



*Living
our
Faith*

CONGREGATIONAL
ANNUAL REPORT



ADAPTING, EVOLVING, FLEXIBLE, CREATIVE

Lessons from the pandemic: Year 2

What a year this has been! As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, congregations and communities of the ELCIC continue to seek out safe and appropriate ways to serve and continue the important ministries that God calls us to. In fact the whole church has been adapting, evolving, being flexible, getting creative and partnering with one

another in many, many different ways. 2021 may have been challenging but we are people of hope. Together we will manage the challenges and faithfully live into the next chapter, responding to the needs of those around us and upholding life-giving relationships.

Summer Sermon Series

Quite often, "working together" is the means of carrying out a physical task. But as we all so quickly came to know, the COVID-19 pandemic has put its limitations on in-person gatherings, socialization and how we were able to carry out our work. Through the many challenges, bishops, pastors, leaders, volunteers and members across the church



Rev. Prema Samuel prepared a sermon for July 18, 2021 which was used across the ELCIC as part of the 2021 Summer Sermon Series.

demonstrated a newfound strength and resiliency amid the ongoing global pandemic.

In looking for new ways help support ordained leaders and congregations as they shifted gears to offering online Sunday services, the ELCIC synod bishops and assistants to the bishops put together 14 pre-

recorded sermons for use across the church through the months of June to September. This *Summer Sermon Series* resource provided relief for well-deserved summer holidays, time for leaders to focus on some of the many other needs for their congregation and an opportunity to

hear from different leaders from across the church.

"At a certain point we started hearing of concerns as the pandemic wore on," British Columbia Synod Bishop Greg Mohr said. "The exhaustion and stress of our rostered and lay leaders continued to build. We wanted to figure out what we could do to help provide a sermon resource so that pastors could accommodate that to the worship they were preparing for their congregations."

The response was overwhelming. Mohr recalls countless emails and telephone conversations with members from other synods and even in other countries asking for links to the various sermons.

"This served as a way for us to be guest speakers in congregations," he says. "We were obviously unable to travel around and be with the churches in person, but this gave us an opportunity to show face in many congregations once a month. Another side goal this accomplished was the broadening of connections and relationships across the ELCIC.

People just really enjoyed hearing from us, especially out of jurisdiction. Hearing our voices and the different ways we preached helped bring online church alive."

The Feisty Saints of Bergland

Trinity, Bergland, Ont. is a unique congregation nestled in a small community on the shores of Lake of the Woods. After several years with rostered pastoral care, it became apparent in 1992 that we would no longer be able to support such a ministry. We struggled with our identity but were pleased when Bishop Lee Luetkehoelter sent a letter to us, addressed to the "Feisty Saints of Bergland." We were now a lay-led congregation with no expenses other than general maintenance. We provided full-time programs and our worship life was filled with the Spirit.

Our outreach program became our focus and remains so today. We support Luther Village, provide food and workers for the local food bank, church services for the residents at Long Term Care in Rainy River, supplemental food items for children's lunches at the local school, food hampers for families in need and contribute to skating ice time at the local arena. Beyond our local communities, we contribute to The Urban in Winnipeg, LAMP, the Salvation Army, Family Crisis Centre, Amythest House, and our local missionary in Bangladesh. Our passion abroad is Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). We have made many, many quilts and a multitude of We Care bags. We have been blessed beyond belief with opportunities to give and share.



Sherri and Carolyn Kreger with quilts and We Care bags for CLWR.

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

As the world unexpectedly embraced the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the congregations of New Denmark Parish (St. Peter's and Bethany,) in Northwestern New Brunswick encapsulated the spirit of their ancestors and 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 and often times unfeasible. In light of this, an adaptive and alternative approach was taken: drive-in style worship services held at the local recreation centre parking lot. As vehicles arrive on Sunday morning, a volunteer directs them to a parking spot and ensures that they maintain a two-meter radius from all other vehicles. People remain parked in this location and enjoy the full duration of the service from the comfort of their vehicle. Following the service, the same volunteer directs traffic out of the parking lot, toward the driveway, where one of our treasurers waits to collect the weekly offering using a fishnet that ensures social distancing.

God continues to bless the New Denmark Parish as it strives to remain active and faithful amidst the many challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has produced. 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 skillsets to work collectively in the service of Christ and the church. Thanks be to God.



Barb Christensen, Treasurer at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, with the offering fishnet.

#MYELCIC

Highlights via social media from members and leaders across the ELCIC. Do you follow the #myELCIC hashtag?



Eastern Synod-ELCIC @ESynodELCIC A snapshot of our life together in worship on the #SecondSundayofAdvent. Martin Luther, Toronto ON.



Tom Brook @TomBrookTB_CO Gimli LC adds food pantry to the free library. Take as you need and give as you are able



Saskatchewan Synod @BishopSidH About 430 of us had the opportunity to meet on the call with the prime minister yesterday. Appreciated that faith leaders are part of the conversation. And to hear faith leaders both express the concerns of faith communities and affirm that we pray every week for our leaders.



Larry Kochendorfer @abtbishoplarry Wear it, Share it. The Synod of Alberta & the Territories, ELCIC, has donated to the LWF Rapid Response Fund, which supports member churches responding to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2021 Annual General Report
Saskatoon Saskatchewan

Annual General Meeting: February 27th ,2022

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Opening Devotions – 11:00 – page 22

Call to Order – Nathaniel Gibson

Review and approval of agenda –

Review and approval of Feb 28th, 2021 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. 2021 Reviewed Financial Statements
 - a. Appointment of MG Accounting and Office Services be retained to review the financial records for 2022.
10. 2022 Proposed Budget

Nomination Committee Report – Election of CMT members

Questions, Concerns, General discussion – Open mike

Adjournment –

Closing Prayer – page 22

Call Meeting for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church via ZOOM

Sunday, February 27, 2022 – 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 2021 Annual General Meeting

Good Shepherd Saskatoon

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, February 28th, 2021 at 11:00am via Zoom

Opening – Cam Broten gave Zoom instructions to members joining. Chairperson Nathaniel Gibson welcomed members and Pastor Sid Bishop and added a thank you to the synod for support during COVID. A song was shared virtually by Ruth Eliason. Pastor Munye Mtata led the devotional provided by the synod and the song “Great is Their Faithfulness” and then he closed with prayer.

Attending – Cam Broten, Ruth Eliason, Karen Harilstad, David Thieme, Katie Elke, Harley Johnson, Lloyd Larson, Loraine Larson, Irene Canaam, Les Canaam, Sandy Gilchrist, Joan Meyer, Don Meyer, Angela Friggstad, Don Slind, Doris Slind, Geri Meyer, Nathaniel Gibson, Carol Brandt, Gary Brandt, Nathan Elke, Sharon Aadland, Aaron Fornwald, Marty Willick, Eric Micheels, Heather Micheels, Dan Tooth, Darlene Taylor, Bob Taylor, Joel Burns, Anna Scott, Alice Berggren, Charmain Hibeault, Gretchen Peterson, Barbara, Kara Erickson-Tucker, Chris Tucker, Laureen Jewitt, Karena Berggren, Dianne, Doug

Call to order – Chairperson Nathaniel Gibson called the meeting to order at 11:20am, with 41 members joining on Zoom

Review and Approval of agenda – MSC that the agenda be approved for this meeting

Review and Approval of Feb 9th, 2020 AGM Meeting – MSC that the 2020 AGM minutes be approved

Business arising from the minutes – none noted

Reports:

1. **Pastor’s Report** – page 8 of the annual report. Pastor Munye Mtata shared the highlights from his report, He added a thank you to the CMT for support during this COVID time. He requested that the worship committee consider adding Zoom services to our regular worship.
2. **Statistical Report** – page 11 of the annual report. 52 services in total with 20 in person services and 32 virtual services. Membership is 228 baptized and 159 Confirmed.
3. **CMT Chairperson’s Report** – page 12 of the annual report. Highlighting thanks for our perseverance during this time of COVID and service uncertainty.
4. **Worship Ministry** – page 14 of the annual report. Included thanks to those in charge of getting virtual services out to everyone.
5. **Learning Ministry** – page 14 of the annual report. Included reports from both Sunday school and VBS.
6. **Witnessing Ministry** – page 15 of the annual report.
7. **Service Ministry** – page 16 of the annual report.

8. **Support Ministry** – page 16 of the annual report. Includes reports from Stewardship, Building and Property, Treasurer, and Caretakers, Highlighting the work and upgrades Kara and Chris Tucker have been able to do since the building has been unused for services.

9. **2020 Reviewed Financial Statements** – Marty Willick led the Reviewed Financial Statements for 2020 as reviewed by Marilyn Johnson of MG Accounting and Office Services. Revenue for 2020 was \$168,009 with expenses of \$150,980 for a surplus of \$17,029.

a. **MSC** that the 2020 financial statements be approved as presented.

b. **MSC** that the services of Marilyn Johnson of MG Accounting and Office Services be retained to review the financial records for 2021.

10. **2021 Budget** – the Treasurer, Joan Meyer, reviewed the proposed 2021 budget against the 2020 actuals. It proposed Income of \$165,855 and expenses of \$168,969 for a deficit of \$3,114 to be drawn from the 2020 surplus.

a. **MSC** that the 2021 budget be approved as presented.

Nomination Committee Report – Slate of nominations for CMT: new members are Lynn Szuba, Katie Elke, and Joel Burns.

MSC that the nominees be elected to the Church Management Team. Members staying on are Nathaniel Gibson, Eric Micheels, Aaron Fornwald, Karena Berggren, Cam Broten, and Marty Willick.

Questions, Concerns, General discussion – Open mike, Question about approaching people to sign up for PAR. Comments about how well the renovations to the church look that Kara and Chris Tucker have been able to do over this COVID period.

Closing – Pastor Munye Mtata closed with prayer.

Pastor Munye Mtata's Report

Introduction

Greetings Good Shepherd Lutheran family in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and companion. We look back to the year 2021 with mixed feelings; on the one hand, we feel the pinch of the disruptive nature of this seemingly endless pandemic – desperately longing for a return to the life that we call normal. Some of us have continued to lose opportunities for growth and development in different aspects of our lives, some of us have lost loved ones, not only to the pandemic, but to other challenges as well, and many of us have not been able to grieve as we needed to.

On the other hand, our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for accompanying us through most of these challenges. With the Psalmist we say, “if it had not been the Lord, who was on our side... if it had not been the Lord, when our enemies attacked us, they would have swallowed us up alive...” (Psalm 124). Not only have we been spared of misfortune; many of us have also witnessed the Lord, in a proverbial sense, ‘setting a table before us in the presence of our enemies,’ achieving successes that would probably not have been easy to achieve in normal times.

My hope, indeed, my prayer, is that in all the roller coaster feelings we may go through, we may still find refreshment in taking part in the life of the church as we proceed into 2022.

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 at the end.

Overview

We cannot thank the Congregation Management Team (CMT) enough for the sterling job that we have continued to see them do. They continued to meet on a regular basis to make sure that the different sub-structures of the congregation are functional through these unprecedented times. Through our new and very capable administrator, Corla McGillivray, many important aspects of our church life, including regular communication with the congregation, were adequately taken care of.

i) Ministry Within

The previous year brought with it opportunities to return to in-person worship with the introduction of vaccines. And I take this opportunity to applaud our members for taking the message of vaccination positively. On August 22nd we resumed in-person worship services after more than a year of only virtual worship, and it was a delight to see familiar faces again. As expected, however, not all of us were able to come back for in-person services as we continue to battle the pandemic. Thus, our Christmas Eve service attendance numbers were considerably lower than the pre-Covid times.

Nonetheless, we greatly appreciate the work of our music director, Anna Scott, who tirelessly committed to supplying uplifting hymns for our worship services. She made sure to be available when our music bands could not make it. We also appreciate the bands who were ready to lead worship once we returned. Besides, our technical resource people, Nathan and Marty, were dedicated in facilitating the production of virtual worship services, and in sorting out the technical aspects of in-person services, each and every Sunday of the year.

We held our Services of Affirmation of Baptism in June and in October for the 8 youth who had gone through two years of Christian instruction. Confirmation classes also continued, initially through zoom, then in person when we could meet again in September.

As far as Sunday School ministry is concerned, I immensely appreciate the creative and tireless work of our coordinating team led by Joel, Kara, Katie, Ruth, Debbie and others. They were able to set up virtual programmes throughout the year for the Sunday School youth, from Easter right up to the Advent Season.

With the slow reopening of life in the later part of the year, we were also able to make visits to some of our members in the care homes for Holy communion, where possible. Of course, this was done with a lot of caution and consideration to avoid putting our sisters and brothers at risk.

It was quite heartwarming seeing our congregation members getting consistently in touch with one another, reaching out and encouraging each other. And so, I applaud the love that we have all shared on this journey. We have also tried to supply daily devotionals for those connected to Facebook, though this effort has not always been consistent.

ii) Ministry Outside

Just like in 2020, our other ministry teams were not able to do much in 2021 due to the restrictive nature of the pandemic. But I must appreciate the congregation for the generous contributions towards the Food Bank as we headed towards the Christmas season. May God continue to bless you.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In view of all these wonderful acts of love and commitment by all of you, I reiterate my immense gratitude to the guidance, companionship and support of the CMT. Their encouragement, support and prayers for all of us are greatly appreciated. Most importantly, I thank you, the congregation members, for the show of love and support. You also made our Christmas a special one, and I take this opportunity to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Special appreciation goes Gladys, my wife, and our kids, for affording me the time to conduct church business, sometimes at their inconvenience.

Looking forward to the year ahead, with more and more opportunities to safely return to in-person worship, we probably do well to start thinking of creative ways to remain church, as we minister to one another and to the world around us. Covid-19 seems to be a part of our lives now, and as such, we continue to care for one another, care for the task set before us, and indeed trust God who promises to abide with us. A few thoughts come to mind for 2022:

- i) Outreach Programme - AS we return to in person worship, that we engage in a deliberate outreach programme to invite people back to church.
- ii) Increased Participation – One challenge that has been thrust upon us by the pandemic is to lay low and keep ourselves and our loved ones safe, resulting in diminished participation in church life. May this challenge each of us to ask ourselves how we are going to actively take part in church life, whether from home or as we come together with others in-person.
- iii) Capacity Building – Some of our members coming back may have interests in joining different ministry groups that they were not part of before. As such, they may need to be capacitated to confidently take part in those ministry portfolios.

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

Peace be with you all,

Munyengerero Mtata.

Statistical Report

2021 WORSHIP SERVICES

January – 449 online for 4 services	July - 251 online for 4 services
February – 693 online for 4 services	August – 68 online (excluding in-person attendance) for 2 services
March – 276 online for 3 services	Sept – 85 online for 4 services
April – 334 online for 4 services	Oct – 125 online for 5 services
May – 291 online for 4 services	Nov – 103 online for 4 services
June – 257 online (3) and in-person (1) services	Dec – 174 online for 5 services

*2021 – majority of services was online due to the Covid-19 global pandemic.

2021 SUMMARY

Baptized (B)		Confirmed (C)	
Baptized membership Dec 31, 2020	228	Confirmed membership Dec 31, 2020	159
Baptisms	4	Confirmations	8
B. Members Received	0	C. Members Received	0
B. Members Transferred Out	0	C. Members Transferred Out	0
B. Members Removed by Death	1	C. Members Removed by Death	1
B. Members to Responsibility List	0	C. Members to Responsibility List	0
B. Statistical Adjustment	0	C. Statistical Adjustment	0
Total Baptized Membership	233	Total Confirmed Membership	168

BAPTISMS (4)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Parents</i>
Theodore Isaace Ebinger	Feb. 14, 2021	Colby & Whitney Ebinger
Dmitni Frank Schroeder	May 1, 2021	Dusty & Krista Schroeder
Dendrick Elizabeth Schroeder	May 1, 2021	Dusty & Krista Schroeder
Presley Yushia Loverin	June 30, 2021	Shaun & Samantha Loverin

CONFIRMATIONS (8)

Eve Erickson	Quinn Friggstad
Brennan Harvey	Ashley Ife
Jaxen Ife	Cole Krushelniski
Bailey Mardell	Rachel Pavlove

FUNERALS (1)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Donald Reinhardt Meyer	Oct. 6 th , 2021	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	37	2579

Congregational President's Message: Church Management Team

2021 continued where 2020 left off with disruption of our Good Shepherd family and the connections that we take for granted in our community of faith. Amazingly, Good Shepherd has prevailed with worship and support in every way possible even though in person services were not possible from January until late August. The impact on our community has been unprecedented but we were not alone as our country and indeed our world struggled to find new ways to stay connected. That said, we are most grateful for the ability to continue with online worship and numbers have shown us that you, our congregation, have embraced and hopefully thrived by receiving this dose of scripture and guidance weekly. We returned to in person worship in August with lower attendance as we each made decisions that considered the health of our loved ones and the risks that we were ready to expose ourselves to as one variant after another rolled through our society. As before, and 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 best to continue to serve our Good Shepherd family.

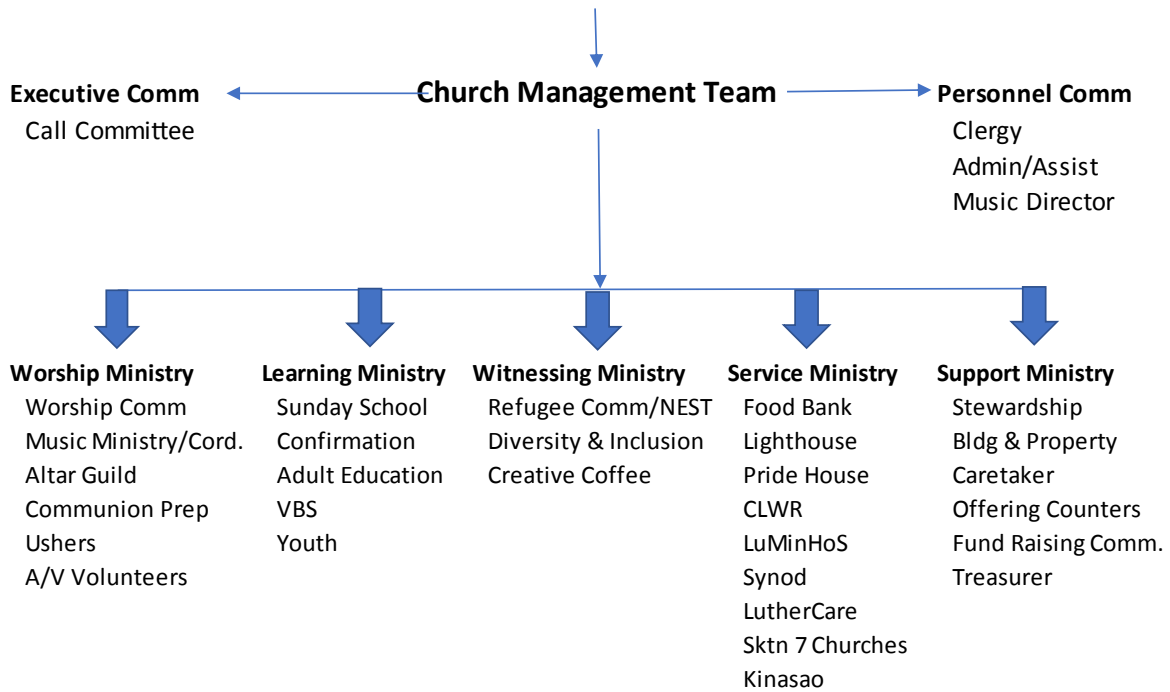
For the second year, 2021 forced us all to find creative ways to connect with one another and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Good Shepherd who has worked so hard on our virtual services. We would all prefer to gather together in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings but the virtual 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 and Corla McGillivray.

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. We continue to 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.

It's been a challenging year, following a previous challenging year. Covid has quite seriously affected worship in pretty much ALL ways, but by God's grace, we persevere.

Well we've been recording services for our YouTube channel for sometime, the advent of Covid brought about the "virtual service" videos, where we put together music videos, people doing readings from home, and Munye leading the service into one video. There was a learning curve, of course, but I think we've been doing fairly well with those. Once in person worship we started, we started live streaming on Facebook, using an iPad which worked surprisingly well. all in an effort to enable people to have the worship experience while they stay socially distant/isolate.

In future, it would be nice to get a new computer and video camera where we could combine the recording of the video with the live streaming, so the service would just be recorded once, as opposed to once for YouTube and once for Facebook. It would also enable the live stream to be a little more dynamic, with the ability to move the camera and zoom in or zoom out as needed.

Further in the future, we look forward to the time when we have inverse and services with A larger congregation... The time when people are able to come together will be glorious, indeed.

As far as the committee goes, we could use a few more members... Currently there are five of us, including the pastor and the music Director. Thanks to current members Pastor Munye, Anna Scott, Karena Berggren, Karen Harilstad, and passed number Sandy Gilchrist and Nathaniel Gibson for your service.

Nathan Elke

Altar Guild:

AS with other groups it was a strange year managing the Altar Guild but a faithful and solid foundation of participants took care of the worship needs weekly, adjusting to a Tuesday setup when necessary to allow for early recording of services being presented online for our worship community. Everything has been running smoothly, at the moment we have 4 groups looking after things but we welcome more participants!

Music Ministry:

A special thank you to all the musicians who have returned to play at the in-person services starting in August. We appreciate your time and effort to share your gifts of music with Good Shepherd.

We hope to continue to safely worship and share in praise as we continue on in this journey of life in a pandemic. Thanks to Nathan Elke for his continued support with the power-points for in person services and all of the extra work with live streaming and putting together the online services. Blessings abound as we make a joyful noise unto the Lord - together or apart- from the sanctuary or our living rooms or wherever we seek to worship.

Anna Scott

Learning Ministry

Throughout the past year the Learning Ministry has tried a few programs to engage children in learning and fellowship during the pandemic. Plans were made in summer 2021 for a remote VBS, but interest was low and it was put on hold. In fall 2021 under the leadership of Kara Erickson Tucker, Ruth Eliason, Katie Elke and Debbie Tilk, Children's Minute Ministry was put together to be sent out as a pre-recorded virtual Sunday School supplement. Many thanks to all families who took the time to view the Minute Ministry and to those families who created the recordings.

In December 2021 Kara Erickson Tucker directed a virtual Christmas Program 'How the Grinch found the Christ in Christmas' and with the help of many families and the expert editing skills of Katie Elke, an entertaining and thoughtful Christmas Program was added to a church service in December.

The Learning Ministry renewed Spark House as a resource to include children's bulletins in the weekly emails and as a great resource of videos and lessons for the Minute Ministry. In February 2022, Sunday School Zoom took place with 5 families attending to sing a few songs, listen to a Bible verse and do a Kahoot. Hopefully we will do a few more of these and increase the number of families involved.

In closing, we would like to thank all families for taking part in any or all these activities and the Sunday School leaders for their continued inspiration to bring God's word and fellowship to the Good Shepherd children at a time when we could not gather in person.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Tilk
Katie Elke

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.

NEST Report:

The pandemic has certainly effected the ability of NEST to fund raise over the past two years. Plans are in place to once again host the NEST Secret Garden Tour on Sunday July 24, 2022, which is our major fund raising event. In the near future Posters will be available informing supporters with details on where and when to purchase passports for this event.

At present we are working with 14 families from Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan, Iraqi, Haiti, and Palestaine, hoping to bring them to Saskatoon and a new life, as soon as possible. We certainly look forward to the arrival of the Sherry Iqbal family, as we have been working to secure their safe passage to Canada for many years. We ask for your continued thoughts and caring as we work towards these families arrival.

For more information and to keep updated on events and happenings check our: nestsaskatoon.net

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Carter

Creative Coffee Report:

Since there was no activity in the last year, there will be no submission for 2021. Let's hope 2022 will be better. Until then kind regards and take care.

Cheryl Mercier, Creative Coffee

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 2021 year for Good Shepherd, there was a reduced capacity to serve the greater community due to Covid and the constraints that put on gathering. 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.

Gathering donations for the Lighthouse was organized by Karen Harilstad prior to Christmas and a full bin was sent to a very appreciative group in our city. We encourage you to bring ideas where we can improve to any CMT member or to the CMT leaders of this ministry.

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. It shall strive to maintain effective stewardship practices, recruit, equip and support members to provide for these activities while regularly evaluating its total life and ministry.

Members of the team – Marty Willick, Dan Tooth, Don Slind, Chris Tucker, Joel Burns.

Stewardship Items:

- As we continue to navigate through Covid19, we have continued to receive offerings using email authorizations and requests, offerings dropped off at church, as well as the regular monthly donations through PAR. This has allowed us to meet our obligations for the year using the carry over funds from 2020.
- We have paid back the CEBA Loan portion of \$30,000 with the other \$10,000 forgiven amount having been recognized in 2020.

Building and Property Items:

- Use of the facility for 2021 has been minimal again as the community works through the covid restrictions. Our biggest rental was for the use of our parking lot again this summer, as the apartments next door were resurfacing the last of their parking lots.
- The support committee did a walk through of the buildings on August 25th noting the shingles on the education wing and entrance roof will need to be replaced over the next 2 years. Other fixes and changes in the education wing will also need to be addressed once things are back to normal.

Caretakers and Staff:

- Kara and Chris have continued to do maintenance and painting in the church, with this year focusing on the bathrooms. Don Slind has also replaced some of the lighting in the bathrooms making it brighter and safer.
- The biggest change in the office was the hiring of Corla McGillivrey to replace Angela Friggstad. We appreciate the years that Angela served in the position and thank her for her time and dedication. Corla continues to represent our church communications in a courteous and professional manner.

Fund Raising Committee:

- It was another year in which no fund-raising activities could be organized for 2021. Hopefully we can look at something in the fall of 2022.

Treasurer:

- I have continued in the role of treasurer for the church to ensure that all requirements for CRA and ISC are submitted as required. We again engaged Marilyn Johnson with MG Accounting & Office Services to perform our accounting review for our yearend.
- A special thank you for Angela, and now Corla, for all the work they do to assist the Support Team do its job.

Sincerely, Marty Willick, Support Team Chair



Saskatchewan Synod Insert for 2021 Congregational Annual Reports

Year-end letter from Bishop Sid Haugen

Dear partners in the Gospel,

This year, based on a number of questions that we often receive at synod office, I would like to take a moment to say a few words about the role of the synod and the role of congregations.

Congregations or faith communities are the core of our church. At the congregational level, the Word is preached, the sacraments are shared, and service to the world is carried out. At the congregational level 'the rubber hits the road' for our church.

What is a synod? The word synod comes from the from the Greek words *sun* (with) and *hodos* (road). A synod is those who are literally 'with each other on the road.' By 'Saskatchewan Synod' we mean all the congregations and related ministries that walk together in Saskatchewan (and NW Manitoba). Congregations are remarkably independent bodies, but congregations gather themselves into synods to accomplish things an individual congregation could not. More than simply taking further care of itself, a congregation belongs to a synod to take care of other congregations who from time to time need the support offered by the wider synod.

Constitutionally, Synod council is the governing body of the synod of congregations and the bishop serves as the synod's lead pastor and chief executive officer. This synod leadership is set up to do a number of things; among them, to provide support to the synod's congregations and ministries, to inspire vision, to keep in mind the work of the church beyond the boundaries of the congregation (and beyond the boundaries of the synod), and to provide direction to its congregations and ministries.

How does the synod of congregations resource that synod leadership? Financial giving to ensure leadership for our synod is determined independently by each congregation. Each congregation contributes to the synod balancing their own resources with a strong sense of call to provide support for the synod: for congregations in need, for our national church, for our seminary. And so, as followers of Jesus, we bear each other's burdens.

Report on 2021

This report briefly addresses two items:

1. the benevolence received by synod leadership in 2021 from the synod of congregations
2. how synod leadership has worked with that benevolence.

Benevolence received from synod congregations in 2021

Rather than speak directly to this, I'm inserting here a paragraph provided by our finance manager: *Congregational support remained at 2020 levels, 100% of budget but 80% of pre-COVID support. Reduced income was somewhat offset with reduction of travel and travel costs by both synod council and committees, and bishop and assistants. Sask Synod also benefitted from federal grant programs which subsidized salaries and rent to offset income shortfalls. Overall, the general fund is in the black for 2021 but staffing levels are tight. The 2022 budget anticipates a partial return to pre-pandemic congregational benevolence levels while preparing to face a deficit should benevolence remain lower than in the past. Thank you for your ongoing participation through benevolence in the work of our church synod-wide.*

How Synod leadership has worked with the benevolence received from synod congregations in 2021

Synod council has directed the benevolence from congregations as follows:

Synod council continued to “pay it forward” by contributing as ‘first fruits’ (‘off the top’) 35% of congregational benevolence to support key partners in ministry: 20% to the ministry of our National Church; 15% to Lutheran Theological Seminary, our seminary in Saskatoon.

Synod council approved a budget for the work of the bishop’s office. The bishop’s office employs a total of 2 Full time equivalents to support the administrative and pastoral work of the bishop in supporting our synod of 102 congregations, 3 synod ministries, and 125 rostered ministers (about half of which are retired).

- The Administrative Team at our Saskatoon office consists of a .75-time office manager, a .5-time executive assistant, and a .2-time finance manager. The administrative team at the office in Saskatoon continues to develop communication channels to our synod council and committees, congregations, ministries and rostered ministers as well as assisting them in administrative and financial matters. The synod website, Share point sites, synod leadership email distribution lists, SaskSynod News, and video conferencing are key tools for their work.
- The Pastoral Team supports congregations, ministries and rostered ministers ‘on the road’, with a .25-time Assistant to the Bishop for the northern region of the synod, and a .25-time Assistant to the Bishop for the southern region of the synod. The pastoral team continues to connect with congregations seeking leadership: some looking to call a pastor, others seeking ways of being church when the parish could no longer afford or secure a full-time pastor. The pastoral team handles specific requests for support from members of the roster, as well as seeking to stay in contact with the roster--although the pandemic has made this work more challenging.

Two key accomplishments of the bishop’s office as a whole in 2021: providing a virtual synod convention in June and providing a hybrid in-person and virtual Fall Leadership Conference for the rostered ministers this fall. It is a small but mighty team! One other key accomplishment of the bishop’s office this year was the development of virtual Town Halls. The Town Halls gathered both rostered and lay leadership creating a grassroots gathering of ‘synod leadership’. The Town Halls enabled us to face together the various challenges for congregations during the ever-changing pandemic and to develop shared synod guidelines for publishing on the synod website.

Closing words

So here we are. We have lived through a full 12-month year with all the challenges of the pandemic. What does the future look like? None of us can say with certainty. But God is good. So, I invite you, again, as people of faith, to enter 2022 placing the work of our synod and ourselves in God’s hands in this familiar prayer:

*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

(To stay in contact with the Synod, visit the Synod website at www.sasksynod.ca and sign up for Synod News.)

WORSHIP FOR A CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

OPENING THE MEETING

PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for gathering us together into your church — whether we be in person, online or some combination of the two — to discern the work you call us to do. While this last year has been hard in many different ways, we know that you are with us at all times and in all places. Help us to know and trust your deep love and care. We ask that you help guide us today as we do your work. May we seek to be generous, compassionate, loving people of God. Keep us mindful of the many other needs in the world – conflicts, refugees, poverty, and all other concerns that we name before you now. All this we pray in your name. *Amen.*

READING 1 Timothy 6:17-19

HYMN *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*
EvLW #358

LITANY

Leader: Your love has called us here. We acknowledge our anxiety. May we have

the courage to pursue experimentation and innovation, and in all things practice a ministry of accompaniment.

All: *Be with us, God.*

Leader: Your love calls us to nurture Reconciled Relationships. To challenge racism and privilege, strive for peace and a healthy relationship with the Earth, and work towards a vision of an inclusive church.

All: *Be with us, God.*

Leader: Your love calls us to work together with one another, to share our resources and be in good communication.

All: *Be with us, God.*

Leader: Your love calls us to be faithful gospel witnesses. Let us seek ways to engage and empowered youth and youth adults, and look for opportunities to provide leadership and development for a changing world.

All: *Be with us, God.
Amen.*

CLOSING THE 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.*