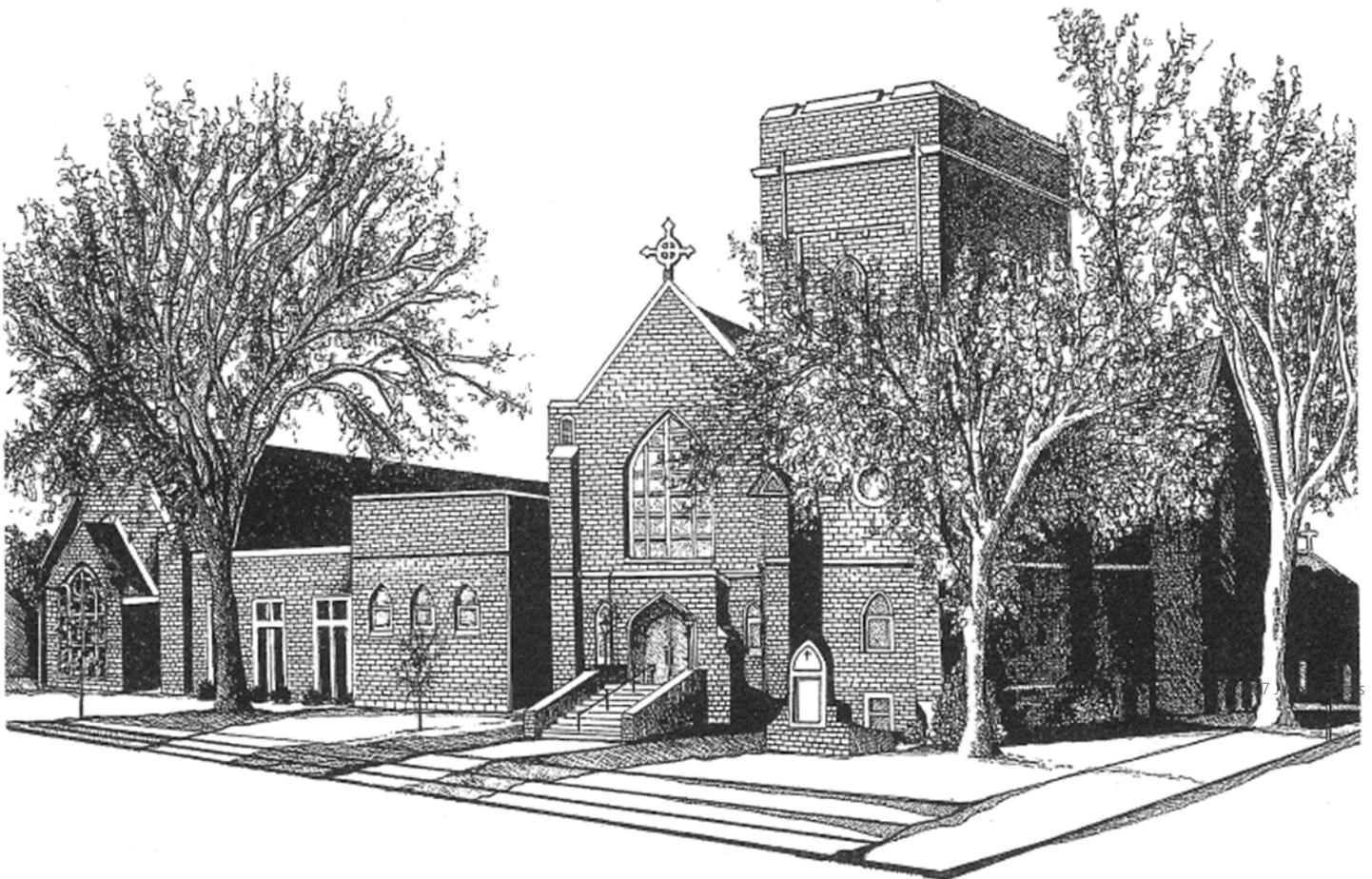


# First Lutheran Church

Fergus Falls, Minnesota

## 2021 Annual Report





## A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth  
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

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

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

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## OPENING LITURGY



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

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

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

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

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

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

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

**God has called us for such a time as this.**

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

**You have called us for such a time as this.**

### God of the Fertile Fields

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

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

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

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

All Creation Sings #1063

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

# Contents

A Message from the ELCA Bishop Eaton .....	2
Opening Liturgy.....	3
Contents Page.....	4
Mission and Vision Statements.....	5
Agenda.....	6
Church Staff.....	7
Church Council.....	7
Membership.....	8-9
New Members, Baptisms, Confirmed, Marriages, Funerals.....	8-9
Senior Pastor Gretchen Enoch.....	10
Vicar Lynn Melchior.....	11
Visitation Pastor David Strom.....	12
President’s Report.....	13-14
Education Director/FLY K-6.....	15-18
Property Committee.....	19
Prayer Ministry.....	19
Worship Committee.....	20
Fellowship Committee.....	21
Education Committee.....	22
Discipleship Committee.....	23
150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.....	23
Personnel Committee.....	24
Finance Committee.....	25
Statement of Financial Position.....	26-27
Statement of Financial Activities for the General Fund.....	28-30
Proposed 2022 Annual Budget.....	31-33
Women of the ELCA.....	34
WELCA Treasurer’s Report.....	35
First Lutheran Church Foundation Income and Expense.....	36
First Lutheran Church Foundation Endowment Fund.....	37
First Lutheran Church Cemetery Report.....	38
First Lutheran Church Cemetery Financial Report.....	39
149 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes.....	40-41
Luther Crest Bible Camp Report to Congregations.....	42-43
PioneerCare Annual Report.....	44
Northwest Minnesota Synod Report.....	45-46
2022 Ballot.....	47

## Mission and Vision Statements

# Mission

"As faithful disciples, we serve God and welcome all people with open hearts."

# Vision

We, as members of First Lutheran, glorify God in all of life,  
with the Bible as our authority and the Holy Spirit as our guide.

We pledge to minister to all, loving as Christ loved us.

We will seek out new avenues to spread the good news, to build relationships  
with our fellow believers, as well as those who have yet to believe.

First Lutheran Church 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Agenda  
January 30, 2022

Council Members Present

Opening Litany and Prayer

Call to Order

Adoption of 2022 Agenda

Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

Approval of 2021 Treasurer's Report

Remarks:

President

Pastor

Presentation of 2022 Budget

2021 Nominating Committee

Voting

Introducing 2022 Council Members

Introducing 2022 Nominating Committee

Introduction and Comments by 2022 President

Closing Prayer & Benediction

Motion to Adjourn

## Church Staff

Rev. Tiffany Sundeen\*

Rev. David Strom

Katie Shallue\*

Doreen Oliphant\*

Steve Hosch\*

Keith Melberg

Linda Mellon

Anne Taylor

Harriet Wicklund

Laurie Whitehead

Kristy Wicklund

\*Indicates full-time employee

Interim Senior Pastor

Visitation Pastor

Office Manager

Bookkeeper (November – Present)

Custodian

Organist, Choir Accompanist

Handbell Choir Director

Worship Team Accompanist/Director

Adult Choir Director

Messenger

Director of Children's Ministries

## Church Council

President – George Mathison

Secretary – Leslie Flugstad

Treasurer – Suzanne Demuth

Education – Tara Wagner

Finance – Leslie Flugstad

Membership – Kris Werner

Youth –

Vice-Presidents – David & Lorri Holt

Fellowship – JoAn Whitlock

Personnel – Steve Fitz

Property – Tedd Steenbock

Discipleship & Outreach – Michael Wicklund

Worship – Harriet Wicklund

# Membership

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership as of December 31, 2020	1397	1162
Members received during 2021:		
By baptism (children 15 & under)	14	0
By baptism (adults 16 & older)	0	0
By affirmation of faith	0	0
By transfer	0	0
From other sources & statistical	0	0
Baptized members confirmed in 2021		13
<b>Total members received in 2021</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>
Members removed during 2021:		
By death	20	20
By transfer	1	1
Statistical corrections	0	0
<b>Total members removed in 2021</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP END OF 2021</b>	<b>1390</b>	<b>1154</b>

## New Members, Baptisms, Confirmed, Marriages, Funerals

### New Members in 2021

None

### Baptisms in 2021

Oaklynn Reign Mitchell	Easton Eddie Johnson
Chloe Ruth Donnay	Sutton McKenzie Stoen
Addison Carol Christenson	Jordyn Claire Pitts
William Everett McMahon	Lennon Marie Johansen
Molly Elise Demuth	Camden Jacob Barker
Cullen Michael Pajari	Cullen Robert Barker
Parker Buck Toso	Ryder Michael Erickson

## Confirmed in 2021

Jack Anderson  
Michael Schmidt  
Jaxon Schmitz  
Siiri Smestad  
Kaitlyn Stans  
Alyssa Wagner  
Kendal Mouritsen

Andrew Muchow  
Julianna Flugstad  
Hayden Lappegaard  
Darius Lockett  
Marcus Maack  
Mashayla Mau

## Marriages in 2021

Tedd Steenbock and Sharon Dahl, 2/14/2021

## Funerals in 2021

Phyllis O Anderson  
Lynal Oscarson  
Helen Pederson  
Evelyn Horton Kenyon  
Robert Lorsung  
Gerald Elliott  
Anthony Perez  
Edwin Stahl  
Barbara Mae Underwood  
Kurt Gustin

Marjorie Iversen  
Grace Strass  
Sheila Elliott  
LaRoy Nell Norby  
Eldon Kratzke  
Eunice Peterson  
Stanley Quam  
Doris Teberg  
Bradley Lillemon  
Clarice Ohman

## Members Removed in 2021

Dolores Simdorn



## PASTOR GRETCHEN ENOCH

“Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the Lord your God has promised concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.” Joshua 23:14

As I reflect upon the past year, I look to Joshua and the way he listened intently to God telling him to be of good courage. Courage means having a good attitude in the face of challenging or frightening circumstances. Living with the looming threat of COVID has propelled me to lean into the faithful examples of Biblical characters, such as Joshua. He fought many battles to finally enter the Promised Land. Joshua could have given-up and given into the devil’s temptations. The result would have meant the children of Israel never would have defeated their enemies, and they would not have enjoyed living in the Promised Land. When I begin to lose courage, I remember the joy of the Lord is our strength. We read in Nehemiah, 8:10 - Then he said to them, *“Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”* Like Joshua, our fears will be subdued as we stay strong in God.

Striving to live in alignment with God’s will and adherence to His Commandments is essential. We do not follow perfectly, but we do our ‘best’ and our ‘best’ is good enough for God. Throughout the pandemic, here at First Lutheran we have done our ‘best’ to safely welcome all people into the life and ministry of the congregation. You are a faithful people who take seriously the Gospel call to make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. It has been a privilege to lead and to serve among you.

The book of Ruth 28:20 states that a faithful person will “abound with blessings.” First Lutheran has many blessings. The greatest blessings within this community of faith are the people. You know who you are. The ones who show up to plan and to prepare for worship done well. The ones who care for the church building. The ones who teach the children, lead confirmation, ring bells, and sing in the choir. The cantors, the ushers, the greeters, and the congregation. And we must not overlook our homebound members who faithfully listen to the worship services on the radio, or the live stream. We value YOU. You are a generous people who love your church and your God. Thanks be to God. Psalm 77:6 reminds us that the next time we have a decision to make, to go someplace and get still and listen intently for God’s voice. *“When my nights were filled with joyful songs. I search my soul and ponder the difference now.”*

Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor. I am humbled, honored, and grateful to walk along your side in faith.

Sharing Christ’s Service,  
Pastor Gretchen Enoch



## VICAR LYNN MELCHIOR

As 2021 comes to an end, I marvel at our resiliency to handle all the stuff the pandemic has thrown at us while still being a church. God continued to show up in our lives.

I have been blessed to make pastoral visits, lead and preach in worship, lead Bible studies, teach Sunday school and confirmation, and more. As COVID loosened its grip on our gatherings, I met many of you face-to-face for the first time this year. Your smiles, laughter, and sorrows have enriched my life. First Lutheran truly is a community of abundant love and deep faith with a desire to help in the community.

What I did not expect this year was to say goodbye. As I have met my internship goals at First Lutheran, I am moving onto another site in January. My last day at First Lutheran was Dec 27<sup>th</sup>.

I thank God for the opportunity to be placed among you. I also want to thank Pastor Gretchen, The Formation Intern Team (FIT), Council, Office Staff, and everyone else for a loving and growth-filled internship. You will always have a special place in my heart.

I will miss you all.

In Christ's Service,

Lynn Melchior



## PASTOR DAVID STROM, VISITATION PASTOR

Isaiah 49:15 – *Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.*

For many of our members and friends who are homebound or residents in assisted living or nursing homes, a verse such as the one I just quoted comes to mind quite often. The days can get very long and human contact is sporadic due to the busyness of life and the caution surrounding the pandemic. I see my role as staying in contact with these dear people; knowing their current joys and struggles; and reminding them of God's love for them and our love for them as a congregation.

Pastor Stan retired at the end of October after a long and fruitful career in pastoral ministry. I assumed the responsibilities of Visitation Pastor at the beginning of October.

I will begin the details of my report with a summary of my pastoral activities for December. Following that, I will provide a three-month summary since October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Scheduling visits in December proved to be a challenge especially after the 10<sup>th</sup>, since those living in assisted living or in private residences had many activities scheduled, so my visits and phone contacts were down for the month. Here is the breakdown for December:

- 12 In Person Visits.
- 8 Phone Contacts
- Preached and led the service on December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Assisted with four other services, including two on Christmas Eve.
- 3 Staff Meetings
- 1 Council Meeting.
- 1 Mill Street Bible Study

Listed below are my pastoral activities in total since I began serving FLC October 1<sup>st</sup>:

- 56 In Person Visits.
- 7 Hospital Visits.
- 31 Phone Contacts
- Sent four cards to those who were nearly impossible to reach by phone.
- 2 Mill Street Bible Studies
- Attended multiple staff meetings.
- 3 Council Meetings.
- Led worship and preached on 10/3/21; 11/21/21; and 12/12/21.
- Assisted five other Sunday mornings in co-leading worship.

It has been my pleasure to serve First Lutheran these past three months, and I look forward to continuing to minister here in 2022.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Pastor David Strom

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1872 was the year our founding fathers and mothers first set about to establish their church in Fergus Falls. Now 150 years later First Lutheran will celebrate that moment so long ago, in 2022. We will honor their vision and hard work, and recall the historic events of those early years. When you think that our grandparents were young enough to know personally some of those men and women at that time, it makes it seem closer to our time in history.

It was not easy for them in those late 19th century times, and over the years they survived and thrived even. We are the benefactors of their strong faith.

So how do we honor and celebrate those 150 years? Do we look back fondly and wish for “the good old days”? I think we all would rather commit ourselves to working together toward a bright future for our church community.

These past couple of years have been very difficult for many of you, with perhaps loss of jobs, as well as family and friends, both physically, sadly, as well as emotionally. This pandemic has affected every aspect of our daily lives, at home, at work, and even in our church. We have become fearful of close contact, not being able to even attend services, and listened to our SMART team for their daily advice to keep us safe. Now we are back in church, but are still cautiously aware of those of us who are much more susceptible to the virus, and cannot risk any contact with the virus. These stresses seep into our every activity and thought.

Your church council has diligently strived to keep your health and welfare foremost in all their decision-making. Live-streaming the services, broadcasting on the radio, and recording on you-tube all bring the church to the congregation at home. For the church to thrive again, we need to be together in the sanctuary, worshipping as one, and that is our goal.

Pastor Gretchen has withstood the stresses brought on by the past two years, and has served us by her many gifts. Sadly, these stresses along with personal issues, have weighed heavily on her, and she has made the difficult decision to step back from her leadership position. She has chosen to resign as of Dec 31, 2021 and will be working with the Synod office for a new call. We can all wish her Godspeed for her future ventures.

Vicar Lynn has finished her time here also, and is moving on to other venues to continue her instruction. We thank her for her many contributions to the life of First Lutheran and wish her Godspeed. She will be ordained a Lutheran pastor next summer.

We are blessed to have Pastor David Strom to help fill in the gaps of service, and will also be assisted by the other ELCA pastors in Fergus Falls during this transition. We thank them for this help when needed. The executive committee and council are in conversation with the Synod office to assist us in a search for an interim pastor who can guide us through the next year or more.

For us to succeed and flourish as a church community in the coming year, and indeed, the next 150 years, it will be necessary for us all, individually, from the youth to the seniors, to come forward

boldly and offer in any way possible your services to make our church, your church, a welcoming, loving, growing community of believers.

Thank you for allowing me to be your council president and for your cooperation in making First Lutheran a loving, caring, community.

Thy will be done.

George Mathison  
FLC Council President

## Director of Children's Ministry/Sunday School & FLY K-6

The past year has continued to provide many changes and challenges to how we minister to our families and children. It has forced us to think differently and to really narrow in on what is important. The outcome was a focus on connection with both God and each other as a church community. The activities and curriculum used has this as its central focus. Some families have eagerly jumped back into these activities, some have drifted in and out, and others are still hesitant. Wherever our families are currently, we are doing our best to meet them where they are and are continuing to try to strengthen their connection with God, with each other, and with the church.

Thank you for your continued support of our children's ministry programs and making First Lutheran Church a welcoming place for children and families to come and worship and connect.

Blessings,

Kristy Wicklund

Director of Children's Ministry

[Kristy@flcff.org](mailto:Kristy@flcff.org)

### 2021 Adaptations

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautions, Sunday School and FLY K-6 adapted traditional delivery methods to minister to First Lutheran Youth. These adaptations included the following:

- Sunday School take home kits
- Outdoor activities such as drive-in movies, meeting at the park for FLY K-6, Vacation Bible School, Palm Sunday Festival
- At-home Sunday School option

### Biblical Theme(s)

2020-2021 School Year: "Be the Light," in these dark days, you are the light for someone. Through your kindness to others, your love for your family, your love for our community and earth, and your love for God you help to let your light shine and lift those up around you to shine also. 2021-2022- "Let the Children Come to Me". "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" - Matthew 19:14

## Ministries

This year our goal was connection: 1.) Connection with God, 2.) Connection with each other, 3.) Connection with the church, and 4.) Connection with the community. This change was made in an attempt to continue to meet the needs of church families. With COVID-19 still prevalent, we have had to find a variety of ways to meet our families where they are in moving toward our goals. This includes both indoor and outdoor events, working toward making worship a welcoming experience for all ages, and providing both in-person and at-home experiences. The workings toward this goal cannot be measured in numbers due to families in different places in their lives right now, but rather on the feedback and observations from those involved in the events and programs happening both in-person and at-home.

FLY K-6: FLY is a Wednesday after-school program from 3:30-4:30 for ages Kindergarten through 6th grade. It is a time to worship and learn about Jesus through Bible stories, games and activities. It is also a time to build relationships within our church community. Every couple of months, we have an event for youth (Kindergarten through 6th) that brings us together through different activities and projects.

Sunday School: During the 2020-2021 school year: we have offered a monthly take-home lesson. This was a take-home bag or box containing a Bible lesson with activities to go with that lesson that are age appropriate for your children (ages 1 through 6th grade). On YouTube each month, the Sunday School story with Ms. Kristy was available, a story time with Ms. Vicki, and songs that went along with the month's theme. During the 2021-2022 school year, we are using the *DIG-IN* curriculum. Sundays at 10:45-11:15 a.m. Our in-person classes are grouped into four groups: Butterflies (ages 0-3 years), Preschool-Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade. Each Sunday the lesson includes a story from either the Old or New Testament that teaches one of the foundations of faith. There are low and high energy games and a craft to reinforce the objective of the lesson along with other activities for a deeper understanding. For individuals that are not able to attend in-person, at-home lessons are sent via text message which includes the story with activity along with a short video and discussion. Each family receives a take-home summary of the Bible Story along with the lesson's objective with some activities or things to talk about at home during the week. This is designed to help empower parents in both their children's faith journey and their own.

## Curriculum

*SPARK Lectionary Curriculum* and supplementals from Pinterest (January 2021-May 2021)

*DIG IN* (Foundation in Faith) published by Group Publishing (September 2021-December 2021)

## Events/Projects

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>FLY K-6</u>
Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monthly Kit Pickup/Drop off</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park</li><li>• Sledding and Ice Skating at Cleveland</li></ul>
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monthly Kit Pickup/Drop off</li><li>• 5th Grade Pottery Class and Instruction for First Communion</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park</li></ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monthly Kit Pickup/Drop off</li><li>• Outdoor Palm Sunday Festival</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park</li></ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monthly Kit Pickup/Drop off</li><li>• First Communion for 5<sup>th</sup> graders on Maundy Thursday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park</li></ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• End of the School Year Mailing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park</li><li>• First Lutheran Church Yard Clean Up</li><li>• Bowling Party</li></ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vacation Bible School with Luther Crest at Augustana Lutheran</li><li>• Butterflies Vacation Bible School at First Lutheran</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tuesdays Play at NP Park</li><li>• Summer Fest Parade</li><li>• Chilling with FLY K-6</li></ul>
July		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tuesdays Play at NP Park</li><li>• Lemonade Stand</li></ul>
August		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tuesdays Play at NP Park</li><li>• Drive-in Movie</li></ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rally Sunday- “Pop In for Sunday School”</li><li>• In-person and at-home weekly Sunday School</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park (at First if weather doesn’t permit)</li></ul>

- |          |  |  |
|----------|--|--|
| October  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-person and at-home weekly Sunday School</li> <li>• Bible Milestone for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders</li> <li>• Reformation Party</li> </ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesdays FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park (First if weather doesn't permit)</li> <li>• Trunk &amp; Treat at Fleet Farm</li> </ul>                                |
| November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-person and at-home weekly Sunday School</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesdays FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park (First if weather doesn't permit)</li> </ul>   |
| December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-person and at-home weekly Sunday School</li> <li>• "Pop Up" Christmas Pageant</li> <li>• 24 Days of Giving Service project for Community Food Shelf</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesdays FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park (First if weather doesn't permit)</li> <li>• Christmas Baking</li> <li>• Pajama &amp; Christmas Movie Party</li> </ul> |

## Property Committee Report 2021 Year End

1. Sanctuary Naive lights redone to LED.
2. Balcony Window Redo all finished.
3. Fixed various roof leaks throughout bldg.
4. In process of replacing all florescent tube lights (646) throughout bldg with LED as they last longer and save on usage. OTP will share ½ of cost. Better, brighter, less maintenance!!
5. Courtyard upkeep is being done by volunteers. Anyone can do it?
6. Replaced 2 new AC/Heat pumps in Sanctuary, old ones died.
7. Added 2 more fire ext to church, now 9 total.
8. Purchased 14 new chairs for Conference rm, like the ones in Kairos rm.
9. Working with decorating people to replace furniture in Narthex. Old couches, love seat will be available when project is finished for a small donation. Also couch, chair, ottoman in youth rm.
10. Yearly check on all documents in lock box at bank.
11. Trimmed all trees in upper parking lot.
12. Trimmed all flowers by canopy.

We had limited meetings due to Covid, but a Big Thanks to:

John Haarstad, Asko Rojaniemi, Wade Jyrkas, Kirby Herman, Adam Vaughn, Duane Gran, Steve Leitte, Cemetery Committee.

SPECIAL THANKS to Steve Hosch for his true dedication and Excellent maintenance of our precious facility!!!!!! GREAT JOB, STEVE!

Tedd Steenbock  
Property Chair

## Prayer Ministry Report

Ephesians 6:18 says *“Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.”*

First Lutheran has an active prayer ministry with over 30 individuals praying for those people asking prayers for physical, emotional, or spiritual health issues. When a prayer request is known, the prayer angels are notified either by phone call, text, or e-mail. In 2021 we had requests for 42 families & individuals. Some of these are short term needs, and many are ongoing. We welcome new prayer angels to join this ministry. We thank God for the many blessings He bestows.

Submitted by Pamela Schroden

## Worship Committee Report

*Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under His care. (Psalm 95: 6-7)*

Our church's bell rings every Sunday morning, inviting us all to come and worship together. As I wrote a summary of our committee's work for the Annual Report my first two years on Council, I began by using an analogy of our church bell ringing, inviting us to worship. This year, however, I'm inclined to ask: "Who's going to ring the bell?" This year, we have gone from on-line services only, not being able to welcome our congregation in person, to a restricted number of attendees, to fully opening our doors once again. Our SMART Team has recommended but not required use of masks while in worship. The doors of First Lutheran Church are now open, allowing us to worship together, in person. Attendance in worship continues to be considerably less than it was prior to the onset of this pandemic. Along with attendance being down, the number of people willing to volunteer for roles in worship is also down. "Who will ring the bell? Who will serve as usher, communion assistant, lector, cantor...? This year, we have worked and continue to work to re-establish these roles which in the past were more easily filled.

Our worship committee's assignment is "to foster the worship life of the congregation..."

"Worship is the heart of congregational life and our committee meets to give careful consideration to providing an inviting and meaningful experience, with Jesus Christ at the center." Challenges due to concerns related to the pandemic continue. Our committee has worked this year to provide support in planning and preparing for the worship experiences of our congregation.

Highlights of our committee's work in 2021 include:

- Maintaining our committee's agenda to support our pastor
- Traditional offering of Communion returned in our services in August
- Planning has begun for celebration of our church's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Working with our Pastor on planning and executing festival and other services
- Monitoring and supporting live-streaming and sound system issues
- Coordination with Altar Guild
- Messenger articles on liturgical purpose and history

I want to thank all who participate in our services, either in-person or via live-stream. Our congregation and guests unite hearts and minds, worshiping and serving in many ways. We are grateful to those who serve regularly as musicians, as ushers, as sacristans, as decorators, as members of the altar guild.

The new year will offer new worship experiences as well as new challenges. We anticipate with hope, filling our church once again with God's people, worshiping together, lifting our voices in songs and hymns, praying together, and giving thanks to our living God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer!

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Wicklund, Chair

Committee members: Jody Hanson, Keith Melberg, Linda Mellon, Anne Taylor, Judy Jensen, and our Pastors

# Fellowship Committee Report

January 19,2022

It has been an unusual year for Fellowship as with all our area churches

We had 4 drive up dinners or picnic with communion with the partnership of the Discipleship Committee. All meals were individually packaged and catered by The American Legion

- January 31, 2021 Drive up Ham Dinner
- March 14, 2021 Drive up Rib Dinner
- May 23, 2021 Pulled Pork Picnic Lunch
- October 10, 2021 149<sup>th</sup> Church Birthday Celebration and Meatball Dinner

We hosted a Fall Bazaar and Canned Auction the last three weeks of October, 2021 We had a large amount of homemade donations from our very own members. We raised 1276.00 for much need kitchen updates

JoAn Whitlock, Fellowship Committee Chair

Committee members are: JoAn Whitlock, Terri Gervais, Sandy Kvern, Lorri Holt, Karen Lundstrom, MaryJo Marcus

# Education Committee End of Year Report ~ 2021

## Individuals Served:

Sunday School

FLY K-6

Grades Served: Preschool-8th Grade

Confirmation Students

Adult Education/ladies events

This past year has continued to stretch us to think differently as we minister to different age groups. Many efforts have been made to regain participation and to bring our youth back together. Due to COVID-19, we have seen the disconnect throughout our members. Our goal has been to bring energy and enthusiasm back into the mission. "Be the Light" was a perfect theme for Sunday School.

We have been consistent in meeting about once a month. See Kristy Wicklund's report for more information regarding Sunday School program/curriculum and FLY K-6. She has outlined our events and projects throughout the year.

- Confirmation has been led by Pastor Gretchen and Vicar Lynn. Vicki Hanneman has been active in assisting with Confirmation as well. **Confirmation**-For 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, first class started Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. Using a Concordia Catechism curriculum. Participation has been good. Leaders have done mini make up sessions as well to keep the confirmands up to date.
- Adult Bible Studies started in September.
- For adult outreach to rebuild relationships and to reconnect, starting in June we offered primarily ladies' events. These have been at Union Pizza, Fergus Brewing, Faith Yoga outside at church, crafts/creativity classes. These have been well attended and appreciated by many. Several different age groups have attended. Our committee continues to offer these events every couple of months.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tara Wagner, Education Chair

## Discipleship Committee Report 2021

The Discipleship committee had the privilege of planning several drive-up meals for the congregation throughout the year, including one for Generosity Sunday, when we had Pastor Blair Anderson as a guest preacher. We also were able to purchase copies of the daily devotional book, *Jesus Calling for Medical Professionals*, for all of the members of the congregation who work in the medical field. We closed out the year by providing 23 Christmas food baskets for families in need within the community.

Thank you so much for your support throughout the year which made all of these ministries possible!

With gratitude,

Michael Wicklund  
Discipleship Chair

Committee Members:  
Leonard Hatzenbuhler  
JoAn Whitlock

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Report 2021

The Committee is made up of the Church Council and others from the church community that are interested in helping.

We started organizing in April of 2021.

We have a tentative agenda:

We will have historical articles in the Messenger the entire year.

Historical displays in the Narthex at different times throughout the year.

We will have our big event the weekend of October 7-9.

An organ concert and dedication.

FLC Family event at a local pumpkin patch

Special church service followed by a dinner on Sunday October 9, 2022.

The FLC Foundation has granted us \$2,000 to start planning our event.

David Holt - Chair

## **Personnel Committee**

I stepped in as chair of the personnel committee in July of 2021 after Missy Mattson resigned in late June so this report reflects the second half of 2021 mostly.

We currently have two new full time staff in our office. Katie Shallue is our office manager. She started in early August and has done an outstanding job since day one! She has prior experience working in church offices in the Mpls metro area and understands the workings of a church office. We are grateful for her dedication and knowledge as we move into 2022. Our second new full time employee is Doreen Oliphant. Her position is 1/2 time bookkeeper and 1/2 time office assistant, she started in early October. We had four different part time bookkeepers the first nine months of 2021 which left many gaps in the overall accuracy of our accounting practices. Doreen has worked full time during October, November and December to balance the accounts and correct any errors in account entries. We feel confident going forward into 2022 that Doreen will be able to do both the bookkeeping and help Katie with normal office duties. Prior to the COVID virus outbreaks we had a solid core of volunteers that assisted our office staff when needed. If you have any free time that you could volunteer in the office please let Katie know so she can get your name on our volunteer list. Our church also needs 8-10 volunteers each Sunday (coffee servers, ushers, communion assistants, Lector, acolytes). Your willingness to fill these spots would be most helpful. Many weeks we are forced to grab people as they come into the church on Sunday morning to fill these needs.

We currently do not have a Youth director/Fly 7-12 person on staff. We had tried to work w Augustana Lutheran Church to hire a joint full time youth director prior to school starting in the fall but we did not get any applicants that met both of our churches needs. We currently have suspended our candidate search. The rest of of staff continues to do a wonderful job of providing for the needs of our Fly K-6 grades, our senior choir, the bell choir and the worship team. We appreciate their dedication and their efforts.

I also want to thank Orrie Leabo for his past eight plus years of service to the personnel committee. He retired from the committee 12/31/21.

The current members of the personnel committee are: Joe Ellig, Kim Ward, Andrea Loomer and Al Jensen. I appreciate their service to this committee and look forward to working with them in 2022.

*Respectfully submitted*

Steve Fitz  
Personnel Chair

## Finance Committee 2021

The responsibility of the finance committee is to create the annual budget and oversee the financial assets and obligations of the church.

Our total general fund income for 2021 was \$441,722. This was 75.8% of the budgeted amount.

The operating budget proposed for 2022 is \$551,414.

The Covid pandemic has had a negative impact on church donations. We will review our weekly offering procedures under Covid guidelines to encourage weekly giving of those sitting in the pews, as well as consider additional sources of online giving.

We extend our sincere thanks to all staff, volunteers, and members of First Lutheran Church as we continue with the budgeting process and being responsible, faithful stewards of all of God's blessings.

Suzanne Demuth, Treasurer

# First Lutheran Church

Statement of Financial Position For All Funds as of 12/31/2021

<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
General SSB Checking		26,157.03
SPECIAL SSB CHECKING		94,735.73
Thrivent Money Market		21,325.30
<b>Total Bank</b>		<b>142,218.06</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>		
Dom & Co Durner Cash		41,745.57
Dom & Co Durner Investments		114,717.50
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>		<b>156,463.07</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>298,681.13</b>
=====		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Credit Card Payable		
SSB Community Credit Card	4,033.86	
Total Credit Card Payable		4,033.86
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>4,033.86</b>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>		
Payroll Withholding & Taxes		
Federal Withholding Tax Payable	660.87	
FICA Tax Payable--Employer	885.28	
FICA Tax Withholding--Employee	885.28	
Flexible Spending Account	229.13	
Medicare Tax Payable--Employer	207.07	
Medicare Tax Withholding--Employee	207.07	
State Withholding Tax Payable	440.75	
Total Payroll Withholding & Taxes		3,515.45
Pre-Tax TSA		968.16
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>		<b>4,483.61</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>8,517.47</b>
=====		
<b>Net Assets</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
ADULT BIBLE STUDY		404.50
ALTAR GUILD FUND		40.63
BUDGET RESERVE FUND		-14,000.00
BUILDING RESERVE FUND		460.00
CHRISTCARE		500.00
CLEARING ACCOUNT FUND		1,295.00
COOKBOOKS FUND		1,270.25
DISCRETIONARY REVENUE		500.00
DURNER CASH		41,745.57
EASTER PLANTS POINSETTIAS FUND		594.85
EDUCATION FUND		2,773.45
ESCROW ACCOUNT FUND		350.43
FAMILY MINISTRY FUND		3,788.56
FELLOWSHIP FUND		5,931.79

## First Lutheran Church

Statement of Financial Position For All Funds as of 12/31/2021

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FF Conference Intern Support	300.00
GENERAL FUND	31,625.17
GOOD SAMARITAN FUND	14,143.49
HAITI DRESSES	-591.93
HANDBELLS FUND	2,992.92
JEAN DAHLING ESTATE FUND	16,637.18
LIBRARY FUND	859.05
MDivX Stipend	1,398.81
MEETING DOOR ACCESSIBILITY	700.00
MEMORIAL UNDESIGNATED FUND	35,612.44
NURSERY FUND	164.59
ORGAN FUND	-21,792.33
OWLS FUND	5,711.18
PARKING LOT FUND	14,444.42
PROPERTY FUND	-227.51
RADIO BROADCAST FUND	650.00
RADIO MINISTRY	165.00
SANCTUARY AIR CONDITION FUND	9,700.00
SENIOR CHOIR FUND	6,044.88
SERVICE FOODS CARDS	611.00
SPECIAL FRIENDS FUND	285.23
STAINED GLASS REPAIR	-10,810.00
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS	1,126.00
WORSHIP FUND	1,978.51
YOUTH FUND	13,020.29
YOUTH MISSION TRIP SUPPORT	5,097.74
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>175,501.16</b>
<b>Restricted</b>	
DURNER INVESTMENTS	114,717.50
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>114,717.50</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>290,218.66</b>
	=====
<b>Total Liabilities + Net Assets</b>	<b>298,736.13</b>
	=====

**First Lutheran Church  
Statement of Financial Activities  
General Fund  
Year Ended December 31, 2021**

	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
General Revenues	0.00	0.00
Building Offering	2,466.38	2,000.00
Confirmation Revenue	0.00	500.00
Day Camp/VBS Revenue	0.00	200.00
Envelope Offering	422,463.73	534,504.00
Facility Rental Revenue	2,445.00	7,102.00
Fellowship Revenue	2,738.00	1,500.00
Initial Offering	107.00	200.00
Local Expense Only Offering	5,310.00	4,800.00
Loose Offering	1,322.10	0.00
Memorial Offering	-800.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	135.89	4,000.00
Outreach Offering	0.00	0.00
Benevolence Offering	715.05	0.00
Christmas Food Basket	500.00	0.00
Program Revenue	-90.00	0.00
Radio Ministry	0.00	5,200.00
Special Offerings	0.00	0.00
Advent	500.00	250.00
Christmas	0.00	10,000.00
Easter	0.00	7,000.00
Lent	1,565.00	4,500.00
Thanksgiving	716.00	1,000.00
Sunday School Offering	107.53	0.00
Merchandise Revenue	45.00	0.00
Rebates and Refund Revenue	0.00	0.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	1,475.00	0.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>441,721.68</b>	<b>582,756.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Discretionary Expenditures	188.93	0.00
General Expenses	7,405.90	0.00
150 Anniversary	940.00	0.00
Education Exp	343.16	0.00
Adult Ed	443.98	300.00
Bible Study Supplies	214.42	0.00
Confirmation	322.92	1,500.00
Day Camp/VBS	463.03	1,500.00
Library Books/Supplies	109.79	50.00
Sunday School/FLY K6	1,312.35	1,886.00
SubTotal Education Exp	3,209.65	5,236.00

Fellowship Exp		
Appreciation Events	5,064.45	4,500.00
Fellowship	1,398.97	4,500.00
SubTotal Fellowship Exp	6,463.42	9,000.00
Governance		
Council Retreat	1,243.88	2,250.00
Synod Assembly Exp	627.00	2,300.00
SubTotal Governance	1,870.88	4,550.00
Membership Exp	19.95	0.00
Devotions Christ Home	1,212.00	600.00
Member Bus Passes	0.00	55.00
Publicity/Advertising	1,038.00	2,000.00
SubTotal Membership Exp	2,269.95	2,655.00
Outreach Exp	50.00	0.00
Benevolences	786.05	50,000.00
Local Missions	4,066.00	0.00
Synod Mission Support	12,420.50	0.00
Outreach Meetings	2,508.58	0.00
Radio Ministry	0.00	5,096.00
SubTotal Outreach Exp	19,831.13	55,096.00
Personnel Exp	982.82	0.00
Background checks	79.95	200.00
Employers FICA Contribution	9,053.55	9,346.00
Employers Medicare Contribution	2,117.56	2,185.00
Medical Insurance	20,811.19	0.00
Other Benefits (Life & Disability Insurance)	0.00	0.00
Pastoral Benefits Expense	25,748.01	39,206.00
Pastoral Continuing Ed Expense	1,420.00	1,000.00
Pastoral Salary/Housing Expense	108,589.09	146,193.00
Pastoral Professional Expense	1,597.86	2,500.00
Pastoral Travel Expense	3,038.53	3,500.00
Pension	12,886.83	0.00
Non-Pastoral Benefits Expense	16,789.84	22,796.00
Non-Pastoral Continuing Ed Expense	35.00	1,000.00
Non-Pastoral Salary Expense	150,607.85	150,730.00
Other Travel Expense	71.33	0.00
Staff Misc Expense	416.94	1,000.00
SubTotal Personnel Exp	354,246.35	379,656.00
Property & Management Exp	64.68	0.00
Building/Equipment Maintenance	12,862.87	6,750.00
Communications	5,224.59	5,764.00
Copier	8,455.10	8,640.00
Grounds and Landscaping	2,197.10	4,870.00
Insurance	14,054.98	10,812.00
Office Expenses/Supplies	8,800.76	3,155.00
Postage	4,455.24	5,885.00
Software and Services	6,266.53	1,432.00
Supplies	414.79	3,000.00

Taxes	546.00	280.00
Technology replace/maint	545.52	5,000.00
Telephone/Network Security	192.15	
Utilities	22,000.98	27,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance	369.01	265.00
<b>SubTotal Property &amp; Management Exp</b>	<b>86,450.30</b>	<b>82,853.00</b>
<b>Stewardship Exp</b>		
Online Giving/Web Hosting	1,310.08	1,440.00
Stewardship Offer Envelopes	402.20	500.00
Stewardship Sunday	0.00	500.00
<b>SubTotal Stewardship Exp</b>	<b>1,712.28</b>	<b>2,440.00</b>
<b>Worship Exp</b>		
Altar Guild	858.55	800.00
Childrens Choir	0.00	100.00
Handbell Choir Music	156.12	650.00
Instrument Maintenance	1,433.00	1,500.00
Licensing	325.50	1,525.00
Lighting & Sound	460.00	400.00
Senior Choir Music	18.00	500.00
Special Music	72.48	250.00
Worship Broadcasting	0.00	
Worship Decorating	118.27	1,500.00
Worship Supplies	1,958.41	1,500.00
Worship Team Music	250.00	250.00
<b>SubTotal Worship Exp</b>	<b>5,650.33</b>	<b>8,975.00</b>
<b>Youth Exp</b>		
Youth Activities & Trips	1,722.12	2,750.00
<b>SubTotal Youth Exp</b>	<b>1,722.12</b>	<b>2,750.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>491,961.24</b>	<b>553,211.00</b>
<b>Other Revenues</b>		
Dividend Revenue	18.00	0.00
Interest Revenue	139.49	60.00
AP Discounts Taken	3.69	0.00
PPP Loan Forgiveness	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Revenues</b>	<b>161.18</b>	<b>60.00</b>
<b>Other Expenditures</b>		
Credit Card Charges	143.93	0.00
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>143.93</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>441,721.68</b>	<b>582,756.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>-491,961.24</b>	<b>-553,211.00</b>
<b>Total Other Revenues</b>	<b>161.18</b>	<b>60.00</b>
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>-143.93</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>-50,222.31</b>	<b>29,605.00</b>

## First Lutheran Church Proposed 2022 Annual Budget

	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
<b>Revenues</b>		
General Revenues	0.00	0.00
Building Offering	2,466.38	2,800.00
Confirmation Revenue	0.00	500.00
Day Camp/VBS Revenue	0.00	200.00
Envelope Offering	422,463.73	520,674.00
Facility Rental Revenue	2,445.00	5,040.00
Fellowship Revenue	2,738.00	2,800.00
Initial Offering	107.00	200.00
Local Expense Only Offering	5,310.00	6,000.00
Loose Offering	1,322.10	1,500.00
Memorial Offering	-800.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	135.89	500.00
Outreach Offering	0.00	0.00
Benevolence Offering	715.05	800.00
Christmas Food Basket	500.00	500.00
Program Revenue	-90.00	0.00
Radio Ministry	0.00	5,200.00
Special Offerings	0.00	3,000.00
Advent	500.00	0.00
Christmas	0.00	0.00
Easter	0.00	0.00
Lent	1,565.00	0.00
Thanksgiving	716.00	0.00
Sunday School Offering	107.53	200.00
Merchandise Revenue	45.00	0.00
Rebates and Refund Revenue	0.00	0.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	1,475.00	1,500.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>441,721.68</b>	<b>551,414.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Discretionary Expenditures	188.93	0.00
General Expenses	7,405.90	0.00
150 Anniversary	940.00	2,000.00
Education Exp	343.16	400.00
Adult Ed	443.98	600.00
Bible Study Supplies	214.42	300.00
Confirmation	322.92	400.00
Day Camp/VBS	463.03	500.00
Library Books/Supplies	109.79	150.00
Sunday School/FLY K6	1,312.35	1,500.00
SubTotal Education Exp	3,209.65	3,850.00
Fellowship Exp		

Technology replace/maint	545.52	600.00
Telephone/Network Security	192.15	200.00
Utilities	22,000.98	22,300.00
Vehicle Maintenance	369.01	400.00
<b>SubTotal Property &amp; Management Exp</b>	<b>86,450.30</b>	<b>77,850.00</b>
<b>Stewardship Exp</b>		
Online Giving/Web Hosting	1,310.08	1,500.00
Stewardship Offer Envelopes	402.20	300.00
Stewardship Sunday	0.00	500.00
<b>SubTotal Stewardship Exp</b>	<b>1,712.28</b>	<b>2,300.00</b>
<b>Worship Exp</b>		
Altar Guild	858.55	900.00
Childrens Choir	0.00	0.00
Handbell Choir Music	156.12	650.00
Instrument Maintenance	1,433.00	1,500.00
Licensing	325.50	400.00
Lighting & Sound	460.00	500.00
Senior Choir Music	18.00	500.00
Special Music	72.48	250.00
Worship Broadcasting	0.00	0.00
Worship Decorating	118.27	500.00
Worship Supplies	1,958.41	2,000.00
Worship Team Music	250.00	300.00
<b>SubTotal Worship Exp</b>	<b>5,650.33</b>	<b>7,500.00</b>
<b>Youth Exp</b>		
Youth Activities & Trips	1,722.12	2,000.00
<b>SubTotal Youth Exp</b>	<b>1,722.12</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>491,961.24</b>	<b>551,414.00</b>
<b>Other Revenues</b>		
Dividend Revenue	18.00	
Interest Revenue	139.49	
AP Discounts Taken	3.69	
PPP Loan Forgiveness	0.00	
<b>Total Other Revenues</b>	<b>161.18</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Other Expenditures</b>		
Credit Card Charges	143.93	
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>143.93</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>441,721.68</b>	<b>551,414.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>-491,961.24</b>	<b>-551,414.00</b>
<b>Total Other Revenues</b>	<b>161.18</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>-143.93</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>-50,222.31</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Appreciation Events	5,064.45	5,100.00
Fellowship	1,398.97	1,400.00
SubTotal Fellowship Exp	6,463.42	6,500.00
Governance		
Council Retreat	1,243.88	1,300.00
Synod Assembly Exp	627.00	700.00
SubTotal Governance	1,870.88	2,000.00
Membership Exp	19.95	0.00
Devotions Christ Home	1,212.00	1,300.00
Member Bus Passes	0.00	0.00
Publicity/Advertising	1,038.00	1,100.00
SubTotal Membership Exp	2,269.95	2,400.00
Outreach Exp	50.00	0.00
Benevolences	786.05	35,000.00
Local Missions	4,066.00	0.00
Synod Mission Support	12,420.50	0.00
Outreach Meetings	2,508.58	0.00
Radio Ministry	0.00	5,200.00
SubTotal Outreach Exp	19,831.13	40,200.00
Personnel Exp	982.82	0.00
Background checks	79.95	200.00
Employers FICA Contribution	9,053.55	10,395.00
Employers Medicare Contribution	2,117.56	2,431.00
Medical Insurance	20,811.19	62,208.00
Other Benefits (Life & Disability Insurance)	0.00	4,512.00
Pastoral Benefits Expense	25,748.01	0.00
Pastoral Continuing Ed Expense	1,420.00	1,000.00
Pastoral Salary/Housing Expense	108,589.09	126,300.00
Pastoral Professional Expense	1,597.86	2,500.00
Pastoral Travel Expense	3,038.53	3,500.00
Pension	12,886.83	22,068.00
Non-Pastoral Benefits Expense	16,789.84	0.00
Non-Pastoral Continuing Ed Expense	35.00	500.00
Non-Pastoral Salary Expense	150,607.85	168,000.00
Other Travel Expense	71.33	200.00
Staff Misc Expense	416.94	1,000.00
SubTotal Personnel Exp	354,246.35	404,814.00
Property & Management Exp	64.68	0.00
Building/Equipment Maintenance	12,862.87	6,750.00
Communications	5,224.59	5,300.00
Copier	8,455.10	8,500.00
Grounds and Landscaping	2,197.10	2,300.00
Insurance	14,054.98	14,100.00
Office Expenses/Supplies	8,800.76	5,000.00
Postage	4,455.24	4,500.00
Software and Services	6,266.53	6,800.00
Supplies	414.79	500.00
Taxes	546.00	600.00

# WELCA 2021 Annual Report

“As Women of the ELCA we are called to grow in our faith, to support one another, and engage in ministry and action.”

## **Fellowship**

Our 2021 meetings, projects and events were postponed until fall, due to continued concerns over COVID. The members shared their preferences on when and how to safely gather. Hannah Circle began again in September 2021.

## **Missions**

We had a successful mail-in campaign “Coins, Cash, Checks Change Lives” which raised \$760.00 for local and global missions. In addition, the annual “Thankoffering” donations were sent to the National ELCA office, to help address concerns of women and children in crisis.

**Love Days Quilters** continued to sew, some working from home, to make quilts and collect mission items for LWR (Lutheran World Relief).

We are grateful to all who participated in our projects.

**The 2021 WELCA Board:** Gayle Fitz, Donna Quam, Judy Mouritsen, Sandra Pearson, Katie Haugrud, Joan Anderson, Margaret Kratze.

## WELCA 2021 Annual Treasurer's Report

### Women Of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

<u>BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2021</u> – Checking	\$ 186.06
- Savings Account	3784.86

#### **RECEIPTS**

Transfer from Savings	1500.00
Circle Offerings	987.00
Thankoffering	1140.00
Interest on Savings Account	3.67
Memorials	160.00
Fall Event (Cash & Checks Change Lives)	<u>760.00</u>

<u>2021 TOTAL INCOME</u>	\$ 4550.67
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#### **DISBURSEMENTS**

Stamps	11.60
WELCA NWMN Synod Convention	150.00
Service Charge on account	5.00
Total Benevolences	<u>4140.00</u>

<u>2021 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</u>	\$ 4295.00
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#### **BENEVOLENCES**

WELCA Synodical	250.00
Thankoffering	1140.00
OBA	500.00
KBRF Morning Watch	300.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	200.00
Meal by Wheels	150.00
Camp Knutson	200.00
A Place to Belong	200.00
Someplace Safe	300.00
LSS	200.00
Luther Crest	250.00
Pioneer Home Foundation	250.00
Soaring Unlimited (Haiti)	<u>200.00</u>

<u>2021 TOTAL BENEVOLENCES</u>	\$4,140.00
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<b>Checking Account Balance 12-31-21</b>	<b>\$ 431.46</b>
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Savings Account	\$ 3,784.86
Interest	3.67
Service Charge	-5.00
Transfer to Checking	<u>-1500.00</u>
<b>Savings Account Balance 12-31-21</b>	<b>\$2283.53</b>

Sandra Pearson, Treasurer

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION  
ENDOWMENT FUND INCOME AND EXPENSE  
For Year End December 31, 2021

Income		
Memorials	\$ 60.00	
Income from Investments	<u>58,013.60</u>	
 Total Income		 \$ 58,073.60
 Dedicated Income		 <u>7,153.11</u>
 Income Available for Benevolence 2022		 <u>\$ 50,920.49</u>
 <u>BENEVOLENCE: Paid in 2021</u>		
A Place to Belong	1,500.00	
Bibles Youth	407.42	
Otter Cove Children's Museum	1,000.00	
Food Cards	2,500.00	
Food Shelf	4,500.00	
Giving Tree	65.91	
Giving Hearts Day Match	1,000.00	
First Lutheran Church 150th Celebration	2,000.00	
Jail Inc.	400.00	
Jeff Firzkappes	1,000.00	
Luther Crest Bible Camp Operation funds	2,000.00	
Luther Seminary Rural Focus	2,000.00	
Meals By Wheels	2,500.00	
Morning Watch	500.00	
Organ Up Date Fund	4,000.00	
Pastors Professional Training-Books	1,816.00	
Salvation Army	7,526.63	
Scholarships - Church Colleges	500.00	
Scholarships to Luther Crest for Kids	1,016.25	
Shop With A Hero	750.00	
Some Place Safe	1,500.00	
United Way Feeding Backpack Program	3,000.00	
United Way Imagination Library	2,000.00	
Young Life	<u>2,500.00</u>	
Total Benevolence		<u>45,982.21</u>
Other Expenses - Insurance		<u>2,914.60</u>
Total Amount Expense		<u>\$ 48,896.81</u>

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION  
 ENDOWMENT FUND  
 For Year End December 31, 2021

Bank Accounts

Treasury Money Market	\$ 10,652.65
Balance of 2021 Budget Not Paid	\$ 2,488.09
Money Market for 2021 Budget	<u>50,920.46</u>

Total Bank Accounts \$ 64,061.20

Investment Accounts

American Balance Fund	\$ 8,852.57
Otter Tail Power Stock	172,550.72
Pimco Income Fund Cheshire Children Fund	16,908.00
Star Fund M Nelson Scholarship	20,432.59
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index	545,151.47
Vanguard Total International Bond Market Index	34,523.30
Vanguard Total International Stock Market Index	29,228.69
Vanguard Total Stock Market Index	1,002,507.95
DL "Lindy" Thoreson & Harriet K Thoreson	
Balance Stock Fund	276,688.17
Franklin Income Series	94,196.08
Franklin Strategic Income	68,735.32
Franklin Templeton Utilities	123,038.94
Templeton Global Bond	<u>52,098.64</u>

Total Investments 2,444,912.44

Total Endowment Fund \$ 2,508,973.64

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
 Tim Johnson -President  
 Linda Mellon Vice-President  
 Vicki Hanneman Secretary  
 Leonard Hatzenbuhler Treasurer  
 Greg Wagner Trustee  
 Brad Larson Trustee  
 Jennifer Smestad Trustee

## First Lutheran Church Cemetery

First Lutheran's two cemeteries are open to all First Lutheran members as well as people from other faiths and traditions. The largest cemetery, referred to as the North Cemetery is in Fergus Falls Township about three miles northwest of the church. The other cemetery, referred to as the South Cemetery is located in Dane Prairie Township approximately 2 1/2 miles southeast of the church. The committee's goal is to keep these areas well groomed, i.e.; grass mowed regularly, weed control, trees pruned, and removal of old flowers and ornaments and to keep driveways in good condition. Our main objective is to assist families in selecting a proper burial plot for their loved ones at the time of need. Another important task is to see that a written notice is sent to each family of their plot selection including the rules and regulations of the cemetery. All plot ownership records are available at the church. The committee also assists local funeral homes and monument companies in locating and marking grave plots when requested. Within the North Cemetery is a shelter in which a detailed directory is housed to assist families and other visitors in locating the resting place of their loved ones.

During the calendar year of 2021 there were a total of 12 burials in the North Cemetery and 1 burial in the South Cemetery. The committee continues to maintain both cemeteries to the highest standards so as to make them inviting to all who choose to visit their deceased loved ones.

### **Committee Members:**

Chairman: Steve Leitte

Vice Chair: Jerry Toso

Secretary: Mark Hermes

Directors: Leonard Hatzenbuhler, Jim Iverson, Terry Gervais, Keary Toso,, Lowell Wendel , Mary Johnson.

Report respectfully submitted by Mark Hermes, Secretary

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERIES

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2021

### Maintenance Account

Balance January 1, 2021		\$ 4,373.02
Income		
Dividend from investments	3,785.96	
Total Income And Transfer		3,785.96
Expense		
Supplies	678.75	
Mowing	1,648.24	
Total Expense		<u>2,326.99</u>
Balance December 31, 2021		<u>\$ 5,831.99</u>

### Permanent Care Account

Balance January 1, 2021		\$ 1,618.99
Income:		
Memorial	3,200.00	
Lot Sold	1,185.00	
Interest	0.15	
Total Income		<u>4,385.15</u>
Amount transferred to Investment		<u>5,300.00</u>
Balance December 31, 2021		<u>\$ 704.14</u>

### Head Stone Account

Balance January 1, 2021		\$ 1,546.34
Income		
Total Income		<u>                    </u>
Expense		
Total Expense		<u>                    </u>
Balance December 31, 2021		<u>\$ 1,546.34</u>

### Investment Funds

Balance January 1, 2021		\$ 72,873.30
Amount invested		5,300.00
Increase (Decrease) in value		2,980.26
Balance December 31, 2021		<u>\$ 81,153.56</u>

### All Funds

Fund Balance January 01, 2021		\$ 80,411.65
Fund Balance December, 31, 2021		89,236.03
Value Increase		<u>\$ 8,824.38</u>

Leonard Hatzenbuhler  
Treasurer

**First Lutheran Church**  
**149<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**January 31, 2021**

Council Members Present: Steve Guttormson, George Mathison, Suzanne Demuth, Jennifer Frank, JoAn Whitlock, Leslie Flugstad, Missy Mattson, Harriet Wicklund, Michael Wicklund, Sara Koch, Ron Spangler, Debbie Opatz

Pastors Present: Pastor Gretchen Enoch, Vicar Lynn Melchior

Opening prayer by Pastor Gretchen Enoch. Meeting called to order over Zoom at 12:37 a.m. by President Steve Guttormson

Adoption of 2021 agenda, motion made to approve, seconded, motion carried.

Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes, motion made to approve, seconded, motion carried.

Approval of 2020 Treasurer's Report, motion made to approve, seconded, motion carried.

Opening Remarks:

President Steve Guttormson: Outlook for 2021. Difficult year, but Gratefulness is Steve's first thought – for all pastors of First Lutheran and for all who helped make 2020 a good year. (Please Steve's full report in the annual report for 2020.)

Pastor Gretchen Enoch: Thankful for all at First Lutheran this past year. (Please see Pastor Gretchen's full report in the annual report for 2020.)

Proposed Amendments to First Lutheran Constitution: Leslie Flugstad and George Mathison have been updating. Changes proposed, motion made to accept proposals as described, seconded, motion carried. After a minimum of 30 days, another motion will be made to approve changes; 2/3 approval is required at that time.

Presentation of the 2021 Budget by Suzanne Demuth; Q&A on the budget – Suzanne discussed the fact that an Associate Pastor or some other possible position is included in the budget, as a placeholder. A task force will review current and future staffing. A motion was made to approve the proposed 2021 budget, motion seconded, motion carried.

Voting for 2021 council members, nominating committee, Pioneer Designates, and NW MN Synod Delegates will take place through mail-in ballots. Ballots were emailed and should be sent back to the church office. Motion made to accept the nominations as presented, motion seconded, motion approved.

2021 Proposed Council Members: George Mathison, President; Lorri and David Holte, Vice-Presidents; Suzanne Demuth, Treasurer; Steve Guttormson, Secretary; Tara Wagner, Education; Harriet Wicklund, Worship; Missy Mattson, Personnel; Tedd Steenbock, Property; Michael Wicklund, Stewardship; Jennifer Frank, Outreach; JoAn Whitlock, Fellowship; Dale & Jody Hanson, PioneerCare Designates; George & Ann Mathison, David & Lorri Holte - NW MN Synod Delegates

2021 Nominating Committee: Kelsee Macintosh Ellig, Cindy Larson, Lorri Holt, Joyce Perez, Abbey Kwapinski

Introduction and Comments by New President, George Mathison

Closing Prayer and Benediction

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Opatz, First Lutheran Church Council Secretary

LUTHER CREST

# PROGRAM

2021 Annual Meeting



## 2021 PROGRAM FUN FACTS

**703 CAMPERS!**

**41 TRAVELING WORSHIP  
TEAM EVENTS!**

**46 SUMMER STAFF  
MEMBERS!**

**ZERO COVID CASES.**

**11 CURRENT PARTNERING  
BTF CONGREGATIONS!**

## FIRM FOUNDATION

### LUTHER CREST 2021

This past year at Luther Crest, we began resuming in-person programming with the help of our fully-staffed summer team of 46 people. For summer camp this year, we began offering our Leapers, Witnesses, and Blazers programs over the summer at a fifty-percent capacity in our cabin spaces. We were able to fill our spots with campers and offer programming that was safely distanced and pod-focused. No positive Covid-19 cases were reported as a result of these detailed safety protocols put into place by our team.

Although returning to in-person camping was challenging in a new climate, our team was able to adapt and offer stellar programming that met the needs and joys of our participating churches and families. As a thank you to our hard-working and dedicated staff after a challenging year, we were able to offer them scholarships to be used as funds for schooling or additional aid.



## BOLD TRANSFORMATIONAL FAITH

As for our Bold Transformational Faith Program (with Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center, NJ), we were able to adapt to the ongoing changes that we are seeing in congregations as they shift back to in-person worshipping and education. As the BTF program was built to do, we were able to format the programming to be utilized in both an in-person format, an online format, or a hybrid format.

We have developed our website, [www.mybtf.org](http://www.mybtf.org), to be a main hub for all participants to gather, gain information, reach out to our staff, and receive materials through personalized accounts. BTF now offers Sunday School video options, camp songs for use in worship, training for Faith Formation Leaders, training for Church Leadership, Sunday School and Confirmation curriculum, a podcast, children's messages, worship assistance, family newsletters, and a personalized webpage for each church involved. We have organized these options into different "bundle" options that allow congregations to pick one that fits their context best, or build one that encompasses their needs. Last school year we had 25 churches involved, and this year 11 so far and increasing. Congregations from Minnesota to New Jersey are continuing to reach out and find ways to join into the program.

Luther Crest is called to **inspire faith, community, and stewardship in God's creation**. As uncertainty and, at times, chaos continues, our commitment to provide quality experiences that live out our mission continues. We will go into 2021 ready to provide Christ centered experiences, grow communities, and foster stewardship through youth retreats, summer camp programming, BTF, our summer ministry team and more. Since Christ is our Firm Foundation, we continue to GO! and make disciples!

# Annual Report to Congregations

## From PioneerCare – January 2022

*Our mission is to promote quality of life in a Christ-like way for those we serve by providing diverse and holistic care, focusing always on individual dignity and worth.*

Warmest greetings to our partners in this special ministry of caring for those in need. As pandemic conditions continue to cause disruption, our sense of purpose at PioneerCare has never felt stronger. Each day we see people finding joy, creativity, resourcefulness, and sticking together as we face problems we have never had to solve before.

Given this reality, we have been especially grateful for the partnership and common connection we hold with our five partner ELCA congregations. In the same spirit of PioneerCare's founding over 90 years ago, leadership and church representation has continued to guide Pioneer in fulfilling its mission through these living settings and services:

- **PioneerCare Center**, our main campus, provides up to 105 people with short term rehabilitative therapy and long term care in a beautiful, award winning setting.
- **Pioneer Pointe**, a 44-unit apartment complex offers retirement living with an ala carte menu of services and amenities for older adults.
- **Pioneer Cottages**, provides specialized memory care and support for up to 70 people living with Alzheimer's and other forms of memory loss in Fergus Falls and Breckenridge.
- **PioneerLink**, offers technology-based services in more than 650 homes in over a dozen counties, including personal alert services and home medication management solutions.

### **CHURCH MEMBERS' ROLES IN OUR PARTNERSHIP**

We thank those of you serving as Auxiliary, Foundation, and Corporate Board members, leading us forward. Your congregation's elected delegates to Pioneer have a formal role in representing your church, and many of you have served as volunteers, and faithfully visited and found ways to connect with loved ones here. Thank you for this partnership in ministry.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have questions regarding PioneerCare, please contact us:

Nathan Johnson, PioneerCare CEO	Phone 218.998.1518
Pr. Krehl Stringer, PioneerCare Chaplain	Phone 218.998.1504
Sara Watkins, Administrator of PioneerCare Center	Phone 218.998.1516
Ann Boutwell, Director of Pioneer Cottages Memory Care	Phone 218.998.9677
Marie Tysdal, Director of Pioneer Pointe Retirement Living	Phone 218.739.7772
Steve Guttormson, PioneerCare Foundation	Phone 218.998.1501





**Northwestern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

*"Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads  
because your redemption is drawing near." - Luke 21:28*

December 14, 2021

Dear Partners in God's Mission,

I am writing this message for your congregation's annual report just as a new year is dawning in our church's liturgical calendar — it's the week of Thanksgiving, and this Sunday will be the first Sunday of Advent. It's been another hard year with COVID-19 infections still surging, continued political unrest and persistent economic uncertainty. Our natural inclination in such times is to hunker down, but Jesus taught otherwise. To his followers facing disturbing times, Jesus' counsel is, "Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28). If Jesus' words were intended only for the end of all things, then they would have been of little use to his followers when he first spoke them, or to anyone over the last 2000 years. So, let's hear them in the way Jesus intends them - to meet us right here in the middle of our turmoil.

I hear in these words the promise that Christ our Lord will be present in the messiness of troubling times. I also hear an admonition to stand up and take notice of what Jesus is up to around here! I believe that when you lift your heads to see what Jesus is up to in your community, you will see a lot. Here's what I can see:

- Jesus is showing up where he always has, and he is teaching us that this is enough. We do not have the solution to our political divisions or our public health emergencies. We only have the saving good news of God's love for every person through Jesus Christ, and Christ's presence with us in the word and the sacraments. One motto we could take away from this era of diminished programming is "Less effort. More Jesus." Jesus is freeing us to set aside all that does not pertain to sharing the Gospel, celebrating the sacraments and loving our neighbors.
- Jesus is not letting us off the hook - he is continually turning our eyes toward his suffering beloved: from the parent of a black child who is terrified for their safety each time they go out in public, to the farmer at her kitchen table despairing over yet another failed crop. In former times we might have averted our gaze, but now we cannot look away. When we finally see the neighbor as our neighbor, then our collective redemption really is drawing near.
- Jesus is gathering people in ways we may not have imagined before. Many congregations across our Synod are engaging new people through their online worship and ministries. New people will not walk into your church unless they have an invitation directly from you. Church buildings are no longer seen as public, but as private spaces only for the invited. The new public space is online: no invitation necessary - drop in anytime. The Gospel can be heard just as clearly from Facebook as it can from inside our buildings. Our challenge as the church of the 21st century will be to bring together our in-person and our online people to build communities with living connections of friendship and support.

And I am grateful for you because I see Jesus at work in you: in your continued faithfulness to him and in your continued generosity that fuels the ministry of the Gospel both in your own congregation and, through your mission support, across our Synod and around the world. Thanks to you, we are making good progress on the four strategic initiatives (see attached) that you affirmed in our strategic plan at the 2021 Synod Assembly. During the week of November 18, you gave over \$60,000 to our GiveMN Give to the Max campaign, which launched "Leadership Next" for recruiting and forming adaptive leaders who are servants of Jesus Christ. As of this writing, Mission Support from congregations is running 4.2% ahead of last year. If that trend continues, we will meet the ambitions plan that you approved for this fiscal year.

In the midst of the extraordinary challenges of these times, we have a great good Lord who does not hover safely above it all, but who is down in the mess with us - loving all people and calling them to believe the Gospel. Join me in lifting your head to see Christ at work in your community and in our world.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Tesch".

Pastor Bill Tesch  
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

# BALLOT

150<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for office to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 30, 2022.

## FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION

Becomes President following year

(Vote for One)

( ) Rick & Linda West

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## STEWARDSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP (Vote for One)

( ) Michael Wicklund

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## PERSONNEL (Vote for One)

( ) Steve Fitz

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## FINANCE (Vote for One)

( ) Leslie Flugstad

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP (Vote for One)

( ) Kris Werner

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## PROPERTY (Vote for One)

( ) Tedd Steenbock

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## SECRETARY (Vote for One)

( ) Leslie Flugstad

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## TREASURER (Vote for One)

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## FELLOWSHIP (Vote for One)

( ) JoAn Whitlock

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## Youth (Vote for One)

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## Education (Vote for One)

( ) Tara Wagner

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## Worship (Vote for One)

( ) Harriet Wicklund

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## 2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(Vote for 6)

( ) Bonnie Gran

( ) Kari Vaughn

( ) Elizabeth Abrahams

( ) Denny Hystead

( ) Tedd Steenbock

( ) Connor West

[President and Vice-President also serve advisory roles on Nominating Committee]

## NW MN SYNOD DELEGATES

(Vote for 2 men and 2 women: 1-year term)

( ) Rick West

( ) Linda West

( ) David Holt

( ) Lori Holt

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## PIONEERCARE DESIGNATE

(Vote for 1 man and 1 woman 1-year term)

( ) Dale Hanson

( ) Jody Hanson

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_