, but average 10.

Activities include snack, Bible Study, and games

Events included: snow tubing, Trick-or-Treat for the Food Shelf, and Dairy Queen Day

Children continue to invite their friends and 56ers continues to grow and reach more kids without a church home.

Pandemic Effects: children wear masks and social distance. Lessons are posted on a Faith Lutheran Church 56ers Group page if people miss it or parents want to listen.

Sunday School

Started September 13 with a Fall Kickoff at Library Square from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Classes met at picnic tables, had Faith Rocks at the band shelter, parents had a Digging Deeper class outside, and then everyone joined for worship in the park afterwards. A church picnic was organized after worship.

We have 168 children registered with 13 classes.

Students are studying the Bible and their faith based on a curriculum geared towards their age group.

The education hour begins with Faith Rocks, a worship time directed towards children and led by a wonderful couple from the congregation.

We use SOLA Publishing for our Lenten curriculum

Pandemic Effects: children and teachers wear masks. We greatly rely on parents and volunteers to substitute teach when people call in sick or must quarantine.

Christmas Program

Pre-K through 5th grade Sunday School students were recorded reading parts of or answering questions tied to the Christmas story. Then children sang Happy Birthday and Go Tell It on the Mountain. Planning, recording, and production was made possible by a Christmas Program Team. The movie was shared online for families and church members to see.

B23

Parents and their children, birth to three years old, meet once a month from 9:15 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. during the school year to learn about Jesus and how to teach the faith at home.

Pandemic Effects: parents wear masks and social distance.

Sprouts

We have an average of 5-15 children attending

Volunteers lead a pre-written lesson for children based on the Gospel reading for the day during the sermons of the 10:10 a.m. worships.

Pandemic Effects: leaders and some children wear masks and social distance.

SUMMER MINISTRIES

Picnic in the Park

On Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. parents and children met with Laura Weikle at Elks Park for lunch and play time. Purpose was to build relationships.

Lunch on the Lawn with Laura

On Mondays from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. with 4th-6th graders. Purpose was to build relationships.

Vacation Bible School To Go

June 21-25

29 children signed up to participate in the VBS To Go.

Faith partnered with Christ the King to teach children about Jesus' love for them through the theme, Focus!

Several families met at one house to lead the VBS.



Mystery Bus

July 10-12 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

9 children attended

Mystery bus is a local mission trip for middle school students, with service projects and team building in the morning and an exciting activity in the afternoon.

Service projects include: Common Cup's Back to School Drive, made face masks for Blessing Boxes, served at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries.

Activities include: Big Stone Mini Golf, swimming at Green Lake, doing a Bob Ross painting session/ tie dying/ church games (rainy day alternative). We moved our last fun activity to the following Monday where we went to Kerfoot for the high ropes course.



Coming Together Day Camp

July, 21, 22, and 23 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

or 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church

A two hour long free, day camp for children from preschool through 6th-grade. Time filled with worship, crafts, and games.

49 children attended over the six sessions.

Volunteers wore masks and social distanced.

Bible Camp

Cancelled.

Day Camp at Home

August 3-6 Green Lake Lutheran Ministries provided a free on-line day camp, *We are the Church: Together and Apart.*

ONLINE MINISTRIES

When Minnesota was in a lock down and many business, schools, and churches were closed, we heavily relied on Facebook to share videos and lessons to our families. Listed below are the children's ministry postings.

- * Family friendly Sunday School lessons posted for preschool through 6th-grade on Sundays
- * 56ers devotionals posted on Mondays
- * B23 lessons and puppet skits posted on Tuesdays
- * Sprouts and 56ers lessons posted on Wednesdays
- * Faith Rocks songs and 56ers activities posted on Thursdays
- * Family devotionals or activities posted on Fridays
- * B23 parent devotionals posted on Saturdays

Laura Weikle, Director of Children and Family Ministry



REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

September 1, 2020 –

This date marks the beginning of my employment as the Music and Worship Director at Faith. In September, we were still deep into lockdown, quarantine, and social distancing. As it would turn out, things would not be changing anytime soon. I walked into the position with unfamiliar names and faces that I suddenly needed to schedule and recruit for music and worship leadership. Luckily for me, services were just wrapping up outside and we would move indoors for the program year without the clutter of cables, cameras, and computers that were swiftly and intricately erected by Will Holt.

Though the makeshift recording studio set up in the sanctuary was great at getting through the initial shutdown, I was relieved to know there was no intention of bringing it back. All through September and October, I was occupied with cleaning and organizing my office and the worship spaces, while taking inventory of equipment, music, and resources at my disposal.



October, November 2020 –

October is notable for our music department as Ringers of Faith began regular rehearsals after a multiple-year hiatus. With the inability for groups like Faith Singers to meet due to pandemic restrictions, a bell choir was a perfect solution to the need of community and sharing of music while maintaining safe practicing and social distancing. Programs such as Middle School Bells also resumed and staff choir participated in November Thanksgiving services and later, Christmas services with Ringers of Faith in December.



December 2020 –

This month was filled mostly with uncertainty for me, not knowing how Christmas would pan out. With seven services between Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, one of those planned for outdoors, not to mention the surrounding Sunday mornings and Advent services leading up to the week, I was in full planning mode and ready to make changes on a moment's notice. One highlight was the debut of Oneota Valley Evening Prayer during the second Advent service. The momentum of pushing through this month kept the excitement and adrenaline pumping for Ringers of Faith, all involved in special music, and myself. Looking back, the uncertainty of December quickly turned into gratitude and joy.

Blessings to all in the new year as we continue the living ministry of Faith Lutheran Church, onward!
Austin Wilhite

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Ministry Teams are intended to broaden the base of leadership at Faith Lutheran, create clear lines of authority and delegation for various duties within the church, and to make the decision-making process more transparent and efficient. Six ministry teams exist to oversee broad areas of Faith's ministry. These teams create, receive, evaluate and implement ministry programs directly and/or oversee work done by various sub-groups in the church. Reports from each of the six groups appear below.



This year many of our Ministry Team and Council meetings were done via Zoom or a mix between in-person and Zoom.

CHURCH IN THE WORLD TEAM

Church in the World team members for 2020 are: John Olsen (council rep), Mollie Terlinden, Amy Nisse, Jody Roepke, Penny Stuber (council rep), Jeraldine Rohrbach, Sherry Schuetz, and Pr. Paul Knudson (Staff Advisor).

As with every group, 2020 hosted a unique situation for us to work with.

This team focuses its attention both on the local/regional mission of FLC and the international mission witness. We give attention to the administration of the financial support for these endeavors and seek to grow in its awareness of how our witness is being extended by others with us. To bring awareness to the missions we support, we kicked off a video series and have heard from Steven and Jen Freund and await the other videos from missions to educate our congregation. In 2021, we plan to play the video at the 3rd Sunday service of each month.

Aside from financial donations, face to face interactions were limited in 2020 because of the global pandemic and restrictions prohibiting us from gathering.

The Blessing Box continues to be filled and utilized, but we do realize we need to enhance efforts to keep the box full. Starting in 2021, we will budget \$50 a month to supplement what members give to keep the box filled with snacks and non-perishable food items for our community. Along with the prayer box key that is passed along monthly from member to member of our group will go the responsibility to shop for the \$50 worth of food to add to what members give to keep the box filled.

In 2021, we will continue our mission to find ways to support our local and world missions. If possible, we plan to resume our volunteer efforts monthly at Common Cup, manage the Blessing Box, and educate our congregation on the local & world efforts we support.

Submitted by Mollie Terlinden

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM

The Congregational Life Team seeks to integrate church members into its life and mission.

Members include Bonnie Knorr, Marlys Miller, Niki Pokornowski, Deidra Beilke, Patty Pearce, Shari Dorival and Marsha Schmit (Staff Advisor).

2020, the year of Covid, created many challenges for our team. In a normal year, we would have hosted a Lenten picnic in March, put together a treat schedule for outdoor worship services, hosted an ice cream social after one of the outdoor worship services during the summer, served a meal at Fall Extravaganza in September and hosted a pie social after Thanksgiving Eve service in November. In addition, this year, it was our hope to host a special event to help celebrate our 150th year Anniversary. Sadly, all these events were cancelled because of the pandemic and CDC regulations.

What we were able to do in 2020:

- Coordinated a food drive, March 8 – 29
- Coordinated and served a community meal outreach; however this looked different. Instead of a sit down meal in the Faith Center, we served taco in a bag drive-through style.
- Sent graduation cards to the 2020 graduates.
- Provided treats and beverages for families who had a picnic in Library Square after worship on the first day of Sunday School, September 13.
- Coordinated the Christmas Giving Tree. This year we collected mittens, hats, scarves and sock for Common Cup.
- Sent Christmas cards to shut-ins in the congregation.

We are open to any ideas or suggestions to promote fellowship and member involvement in our family of Faith.

Respectfully submitted, Niki Pokornowski

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Discipleship Ministry Team: Connie Kurtzweg, Lynn Lange, Kari Larson, Christine Ruppert, Mark Schumann, Lori Swift, Gail Telecky, and Andrew Weckwerth. Staff Advisors: Pastor Dave Wollan and Wendy Magruder (staff liaison).

Discipleship is what happens when we as Christians are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live, work, and grow in Jesus Christ. The Discipleship ministry team works to facilitate discipleship in the church by providing learning opportunities for adults to grow in faith and ministry, providing hands-on opportunities for services in the church and in the community, and relating to independent church organizations, such as small groups, ministries for men and for women, media ministries, community events, and Bible teaching ministries.

The Discipleship team began 2020 with the goals of extending and building upon 2019 activities. BIBLEOPOLY 2019 concluded with a celebration dinner for all who had participated, which was met with good attendance. During the dinner, BIBLEOPOLY 2020 was introduced in a promotional video that highlighted a new, topic-centered system for connecting readers with their Bible. The updated board displayed 40 different bookmarks, each curated for a single topical area (e.g. stewardship, joy, marriage, forgiveness). Though in-person church activities were constrained, bookmarks were picked up throughout the year.

Early 2020 plans were disrupted as the COVID-19 pandemic developed throughout the year, placing severe constraints on in-person activities. Throughout the process, the Discipleship team continued to meet however regulations allowed. The primary discussions focused on how best to support the Faith Lutheran Church congregation--in person, in virtual sessions, and in quarantine.

The sixth consecutive year of Faith Groups ministry was postponed until fall. In September, groups started the 7-session series "God's PROMISE, Abraham's Faith". Groups met either in person or virtually, as they were able.

The annual community meal was served on June 7, using the parking lot as a drive-through. Cleanliness and individual portions were highlighted while we cooked the meal (burgers and hot dogs) outdoors, and the community responded with alacrity--the team ran out of food and had to stop serving early. An estimated 150 meals were served.

The 2020 year has been a powerful reminder of the steadfast love of Christ through difficulty, and the importance of community and connection within the Church as we learn and live together. Looking to 2021, we have hope that we will be able to resume normal ministry activities, and that as we do so, we will find new opportunities to foster growth. The ministry team members have given of their time, patience, and positivity through the year, and will continue to support the Faith family as the Spirit leads.

Respectfully submitted, Andrew Weckwerth

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The members of the Management ministry team in 2020 were Bob Kreie, Carl Horton, Connie Stromseth, Kathy Silvernale, Mark Guggemos, and John Dorival. Staff liaisons were Pastor Scott Grorud and Sara Wegner, Director of Finance.

The Management ministry team oversees finances and property of the church by:

- a. Supervising the budget process of the church and the allocation of all funds.
- b. Securing adequate insurance to protect the church and its properties.
- c. Keeping record of all money and property donated to the church and investing or dispersing of funds as directed by the church council or congregational meeting.
- d. Providing monthly financial reports to the church council.
- e. Overseeing the maintenance and improvement of church properties.
- f. Recommending, supervising, and supporting the church custodian(s).

Highlights from the Management team's work in 2020:

- Discussed the purchase of a new program for projecting texts (hymns, liturgy, etc.) of the worship services on the video screens during worship.
- Discussed the many changes that needed to be made, including computer equipment, streaming, Facebook, etc. to broadcast worship services due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Of course this need has lasted much longer than expected and is continuing today.
- Renewed the service contract for geo-thermal system.
- Approved the repair of a small leak in the heat pump.
- Approved the replacement of the water meter by the City of Hutchinson at no cost.
- Negotiated a contract with Otis Elevator to repair and maintain the small elevator. This finally is repaired correctly and will now be serviced by Otis Elevator.
- Due to Covid-19, all the plans for the 150th celebration were postponed until 2021.
- Received the assessment amount for the Highway 15 construction in the amount of \$8,045.12 that will not be due until November 15, 2021.
- Recommended purchasing a new "streaming box" that will make streaming of the services better.
- Recommended the approval of a contract with a local contractor to repair the inside ceiling over the gathering space with the work to be done in spring after the repair of a couple of additional roof leaks that were found.
- Recommended that some computers and the wi-fi system be upgraded in the coming year.
- With the concern about meeting our financial obligations when Covid-19 hit, we were pleased each month to know that the congregation really responded positively and the cash flow was much better than anyone could have expected. We met all of our ministry commitments in 2020 without having to borrow any money for the 12th straight year!

Members completing their service this year are Bob Kreie, Kathy Silvernale and Connie Stromseth. We thank them for their service.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Kreie

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY TEAM

2020 members: Lindsey Schantzen, Dan Moe, Donna Moe, Monica Schiller, Monica Wehler, Wyatt Reece, Kathy McDonald, and Kristen Matthews and Laura Weikle (staff advisors).

The Children Youth and Family ministry team has a wide variety of programs, activities, and ministries that it works with every year. The team supports Christian parents in nurturing the faith of children and youth in the church by various means. This team, during a pandemic, has adapted to help families best. Covid-19 has presented a challenge for us in our ministry team, but we have creatively found ways that have made impacts in our community.

In 2020, we worked together in the following areas:

Community Outreach Meal:

- The CYF team served pulled pork on August 2, 2020.

Faith Family Fun:

- A monthly event organized by our team to bring families together
- Events included: sledding, bowling, Lenten Family devotional, Night of Worship (led by our FLY youth), fall kickoff with Sunday School outside, fall afternoon at Marne Martin's barn, and a paint night hosted with Tara Tepley through the Paint Factory.

Supported our Director of Children and Family Ministries in the following ministries:

- Virtual Vacation Bible School, B23, Mystery Bus, curriculum writing, Sunday School, a new take on the Christmas program, and Day Camp in a Box.

Supported our Director of Youth and Family Ministries in the following ministries:

- Confirmation teaching and service, youth night, and mission trips

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Matthews

WORSHIP TEAM

The year of 2020 began seemingly usual for the new Music and Worship team members: Patsy Amundson, Katie Brecht, Bruce Christianson, Jack Fitzwater, Jaclyn Fitzwater, Deb Heilman, Maria Weikle, Owen Weikle and staff representative Will Holt.

Our first meeting in February should have focused on Holy Week services. The key word here is should. The best laid plans... for Maundy Thursday went awry, to paraphrase Robert Burns. COVID-19, history making pandemic is HERE! Face masks, hand sanitizing, socially distancing of at least 6ft. LOCKDOWN! Plans on hold, plans cancelled. While restrictions were put in place, through February, March, April and May, church staff became the heart, hands and voices of Faith Lutheran Church, bringing worship services and daily encouragements to its members and our neighbors at large. More than ever, technology proved vital.

When restrictions eased, outdoor worship services resumed for the months of June, July, August, and even into September. The worship team kicked in, setting up and taking down sound equipment. October had us serving the community meal drive-through style, a blessing for both team members and meal recipients.

November and December had the team wrapping up the year with a planned historical first, an outdoor Christmas Eve worship service. Why? Because the church staff successfully held an outdoor Easter sunrise service. It's Minnesota. Why not!

Also, August saw the departure of our Music Director, Will Holt. His time here was too short, but sweet and appreciated. But when God closes a door, he opens a window and the position has been blessed over the last several years with fresh faces and fresh ideas. In September, we welcomed Austin Willhite and the team is looking forward to 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Maria Weikle



FAITH LUTHERAN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

Upon This Rock Plus

What Was the Original Mortgage Loan?

The building addition completed in 2010 cost \$4.6 million. The church was able to pay \$1.4 million of that cost and took out a \$3.2 million, 25-year mortgage to cover the rest.

Where Are We Now?

At the end of just 10 years, only about \$215,000 remains to be paid on the loan! That is only 6% of the original loan amount. This rapid payment schedule has spared the congregation hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest costs.

How Did We Get So Far So Fast?

Steady, faithful giving by Faith's members to a series of capital campaigns, along with a very large bequest, have allowed the church to pay this loan so quickly. The interest rate on the loan was also reduced several times and the church has tried aggressively to reduce the principal.

When Should the Loan Be Fully Paid?

For several years, Faith has pursued a dream of paying off the mortgage during this 150th anniversary year. The Covid-19 pandemic totally disrupted our anniversary celebration and the hope of satisfying the mortgage—although we still came very close to that goal! If we can maintain our current payments, the mortgage will be fully paid by December, 2021.

What Is "Upon This Rock Plus"?

With so little of the loan remaining, it seemed unnecessary to launch a whole new capital campaign—especially under pandemic restrictions! Instead, the church council urged Faith's members to extend the pledge they made to Upon This Rock for *one more year* and asked newer members of the Faith family to make a *one year pledge* to help finish the loan.

How Much Has Been Given to "Upon This Rock" So Far?

The three-year Upon This Rock capital campaign concluded at the end of 2020. The campaign received a total of \$792,148.89 in gifts, which exceeded the original pledges of \$702,600.00!

What Will Happen If "Upon This Rock Plus" Raises More than \$215,000?

If the congregation is blessed that richly, any remaining funds will be used as seed money for Phase II of the long-term building plan. Capital campaign gifts are never used for annual ministry expenses, just as offerings to the General Fund are never used to pay the mortgage.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Current members of the Personnel Committee are Niki Pokornowski, Amanda Schueler, Bob Kreie, Tim Piehl, Carl Horton, Kevin Hodson and Jon Kamrath.

Each year, the personnel committee reviews staff benefit costs for medical, dental, life insurance, retirement, etc. Costs and deductibles are reviewed, and a policy is chosen to minimize the impact on the budget, as well as the staff members. Annual reviews are conducted with each staff member to reflect on past accomplishments and look forward to the next year, providing support and encouragement.

In 2020, the committee interviewed to fill the position of Director of Music and Worship, previously held by Will Holt. We were excited to welcome Austin Willhite into the role in September and are excited to work with him and to support him in this important ministry. Sara Wegner has continued as Finance Coordinator and Jim Brodd continues to oversee facility matters for the building.

We thank the staff for their dedication and service to the congregation and community during 2020. This year has been challenging and our FLC staff stepped up and did what they could, thinking outside of the box, to keep this congregation strong. We are truly blessed to have them. We would also like to thank the many volunteers for your time and commitment to support Faith Lutheran's staff and ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Niki Pokornowski, Personnel Committee

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

Members: Scott Ziegler, Chair; Kyle Schantzen, Treasurer/Secretary; Andy Reid, Virginia Brodd, Bob Winslow

The Faith Lutheran Endowment Fund Committee for the year 2020 continued to follow the intended purpose of the fund to enhance the outreach mission of Faith Lutheran Church.

In 2020, the fund generated and dispersed income totaling \$41,654 as follows:

- Global Mission – K.K. Alavi's work in India, Augustana District/Tabor, Augustana District/AIMJ, YWAM for Katie Wielke, TAT, Global Health Care, Lutheran World Relief
- Regional Missions – Scholarships, Green Lake Bible Camp, Abdul Messiah, Institute of Lutheran Theology, Lutheran Seminary Scholarship
- Local Mission – HOMES, WINGS, Scholarships, Common Cup, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Christian Counseling Fund
- Special Mission Needs – Youth Mission Trip, New Hope Mission Society – Tabshir Project, Rev K.K. Alavi Support, FLC Alumni Ministry Support, Augustana District

Respectfully submitted, Scott Ziegler, Chair

NEW HOPE MISSION SOCIETY (NHMS) REPORT



- 2020 was marked by marvelous generosity extending the witness through our partners at the Bishara Center and the Shaliach's Bible College in southwest India. NHMS was given a \$25,000 matching gift for ministry needs at Bishara that could not be funded through our annual budget. That gift was matched by \$28,500, for a total of \$53,500. Part of this gift has already been used to print materials used by Bishara for evangelism and also to the repair the floor in the chapel.
- 2020 was also marked by financial challenges, possibly related to the uncertainties surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. NHMS received approximately \$12,000 less in support this year compared to 2019. Efforts will be made to increase giving in 2021.
- Shaliach's Bible College hope that in-person learning can soon begin again. The students often have no access to on-line learning.
- Our partner, Dr. Christoph in Germany, remains a helpful counselor for us and is thankful for the support NHMS gives through his organization to support Brother Titus in Nigeria. His personal safety and that of his community continue to be a challenge.
- Pastor K.K. Alavi, Abdul and the trustees of Bishara express their gratitude for NHMS' partnership.
- A major word of thanks needs to go to Faith Lutheran Church, its endowment fund, and personal support from members for the witness given through NHMS. Well over \$30,000 was given in 2020 from these sources. Without this leadership giving, NHMS would not be able to give the support needed for this ministry.

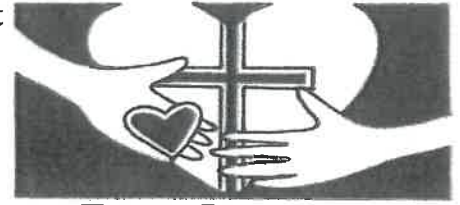
Thank you ~ Pastor Paul Knudson

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (FLCW) REPORT

2020 has been a year of inactivity! The FLCW Board met regularly, but at each meeting there was a decision to delay activities. At this time, we are planning to hold our annual rummage sale in April, 2021. We will make a final decision on this at our March 2021 meeting.

In order to comply with COVID restrictions, summer board meetings were held on the Desens' deck. Cool weather meetings were held at Faith Center, with one or two people at a table and masks in place.

Without an income this year from usual activities, donations to various local, national and international ministries were not disbursed. Since adults and children packed around 100 boxes, \$200 was donated to the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry shipping fund.



**Faith Lutheran
Church Women**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY REPORT

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. I always pray for you, and I make my requests with a heart full of joy..." Philippians 1:3, 4



Our Faith Lutheran Prayer Shawl Ministry began in May of 2006. We have 15 women actively involved in our ministry. In 2020, we presented 35 shawls. Over the past 14 years, we have presented 946 shawls! They have been given to residents of nursing homes/care centers, missionaries serving abroad, injured soldiers, deployed soldiers, Common Cup Ministry, those who are hospitalized, those who are mourning the death of a loved one, our youth, foster children, Hutch Health Cancer Center and others. The shawls serve as a physical reminder that we remember the recipients in prayer.

"Children are a gift from the Lord, they are a reward from Him."
Psalm 127:3

Faith's Prayer Shawl Ministry includes prayer blankets for newborn babies. A prayer blanket is presented to families of Faith when a child joins the family. This year we presented five blankets. We have given a total of 161 blankets.

We supply yarn for our shawl makers. The yarn is purchased through gifts of money from the FLCW, the endowment fund, church benevolence and individuals. THANK YOU for your continued support. THANK YOU to all who create our beautiful shawls and blankets.

Each shawl and blanket is photographed and placed in an album with the name of the woman who created it. When each is given, the name of the recipient is recorded by the photo and also on a spreadsheet.

If you knit or crochet and would like to become a part of our Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact me at 320-587-6733 or grjohn@mchsi.com

Geri Johnson

CONFIDENTIAL E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN REPORT

"Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything..." Philippians 4:6

We have 31 men and women who receive prayer requests via e-mail. Our prayer warriors pray specifically upon receiving the confidential request.

If you would like to become a Faith Lutheran prayer warrior, please send me your e-mail address at grjohn@mchsi.com

Geri Johnson

senior SPOTLIGHT

SENIORS' TASK FORCE REPORT

Our report for 2020 will be brief, very brief because we didn't do anything. We never met. We never had reason to meet. Our annual Bless The Years Sunday was cancelled due to Covid 19. This special event is the main focus of our task force each year.

This does not mean, however, that our seniors/elders did nothing. You have witnessed some very active elders contributing to the life and health of this congregation. They help with communion, clean our buildings, provide rides to clinic ap-

pointments, assemble *Faith Matters* and weekly bulletins, sew quilts, help provide special music in bells and choir, etc. The list goes on and on, and we haven't even mentioned monetary giving and prayer.

Our special thanks to you all. You are vital to the life of our congregation and the whole Kingdom of God. A very special thanks to one of our task force members who has entered her heavenly home, promised and given by Jesus Christ. Alice Fransen was such a faithful servant in our midst. We'll miss her on the Seniors' Task Force.



We are compelled to enter 2021 with new energy and encouragement from God Himself, to serve our special people—Faith Lutheran elders. All praise to Him, our refuge and strength!

Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

FAITH LUTHERAN QUILTERS REPORT

The Faith Lutheran Quilters have been as busy as ever, even with the Covid-19 pandemic. This group has sent donations to four organizations this year: Global Health Ministries, Orphan Grain Train, Marie Sandvik Center and a number of the Hutchinson assisted living and nursing home facilities.

This amazing group meets the first Wednesday of each month to tie quilts together, but many of these ladies also work at home on their own time. There are a few ladies who come in a couple of times a month to prepare materials for the quilting days.

In 2020, quilting days continued, but with social distancing and masks. The 1,200 masks made for the local care facilities were done by three amazing ladies putting in up to 10 hour days, sometimes three days in a row. They were real rock stars!

This year, the quilters completed and donated: 1,200 face masks, 187 quilts, 259 blankets of assorted sizes, 1,891 pairs of socks, 385 pillow case dresses, 50 pairs of shorts, 21 diapers, 4,300 bandages (mostly rolled at home), 40 hospice kits and 40 newborn kits (mostly packed by our youth), five school bags with supplies, 32 stocking caps and scarves, and 397 hospital supply kits.

The quilters would like to thank everyone for their material and financial donations. Without you, the masks and other projects would not have been possible. Also, a huge thank you to Dorothy Desens and those who helped deliver the finished products to the various organizations.



Diane Ferguson

2020 Membership Updates

Received Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in 2020

Matia Albrecht	Isaac Felber	Amelia Lauer	Liam Schiller
Tessa Berwald	Madilyn Gewerth	Treydon Mackedanz	Florence Schwartz
Everly Bussler	Nora Heidecker	Graham Mayer	Samuel Sanders
Caleb Carlson	Vincent Heilman	Miles McLain	Ellie Terlinden
Chaplin Defiel	Krew Kaping	Henrik Merkins	Elliott Thompson
Margo Duehn	Hayli Krippner	Hazel Radloff	Clara Weckwerth
Macklin Elton	Brooke Landmark	AnnaBeth Schiller	

Confirmed in Their Faith on October 25, 2020

Cameron Bloemke	Luke Johnson	Charles Renner	Stella Vaillancourt
Kaden Butler	Owen Kellen	Jacob Schiller	Carter Verhasselt
Logan Butler	Grant Kropp	Mackenzie Smith	Kiara Wakefield
Isabelle Dressen	Ethan Lenz	Daniel St. Onge	Soren Wehler
Audrey Hanson	Keegan Merkins	Jonathan St. Onge	Alyssa Winn
Cade Johnson	Ethan Peterson	Lola Strey	

New Members in 2020

Eric & Chelsey Schumaci (Bennet and Grayson)	Rebecca Dressen
Lance & Laura Bussler (Elliott, Emma & Everly)	Carol Otto
Shannon Timperio (Henrik)	Dick Ward

Married in 2020

Brandon Block and Patricia Krippner	Samuel Ruppert and Kayla Kurtzweg
Mitchell Thompson and Samantha Schilling	Connor Kern and Katrina Rinke
Scott Trongard and Sheila Jackson	

Deaths in 2020

John Athey	Alice Fransen	Shirley Kisling	Barb Ryan
Gordy Bauer	Donald Hantge	Douglas Lee	Shawn Schoettmer
Myrt Bauer	Kevin Hjerpe	Jerome Lindquist	Doyle Thielman
Doris Betker	Janice Hlavka	Roger Lund	T.J. Uecker
Nancy Bruhn	Floyd Hormann	Mayonne Martin	Mick Wigen
Irene Christensen	Colton Hughes	Frances Miller	Chuck Wixcey
Arlyce Drahos	Betty Jensen	Doris Nelson	Harriet Wixcey
Mark Dwinnell	Glenda Jonson	Russell Nelson	Glenn Woelfel



COMMON CUP MINISTRY, INC.

"The mission of Common Cup Ministry is to gather and share spiritual and financial resources of area churches into one "Common Cup" so that we may minister to those in need."

Common Cup Ministry is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization governed by a board of directors from member churches and area Ministerial Associations. The board of directors meets monthly. Member churches are encouraged to have a representative to serve on the reps council. This council meets monthly.

Our outreach programs include the annual Back to School Supply collection and distribution, annual Warm Coat collection & distribution, weekend Backpack Feeding

Program for K-5th graders in McLeod County, monthly collection & distribution of diapers, food products delivered to area REACH programs, personal care products delivered to McLeod County schools. We make referrals to McLeod Emergency Food Shelf, we maintain a mini food pantry at the CCM office and we sponsor and promote other food assistance programs.

Through a voucher system Common Cup funds are administered by volunteers to help those who fall through the cracks of other assistance. These vouchers assist with lodging, transportation, utility bills, laundry, clothing, medical resources, etc.

The CCM Thrift Store in Glencoe serves through both receiving donations of household items & offering these items for resale and to those in need.

The COVID pandemic presented challenges in how we helped clients – outdoor distributions, filled backpacks delivered to each grade level, weekend food bags placed outside behind office. Great leadership and creativity by our director and volunteers enabled everything to run smoothly.

Volunteers are always welcome. Our volunteers provide spiritual ministry as well as financial and emotional resources and support. For opportunities please call Director Bev Bonte at her direct office line: 320-234-8344 or email her at commoncupmn@gmail.com

THANK YOU to Faith Lutheran and its members for your generous gifts and for your willingness to volunteer. Through the generosity of our member churches, businesses & individuals we have been able to continue our assistance to families with an immediate need and to provide resources for assistance through other programs offered in McLeod County.

Geri Johnson, Faith Lutheran's Representative to CCM - www.common-cup.org



Annual Report – Pastor Randy Freund, Augustana District Service Coordinator

Like everything else in our lives, Covid-19 continues to dominate the ministry and mission of the AD.

There are many **positives** that have come from this.

- *Pastors and leaders have connected more often through Zoom meetings. This has helped increase communication and support.
- *We had a successful and helpful webinar on communion practices during lockdowns. We hope to offer more webinars like this.
- *Because of restrictions, we have become more creative in meetings and ways to accomplish ministry goals. Our annual convention was a prime example of a successful, creative, virtual and in-person experience.

There have been **negatives**, as well.

- *While Zoom meetings have been helpful, they have also made us painfully aware of our isolation.
- *We have seen increased pastoral and congregational stress as in-person worship services, visitations and programmatic ministries are navigated.
- *Congregations are relational organizations by nature and by design. The inability to gather in usual ways has had an adverse effect on our congregations. In joys and sorrows, we move forward in faith and hope.

Looking ahead: One of the exciting and important outcomes from the annual convention is something called the **2020 Initiative**. At our convention we looked back on our first 10-years. We now look forward to the next phases of the Augustana District. Here are some goals and challenges the Convention laid before us.

AD 2020 Initiative Plan

Highlights and Goals.

1. At the theological conference we promote the Sr. High Youth Event at the 2021 AD Convention and share the need for pastors to identify youth who may be candidates for ministry work. When considering a convention theme, we want to consider topics that will also be of interest to high schoolers.
2. We publicize and host a youth event in conjunction with the AD Convention. This may be a modification of the previously planned senior high event.
3. From this group and from pastor's suggestions, we develop a Youth Task Force.
4. This, we hope, extends into some summer intern/creative staffing situations.
5. As this Youth Task Force enters college, we follow them to campuses to begin campus ministry sites. We meet with current campus ministers to learn what is successful for them.
6. We hope this develops into to summer camp ministries as well.
7. Develop a Mission Start in Minneapolis area (West-Metro)

Initial Goal: \$35,000

Transition Ministry – This plan is under development. The basic concept is this: once your pastor leaves and before the congregation starts the search for pulpit supply, interim, or begins the call process, your congregation may benefit from a pastor or pastoral team to serve for a 4-6 week time of transition.

New Health Insurance option for AD congregations – The Hahn Financial Group has been meeting with Augustana Leaders about a group health insurance option for pastors and staff of Augustana District congregations. The prospects for and benefits of this plan look promising.

Giving – While we are currently experiencing a slight decrease in giving, throughout this time of Covid-19, congregational and individual support for the District has been consistent and strong. THANK YOU!

Thanks – The leadership of the District Council and the staff of AD (Becky Hand, Wendy Magruder, Niki Pokornowski and Karen Eckstrom) is a gift to all of us. God is faithful!

In Christ, Pastor Randy Freund

Faith Lutheran Church Council and Ministry Team Members

The Church Council consists of four congregational officers and ten additional members. All Council members also serve on one of the six ministry teams. The officers all serve on the Management ministry team. Two of the remaining council members serve on each of the others. The ministry teams include two to six other members. The President and Vice-President serve one-year terms that are not renewable. The Treasurer and Secretary serve one-year terms that can be renewed once. All other terms are two years, renewable once (except for unfilled terms). **Please note: All names in BOLD are nominated for election at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 31, 2021.** All other names are continuing their terms.

Congregational Officers:

President: Carl Horton (2021)
Secretary: Penny Stuber (2021)

Vice-president: John Olsen (2021)
Treasurer: Julie Wendland (2021)

Ministry Team Members

Children, Youth and Family

Church Council Representative: **Monica Wehler** (one year remaining)
Jill Rude (completing one year remaining term)

Church Council Representative: Patricia Block (two-year term)
Members continuing their terms: **Kathy McDonald and Wyatt Reece** (one year remaining)
Members to be elected: Elizabeth Buckentin, Ashley McLain and Christina Weckwerth (two-year terms)

Church in the World

Church Council Representative: **Jon Gelschus** (completing one year remaining term)
Church Council Representative: Connie Stromseth (two-year term)
Members continuing their terms: **Amy Nisse, Sherry Schuetz, Kent Jacobsen** (one year remaining)
Members to be elected: Jeraldine Rohrbach, Claire Woelfel and Lisa Sanders (two-year terms)

Congregational Life

Church Council Representative: **Wade Eastman** (completing one year remaining term)
Church Council Representative: Niki Pokornowski (two-year term)
Members continuing their terms: **Shari Dorival, Patty Pearce and Deidra Beilke** (one year remaining)
Member to be elected: Kari Larson (two-year term)

Discipleship

Church Council Representative: **Gail Telecky** (one year remaining)
Church Council Representative: Daryl Bateman (two-year term)
Members continuing their terms: **Mark Schumann, Lori Swift, Christine Ruppert** (one year remaining)
Members to be elected: Connie Kurtzweg, Nicki Scharn, Dick Desens (two-year terms)

Management

Church Council Representatives: Carl Horton (President), John Olsen (Vice-President), Penny Stuber (Secretary), Julie Wendland (Treasurer)
Member continuing their terms: **John Dorival** (one year remaining)
Member to be elected: Mark Guggemos (two-year term)

Worship

Church Council Representative: **Katie Brecht** (one year remaining)
Church Council Representative: Maria Weikle (two-year term)
Members continuing their terms: **Patsy Amundson, Bruce Christianson and Deb Heilman** (one year remaining)
Members to be elected: Owen Weikle, Jack Fitzwater, Jaclyn Fitzwater (two-year terms)

Nominating Committee

Angie Elton, Angie Lohrenz and Lisa Ishihara (one year remaining)
Cheri Ruppert, Sharon Romo, Sherry Drahos (two-year terms)

Faith Lutheran Church Budget vs Actual

	2020 Budget	Jan - Dec 20 Actual	2021 Proposed
Total REVENUE-OFFERINGS	781,900.00	763,403.86	808,100.00
Total REVENUE - Mission Gifts	5,000.00	7,740.00	5,000.00
Total REVENUE - MINISTRY ACTIVITY	71,495.00	45,258.97	63,200.00
Total Revenue	858,395.00	816,402.83	876,300.00
Total MINISTRY - Missions/Benevolence	82,100.00	84,460.86	81,341.00
Total MINISTRY FOR DISCIPLESHIP	39,357.00	22,987.54	37,577.00
Total MINISTRY FOR OUTREACH	12,790.00	13,454.38	17,900.00
Total MINISTRY FOR CARE	4,300.00	2,983.72	6,150.00
Total MINISTRY FOR WORSHIP	16,320.00	11,601.15	16,475.00
Total MINISTRY FOR ADMIN. - property	117,510.00	124,484.38	128,650.00
Total MINISTRY FOR ADMIN - personnel	586,018.00	542,272.24	588,207.00
Total Expense	858,395.00	802,244.27	876,300.00
Net Other Income	0.00	-2,604.28	0.00
Net Income		11,554.28	

**Full financial reports will be available in the church office.
 If you would like one mailed, please contact the church office at (320) 587-2093.
 The Audit letter is available for review by contacting the church office.

Faith Lutheran Church Balance Sheet - 12-31-2020

ASSETS

General Fund

Cash in Bank – General Operations 129,557
 Petty Cash 92

Total General Assets

129,649

Restricted Funds

Building Maintenance Fund 17,778
 Capital Appeal Funds 93,275
 Christian Counseling Fund 1,212
 Faith Lutheran Church Endowment Fund 752,114
 Faith Lutheran Church Women 5,621
 St. Morten's Cemetery Fund 2,466
 Memorial Fund 7,553
 Special Fund Account 26,512

Total Restricted Funds

906,530

Plant Fund

Land - Main St 421,270
 Church Sanctuary and New Addition 5,265,762
 Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment 233,232
 Total Plant Fund

Total Assets

5,920,264
\$6,956,443

LIABILITIES & EQUITIES

Loans Payable

Upon This Rock Mortgage \$216,492

Total Loans

\$216,492

Net Equities

General Fund (Operational Deficit) 129,649
 Restricted Funds 906,530
 Plant Fund 5,703,771

Total Net Equities

\$6,739,951

Total Liabilities & Total Equities

\$6,956,443

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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Faith Lutheran Church

Hutchinson, Minnesota

2020 Annual Meeting

*Sunday, January 31, 11:30 a.m.
in person and Facebook live-stream.*