



# CONGREGATIONAL Annual Report



# LIVING OUR FAITH

## How the COVID-19 pandemic is inspiring ELCIC members to adapt and find new ways to live out the call to be *In Mission for Others*

2020 has been a challenging year for all. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we function in our day-to-day lives drastically. Working from home is a reality for many. Visits have become phone calls. Gym memberships have turned into home workouts. And traditional church worship has also been impacted.

When the first wave of this reality started to impact us here in Canada in the middle of March 2020, we saw many congregations turn from

grieving the loss of gathering together in person to exploring new ways of connecting with church members and the wider community, while ensuring physical distancing strategies were maintained and those who were vulnerable were protected.

It hasn't always been easy but across the church—coast to coast to coast—we are finding new ways to come together as community.



PHOTOS BY NATHALIE CECILIE.

### When COVID-19 drives us out—we drive in!

As the world unexpectedly embraced the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, New Denmark Lutheran Parish, New Brunswick (comprised of St. Peter's and Bethany), adapted to the challenging circumstances before them.

Social distancing measures closed the door on in-person worship, and poor bandwidth allocation made virtual worship extremely challenging. In light of this, an adaptive and alternative approach was taken: drive-in style worship services. In the beginning it was an adventure filled with newness and uncertainty, but it quickly shaped into an enjoyable means of gathering and worshipping together while maintaining social distancing protocols.

Rather than focus on what the pandemic has prohibited, we strive to focus on the new opportunities that it creates! COVID-19 attempted to drive us out of our buildings, but has instead driven us into a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages and skill-sets to work collectively in the service of Christ and the church.



PHOTOS BY REV. DENNIS HENDRICKSEN.



### Virtual Vacation Bible School

As many worship services had to adapt over 2020 to allow for virtual options, so too has Vacation Bible School (VBS). Christ, Regina approached this with open hearts and minds using the approach from *Illustrated Ministry's* Compassion Camp—looking beyond ourselves in compassion for others.

Compassion Camp consists of five sessions with the same format—a Bible story, singing, crafts, games, yoga, colouring and reflection

on the session's Bible story.

Each session began with the leader putting on their "compassion glasses," enabling them to see and greet the VBS participants in their homes.

Both parents and grandparents participated with their children and the feedback showed virtual VBS was well received.



PHOTO BY AMBER NEUFELD

## Adapting to serve during the pandemic

In a time of constant flux, the need for care for the vulnerable hasn't stopped.

As the threat of COVID-19 hit British Columbia, the Surrey Urban Mission (SUMS) collaboratively merged with BC Housing, Fraser Healthy Authority and the City of Surrey to facilitate the opening of a new shelter consisting of sixty beds.

This new Emergency Response Centre ensures reduction of risk to those sheltering from outdoor living by providing safe physical distancing and care.

The pandemic has offered opportunity for individuals and organizations to come together in a true sense of community, striving for the common good of our neighbours most in need.

## A unique pastoral installation

When Rev. Gregory Smith accepted the call to be the new pastor at Our Saviour, Calgary, he looked forward to his installation, but had no idea that the ceremony could very well be the first of its kind for an ELCIC pastor. Pastor Greg was installed during the first months of the COVID-19 lockdown and was installed online.

Rev. Kevin Powel installed Smith. The service included a socially distanced audience and several musical performances.

While the installation service and his new beginnings at Our Saviour weren't exactly as imagined, Pastor Greg remains hopeful.

"I will continue to reach out and get to know my new congregation, just as they will learn to know me and my family," he said. "What will change is the fact that these friendships will be formed differently. This is part of the new normal... I look forward to the challenge and the joy of sharing God's love, even if the medium of communicating God's love is no longer traditional. We'll all learn together."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL MIHACHUK



PHOTO BY JETT ISLEIFSON

## A bikeathon from afar

The Luther Village Bikeathon is an annual event in support of this vital outdoor ministry that provides all individuals with the opportunity for growth and renewal of mind, body and soul. The group ride event is one that many look forward to but then the year 2020 struck.

Organizers decided to consider a different way to come together and thus was born the Luther Village Bikeathon From Afar.

Off went the riders on their own, including Jett Isleifson and his little companion "Playmobil Martin Luther," for company.

While the participants may have missed the fellowship of their other riders, they all enjoyed the support and prayers of the many who helped with their financial pledges to ensure Luther Village will be able to hold many bikeathons in the years to come.

**On the cover, from top left:** A sweat lodge at the Sandy-Salteaux Spiritual Centre near Beausejour, MB; photo by Monica Bortoluzzi. Neighbourhood park clean-up by members at St. Peter's Ottawa; photo by Rev. Elna Salonen. Ninety-year-old Shirley Holcomb from St. David Anglican-Lutheran church in Orillia, ON, organized a donation cross in the community garden for mittens, toques, scarves and socks; photo by Ainsley Munro. Seven-year-old Lillian gets high fives after her baptism at Trinity, New Hamburg, ON; photo by Dave Mello.

**With written contributions from** Rev. Jonah Bruce; Jett Isleifson; Richard Janzen; Amber Neufeld and Patricia Mulvaney; Wanda Walter.



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2020 Annual General Report  
Saskatoon Saskatchewan

Annual General Meeting: February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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Opening Devotions – 11:00 – Page 20

Call to Order – Nathaniel Gibson

Review and approval of agenda –

Review and approval of Feb 9, 2020 AGM Minutes

Business arising from the Minutes –

Reports: (Note that Committee reports are within their respective Ministry Section)

1. Pastor's Report
2. Statistical Report
3. CMT Chairperson's Report
4. Worship Ministry
5. Learning Ministry
6. Witnessing Ministry
7. Service Ministry
8. Support Ministry
9. 2020 Reviewed Financial Statements
  - a. Appointment of MG Accounting and Office Services be retained to review the financial records for 2021.
10. 2021 Proposed Budget

Nomination Committee Report – Election of CMT members

Questions, Concerns, General discussion – Open mike

Adjournment –

Closing Prayer – Page 20

**Call Meeting for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church via ZOOM**

**Sunday, February 28, 2021 – following the AGM**

**AGENDA**

1. Congregational chairperson calls the meeting to order
  - a. Confirms that a quorum is present for this meeting.
  - b. Calls upon the bishop's representative and the chair of the call committee.
2. Introduction to Call Meeting
  - a. The Chair invites the bishop's representative to chair the next portion of the meeting.

- b. The bishop's representative reviews the process of the meeting and the opportunity to ask questions.
  - c. Letter of Call - presentation of clergy's name;
    - voting
 Memorandum of Compensation – presented for discussion;
    - voting
  - d. Bishop's representative offers a prayer for guidance
3. Letter of Call
    - a. Chairperson of the Call Committee is asked to describe the process that was followed.
    - b. Motion from the Call Committee presenting the candidate
    - c. Voting
  4. Memorandum of Compensation
    - a. Presentation of Memorandum of Compensation by CMT
    - b. Call Committee moves and seconds package and answers questions
    - c. If the motions pass, the officers sign the Letter of Call and the Memorandum of Compensation
  5. Closure of the Meeting
    - a. The Congregation Chair informs the congregation of the next steps:
    - b. The rostered leader is given 30 days to reply to the call.
    - c. The meeting is declared adjourned.

## Minutes from 2020 Annual General Meeting

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Saskatoon Inc.**

**Annual General Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2020**

**Opening Devotions** – were printed on the Back Report Cover and lead by Deacon Gretchen Peterson who had developed the devotion.

**Call to Order** – Chairperson Nathaniel Gibson called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. with 37 members present.

**Review and approval of agenda** – **MSC** that the agenda be approved for this meeting.

**Review and approval of Feb 1, 2019 AGM Minutes** -**MSC** that the 2019 AGM minutes to approved.

**March 10, 2019 Revision of Constitution** – 2<sup>nd</sup> vote Minutes – **MSC** that the minutes of the March 10, 2019 congregational meeting be approved.

**Business arising from the Minutes** – none noted

## Reports:

1. Pastor's Report – Page 7 of the docket of reports. Pastor Munye highlighted points in his report. He urged more members to participate in the activities of the congregation. He also suggested having events to highlight the gift of music in our congregation.
2. Statistical Report – 90 services were held; membership is 231 baptized and 160 Confirmed
3. CMT Chairperson's Report – page 11 of the docket that featured the reorganization of the Governance Model in order to improve communication between committees and CMT.
4. Worship Ministry – page 12 of the docket including Choir Notes and Altar Guild report.
5. Learning Ministry – page 14 of the docket including Sunday School and Lutheran Anglican Retreat reports.
6. Witnessing Ministry – page 16 of the docket including the NEST report, Diversity and Inclusion Committee report and the Creative Coffee report.
7. Service Ministry – page 18 of the docket highlighting all the service opportunities available for members of the congregation to support various agencies in the community.
8. Support Ministry – page 20 of the docket including the Treasurer's report with a Member Contribution analysis, the Fundraising Committee and the Saskatchewan Synod report.
9. Treasurer's Report – reviewed the Reviewed Financial Statements for 2019 as reviewed by Marilyn Grose of MG Accounting and Office Services. Revenue for 2019 was \$223,928 with expenses of \$229,804 for a loss of \$5,876.
  - a. **MSC** that the 2019 financial statements be approved as presented.
  - b. **MSC** that the services of Marilyn Grose of MG Accounting and Office Services be retained to review the financial records for 2020.
10. 2020 Budget – the Treasurer reviewed the proposed 2020 budget against the 2019 actuals. It proposed Income of \$174,020 and expenses of \$173,787 for a surplus of \$233.
  - a. **MSC** that the 2020 budget be approved as presented.
11. Transition Committee – Cam reported who were on the Call Committee: Nathaniel Gibson, Cam Broten, Nathan Elke, Doris Slind and Karena Berggren.

**Nomination Committee Report** — Slate of nominations for CMT: Karena Berggren; Cam Broten; Aaron Fornwald; Nathaniel Gibson; Sandra Haug; and Eric Micheels.

**MSC** that the nominees be elected to the Church Management Team.  
Members staying on are Joel Burns, Joan Meyer, Dan Tooth, and Marty Willick.

**Questions, Concerns, General discussion** – Open mic – none brought forward. Several questions had been raised when reviewing the reports and were answered at that time.

**Announcements:**

- VBS dates – date no known yet
- Adult Bible Studies – Bible study is on Thursday afternoon; another is planned to start soon
- Fund raising events – the Committee reported an event is being planned for May.
- Members wanted for Greening Committee

**Adjournment** – declared at 12:45 p.m.

**Closing Prayer** – Back Report Cover – Gretchen lead the closing prayer.

Minutes taken by

Joan Meyer, Secretary/Treasurer

## Pastor Munye Mtata's Report

### Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic took us away from the life that we know and are comfortable with. As a result, it is possible that we have experienced a roller coaster of emotions due to the changes in our lives. On the one hand we may have been confronted with nostalgia and yearning for “home” or what we are used to, like the Israelites who lamented, “By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy... How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?” (Psalm 137:1-4). Indeed, we may have felt defeated and resigned ourselves to that attitude as we felt we could not do anything.

On the other hand, we may have finally accepted this new reality, and understood that life must continue. We may have got to a place where we told ourselves to keep on with our lives, despite the challenges; and like Jeremiah we may have said to ourselves, “build houses and settle down, plant gardens and eat what is produced. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters....” (Jeremiah 29:5-6).

My hope and prayer is that along the way we have been able to pick Jeremiah's attitude, that we have been able to pick ourselves up and have striven to move on with life, even in these unprecedented and tiring times. Because we know that we are not alone, since Christ assured, “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

This report will give an overview of our experiences of the year 2020 as a church and will provide a few recommendations for the future.

### Overview

Before looking into the specific issues, I want to express my appreciation for the work that our Congregation Management Team (CMT) did throughout the year, steering the congregation through tumultuous times. Their commitment to monthly meetings to make sure that the life of the congregation was on course was invaluable. It was indeed a tough year, but the team rose to the occasion and provided the much-needed leadership.

#### *i) Worship Services*

In March, the church moved out of the sanctuary, into our living rooms and this meant we had to learn how to be church in our homes. In March we temporarily suspended physical gatherings at Good Shepherd Lutheran church in observance of government set safety protocols. The 'normal' that we used to experience all along in the previous years: the regular Sunday gatherings, the eventful Good Friday and Easter services, the Confirmation celebrations, baptism, funeral and Christmas Eve services, were all snatched away from us and we were deprived of the worship experiences that we had held so dear all along. And this has dramatically altered the outlook of church life.

As such we had to depend solely on virtual worship services, that is, making use of our YouTube platform, which has not the best platform for some of us due to a number of reasons. For those who had limitations regarding technology, I assisted them by providing them with printed copies of each Sunday service sermon.

On the bright side, for those of us who are not fans of crowds, worship became more practical for them, as they did not have to worry about being in crowds. Many thanks to the entire worship committee for bringing life to virtual worship with their creative ideas. But this would not have been possible without your support as you volunteered to provide readings of lessons and prayers for each service. That is why it was possible to have wonderfully unique services during the Season of Advent and the subsequent Christmas Eve service. Though we could not be together, we at least saw each other's faces on our gadget screens.

#### *ii) Pastoral Care*

The larger part of pastoral care has always been comprehensive contact with congregants – audio, visual, physical aspects of contact. But due to this temporary shutdown, pastoral care became complicated. As such, we had to come up with a plan to keep going, and the only alternative we had was making phone calls.

We've done pastoral care in two ways: one is care given to members of the congregation with immediate needs, such as those in care homes, in hospitals or other such situations; then care given to the generality of members. As far as care of members with immediate needs goes, I have maintained regular contact with them through phone calls. Obviously, this has not been sufficient because it put an end to such care as provision of Holy communion. Besides, a few of this demographic have hearing challenges; meaning that keeping contact with them was almost impossible.

Pastoral care to the generality of our members was equally challenging, as would be expected. When I realised that the pandemic was stretching beyond what had been expected I realised we needed to be in touch with congregants to hear their needs and to check if our programmes were meeting their needs. To maintain this contact, I made use of the birthday calendar for our congregation, with the hope that congregants would understand that they had someone to talk to if they needed. For those who needed this kind of contact it worked. Unfortunately, I missed some of the birthdays because some fell on a weekend, the days we were busy finalising preparations for worship services, or on Saturday or Monday – which are my off days.

I was also open to have private services for individuals/families who needed a worship service with Holy Communion. My hope was to have at least 3 or so people for that kind of service. Unfortunately, this did not have any takers, except only one congregant, whom I referred to Zion Lutheran and Resurrection, which was still conducting worship services with limited numbers. This could have been advertised more frequently, and I hope I can fix that.

Furthermore, I took the opportunity for opening devotionals at CMT meetings to check with our leadership and their families how they were doing. This could probably have been done more than once, but the time we did it I thought it was worthwhile. Indeed, as some would have indicated, more could have been more could have been done. And I am sorry to those who felt let down by the pastor during their moments of need.

Lastly, I used our contact directory to make a one-time call on all the members of our congregation. This made me realise that we desperately need a redo on our contact register as almost half of the contacts in the pictorial directory are now outdated.

### *iii) Confirmation*

This aspect of our Christian Education was also disrupted, but we managed to put in place a plan to proceed with the Affirmation of Baptism service at the end of May. And as all other gatherings, Confirmation Classes have moved to zoom. Much appreciation to the parents who continue to provide support to the students.

### *iv) Other ministries*

As you will realise, the pandemic affected the discharge of other ministries throughout the year and not much was done. Nonetheless, much appreciation goes to the VBS team and the Christian Education ministry for organising a virtual VBS in July. That was a memorable event.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

In all these efforts, I reiterate my immense gratitude to the guidance, companionship and support of the CMT membership. They encouraged, indicated points of improvement and prayed with me. Most importantly, I thank you, the congregation members, for reaching out to my family and I as you gave support at different occasions. You also made our Christmas quite memorable, and I take this opportunity to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

As we look forward to a year ahead, we are still in the middle of a pandemic, and it is not clear when we will re-open in-person services again. As such, we continue to take up prophet Jeremiah's attitude to continue with Christian life and not wait for the pandemic to go, because it is part of our lives now. A few thoughts come to mind for 2021:

- Worship services via zoom – I am wondering if the worship committee could look at the possibility of having worship via zoom, to add the element of interaction in our services, in addition to using the YouTube facility.
- Private Holy Communion services for individuals/families – to continue with this idea if the congregation is open to this, in view of the safety protocols put in place.
- Devotionals in Large Print for Seniors – this is an idea that is already in motion for 2021. I have communicated with Our Daily Bread ministry, who can provide these for free.

I pray for your safety and health, and for God's guidance on your life's endeavors through the year.

Peace,  
Munyengetero Mtata.

## Statistical Report

2020 WORSHIP SERVICES	#	Notes
Sunday Morning Worship	20	Jan 5 <sup>th</sup> – single service at 11 am Jan 12 <sup>th</sup> to Mar 15 <sup>th</sup> (except Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> ) - two services at 9:30 and 11:00 Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> – single service at 10 am
Online Services	32	Mar 22                      Jul 5, 19, 26              Oct 4, 18, 25 Apr 5, 12, 26              Aug 2, 23, 39              Nov 1, 15, 22, 28 May 3, 10, 24, 31          Sep 6, 20, 27              Dec 6, 20, 24, 27 Jun 7, 14, 21, 28
<b>TOTAL 2020</b>	<b>52</b>	

## 2020 SUMMARY

Baptized (B)		Confirmed (C)	
Baptized membership Dec 31, 2019	231	Confirmed membership Dec 31, 2019	160
Baptisms	1	Confirmations	3
B. Members Received	0	C. Members Received	0
B. Members Transferred Out	2	C. Members Transferred Out	2
B. Members Removed by Death	2	C. Members Removed by Death	2
B. Members to Responsibility List	0	C. Members to Responsibility List	0
B. Statistical Adjustment	0	C. Statistical Adjustment	0
<b>Total Baptized Membership</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>Total Confirmed Membership</b>	<b>159</b>

## BAPTISMS (1)

Name	Date	Parents
Liv Zepick	March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Aaron and Leah Zepick

## CONFIRMATIONS (3)

Rylan Fraser	Gracie Sowers
Michael Hussey	

## FUNERALS (3)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Norm Hodgson	January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Hillcrest

### Non-audited Historical Comparison of Average Attendance and Worship Service Offerings

Year	Avg Attend/Sun	Avg Offer/Sun	Year	Avg Attend/Sun	Avg Offer/Sun
1985	104	960	2003	163	2297
1986	113	1035	2004	149	2365
1987	127	1457	2005	150	2531
1988	123	1563	2006	126	2412
1989	113	1446	2007	145	3312
1990	119	1066	2008	140	3538
1991	151	1430	2009	142	3609
1992	138	1368	2010	145	3858
1993	135	1362	2011	133	3656
1994	134	1614	2012	112	2659
1995	145	1598	2013	112	4114
1996	142	1669	2014	115	3990
1997	146	1860	2015	118	3721
1998	139	1640	2016	115	4741
1999	142	1952	2017	118	3828
2000	157	2143	2018	113	4197
2001	153	2238	2019	110	3605
2002	154	2447	2020*		

\*2020 – majority of services was online due to the Covid-19 global pandemic. Attendance is based on Jan to Mar.

## Congregational President’s Message: Church Management Team

It has been a year unlike anything that we could have predicted. Every facet of life has seemingly been turned upside down and life at Good Shepherd has been anything but normal. When the CMT made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend in person worship at Good Shepherd we had no idea that the suspension of services would continue for as long as it has. What we had hoped would be weeks has turned into months. The inability to gather together on Sunday mornings has been hard but it is important that we act in a way that best protects the health and well-being of our Good Shepherd community and the Saskatoon community as a whole and we have appreciated your understanding and patience. As the Covid-19 situation continues to unfold, the CMT, with guidance from the Synod and local health officials, will make decisions about when and how to move back to in person worship.

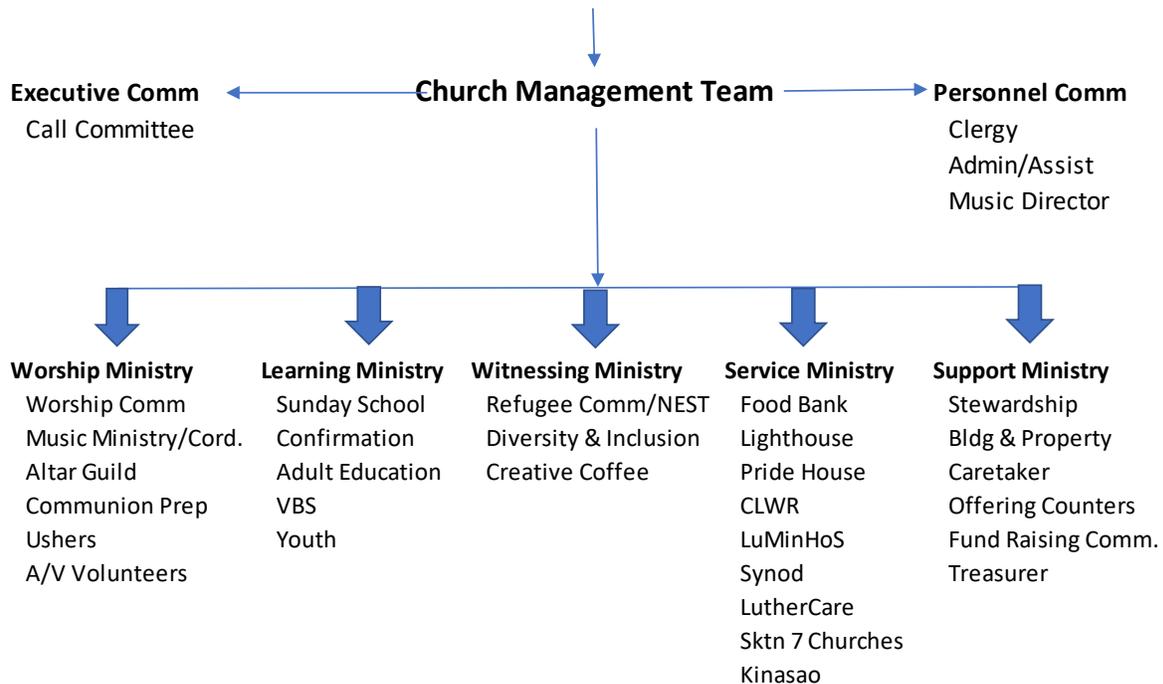
The last year has forced us all to find creative ways to connect with one another and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Good Shepherd who has worked so hard on our virtual services. We would all prefer to gather together in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings but the virtual worship, with familiar faces and music, has allowed us to feel connected even while apart and it has only been possible through the hard work of a number of dedicated individuals. I would like to extend a special thanks to Pastor Munye, Nathan Elke, Angela Friggstad, Marty Willick and Anna Scott.

I would like to end by thanking my fellow CMT members. We have spent many hours together on Zoom and we have had to make some difficult decisions. Through all of that I have appreciated your thoughtfulness, your insight, and your dedication to our community of faith. It has been a difficult year but we hold firm to the belief that we are led, sustained and continually renewed by the One who can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. May we look to the year ahead with hope and confidence, excited about what God will do in and through the Good Shepherd community.

In Christ,  
Nathaniel Gibson

## Good Shepherd Organizational Plan

### Congregational Members



## Worship Ministry

### Purpose of the Worship Ministry Team:

**Constitution:** This congregation, remembering God's mighty acts in the past, celebrating God's abiding presence, and moving toward God's promised fulfillment, will listen to the Word of God in Scripture and preaching, receive the Sacraments, and respond with confession, prayer, praise, thanksgiving, and with tithes and offerings. In order to assist members to acknowledge God's rule over their lives, their own unity as Christ's body on earth, and to express their relationship with God in public and in private, the congregation shall gather for worship regularly and, in accordance with the traditions of the Lutheran Church, recruit, equip, and support members for leadership in worship, use appropriate worship materials, and make certain that worship has a place in other functions of the congregation.

We were faced with unprecedented challenges this year. Thanks to Nathan Elke, Marty Willick and Angela Friggstad for making the transition to virtual worship services go smoothly. Along with support from the other Lutheran churches in Saskatoon we have been worshipping at home and watching the services online since Easter 2020.



Thank you to Anna and Stefan Scott for making our Advent and Christmas season special with the inclusion of virtual choir pieces and special music. Thank you, also, to everyone who participated and, of course, let's not forget the Sunday School who shared their many talents with us as well.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted videos for our services, whether reading the lessons and prayers, or sharing music or children's stories. Seeing all of your faces has helped to keep us connected. We know this too shall pass and we look forward to in person services when we can all be together again.

Karena Berggren



## Learning Ministry

### Purpose of the Learning Ministry Team:

**Constitution:** This congregation shall develop an educational program designed to assist persons to grow in grace and faith and in the knowledge of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions for service and witness in the world. To this end, it shall provide learning opportunities with appropriate curriculum, shall recruit, equip and support educational leaders, and shall ensure that adequate study undergirds all functions of the congregation.

## **Sunday School**

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Sunday School classes have been on pause since March 2020, but much the Sunday School group has stayed active in the Good Shepherd community. Many Sunday School children have participated in the online services and thanks to Angela Friggstad, there have been weekly children's bulletins to engage and educate the younger crowd.

Of special note were the virtual Christmas pageant December 20<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve services. The Sunday School children and leaders shared their gifts in acting out skits, reading bible verses, and performing Christmas music. Thank you to Anna Scott, Ruth Eliason for their work in organizing those special holiday season services.

## **VBS (~~Vacation~~ Virtual Bible School)**

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Once it became apparent that having families attend Vacation Bible School was not going to be an option in the summer of 2020, the VBS team began working with the idea of a Virtual Vacation Bible School. Pastor Munye, Katie Elke, Andy Linsley, Kara Erickson-Tucker and Karen Harilstad were the main leadership group who offered insight in the direction this first time ever concept was to take.

Weekly meetings were held through June for the group to form a program that highlighted verses that were based on struggles and fears as we were condensed to intimate family isolation mandates. Early in July, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was used as a production studio to build sets and then record all the videos that would be edited together to make up the daily VBS installments. Many thanks to Karen Harilstad for taking vacation time to allow our volunteers to attend during a convenient time for them throughout the weeks of production.

Five videos were produced and made available through the week starting on Monday July 20<sup>th</sup>. Each day's video consisted of Bible stories, crafts, music, physical activity and a snack time. A special thanks will be extended to the Willick family for acting, Pastor Munye, Ruth Eliason and her girls for music, Karen Berggren, Whitney and Sharon Aadland, Taylor, Brett and Lynn Szuba for our craft segments, Maria and Elaina Himbeault with Katie for "body break", Joel Burns and Nathan Elke for technical support, Lorraine Harilstad for story time, the Tucker Boys with guest appearance from Emma Sereda for games/sports, Kara Erickson-Tucker for writing, producing the skits and finally Andy Linsley for the broadcasting that made us look almost professional.

The cost to this was mostly time, and for that we are a strong Good Shepherd community, even at a distance.

Joel Burns

## **Witnessing Ministry**

### **Purpose of the Witnessing Ministry Team**

Constitution: This congregation, relying on the Holy Spirit, shall proclaim the Gospel by word and deed and thereby invite all people to repent and believe. This congregation shall recruit, motivate, equip and support its members to witness to their faith at every opportunity in daily life so that the Lord is glorified, the fellowship is strengthened, the lapsed are restored and new members are added to the congregation. It shall provide for the communication of the Gospel through partnership with the wider Christian community. It shall assure that all congregation functions witness to the faith of the church.

Unfortunately, most of the programs were not done this year because of Covid-19. Pastor Munye has been contacting members via telephone and groups of members have had regular contact among themselves.

A Virtual VBS was held during the summer that several children enjoyed taking part in. Regular church services have been held so that members can still attend church virtually. Good Shepherd is also active on Facebook with the regular posting of prayers by Pastor Munye and other messages going on it for the members.

## Service Ministry

### Purpose of the Service Ministry Team

**Constitution:** This congregation shall live by faith active in love. It shall motivate, equip and support its members to: minister in daily life; participate as members of a caring community; serve as Christians in all the institutions and structures of the society of which they are a part; and promote justice and reconciliation, meet human needs and alleviate suffering, both individually and corporately. In these efforts, this congregation shall cooperate with the synod and the ELCIC, other Christian churches, faith communities and groups in society. It shall make certain that all its functions strengthen the motivation and ability for service.

During the 2020 year for Good Shepherd, we have worked to reorganize our ministerial functions. One of these new areas is the Service Ministry. This area of our church organization works to identify needs in the church and broader community and allocate resources (time, talents, treasures) to help meet these needs. Work that would occur in this area would be identifying volunteers for work at the Lighthouse, organizing hampers for various charities in Saskatoon, as well as work done in collaboration with The Seven Church Councils in Saskatoon of the Saskatchewan Synod, ELCIC.

With the pandemic response, our work in these areas was quite abbreviated. Volunteering for the Lighthouse was organized by Karen Harilstad in the past and that work was halted when gathering restrictions were put in place. This points to a need to identify and build some resiliency into our approach to the Service Ministry so that this work can occur in the face of adversity. We encourage you to bring ideas where we can improve to any CMT member or to the CMT leaders of this ministry.

Eric Micheels and Sandra Haug

## Support Ministry

### Purpose of the Support Ministry Team:

**Constitution: Support** – This congregation, in faithfulness to God, shall provide leadership, organizational structures, facilities and funds to enable fulfillment of its functions. This congregation shall strive to maintain effective stewardship practices, evaluate regularly the total life and ministry of this congregation, recruit, equip and support members of this congregation to provide for these activities.

**Members of the team** – Dan Tooth, Gary Johnson, Don Slind, Marty Willick, Jake Satre and Joan Meyer.

**Stewardship Items:**

- When Covid19 hit our community, many members signed up for PAR to keep up with their offering; others use the e-transfer system that was set up and yet others regularly dropped their offering off at the church or placed it in the mailbox. A major appeal went out the December to ask for funds to meet our commitments for the year.
- We applied for government funding that we were qualified for – CEWS – wage subsidy income and a CEBA Loan of \$40,000 that we are able to keep \$10,000 and \$30,000 has to be paid back by this December of 2021.

**Building and Property Items:**

- As soon as government and synod guidelines came out Good Shepherd shut down. Services went virtual through the church website, and all community services to various groups were closed.
- Minor repairs were done at the church.
- The parking lot was rented out for a month while the apartments next door had their parking lot redone.
- Unfortunately, after the big snowstorm we had in November, some of the committee members went over to the church to do some snow removal. When they finally made it through to the sheds at the back of the church, they saw that the padlocks had been cut with bolt cutters and the lawnmower and snow blower were both gone. This had been done before the storm as there were no footprints around the sheds.

**Caretakers:**

After discussions with Kara and Chris it was decided this might be a good time to do some maintenance in the church while it was not being used. They have painted several rooms and trim work throughout the church and then tackled the kitchen and made some awesome upgrades.

**Fund Raising Committee:**

Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold any special events this year. Hopefully this will change this year and our “Fun”-raising group will have some great ideas for us to get together.

**Treasurer(s):**

The Support Ministry Team works closely with the co-treasurers -- Joan and Marty. The team monitors that the CRA and ISC reports are filed in a timely manner and other funding opportunities are applied for.

Resignation – Joan informed CMT that she would be resigning as co-treasurer as of the end of the year and the filing of year-end reports. Marty will be continuing on as the congregation’s treasurer.

A special thank you for Angela for all the work she does to assist the Support Team do its job.

Sincerely,

Dan Tooth, Support Team Chair

Attached – Reviewed statement for 2020 and Budget for 2021



### Year-end letter from Bishop Sid Haugen

As I write this letter, I am trying to imagine you gathering early in 2021 for the annual meeting of the congregation. Are you sitting in front of a computer screen in your homes? Or will Health Directives allow you to gather in your church sanctuaries in limited numbers, physically distanced, and masked? Or will it be a hybrid of the two? 2020 has been a year of 'working it out'—with congregations facing the daily challenge of 'being the church' in an unpredictable world. Much of what we have always done we either cannot do, or are required to do in radically new ways. Our work at synod has been similarly marked by the challenge the pandemic presented. In this odd year of 2020, there were particular ways synod was not able to work 'as normal' this past year, and there were also unique opportunities for the work of the synod with congregations, ministries and rostered ministers.

**Support of congregations and ministries:** Synod continues to support the work of congregations and ministries. On a very basic level, synod acts as a 'cooperative' of congregations and ministries. Congregations provide benevolence to the synod so that the whole body is offered support. One of the reasons congregations give to the synod is so that their sisters and brothers across the synod have support when it is time to call a pastor or when it is time to handle a congregational issue or even when it's time to deal with the difficult work of church closure.

In the pandemic world, synod handled a different set of issues in support of congregations and ministries. Congregations and ministries faced the challenge of how to be church during the pandemic, given the Health Directives that restricted our usual way of worshipping, learning and serving. Synod office arranged an array of Zoom calls for congregational leaders. Pastor Ali Tote, who has a PhD in epidemiology worked with the synod as we brought together congregational leaders during the various phases of the pandemic. Typically, we met over one week to consult with lay and rostered leaders across the synod and the next week we met with the leadership to present Synod guidelines. During each phase, we would affirm our responsibility as church to follow the Health Directives for the sake of our people and the communities in which we serve. Then we presented Synod guidelines as recommendations from Synod for each of our congregations and ministries to consider. In our polity, congregations and ministries are responsible to interpret those synod guidelines given their knowledge of their own specific context. Zoom calls also took up conversations with the synod finance manager about ways to fund the congregation when we could not meet together and 'pass the plate', including a discussion about how to apply for pandemic funding available federally. Feedback on the Zoom calls has been very positive from faith leadership. Over a week of Zoom calls with synod leadership, we would have more than 100 of our lay and rostered leaders on the calls. Unprecedented times are difficult to face, but almost impossible to face alone. Many thanks to Pastor Ali for his work with us in this time.

**Support of rostered ministers:** Rostered ministers found themselves significantly challenged by the pandemic. So much of ministry is about presence: gathering people for worship, gathering the grieving for a funeral, gathering a confirmation class or an adult class to study, meeting people in their homes for pastoral care, working with council and committees to do ministry. COVID changed nearly everything. Synod worked with rostered ministers in the early part of the pandemic to meet by Zoom primarily to support each other. We gathered rostered leaders in 'clusters' of 12-15 by geographic area-- weekly for the first months of the pandemic. We met for Dwelling in the Word, mutual support and sharing updates. I will not soon forget the feel of these meetings. We needed each other. During the summer and fall, the roster met by Zoom together with lay leadership to deal with new phases in the pandemic.

As we moved through the COVID days I have been really impressed with the roster. Ministers who have never used video stepped up and worked at it. Whether comfortable with the media or not, the remote video services have been well attended by the faith communities. They know their minister's familiar voice. Indeed, many of the remote services have seen increased numbers from person to person worship. On the other hand, some ministers understanding that their community was not going to be able to access even simple internet (sometimes the bandwidth was simply not there), produced orders of prayer, sermons delivered by hand and organized 'phone trees' for community care.

**The wider church:** The pandemic has seen a drawing together of leadership across the ELCIC. Synodical treasurers and the national treasurer have met throughout the pandemic to understand the financial challenges, and to present resources available for our congregations and ministries. The conference of bishops has met throughout the pandemic for mutual support and to share ideas. One of the developments from our conversation was the idea to provide a sermon resource for the summer. The six bishops and the assistants to the bishop all prepared a print and video version of a sermon for the period from mid-June to mid-September. The sermon series was received very well across the church. It was also one of the ways we have been brought together across the country as one church.

**Synod office move:** With the Seminary leaving its building on Seminary Cr., we initiated a search for office space before the pandemic, a process that suddenly halted during early months of the pandemic. But we did find a space in north Saskatoon. During the summer, when Health Directives were somewhat less restrictive, we moved to a newly renovated office space in the industrial park in Saskatoon: #6-2220 Northridge Dr. It is easy to locate, near the corner of Idylwyld and Circle Dr, located in a service mall with ample free parking, and has excellent WIFI.

**Synod convention 2021:** Synod convention will run as scheduled this summer on June 4-5. But we will not gather in person. We will meet in a virtual convention. ELCA synods who have held virtual conventions in the past year, have reported at times wider participation in the virtual conventions than they have had in face to face. Look for further information in the weeks ahead.

**Financial:** The synod, as you know, is financed by the voluntary 'benevolence' of our congregations and ministries. From that benevolence Synod supports our key partners: 20% of that benevolence to our National Church and 15% of benevolence to our Lutheran Theological Seminary. The remainder is used directly within our synod. Staffing at synod remains quite lean: our administrative team in Saskatoon consists of a .75 time office manager, a .5 time executive assistant, and a .2 time finance manager; our pastoral team on the road consists of two .25 time Assistants to the Bishop. In total this staff of just under 2 Full time Equivalents support me in the synod's work with our roster of congregations and ministries: 106 congregations, 3 synod ministries (and several other ministries with whom we have a formal relationship); and with the roster of ministers: 125 ministers including active, on leave from call and retired. Congregational benevolence also supports the work of synod council, synod committees and provides a synod office for the administration of the synod.

While congregations have done very well in developing other ways of funding than 'passing the plate' every Sunday, most congregations have experienced, nonetheless, a decline in financial support. Not surprisingly, the synod has received moderately less financial support from the congregations during the pandemic. At the same time, our expenses have been reduced with less travel by the bishop and assistants, less travel, lodging, and meeting expenses for synod council and committees (who have been meeting virtually for the most part since mid-March). While 2021 looks like it will move step by step toward some form of normalcy by fall, synod funding for this year is concerning. Please keep the synod in your prayers, and in your budget conversations as we move together into this new year.

So here we are. At the end of a challenging year for our communities and for our congregations that we had not anticipated. At the beginning of a year full of uncertainty. We once walked through a pandemic like this back in the early part of the 20th century. And we are still here. I'm reminded of Jurgen Moltmann, the theologian of hope. Moltmann said that though we suffer the "No" of God in many ways, God's last word, God's lasting word is always "Yes." So, we work and we pray on this journey of hope.

*Loving 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.*

Peace,  
Bishop Sid

Please visit the Synod website at [www.sasksynod.ca](http://www.sasksynod.ca) to sign up for Synod News or to find information from our Synod.

## WORSHIP FOR A CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Faithful, hopeful, loving

### OPENING OF A MEETING

#### Prayer

Gracious God, we ask for your presence with us as we gather to meet, whether in person or virtually. This last year has been challenging. Help us still to celebrate the ministry we have done together in the past year. Give us vision and hope as we plan for our shared future. Give us courage to follow you in all we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Reading** – 1 Corinthians 13: 4–7, 13

**Hymn** – *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, EvLW #733

#### Litany

Leader As we gather to meet,  
All *Be with us, God.*

Leader We praise you for your faithfulness.  
All *Be our wisdom and counsel—guide our decision-making.*

Leader We put our trust in your hopefulness.  
All *Give us courage to envision your future for us.*

Leader We thank you for your steadfast love.  
All *Help us to be loving with each other, and with all we meet.*

Leader As we gather to meet  
All *Be with us, God. May all that we do and say today be pleasing in your sight. Amen.*

### CLOSING OF A MEETING

#### Litany

Leader Faithful God, we thank you for seeing us safely through another year.

All *We trust in your faithfulness to be with us this coming year.*

Leader Hopeful God, you continue to show us the vision of a future of justice, peace and mercy.

All *Empower us with your hope, and lead us into your ways of righteousness.*

Leader Loving God, we give you thanks for your presence with us this day.  
All *Fill us with your love, so that we may embody your love in all we do this year.*

Leader In your holy name we pray  
All *Amen*

**Hymn** *Lord of All Hopefulness*, EvLW #765

Leader Go in peace. Faithful, hopeful, and loving.  
All *Thanks be to God.*