

# News of Peace



Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO

November 2020

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## A Message from Pastor Anderegg

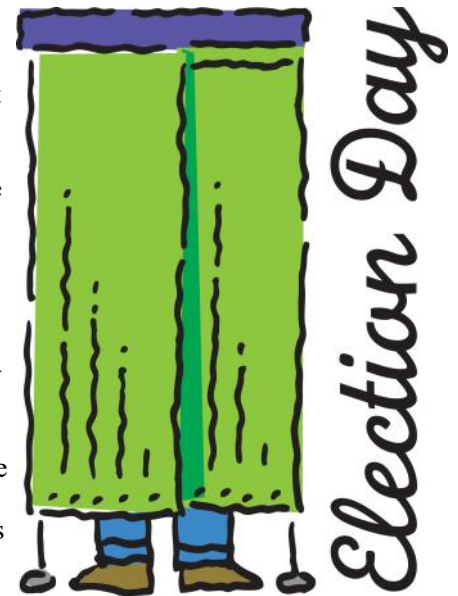
### The Perfect Political Storm

**B**efore or after? Are you reading this before or after election day? In a very real sense it doesn't matter all that much. Either way, we are still going to be in the midst of a "perfect" political storm. And, just as tropical storms form quite a ways away, in the far southeast, so too this storm has an origin; a place we can almost pinpoint where things began to spin out of control now.

For quite a few years I have claimed that everyone "believes" in something. It's possible that, like me, you prefer to use the word belief for things that are found in Scripture, but the word gets tossed around in the realm of politics as well. I don't "believe" in gun control. I do *not* believe in people wielding power they don't really have to force others to tow their political line. You get the idea. And to be sure there are places where political "beliefs" come into sharp focus and are or are not in line with our religious beliefs: I do not believe in the right to choose to abort a living human being; infant, fetus, zygote and whatever other gestational phase one might name.

My theory is that the "perfect" political (fire) storm began when our world moved from the modern era to the post-modern era. I won't dwell too much on the modern era, but many of us still draw our political ideologies (a better word than beliefs?) from facts and data. But somewhere in the last several decades the world moved into a postmodern era.

Postmodernism claims that each person's truth is valid. I have the right to believe (There's that word again!) what I want about abortion, and you have the right to believe what you want about it. Your truth may be true for you but not for me. "Live and let live, Man," you can practically hear the child of the sixties say.



## Happening This Month!

Nov. 1	All Saints Day	9 a.m.
	Bible Class	10:30 a.m.
	Mites Sunday	
	Daylight Saving Time Ends	
Nov. 2	Elders Mtg	9:30 a.m.
Nov. 3	Election Day	
Nov. 8	Worship	9:00 a.m.
	Bible Class	10:30 a.m.
Nov. 9	LWML Mtg.	9:30 a.m.
Nov. 10	Council Mtg.	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day	
Nov. 15	Worship	9 a.m.
	Bible Class	
Nov. 23	Newsletter Deadline	9 a.m.
Nov. 28	Decorate Church	9 a.m.
Nov. 29	First Sunday in Advent	9 a.m.
	Bible Class	10:30 a.m.

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And so, much of the world believes that all beliefs are subject to the perception of the individual believer (and even I don't know where holding to an ideology and believing strong stops or starts). Couple this with another troubling fact and the storm begins to take on a life of its own. That fact is that people no longer see much use for attending religious services. It began somewhere in the last twenty-five or thirty years ago, but if you believe it was longer or shorter than that it's okay. But people no longer invest their energy into matters of the church. Rare is the twenty-something-year-old who takes on a role in the church and pours him or her self into doing what they were elected to do.

Although there likely are more pieces of the puzzle these will suffice to draw the picture I'm about to draw. So suppose that our culture is like the culture to which Paul spoke on Mars Hill. They had so many statues to gods that they even had a statue to the unknown God, just to cover all the bases. But imagine that we all have a certain amount of energy for matters of "faith," but genuine faith is looked upon as relative, just like all truths (Postmodernism at it's finest!) "You can believe whatever you want to believe, just don't tell me what or how to believe."

So the teenagers, twenty-somethings, and even thirty or forty-somethings don't consider church attendance, etc. to be necessary. But they have all this "energy" for something in which they "believe." So they can take at least an afternoon, day, or several days to attend political protests (certainly not wrong, in and of themselves). And they show up. They want to be heard (again not a terrible thing). One thing leads to another and they are soon ardent supporters of whatever cause they have chosen. The last ingredient can now be added to the storm: a demand to be taken seriously. All of this has the potential to result in peaceful protests or, with a little help from The Old Evil Foe, violent aggression and attacks on those with whom they disagree.

This is, in my humble opinion, America's "new religion" for many individuals and part of how we have reached the point we're at in this country. Solutions? I'm just not sure. But I do know God is in the mix and that He calls us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Certainly, there is much more to be said, but this has already run long. I therefore offer the simplest approach to the solution right now. I invite you to pray:

Heavenly Father, help the citizens of our country pour themselves into things that are pleasing in your sight and do good because of what we deeply hope they will learn and hold fast to: The death and resurrection of your Son on behalf of each of us. And grant that we may walk in faith and love as we encounter those who believe other than we do. In Your Son's name we pray. Amen.



# Newsletter DEADLINE

The **deadline** for the **Dec.** newsletter is **Mon., Nov. 23** at **9 a.m.** If you have an article you want published, or information you want to get out to the whole congregation, prepare it and send it to [plccamdenton@gmail.com](mailto:plccamdenton@gmail.com) or Sheryl Bald at [countrygalsf@gmail.com](mailto:countrygalsf@gmail.com).

**T**hank you for your **continued support** of the Pocket Change for Mites. We collected \$13.52 on Oct. 4. Our next Mites collection will be Sun., Nov. 1. If you would like to make a donation, the box is located in the back of the church.

LWML members




## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Nov. 5 Norma Flenker
- Nov. 8 Joe Stauch
- Nov. 9 Jim Janssen
- Nov. 10 Joe & Vicki Stauch
- Nov. 13 Linda Schaumburg
- Nov. 14 Cathie Mueller
- Nov. 20 Dale Montague
- Nov. 22 Lilyan Lewis
- Nov. 24 David & Sheryl Bald
- Nov. 26 Charlie Gifford
- Nov. 28 Shelia Hartenstein



*News of Peace* is a monthly newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church, 9307 North State Highway 5, Camdenton, MO 65020; Rev. Richard Anderegg: 573-528-4597, Rev. Gary Brandt: 580-481-8108; Church Phone: 573-836-3959; Office Hours: M, W, Th 8 am to 12 pm; Church email: [plccamdenton@gmail.com](mailto:plccamdenton@gmail.com); Website: [www.plccamdenton.org](http://www.plccamdenton.org)

**Our Mission:** "We the members of Peace Lutheran Church gather and grow together as God's children and rejoice in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, proclaim His word, and reach out with his love to: each other, our community, and the world."

Connect with us: 

# Thoughts from Our President

**M**ost things are moving along well at Peace. We are still facing the issues of fewer people joining and attending church and an aging membership. At the same time, we have been through much tougher times than we are going through today.

If you have been to church this past month, we have another new milestone. We have two individuals who have stepped up and are taking the time to practice and play the organ at our services. Halleluiah! I did not realize how much I missed Jerry, Carol and Donna playing the organ for our services. *My heroes of the month are Pastor Brandt for playing on the Sundays he is not preaching and Diana Schwab for setting at Jerry's organ on the alternating Sundays.* Both of these people have played before...thirty years ago! It takes a lot of *moxy* to start doing something you haven't done for 30 years, thanks to both of you.

Some time back, I received the following email from a friend of mine in C Troop, 25 Recon Battalion, 15 Cavalry. We served together in Texas and Germany from 1957 to 1960. He had forwarded this email from the author, who also served in the Army in another unit for the same period of time. This has circulated the internet, Facebook and countless emails and you may have read it, but I thought our church membership should relate to this quite well.



## We are the **Children of the Tough Generation!**

**Born** in the 1930s and early 40s, we exist as a very special age group. **We are the smallest group** of children born since the early 1900s.

**We are the last generation**, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war which rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.

**We are the last to remember** ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves.

**We saved tin foil** and poured fat in tin cans.

**We saw cars up on blocks** because tires were not available.

**We helped our parents** grow victory gardens.

**We can remember milk** being delivered to our house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" on the porch.

**We are the last to see gold stars** in the front window of our grieving neighbors whose sons died in the war.

**We saw the "boys"** home from the war, build their little houses.

**We were the last generation** who spent our childhood without television; instead we imagined what we

**We were the last generation** who spent our childhood without television; instead we imagined what we heard on the radio.

**As we all like to brag**, with no TV, we spent our childhood "playing outside."

**There was no little league**, only ragtag teams from the neighborhood, who played other ragtag teams from other neighborhoods.

**There was no city playground** for kids. We gather at the neighborhood schools, swung on the swings and played ball on ball diamonds that weren't manicured, where a glove was first base.

**The lack of television** in our early years meant, for most of us, that we had little real understanding of what the world was like.

**On Saturday afternoons**, the movies gave us newsreels sandwiched between westerns, Buck Rogers and cartoons.

**Telephones were one to a house**, often shared (party lines) and hung on the wall in the kitchen (no cares about privacy).

**Computers were called calculators**, they were hand cranked;



**Computers were called calculators**, they were hand cranked; typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage and changing the ribbon.

**The "INTERNET" and GOOGLE** were words that did not exist.

**Newspapers and magazines** were written for adults and the news was broadcast on our radio in the evening by Gabriel Heater and later Paul Harvey.

**As we grew up**, the country was exploding with growth.

**The GI Bill** gave returning veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow.

**VA loans** fanned a housing boom. Pent up demand coupled with new installment payment plans opened many factories for work.

**New highways** would bring jobs and mobility.

**The Veterans** joined civic clubs and became active in politics.

The radio network expanded from three stations to thousands.

**Our parents** were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined.



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war, and they threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined.

**We were not neglected**, but we were also not today's all consuming family focus.



**They were glad** we played by ourselves until the street lights came on. Our parents were discovering the post war world.

**We entered a world** of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where we were welcomed, enjoyed ourselves and felt secure in our future, even though depression poverty was deeply remembered.

**We came of age** in the 50s and 60s.

**The Korean War** was a dark passage in the early 50s and by mid-decade school children were ducking under desks for Air-Raid training.

**Russia built** the "Iron Curtain" and China became "Red China".

**Eisenhower sent the first** "Army Advisors" to Vietnam.

**Castro took over** in Cuba, and Khrushchev came to power in the Soviet Union.

**We are the last generation** to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland. The war was over and the cold war, terrorism, global warming and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with unease.

**Our generation** can remember both a time of great war and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. We lived through both.

**We grew up** at a time when the world was getting better, not worse.

**We grew up** in a time when Democrats and Republicans worked

together for the good of the country. When they campaigned hard for votes, not just spent money; when they faced each other with honest differences of opinion, not just trumped up falsehoods with no facts to back them up.

**WE are "THE LAST ONES"!**

More than 99 percent of us are either retired or deceased, and we feel privileged to have *lived in the worst of times and the best of times*, which will probably never be repeated.

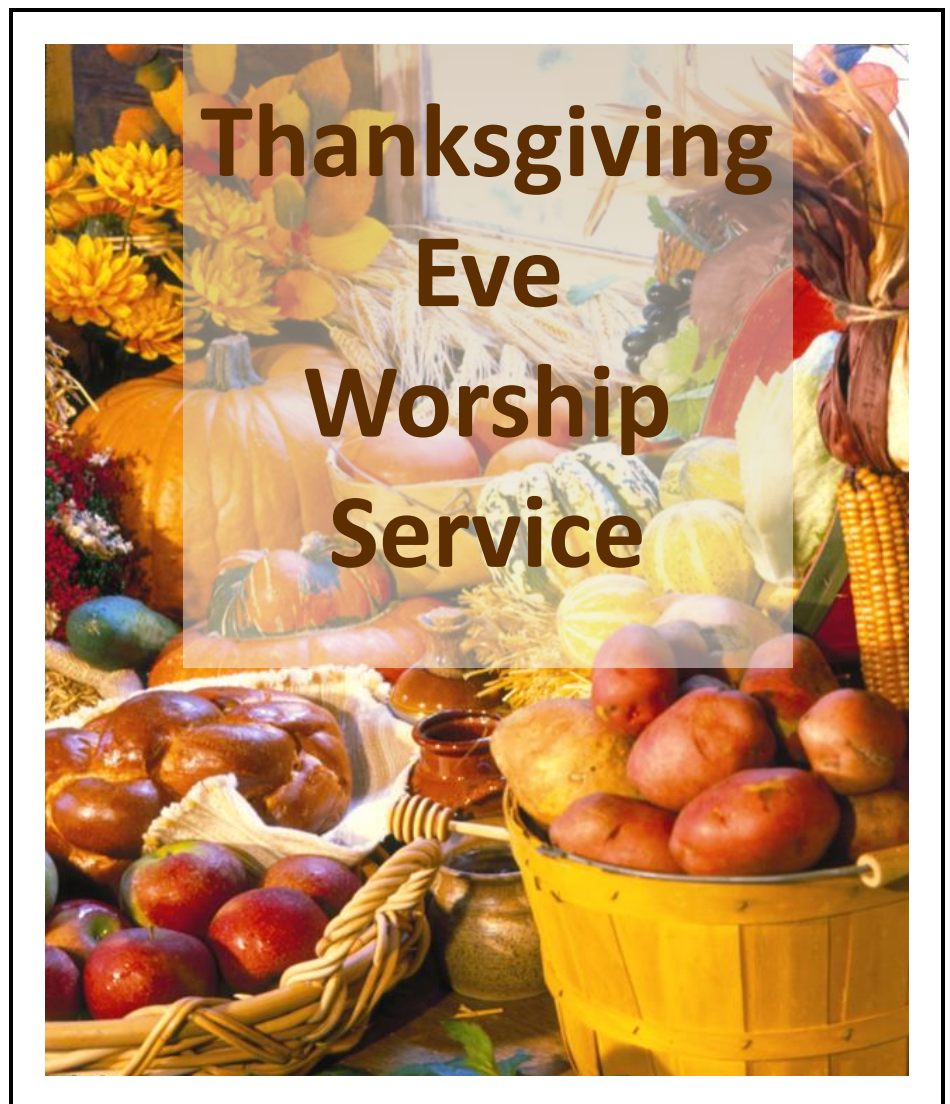
**We were are the children of the Tough Generation!**

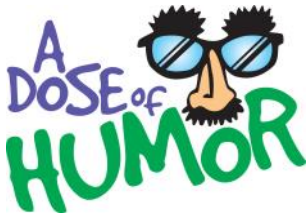
I look forward to seeing all of you each week at church.

Mic Carlson

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Pastor Rick Anderegg, Bob Borgmann, Gary Brandt, JaneAnn Brandt, Pat & Peggy Callahan, Mary Cordry (Greg's passing), Norma Flenker, Jim Janssen, Darlene Jost, Chuck Kral, Lilyann and Tristan Lewis, John Marrs (Mic Carlson), Bob Mueller, Carol Murrell, Barb Powell, Mark & Rita Riemann, Delores Roach (Shelia Hartenstein's sister), Rodney Schulz, Russell Schulz, Diana Schwab, Jack Slow, Joe Stauch, Matthew Talbott, our visitors, those celebrating anniversaries, birthdays, those in the nursing home and care facilities, the peacemakers and protectors and their families, and all others who are troubled, lonely, ill or recovering from illness. We pray that our loving God will bless and comfort them.





## Family photo

An 8-year-old girl was showing her 4-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, "But where's Joseph?"

The older sister thought for a moment and replied,

"He's taking the picture."

*Newsletter Newsletter*



The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us.

*Psalm 67:6*

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

## Hospitalized?

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, have experienced a death in the family, are home bound, or scheduled to go to the hospital, please call Pastor Brandt (580-421-8108). Please keep in mind that privacy laws also limit the information hospitals can share with us. Both Pastor Anderegg (573-528-4597) and Pastor Brandt are available for any emergency, or any issue you and your loved ones might be having. Remember, our two pastors are here to serve you.

### Our Elders

- Bob Mueller (573-286-7735)
  - Jeff Hedberg (573-819-4446)
  - Joe Stauch (573-374-2903)
- will also assist in getting one of the pastors to follow up on any issue, not just hospitalization for you, a loved one or a death in the family. To find out which Elder you are assigned to, please see the bulletin board in the Narthex.

## POINSETTIA ORDERS



Once again we will adorn the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. The cost of the plants are \$8.00 each. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Deadline to order poinsettias is Nov. 15. Please make checks payable to the church and give money to Penny Hansen. If you have a questions please contact Penny.

## Casting Your Ballot

Every fall, Thrivent benefit members have the opportunity to vote for members to represent them on the national and regional Board of Directors. This year you can vote for three directors from the nine candidates.

If you signed up to receive election information electronically you'll get an email the first part of October with a link to the voting website. If not, you'll get a paper ballot in the mail, one for each benefit member in your household. Every benefit member gets a vote in the national election.

Voting runs through the November 20. Once the election opens, you can vote online at "Thrivent.com/vote." You'll need your Thrivent.com user ID and password, or your member ID (found on your contract statement or your member ID card) and your date of birth.

Come and help decorate the church for Christmas



# Report from the President

**F**all is upon us. The leaves are rapidly changing and to most of our dismay, falling. This is one of the prettiest times at Lake of the Ozarks and I don't mind blowing or raking leaves.

The October Voters meeting is behind us. This was an important meeting with the election of Officers and Directors, and review of the budget. I want to thank all of the people who accepted the challenge of leading our congregation, those elected for the coming years and those still serving their elected terms.

The coming years will be a challenge as we try and figure out how we get back to, or as close as possible, back to the way things were a year ago. The pandemic has not impacted most of us to any great extent, except for not being able to see family and friends as much as we were used to and would like to. To this point I am not aware of any members of the congregation contracting Covid-19, although many of your family members have tested positive. I miss the fellowship with family and friends, but I am happy all have survived the pandemic to this

and friends, but I am happy all have survived the pandemic to this point, and I look forward to being able to embrace, shake hands, or even see family and friends. It is all our hope that our Lord and Savior will continue to watch over our tiny flock.

Those of you, who were not able to attend the potluck at the Callahan's after the meeting, missed not only good food and fellowship, you missed meeting at the best "gathering facilities at the

the best "gathering facilities at the Lake" and I am including The Lodge and Margaritaville. The facilities were spectacular, the views breathtaking and the fellowship warm. I heard some comments, that maybe this is what we need on the church grounds to promote the church. Thanks Peggy and Pat.

We have a lot to accomplish the last two months of this year, to provide the base for continuing progress.

## 2020 Update of the 2019 Planning Report

1. Before we can complete the update, we will have a congregational meeting to discuss the input received from you in the survey. This will be a meeting that will present a lot of information, all of which you will want to have additional input on. I will endeavor to have it at a time that is convenient for all, but I would like to do it mid-November. What we hope to come out of this with, is consensus on one or two issues or projects that we should consider taking on, and an investment strategy for the Nadine E. Meyer Fund. This will also include a discussion of Mission Giving by Peace. I will give you adequate notice so you can plan to attend.
2. Once we have that input, the Planning Committee will complete the 2020 Update of the Planning Report. We will have a second meeting in mid-December to review the recommendations and reach agreement on those that will go into the Update of the 2019 Planning Report.

Mic Carlson

## When God Crosses Our Paths

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and petitions." Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).



**FACE MASK  
REQUIRED**

## A Wake-up Call

The good God permits such small evils to befall us merely in order to arouse us snorers from our deep sleep and to make us recognize, on the other hand, the incomparable and innumerable benefits we still have...

With [our misfortunes], God gives us a light by which we may see and understand his goodness and kindness in countless other ways. Then we conclude that such small misfortunes are barely a drop of water on a big fire or a little spark in the ocean. Then we understand and love the words: "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"

—Martin Luther

*The Newsletter Newsletter*

## LWML Meeting Held October 12

The meeting was called to order by Carol Murrell in the absence of President Sheryl Bald at 9:35 a.m. Pastor Anderegg gave the opening prayer. He led the Bible Study on the book of Ruth and closed the Bible Study with a prayer.

Our visitor was Peggy Callahan and she will be a new member next month.

Roll call was answered by six members and one visitor using a Bible verse containing the word humility.

Minutes: Motion was made, seconded and approved as printed in the Peace newsletter.

Treasurer's report was given by Susan Kral. Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the report and file for audit.

President's Report was given by Carol. The Spring Rally will be April 13, 2021. There was \$13.51 collect in the Mites Box the first Sunday of October. The member dues are \$6.00 and are due November 30. The Quarterly magazine's cost is \$5.00 if we order 10 or more. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Susan said she will order at least 10. The magazine order is due by Feb. 2, 2021. The National Convention will be held June 24-27, 2021 in Lexington, KY. The theme is Running the Race... Looking to Jesus". LWML is **NOT** collecting Portals of Prayer or eye glasses. They **ARE** still collecting stamps. The LWML Society is making school kits, personal care kits and baby care kits. We have done this in the past, but will not at this time due to the COVID virus. The Missouri District LWML is asking for pictures of projects the societies are working on for their Facebook

trict LWML is asking for pictures of projects the societies are working on for their Facebook page. This will give all societies ideas and a chance to see what everyone is doing.

Pam Carlton is working with Pastor Morris from Christ the King in getting the non perishable food items to the St. Louis Seminary or they will be given to local food banks or Well of Hope. Susan Kral has given ours to Lamb House in Camdenton.

The Missouri LWML convention was held virtually. A video, photo, and audio release form will be presented for approval at the fall rally.

We did not receive any correspondence.

Mites reading was given by Cathie Mueller. She read "U" (you) in Jesus, Crucifixion, Resurrection.

Envelopes for Mites, rally, and general fund were passed around.

### Committees:

- Pop tops- Susan Kral, keep saving
- Best Choice Labels-Paula Emery. Keep saving bar codes
- Box Tops for Education- Diane Borgmann. Keep saving codes
- Kitchen-Diane Borgmann will be doing intense cleaning of drinking glasses.
- Human Care-Jacqy Heinleim. Vicki Lamb will be contacting someone from North Kansas City Hospital about baby caps.

### Old Business:

Susan Kral reported that the LWML bulletin covers were not used this year. We will pay the bill of \$8.50 plus shipping of \$8.20 and a LWML fee of \$2 for a total of \$18.75. We will be storing them in the LWML room, and next year use them with some modifications. Car-

of \$18.75. We will be storing them in the LWML room, and next year use them with some modifications. Carol Murrell and Peggy Callahan may be going to the Sedalia Zone Fall Rally in Clinton, MO, October 20. We will send a check for \$50 for the Love Offering. The Thrivent card for supplies for Chrismons was not used, it has expired. The Chrismons are being worked on at home. At this time, we will not look into Zooming the meetings. It was felt that since the minutes are printed in the newsletter and is being sent on e-mail that Zoom would not be necessary. The website is on hold.

### New Business:

Cathie Mueller feels we need a list of the uses of the Mites moneys posted in the narthex. Blankets for North Kansas City Hospital tabled for now. The Christmas party will be Friday, December 11, 2020, at 11:30 am, in the church fellowship hall. We will be having a carry in "soup and salad" lunch. Paula Emery will take care of the rest. There will be a sign-up sheet for those who wish to come and what you would like to bring. The pastors will be invited, bring a friend.

Our next meeting will be November 9 at 9:30 am. The roll call word will be a Bible verse with or about worry.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Vicki Lamb, *Secretary*



## Every One His Witness

As the faithful witness, Jesus shows us what witnessing is all about. Jesus' meeting with the woman at Jacob's well (John 4) shows us how to engage people of different cultures. Jesus' interaction with Zacchaeus the tax collector shows us how to respond to people who hunger to learn more about the Messiah (Luke 19). In the fifth chapter of Mark, Jesus encounters a man who was possessed by demons. In this account we see the witnessing is about Jesus coming to people who need him. The need of this man was obviously great as his horrible condition forced him away from other people to live among the dead. He couldn't be restrained from hurting himself or others and was without hope until Jesus came to him. Today there are many people who experience much of what the demon possessed man did. While there are many people who dismiss demon possession, the reality is that all of us are born into spiritual bondage from which we can't escape. It's our main problem just like it was for the demon - possessed man. And like him, we endure all sorts of pain and suffering because of that bondage. People who don't know Jesus turn to other means of coping in an attempt to deal with the suffering and pain. Sadly, many of those means are destructive and end up causing them and others more pain and suffering. The help they need can't be found in anything this world has to offer. Only Jesus can help them with this need. There is no other help.

**Prayer** (from Lutheran Hour Ministries): Dear Lord Jesus, for the sins You have forgiven, for the peace You bestow, for the atonement You have begun, completed, and given to me -- I am most grateful. May I, Your new creation, share that joy with others. In Your Name. Amen.

The Every One His Witness (EOHW) program is an evangelism course from the LCMS that churches and schools are using to teach effective ways on how to speak to others about Jesus using the LASSIE approach: Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, and Encourage. The newsletter evangelism columns beginning with the Feb

speak to others about Jesus using the LASSIE approach: Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, and Encourage. The newsletter evangelism columns beginning with the Feb 2019 newsletter provides the essentials of the course giving the tools that will help in speaking to others of Jesus. The newsletters are posted on the church website at [www.plccamdenton.org](http://www.plccamdenton.org). And while you're there please visit the Facebook page.) [www.EOHW.org](http://www.EOHW.org)

## Apologetics: Ten reasons to believe that the Gospels are true

### Reason #7 — Divergent Minor Details.

Critics are quick to make the claim that the Gospels contain contradicting details and, therefore, are not to be trusted. One example often given is the account of the angels at the tomb. Matthew says there was one. John says two. Does this damage their credibility? On the contrary, it actually builds the case that these are true eyewitness accounts. Matthew does not say there was only ONE angel. He just mentions the one. Obviously Matthew only wished to mention the one angel who spoke and was more prominent than the other, (Matt. 28:5) while John mentions both. (John 20:12) . Consider that two news reporters might interview two eyewitnesses for a story. And if one of them gives a slightly different take on what happened, that doesn't mean that one account is false. It could mean that one saw or heard something that the other did not. The Gospel writers center on the major facts of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, while their accounts also contain some minor details. They wrote with different intent, emphasis, and style. Mark, who early was associated with Paul and also an interpreter of Peter, is said to be the first Gospel written and provides a basic framework of the ministry of Jesus using the substance of Peter's preaching. Scholars say Matthew wrote from a Jewish perspective and published his Gospel among the Hebrews in their own tongue. Luke, linked to Paul, did much of his own research to write an historic account, and John, likely the last to write his Gospel, emphasizes Christ's divinity as the Son of God. The most important fact is that they all were inspired and moved by the Holy Spirit to pen these Gospels. John and Matthew were eyewitnesses while Mark and Luke wrote their accounts from eyewitnesses. They were independently written – not copied off one another – and are, therefore, complementary not contradictory.

(Excerpts are from I Don't Have the Faith To Be An Atheist by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek and Reasons I Believe by Dr. Craig Parton).

Russ Schulz, *Evangelism Chair*



# Building Homes in Mexico

On Friday, October 2, I returned from my third home building mission trip to Mexico in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. I have been working with an organization, Casas Por Cristo, since 1997. During that time, I have made many friends and developed many relationships with people in Mexico and fellow mission volunteers. Really, it is all about the people, relationships and opportunities to share the gospel message.

During these many years, I have worked closely with an individual, Donnie Stubblefield. I first met Stubblefield in 1984 when I accepted my first called to serve as principal /teacher at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Stover MO. Stubblefield, a member of that Church had a heart and passion for working with youth and recently marked 25 years in full-time youth ministry and four years working full-time as a missionary with Casas Por Cristo.

So what does a home building mission trip look like? Let me break down my last trip day by day. At 3:30 PM on Saturday, September 26, I parked my vehicle in the parking lot of Peace Lutheran Church (Thank you!) and was picked-up by Stubblefield in a 15 passenger van that came down from York, Illinois. We drove to Tulsa, OK where we spent the night and worshiped at Ablaze Lutheran Church and picked-up two volunteers from that Church. From there we drove down to San Antonio where we spent the night and picked up additional volunteers from the airport. The three hour drive from San Antonio to Del Rio, TX gave us a chance to get acquainted with fellow volunteers. In Del Rio, we met up with our Casas Por Cristo host and crossed the border into Acuna, Mexico.

Once in Acuna, we drove to our place of lodging, a former church building converted into a bunk house. There we were given information on the Garcia family whose



place of lodging, a former church building converted into a bunk house. There we were given information on the Garcia family whose house was being built. The Garcia's were promised a house back in March, but because of the pandemic several mission teams cancelled their trip. Unfortunately the Garcia's watched as the house materials had to be picked up and taken away along with their dream of having a home of their own. Our team would re-ignite that spark of hope and build their future home.

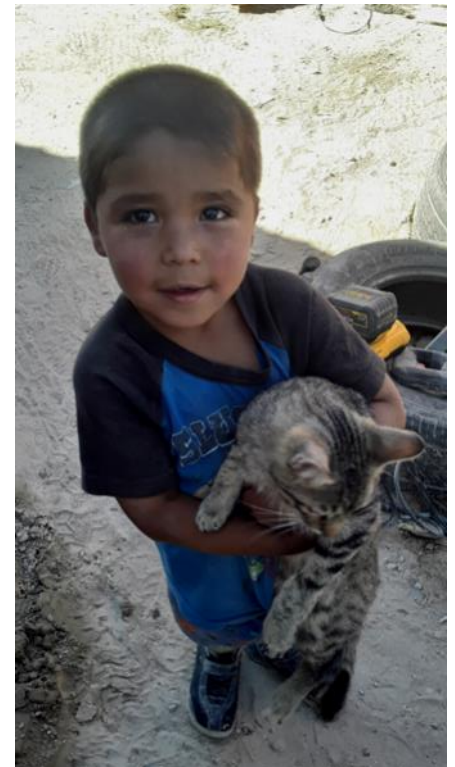
## Work Day 1

Upon arriving at the site, we met the Garcias, prayed with them, and began our work. Casas Por Cristo is extremely organized and has jobs for everyone, even for this overweight out of shape man. My job on day one was cutting lumber. I was given a lumber material list with measurements. I had a team of three individuals working with me and together we would eventually cut every board going into the house. Simultaneously, others

ally cut every board going into the house. Simultaneously, others were leveling the home site and building forms for the concrete foundation. The concrete truck arrived mid-morning and the foundation was poured. Other members of the team were already taking cut boards and, because space was limited on the plot site, began building walls on the street. The walls were taken off the street and stacked on the lot. End of work day one.

## Work Day 2

The walls were stood on the foundation. Again many jobs working simultaneously. I worked on nailing black press board to the outside walls. Others were setting rafters, working on the roof and began dry wall work. After the black board was applied, I was put on the chicken wire team. The entire house is covered in chicken wire so as to hold the stucco that would be applied the next day. Following the chicken wire job, I was



*continued on page 10*

continued from page 9

would be applied the next day. Following the chicken wire job, I was assigned to frame all outside windows and a door with beautiful green trim. End of work day two.

## Work Day 3

If you are keeping track, it is now Thursday, October 1. I was given the recipe for the stucco and filled buckets with sand, cement, calcium carbonate, and water. These were mixed in a cement mixer and wheel barrowed to the stucco team. While the house is being stuccoed, the dry wall team is finishing up their work. We are finished with the house by mid-day. Yes, a house built in two and a half days.

The highlight of the trip is the dedication. During the dedication, the keys are handed to the family along with a Spanish Bible. I'm usually not an emotional person, but seeing the family with tears of joy enter the house, now their home, usually gets to me. End of work day three.

By late afternoon on Thursday we cross the boarder and begin our trek home. I returned to the parking lot of Peace Lutheran Church (thank you again for allowing me to park there) exhausted, greatly blessed by the people I met, the relationships that were fostered, and the opportunity to serve an awesome God.

Every mission trip is unique. Each one has a story. For example, on the trip I took in July, Pastor Mauricio, an LCMS pastor from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Harlingen, TX shared the gospel message and before the house dedication baptized five individuals. God is so good.

Indeed as long as I am physical-ly able, I plan to return to Mexico on future mission trips. If you are warm and breathing, you are welcome to join me. I'd be happy to share future dates and more detailed information about going on a mission trip. The cost usually runs about \$300 per person.



to share future dates and more detailed information about going on a mission trip. The cost usually runs about \$300 per person.

Also there is another way you can participate on these mission trips without traveling. Most importantly, pray for the Casas Por Cristo organization and their mission. They partner with nearly 150 pastors who live and work in Mexico, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic. These pastors have little to no resources to provide a tangible outreach to the people in their communities. Casas partner these pastors with the many resources and opportunities of churches abroad to build homes for families in need in their community. You can also support Missionary Stubblefield.

Financial gifts can be mailed to:

Casas por Cristo  
PO Box 971070  
El Paso, TX 79997

Please write #5484 Donnie Stubblefield Support in the memo of the check. Gifts can also be given online at [www.CasasporCristo.org](http://www.CasasporCristo.org) under GIVE and then follow the prompts for 'support missionary' #5484-Donnie Stubblefield.

by Charlie Gifford

## God's Precious Saints

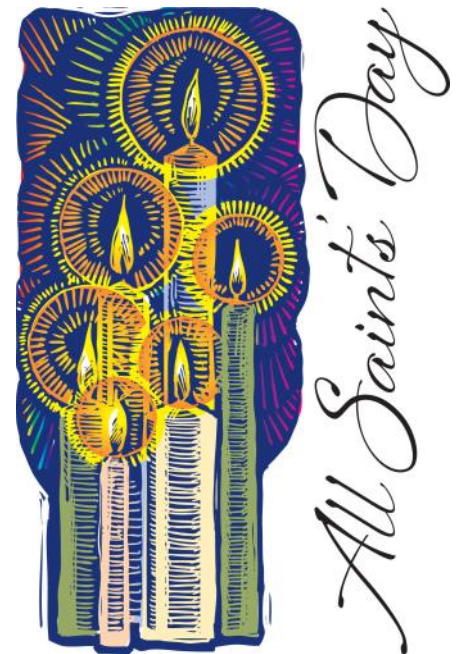
A man mourning the sudden death of his young wife wondered, "Where was God when Jenny died?" Unable to sleep one night, he turned to Scripture and read Psalm 116:3 (NIV): "The anguish of the grave came upon me: I was overcome by trouble and sorrow." The man's anguish echoed the psalmist's.

Reading on, he discovered verse 15: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

"What does it mean by precious?" the man wondered. The footnote proved helpful: "Not in the sense of highly valued, but of that which is carefully watched over." The widower pictured God watching over his wife in her last moments. "That's where God was," the man thought with relief, "with Jenny the whole time."

May we, too, be assured that God truly cares for his saints — not only at death but also in life, through grief and into healing.

*The Newsletter Newsletter*



**November 1**

# Stewardship News



## Let Us Give Thanks

**O**ur Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water – combined with His Word, promise, and Name – the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life – also belongs also to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

*LCMS Stewardship website*



## Servants of God for November

**Elder:** Jeff Hedberg

**Altar Guild:** Janet Bartels

### November 1

**Organist:** Diana Schwab

**Ushers:** Robert Hansen, Penny Hansen, Paul Bartels, Mark Riemann

**Counters:** Bob Mueller

### November 8

**Organist:**

**Ushers:** Earl Hartenstein, Shelia Hartenstein, Jeff Emery, Paula Emery

**Counters:** Bob & Diane Borgmann

**Flowers:** Celebration of Veterans Day (Penny Hansen)

### November 15

**Organist:** Diana Schwab

**Ushers:** Bob Borgmann, Sheryl Bald, Diane Borgmann, Mic Carlson, Rodney Schulz

**Counters:** Mic Carlson

**Flowers:** Celebration of Veterans Day (Penny Hansen)

### November 22

**Organist:** Pastor Gary Brandt

**Ushers:** Jeff Hedberg, Dawn Hedberg, Bob Mueller, Russell Schulz

**Counters:** Ed & Jacey Heinlein

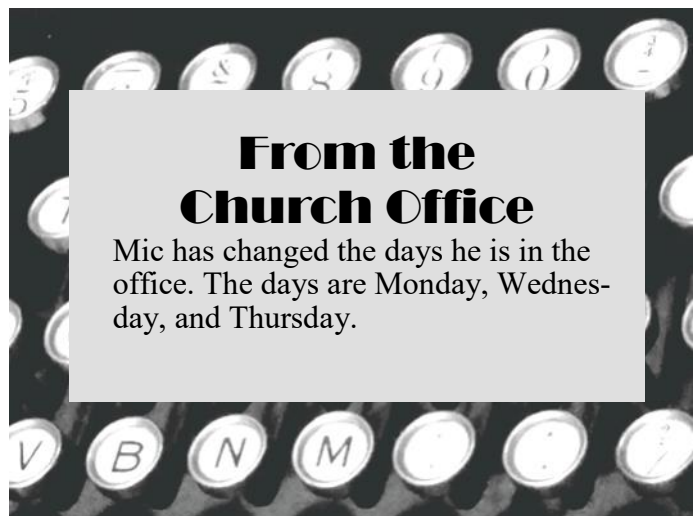
### November 25 Thanksgiving Eve Service

### November 29

**Organist:** Pastor Gary Brandt

**Ushers:** Bob Borgmann, Bob Hansen, Earl Hartenstein, Jeff Hedberg

**Counters:** Joe & Vicki Stauch



# November **Worship Schedule**

## November 1—All Saints Day

**Presiding Pastor:** Pastor Gary Brandt  
**Liturgy and Creed:** Divine Service 1, Nicene Creed  
**Hymns:** 667 (1-4), 590, 461, 677 (5-8)

## November 8—Twenty-third Sun. a. Pentecost

**Presiding Pastor:** Pastor Richard Anderegg  
**Liturgy and Creed:** Divine Service 1, Apostles' Creed  
**Hymns:** 807 (1-3), 537, 545, 807 (4-7)

## November 15—Twenty-fourth Sun. a. Pentecost

**Presiding Pastor:** Pastor Gary Brandt  
**Liturgy and Creed:** Divine Service 1, Apostles' Creed  
**Hymns:** 826 (1-2), 475, 637, 826 (3-4)

## November 22—Last Sunday of the Church Year

**Presiding Pastor:** Pastor Richard Anderegg  
**Liturgy and Creed:** Divine Service 1, Apostles' Creed  
**Hymns:** 719 (1-2), 735, 733, 729 (3-4)

## November 25—Thanksgiving Eve Service

## November 29—First Sunday of Advent

**Presiding Pastor:** Pastor Gary Brandt  
**Liturgy and Creed:** Divine Service 1, Apostles' Creed  
**Hymns:** 332 (1-4), 338, 347, 332 (5-8)



## October 13 Council Meeting

Vice President Jeff Emery called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. He opened with prayer. The following board members were present: Mic Carlson, Jeff Emery, Susan Kral, Diane Borgmann, Bob Borgmann, Dawn Hedberg, Russell Schultz, and Carol Murrell. Absent: Pastor Anderegg, Pastor Brandt, Rita Riemann, Vicki Stauch, Bob Mueller, and Chuck Kral. The minutes from the September 8, 2020 meeting were approved as printed.

**Financial Secretary:** Mic reported the figures. Giving has increased from 2019. The report was accepted and approved.

**Treasurer:** Mic reported the figures. The report was accepted and approved.

**Elders:** Mic presented the report. Bob Mueller has served as elder for 21 of the past 24 years. Due to health concerns, he will complete this year but not finish his

concerns, he will complete this year but not finish his term. Charlie Gifford has agreed to be nominated for an elder position. The report was accepted and approved.

**Ushers:** Bob Borgmann appreciates the good job that lady ushers are doing. He mentioned that several lights in the sanctuary are burned out. The board declared that no one in the congregation is able to get on a ladder high enough to change those lights. At some point the job will be hired out. His report was accepted and approved.

**Member at Large:** Carol Murrell had no report.

**Trustees:** Susan presented Chuck Kral's report.

- Prior to work being done on the septic system Chuck cut out a log that was interfering with the work's proceeding.
- Amos Septic charged \$280.00 to clean the system. The aerator needs to be repaired or replaced. The company that is able to do that will be contacted.
- Chuck contacted Best Pest Control. Spraying was done on September 15,
- On September 15, Chuck trimmed trees by the bridge and put the blades that he sharpened back on the tractor.
- Thanks to Jeff Emery for mowing and trimming branches.
- On Sept. 2, Chuck dug up and removed rocks by the church sign so that mower blades wouldn't be damaged. He mowed the cemetery and did weed eating.
- On October 9, he repaired slats on the back part of the cemetery fence and used the weed eater around the fence. He sprayed for weeds on the lumber yard side of the fence.
- He met with Koviak Tree Service on October 13. A large tree near our parking area is hollow. He received a bid of \$775.00 to take down the tree, grind the stump, and cut the wood so that members may take it for personal use. The council voted to approve the bid.

Chuck's report was accepted and approved.

**Education:** No report

**Evangelism:** Russell reported the following:

- Russell and Mic will met with Lake TV on September 9, 2020 to discuss advertising packages. The station charges \$1,250.00 to produce and air commercials. No action will be taken at this time.
- Outreach Direct Mail is an organization that compiles lists of people who have moved to this area. This information can be used to send information about our congregation to newcomers. The cost of \$278.00 per month includes printing of postcards, postage and shipping. Voters will be asked to approve this expenditure at the October meeting.

Russell's report was approved and accepted.

**Stewardship:**

- Dawn Hedberg researched Pregnancy Help Center in Camdenton. They do NOT advocate abortion. A

*continued on page 13*

### Stewardship:

- Dawn Hedberg researched Pregnancy Help Center in Camdenton. They do NOT advocate abortion. A donation of \$89.00 will provide counseling and parenting classes. The council approved the expenditure.
- Thanks to Bob and Penny Hansen for taking the cans to a recycling center.
- Funds collected from card sales are being given to the LWML for the mite collections. Mites are used to fund various missions.

Her report was approved and accepted.

**Cemetery:** Diane Borgmann reported that she has been watering the cemetery flower area. She and Carol Murrell will remove the artificial flowers soon. She will replace the soaker hose for the flower area next spring. Her report was approved and accepted.

**Pastors Report:** no reports

**Old Business:** President Mic Carlson reported the following:

- The programming of the carillons is not completed.
- The State of Missouri forms to make our cemetery a perpetual cemetery under state guidelines need to be completed.
- The 2018 Audit Committee has completed its review of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer's records for 2018. The report was accepted and approved.
- The 2019 annual Report of Operations for the IRS needs to be completed.
- Prior to tonight's Council Meeting the combined Planning and Finance Committees met. The congregation surveys and the updated SWOT Analysis were reviewed. Final drafts will be presented at special voters meeting.
- Co-Mo Connect completed our computer hookup on September 9, 2020.
- Thank you to Pastor Brandt and to Diane Schwab for providing organ music.

**New Business:** President Mic Carlson reported the following:

- The council will recommend that the presented 2021 budget be approved by the voters.
- A letter from the Missouri District was received asking for support.
- We will again sponsor a Christmas light display at the Laurie Park.
- Mic has changed the days he is in the office to Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- Mic proposed that the books be audited monthly rather than yearly. The board approved the motion.

Mic's reports were accepted and approved.

The following positions will be voted on at the October voters meeting:

- **President:** Jeff Emery, a two-year term expiring 2022
- **Vice Pres.** Bob Hansen to complete the one-year term expiring in 2021
- **Secretary:** Susan Kral, a two-year term expiring in 2022
- **Financial Sec:** Vicki Stauch, a two-year term expiring in 2022
- **Elders:** Charlie Gifford to complete the one-year term expiring in 2021 (replacing Bob Mueller)
- Jeff Hedberg, a three-year term expiring in 2023
- **Trustees:** Rodney Schultz, a three-year term expiring in 2023
- Pat Callahan, a three-year term expiring in 2023
- **Education:** Sara Anderegg, a one-year term expiring in 2022 (Position is currently vacant)
- **Evangelism:** Russell Schultz, a two-year term expiring in 2022

The meeting was adjourned, and the board closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Kral, *Secretary*

## October 18—Voters Minutes

President Mic Carlson called the meeting to order. There were 30 members present. Mic opened with prayer. The minutes of the July 26, 2020 Voters Meeting were approved as printed.

### Reports

1. **Church Council.** Minutes are available in the monthly newsletter. Voters were encouraged to comment upon the minutes from June, July, and August of 2020. There was no response.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** The September 30, 2020 quarterly report was distributed. The report was accepted and approved. Thank you to Rita Riemann for her time and efforts.
3. **Financial Secretary's Report.** The Sept. 30 Quarterly Financial Report was distributed. The report was accepted and approved. Thank you.

**Auxiliary Organization reports.** (These are published in the monthly newsletter.)

- A. **LWML - Sheryl Bald** stated that there were no meetings from April-June. Social distancing was practiced at July, August, and September meetings. The Spring Rally was cancelled. The Missouri convention was held electronically. LWML Sunday was

celebrated on Oct.4. The Fall Rally will be held on October 20 in Sedalia. We continue to work on the Chrismons at home.

B. **Thrivent-** No report from Jaccy Heinlein

4. **Planning/Finance Committee Report.** Mic stated that the committee has met monthly.
5. **Pastor's Report.** Pastor Brandt reported that he is now allowed to visit one person per day at Lake Regional Hospital. He asked that any member who is hospitalized at Lake Regional inform him. If any member would like a home visit let him know.
6. **President's Report.**
  - A. Mic informed the congregation that a new computer was purchased. The old one was under warranty. Pastor Anderegg donated another computer for the Pastors to use.
  - B. Co-Mo Connect has installed internet connections. The new service is working really well. We will soon be able to put our services on Facebook.

**New Business**

1. Dawn Hedberg presented the ballot for the election of officers and other positions. All nominees were elected by acclamation. (Ballot will be included at the end of these minutes.)
2. Mic Carlson presented the suggested budget for 2021. The following items were discussed:

2. Mic Carlson presented the suggested budget for 2021. The following items were discussed:
  - A. A small raise for both pastors.
  - B. The inclusion of a line item for the paying of an organist \$100.00 when the organ is played
  - C. Contributing to district
  - D. Hiring Outreach Direct Mail so that new "move ins" to our area can be contacted. The company provides post cards with our information and sends them to prospective members. We will also be provided with the list.
  - E. The open budget line for giving to missions will be discussed at a later date.
3. Mic proposed that 12 month contracts with both pastors include a clause that all parties can give a 30 day notice to end the contract.
4. The voters were asked to approve a proposal that the money collected from card sales and from recycled cans be given to the LWML Mites collection. (Mites are sent to district for various evangelism programs.)

All proposals were approved by the assembly.



**The following individuals were elected to these positions:**

Jeff Emery	President	2021-2022	(2 yr. term)
Bob Hansen	Vice Pres.	2021	(to complete Jeff Emery's term)
Susan Kral	Secretary	2021-2022	(2 yr. term)
Vicki Stauch	Financial Sec.	2021-2022	(2 yr. term)
Jeff Hedberg	Elder	2021-2023	(3 yr. term)
Charlie Gifford	Elder	2021	(to complete Bob Mueller's term)
Rodney Schulz	Trustee	2021-2023	(3 yr. term)
Pat Callahan	Trustee	2021-2023	(3 yr. term)
Sara Anderegg	Education	2021	(to complete vacancy term)
Russell Schulz	Evangelism	2021-2022	(2 yr. term)

Pastor Brandt closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Kral, *Secretary*