



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION

**OVERVIEW & FINANCIAL REPORT**



**Saint Mark's**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

2499 North Helen Street, North St. Paul, MN 55109 **PHONE** 651-777-7451  
**EMAIL** [stmarks@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarks-nsp.org) **WEB** [www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org)

# St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## 2021 Annual Report

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## 2021 Annual Report of the Synod

by Bishop Patricia Lull | January 2022

*"Let us hold fast to the confession of our faith without wavering,  
for he who has promised is faithful." - Hebrews 10:23*



This past year has been a wild ride. COVID-19 vaccinations opened a roadway to imagine more in-person gatherings just as political rancor made it less attractive to be together with those with views other than our own. Summer brought better weather for worshipping outdoors, fall programming was planned, and then a rise in infections from the Delta variant caused new caution and restraint in our church gatherings.

Across the synod, book groups were launched, tackling tough questions of racial justice and long overlooked inequities in communities of color. Leaders embraced important soul work to understand their own bias and resistance to change. Congregation councils wrestled in new ways to understand what it means to be the church today. Live streaming became common place in sanctuaries large and small.

Looking back, 2021 was both a tough year and a transformative time. Last January, did any of us really think we would still be wearing masks and keeping social distance the following Christmas? Yet, when challenged in so many ways, in congregation after congregation, we learned to hold fast to God's promised faithfulness; a wild ride indeed.

Undeterred by not being able to gather in person, at the digital Synod Assembly in mid-May, we launched the synod-wide Planting Hope Campaign. Over the next two years we will work together to raise \$2.75 million dollars to deepen the Spirit's work within and beyond the 109 congregations and mission starts of the synod. Your participation will help us:

- Invite neighbors into life in Christ;
- Renew the congregations of the synod;
- Raise up the next generations of leaders;
- Invest in a transformative project on the East Side of St. Paul with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.

The congregational phase begins now in early 2022 with congregations setting aside six weeks this year to introduce the campaign and to invite financial participation. More information on the Planting Hope Campaign can be found at <https://spas-elca.org/planting-hope/>.

This synod places high emphasis on raising up the leaders needed for the work of this synod and across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Currently, 38 persons are in the candidacy process, preparing to serve as deacons or pastors. Five candidates were ordained this past year for service in the Saint Paul Area Synod. They include Pastor Tammy Wilkerson, Pastor Teleen Saunders, Pastor Amy Mihelich-Smith, Pastor Linqing Chu and Pastor Bristol Huffman Reading.

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In addition, during 2021, 20 persons were installed in new calls in congregations or in specialized ministries. That's a lot of call committee meetings, prayerful deliberations, and congregational meetings. How grateful we can all be that this work did not stop during the disruptions of the pandemic.

Amid the many changes in our communities, strong ministry requires lifelong learning. We are grateful to be in the third year of a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment to support the ongoing learning of pastors and deacons. In 2021, the nine members of the first round of the Second Act Cohort, for pastors and deacons in years four through 10 of public ministry wrapped up their two years together. Ten other pastors and deacons will form a second cohort in early 2022. They will be accompanied by mentors, more experienced clergy with a commitment to walk with rising leaders. Also, the Kubernesis Seminar, for those discerning a call to senior leadership positions, continues to meet quarterly and is eagerly anticipating their capstone sailing trip adventure in August of 2022. A third cohort for Leaders of Color continues to explore how best to invest the resources from the Lilly Endowment to deepen community, learning and support.

It is not enough to have strong, agile pastors and deacons; resilient lay leadership is also necessary for congregations to thrive. This past year, five congregations participated in a Liberating Structures cohort, learning together how to embrace new opportunities for deepening faith and expanded commitment to others beyond the congregation's walls. Three additional congregations are pursuing a tailor-made renewal process. Six congregations have participated in community listening and engagement training. Do you recognize your congregation's involvement here? If not, the synod staff is here to assist you.

While mission support for synod and ELCA churchwide work has been shared at 96% of that budgeted for the year, many congregations do worry about money matters and seek to strengthen their stewardship skills. This past year, nine congregations – perhaps including yours – participated in a year-long training called Stewardship for All Seasons. It is good to remember that none of us need to navigate these days without encouragement from others.

Pandemic restrictions on global travel challenged the synod's long-standing partnerships in the Iringa Diocese of Tanzania and in Guatemala but Zoom and video connections opened new ways to be a church that is both local and global. We are especially grateful that in March, Astine and Ryan Bose were able to begin their two years of volunteer service with Bega Kwa Bega in Iringa. God has shown us and our global partners new ways to be connected, habits which will endure long after the pandemic winds down.

Let me end with a special word of thanks to the synod staff. Along with Ryan and Astine Bose, Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer joined the staff as an assistant to the bishop in March. Other staff include Michael Gold, office assistant; Pastor Justin Grimm, director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop; Peter Harrits, director of Bega Kwa Bega and assistant to the bishop; Deacon Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop; Anna Marsh, executive assistant to the bishop; Alicia Rodriguez, office manager; David Roinas, synod finance administrator; and Mary Smith, director of communications.

It has been a wild ride of a year and yet at every rollicking turn along the way, God's faithfulness has sustained us and those we are called to serve. Hold fast, we can say to one another. Please know what a joy it is for all of us to serve with you in the Saint Paul Area Synod.

Yours in God's service –  
Bishop Patricia Lull

## Pastoral Acts & Statistics

### 2021 Annual Report

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*Due to Covid-19 restrictions, St. Mark's continued to suspend in-person worship services January through May 2021. Summer worship services June through August were held outdoors. In September, indoor, in-person worship began once again. We continue to provide online worship for those unable to be present.*

#### **Average weekly attendance at weekly worship services:**

9:00 am Summer Worship (In person) .....	104
8:30 am Service (In person, September-December) .....	87
10:30 am Service (In person, September-December) .....	62
7:00 pm Wednesday Night Service (In person, September-December) .....	58
Sunday Service Online (January-December) .....	105

#### **Total attendance at Holiday Worship Services:**

Confirmation (May & October) .....	323
Ash Wednesday (Online) .....	150
Maundy Thursday (Online) .....	121
Good Friday (Online) .....	103
Easter (Online) .....	217
Thanksgiving Eve (In Person) .....	74
Christmas Eve Services (In Person: 3:00pm, 10pm) .....	341
Christmas Day (Online) .....	142

#### **Membership Statistics:**

Membership as of December 31, 2020

Confirmed Members .....	874
Child (Baptized) Members .....	260

Members as of December 31, 2021

Confirmed members .....	887
Child (Baptized) members .....	251

Baptisms .....

8
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Confirmed .....

20
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Weddings .....

2
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Funerals .....

14
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## Karen Biedermann: Congregational President

### 2021 Annual Report

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Community of St. Mark's,

2021 was another year of uncertainties and maybes in our lives - maybe we will go back to the office, maybe we can take that vacation, the list goes on and on. At St. Mark's we faced many maybes as well, but we were also able to say Yes! to some things. Here are some of our biggest yeses of 2021:

Re-enter our space? Yes! Thanks to our staff and Restoration Team (Kurt Biedermann, Mike Ericson, Brad Urban, and Shannon Young), we were able to find ways to adapt and safely re-enter our building to continue worship services, Bible studies, Wednesday night dinners, and more.

Welcome new staff? Yes! Thanks to a successful 2020 stewardship campaign and the generosity of our congregation, we were able to sign up for another year of Luther Seminary's internship program and welcome Eric Gustafson into our community, and thanks to our Call Committee (Adam Reinke, Beth Jensen, Brian Larson, Mark Lehman, Doug Ronsberg, Julie Urban, and Betty Wolf) we called Pastor David Bjorklund as our Associate Pastor and welcomed his family Anna, Desmond and Julian as well.

Continue to help our community? Yes! We continued our annual God's Work, Our Hands event, partnered with the North St. Paul Food Shelf to host outdoor farmer's markets, and with school back in session, helped our neighbors at North High School with our Polar Pack program.

As Council President, it has been a privilege to work with our staff, council and congregation turning maybes into yeses. Thank you for your commitment to St. Mark's, your generosity in both time and money, and your patience as we navigated through 2021.

As we head into 2022, there are still many maybes to conquer, but here is something I will proudly say Yes! to: we are a resilient community that loves each other, loves our community, and loves God. We will continue to worship together and serve our community the best we can, striving to be a community of faith grounded in love. I look forward to seeing what we can say Yes! to in 2022!

Karen Biedermann  
Council President

#### **2021 Church Council**

Karen Biedermann, President

Adam Reinke, Vice President

Kelly Nickell, Treasurer

Dan Colberg

Bob Engwer

Mike Ericson

Josh Hirman

Beth Ingberg

Martha Klopp

Brian Larson

Carolyn Newell

Tyler Ronsberg

Shannon Young

Pastor Mary Froiland

Pastor David Bjorklund

Reports from the *Ministry Staff*

## The Rev. Mary Froiland: Lead Pastor

### 2021 Annual Report

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Dear Friends,

It's annual meeting time – the time of year when we assess how things have gone over the past year and make decisions about the direction we will take in the year ahead.

A year ago, as I was writing this report, I began with the following words:

Finally, it's 2021 and we have so much to look forward to! Vaccines are being distributed and going into arms. We are hopeful that soon we can begin the process of coming back together instead of being forced apart – in our families, our communities, and our beloved congregation.

Well, we are not quite as far along in this pandemic thing as we thought we would be, but in spite of recent setbacks, we are still making progress. I am thankful we have not needed to suspend in-person worship again, and am grateful for everyone's understanding of and compliance with the protocols our Restoration Team has put in place that allow us to continue to gather for worship. Vaccines offer significant protection against Covid, and more effective treatments have been developed and are available. We are all a little safer than we were a year ago, and I thank God for these advances.

2021 brought a return to full pastoral staffing at St. Mark's with the call of Pastor David Bjorklund. In August we welcomed Pastor David and his family, Anna, Desmond and Julian, and his presence has revitalized not only our Children, Youth, and Families ministry, but the whole mission and life of our congregation. I am grateful to have him as a competent and trusted colleague. Good job Call Committee!



Pastor David Bjorklund's Installation  
(with Deacon Krista Lind from the Saint Paul Area Synod)



Intern Eric Gustafson

We also welcomed Intern Eric Gustafson, and his girlfriend, Katy, into our community in 2021. Restarting the intern program with Luther Seminary was one of our stewardship initiatives for 2021 and it is good to once again be able to offer this gift to the church of helping to form a pastor. Eric brings his own perspective and passion for ministry and has been the driving force in the formation of a team to welcome and support a family from Afghanistan.

We move into 2022 recognizing that the pandemic still affects our life together and our shared ministry. While progress has been made, we remain cautious and will continue to adjust as needed to the ever changing challenges and opportunities of this virus.

Currently we are able to worship in person and we also provide online worship for those unable to be present. We continue to work on upgrading our tech capacity to offer the best possible online experience. We are blessed with members who have the gifts and the generosity of spirit to share their expertise. A special thank you goes out to Gary Martin who continues to be the leader of our tech team. Gary cares deeply about our church and our message and it shows in his commitment to our worship ministry.

This coming year we will continue to develop and strengthen our engagement with our neighbors – both our global and our local neighbors.

Our partnerships with Headstart and Genesis East are ongoing. It is good to be able to share one of our primary assets – our abundant space – with another congregation and a service agency who share our mission and values of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and serving our neighbors.

Through the St. Paul Area Synod we remain connected to our neighbors from our sister congregation in Tanzania.

We have found new neighbors from Afghanistan now settled in St. Paul.

We remain committed to being good neighbors to our community of North St. Paul. As opportunities for personal engagement open up, we hope to find ways to not only be of service but also to build acquaintances. We are excited about the possibility of a new electronic sign – our stewardship initiative for 2022 – which will enable us to promote not only our congregation, but also events in our community that would be of interest or benefit to our neighbors.

As always, I want to lift up the highly competent and deeply dedicated staff and leadership of St. Marks’s – elected and otherwise. It is an honor and a privilege to work alongside these people who have stepped up and continue to serve well in difficult times. Their patience, dedication, creativity and humor make “work” a joy! Thank you.

I am excited about the possibilities that lie before us in this year. May God continue to guide us as we walk and work together.

Peace,

*Pastor Mary*

**This coming year we will continue to develop and strengthen our engagement with our neighbors – both our global and our local neighbors.**

## The Rev. David Bjorklund: Associate Pastor 2021 Annual Report

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Friends in Christ,

First of all, on behalf of myself and my family I want to say, thank you! Thank you for the ways you have welcomed us into this congregation and community. Thank you for the trust and the support you've given as I work to learn about St Mark's and the great people who call this church home. These past six months as your associate pastor have been a delight and a blessing.

I want to share what I feel are a few highlights from this past fall and some of my hopes for the upcoming year. The enduring pandemic aside, I think we have much to celebrate and to look forward to.

In September we kicked off a return to Wednesday night activities with the start of our Act(s)2 program. The inspiration for Act(s)2 came from the second chapter of The Acts for the Apostles. There the author describes the early Christians in Jerusalem as being centered around the teaching of the Apostles, engaged in worship and prayer, fellowship and community, and devoted to service to one another and the world around them.



With a great pastoral staff, talented music department, and a team of fabulous volunteers we've been able to bring all those elements together on Wednesday nights to create an experience that feeds mind, body, and soul. I look forward to continuing to develop Act(s)2 in the months and years ahead so all of St Mark's will growing together in faith, friendship, and service.



One of my great joys has been working to build relationships with our young people, especially our middle and high school students for whom these past few years have been particularly difficult. This past fall we've been able to provide opportunities for them to gather together as part of Act(s)2 as well as a few special events such as a bonfire in August, a trip to Feed My Starving Children in November, and the hugely successful Lock-In in December. In the year ahead I plan to continue to work to create opportunities for our young people that are life-giving and help them to grow in faith.

One other highlight from the past six months I want to raise up is the Winter Coat Drive. Working in partnership with our friends at North High we distributed 300 coats, as well as scores of other winter items such as gloves, hats, mittens, and boots. I am grateful for the generous support of the St. Mark's Foundation for providing a \$1,000 grant that was used to purchase coat and snow pants sets for children under 5. I also want to thank everyone who donated items and helped to sort, organize, and run the distribution event. The Winter Coat Drive was a huge success and I hope to collect and distribute twice as many items this fall!





2021 Fall Confirmation Class



2021 Spring Confirmation Class

Looking toward the future I am mindful the opportunities and the challenges that lie before us. We all know that COVID has disrupted, and continues to disrupt, the lives of congregations everywhere.

This can be frightening and disheartening, especially if we keep looking back at what was. While it is important to remember and honor the past, it is even more important to look forward and strive to build the kind of future we want to see.

The biblical imagery of sheep and shepherds is good to bear in mind. As a congregation we must attend to the needs of those who are currently in the fold, search after those who have wandered off, and invite new friends into the flock. Doing all three of these things in tandem we will be able to strengthen and grow our congregation. Strengthen so we will be able to endure and overcome any challenges that lie ahead. Grow, not so that we may boast of our size, but that our congregation will be filled with life, energy, and vitality and that our joy may be complete (1 John 1:4).

Friends, thank you for calling me to serve with you as your pastor. I look forward to many years of ministry here at St Mark's! May God bless us in all we do!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor David*



Lock-In chaos!



Children's Christmas Program

## Eric Gustafson: Intern Pastor

### 2021 Annual Report

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First off, I want to say what a privilege it has been to be at St. Mark's for the past five months. I have so enjoyed getting to know many of you, sharing in your griefs, joys, and wonderings. You are doing good work here!

I have tried to throw myself at as many aspects of St Mark's life as I can during that last third of 2021. I have attended council meetings, helped with produce giveaways and worship services at Polar Ridge, done a few home visitations, planned and led a funeral, gone to Bible studies three times a week, helped with community meals, and written many prayers and sermons. And it has all been a blast! It feels like this is exactly what I am supposed to be doing with my life at this time.

Though I will earn two credits for my internship at St. Mark's, my classwork is otherwise on hold for the moment, as recommended by Luther Seminary and the St. Paul Synod. I am planning to take a class this spring, however, as I still need nine credits before I can go into official ministry. (At the rate I am going I will be collecting Social Security by the time I start!)

For fun outside of church, I have been helping as a coach with DinoMights, a program that introduces ice hockey to inner-city youth. It is my first coaching experience, and it has been even more fun than I hoped it might be. I have also been able to enjoy using my sauna and do a little cross-country skiing. Things are going well with Katy, my daughters, and with my regular work, which is in hibernation mode this time of year.

Thank you for all your love, support, concern, critiques and friendship. I look forward to the remaining time I have here, and I get a little sad when I think about how my days with you all are numbered.

Peace.

Eric Gustafson

## Trevor Wolter & Dorothea Jirsa: Music Ministry

### 2021 Annual Report

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2021 started out much the same as 2020 ended. In-person worship services were suspended and all music groups were on hiatus due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19. Trevor continued to offer a live music prelude broadcast from his home piano each Sunday through May 30, which was the last Sunday of no in-person worship. In all, 61 live music preludes were broadcast during 2020-2021 and all broadcasts are still available on St. Mark's Facebook page.

After just a Sunday or two in the Sanctuary, worship was moved to Rees Hall for several weeks of the summer due to issues with the air conditioning in the Sanctuary. This brought to light a need to update our musical equipment. Using non-budgeted funds, a new Kawai digital piano was acquired that fulfilled a wide variety of criteria: portable, comfortable to play, and easily connectable to a sound system.

The Choir of St. Mark's resumed rehearsal during the month of September. After an initial meeting in the Chapel, rehearsals were moved to Thursday nights to allow the group to rehearse in the Sanctuary, as a precaution to allow more space for the group to spread out.

The Jubilee Handbell Choir resumed rehearsal in early November on Wednesday nights. Over the course of several weeks, the number of ringers steadily increased to the point where we were able to utilize over 3 octaves of bells – a first in several years!

The Joyful Voices Choir resumed rehearsals in October. They are a small, but enthusiastic, group of singers - always looking for others to join us. We added instruments to one of our songs and invited congregation members to play. We look forward to being able to start rehearsals again soon.

Because congregational singing was not possible, or limited, for many of our services, Dorothea arranged for singers to lead the liturgy and hymns for almost all of the services for the past year. She has a list of people who are graciously giving of their time and talent to lead the music for our worship. This has been especially helpful when the choirs have not been able to be at services.

Nearing the end of the year, as always, Christmas Eve services were planned in a way to capture the full joy and emotion of the birth of Christ. A small pop-up choir was formed that rehearsed Sunday mornings in December and sang at the 3:00 service. The 3:00 service also featured a brass quartet that made the service joyful and celebratory. The 10:00 candlelight service featured a string quartet that made the service peaceful and contemplative.

For 2022 we look forward to building on the growing momentum from the second half of 2021 and looking for new opportunities serve our faith community through music.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dorothea Jirsa & Trevor Wolter*

# Congregational *Ministry Reports*

## Community Outreach

### 2021 Annual Report

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First off, sincere thanks to the many excellent volunteers who provided great outreach to our community this past year. Community Outreach was one of St. Mark's stewardship initiatives for 2021: *Establishing a specific strategy to reach out in new and meaningful ways to attract and engage new North St. Paul residents.* Below are some of the community outreach highlights from 2021:

- Partnering with the North St. Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest, St. Mark's hosted three well-attended Free Produce Giveaways in July, August, and September. About 200 families participated at each event. This was a great way to connect with our neighbors.
- A small group walked in the North St. Paul Fall Roundup Parade and were proud to hand out flyers and candy on behalf of St. Mark's.
- Over 40 volunteers participated in the ELCA "Our Hands, God's Work" day of service, divided up over nine projects at church and out in the community. The projects included: pulling buckthorn at Southwood Park Reserve, weeding at Richardson Elementary, decorating motivating poster boards for Ramsey County Care Center, shopping for and filling Polar Packs, handing out welcome/invite flyers in the neighborhood, creating appreciation cards for essential workers, fall roundup parade preparations, and garden and landscaping projects at St. Mark's.
- Volunteers executed a very successful informational flyer drop on "God's Hands - Our Work" Sunday afternoon. Approximately 200 flyers were delivered to the new housing developments in North St. Paul.
- The week before Christmas, volunteers spent time canvassing the neighborhood around St. Mark's with a flyer inviting everyone to "Celebrate Christmas at St. Mark's" along with a message from the pastors.

Special Thanks to: Julie Urban  
Dan Colberg  
Candy Peterson  
Pastor Mary Froiland  
John Froiland  
Suzanne Ericson  
Brock Bertelsen  
Chet Bertelsen  
Tate Bertelsen  
Kyle and Cherie Bertelsen  
The many volunteers from the Produce Giveaway

Your in Christ,  
Mike Ericson  
Community Outreach Committee Chair

## Columbarium & Memorial Garden Committee

### 2021 Annual Report

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The Memorial Garden with Columbarium has entered into the sustaining phase of this ministry. There were three congregation members inurned in our Columbarium this year.

Three additional niches and two Memorial Wall inscriptions were purchased this year. Donations were also accepted. The operational expenses were as follows:

- Twelve bronze urns were purchased for future use.
- Inscriptions for utilized niche doors require shipment to the vendor for engraving and return shipment.
- The irrigation system was started in the spring and blown out in the fall before frost.
- The rain garden was cleaned up and the debris was hauled away.
- Christmas wreaths were purchased.

#### Financial Information

Beginning Balance January 1, 2021	\$ 883.70
Income	9,575.00
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>1,983.00</u>
Year-end Balance	\$8,475.00

**If you would like to purchase a niche, a Memorial Wall inscription or make a contribution to the ongoing maintenance of the Memorial Garden, please contact Heidi McKenzie – [heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org) or 651-777-7451**

## COVID Restoration Team

### 2021 Annual Report

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We all are very aware of the ongoing and seemingly never-ending stream of information and activity in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and how we respond as a community. It continues to be a roller coaster ride filled with highs and lows, twist and turns, excitement and worry. While 2021 showed more promise and opportunity in our abilities to gather and worship together, we still faced many challenges in making sure that we, the people of St. Mark's, continuing to look out for one another.

At the end of 2020 and early into 2021, with increased levels of Covid-19 infections in our state, we moved back into an on-line only worship model. To keep our community safe, we did not have any in-person activities in our facility and staff continued to work primarily on a remote basis.

In February, the Restoration Team met to discuss plans for resuming in-person activities. While trends were encouraging, the team with staff and council decided to continue with the on-line worship services only through the winter months. Small groups of 10 or less were permitted with restriction in Rees Hall with masks and distancing guidelines in place. The anticipation of new vaccines for Covid-19 were soon to become a reality.

In March, as vaccines became more available and members of our community received their first immunizations, the Restoration Team, staff and council moved forward on planning for re-opening to in-person activities. Online services would continue through April/May.

A plan was put into place for Holy Week offering limited in-person services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with safety protocols in place. Holy Saturday brought an evening reflection service gathering in the parking lot and for Easter Sunday there was one outdoor service with safety controls in place – we had a very good turnout for both of these events and it was good to worship together.

Summer 2021 - With vaccination rates on the rise and the return of warmer weather the Restoration Team, staff and council had the confidence to set a timeline for a phased in return to in-person worship and other gatherings. Starting in June, we offered an outdoor service the first Sunday of the month for June, July and August. The other Sundays each month moved to in-person worship in the sanctuary with a single service where masks were required and traffic controls/distancing in place. Another step in the right direction for bring us together in worship.

Fall 2021 saw a return to a full schedule of worship, education and fellowship activities. It was a wonderful way to bring some sense of normalcy and the addition of Pastor David and Intern Eric brought with it new opportunities for engagement and community. Many safety protocols have been kept in place, primarily requiring masks regardless of vaccination status, distancing and traffic flow.

While it was encouraging to be able to move into a more engaging program and opportunities to gather together, the realities of the pandemic did not go away. It has been very important to continue to monitor what was happening in the greater community and adjust our activities. Resistance to vaccinations, new variants, loosening of restrictions and fatigue have all played a role in the ongoing need to stay diligent in our resolve to keep St. Mark's a safe and healthy place.

As this is being written, in January, we are unfortunately seeing a surge in Covid infections rates in our communities. This has required re-instituting restrictions at St. Mark's and the temporary cancellation of certain in-person gatherings, including Wednesday night events. Sunday services will continue with safety protocols in place.

St. Mark's Restoration Team, along with our wonderful St. Mark's staff and church council are continuing our efforts to monitor local and state guidelines which help determine how to keep our doors open and our community safe.

#### Restoration Team

Kurt Biedermann (Chair)  
Mike Ericson  
Heidi McKenzie

Brad Urban  
Hunter Winner  
Shannon Young

## Drama Ministry (Players & Planners)

2021 Annual Report

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While we continue to be on a hiatus from our typical large-scale productions, we had the opportunity to collaborate with the St. Mark's community and put on our outdoor Spring event this April. We look forward to performing again for you as soon as it is safe to do so!

## Hospitality Committee

2021 Annual Report

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The hospitality team is slowly coming back after being shut down from the pandemic. Here are some hospitality highlights from 2021:

- The church welcomed Pastor David Bjorklund to St. Mark's with a brunch.
- We also hosted a very successful "Welcome Back Breakfast" for the staff of North High School both prepared by Julie Urban and food prep team. The staff also received extra produce from the drive thru farmer's market the day before.
- We hosted a Trunk or Treat Halloween event jointly with the North St. Paul Girl Scouts. There were nine St. Mark's families and five Girl Scout troops participating. A good time was had by all and lots of candy was shared with the community.
- Many people enjoyed the "pre-Thanksgiving" pie social after the Wednesday night service.
- St. Mark's continues to provide space and hospitality for the North St. Paul Police Department. Police Officers are welcomed into our Fellowship Hall during overnight shifts where they find coffee, snacks, meals, and a quiet place to fill out reports. Many people have contributed to this project.
- We hosted a modified Progressive Dinner keeping it all within church to monitor health and safety protocols. We started with appetizers in Fellowship Hall then progressed to Rees Hall for a delicious dinner catered by K&J Catering. Entertainment was a Christmas carol sing along in the Sanctuary then dessert back in Rees Hall. We had 40 attend this enjoyable event planned by Wanda Hurtgen, Julie Urban, and myself. Thanks to everyone who stepped up and helped us set up and clean up for this event. It was greatly appreciated!

The team is looking forward to hosting more events in 2022!

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Ericson



North High Staff Appreciation Breakfast



Trunk-or-Treat 2021

## St. Mark's Foundation 2021 Annual Report

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"Your Word is a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

Although the COVID pandemic has continued through 2021, the St. Mark's Church Foundation Board of Trustees continued its mission of conveying the Christian message to people through excellence in worship, education and the building of relationships, both within the church and out into the community.

Due to the generous donations from both our congregation and the larger community, the Foundation Board was able to provide \$9,500 in grants which will impact many people's lives in a meaningful and impactful way in 2021 and the future.

- St. Mark's Church and North High School personnel collaborated on a coat drive that the Foundation was able to help fund with a \$1,000 grant to purchase coats and other warm clothing.
- Also helping North High families, a grant was given for food gift cards to the Polar Back Pack program during the recent holidays.
- Jeanette Perrault was awarded a grant to help her gain first-hand knowledge and experience about the current immigration situation in Texas.
- The Foundation has partnered with the Lutheran Social Services program "Circle of Welcome" to help St. Mark's sponsor an Afghan family as they settle in St. Paul.
- Another community program the Foundation continues to help is the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf, which was a grant recipient helping the ongoing need to feed the community.
- Seed money was given for new outdoor signage at St. Mark's to keep our presence showing in the community.



The Foundation continues to work with church staff, the congregation and stake holders in the community to find ways to help those in need.

The Foundation was blessed in 2021 with financial gifts of more \$12,000 through legacy gifts, donations, memorials, Thrivent Choice Dollars, Amazon Smile and employee matching gifts from Wells Fargo Bank and US Bank. The Foundation is a perpetual fund that will continue supporting the community through grants in 2022. The finance committee works to maximize the return on investments through our financial advisor, creating the budget for the Foundation, and monitoring and reporting on the financial health of the assets of the Foundation.

The Foundation continued its commitment to keep the congregation informed about the Foundation's progress and activities. The Foundation website continues to be a good resource of information about the Foundation. Announcements about the Foundation are found in the weekly updates. "Foundation Week" was presented the first week of October with support from church staff, a message from Jeanette Perrault who had been a grant recipient, and a newsletter highlighting activities.

The 2021 St. Mark's Foundation Board of Trustees are: President Terry Kapaun, Vice President Craig Sterling, Treasurer Tom Michel, Secretary Barb Michel, Paul Ellefson, Kathy Hanon, Linda Kapaun, Rod Larkins, Steve Linder, Bill Pickett, John Pottratz, Pastor Mary Froiland and legal advisor Gerry Duffy.

For more information about the Foundation, please browse the St. Mark's Foundation website at [www.stmarksnsfoundation.com](http://www.stmarksnsfoundation.com).

## Global Ministries

### 2021 Annual Report

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I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)

Below is a summary of the Mission Committee's activities and accomplishments of 2021:

#### Tanzania

- **Tanzania Secondary Student and Other Sponsorships** – In 2022, St. Mark's individuals or families will sponsor 20 Kihesa secondary students at a rate of \$450 per year for room, board and tuition. \$9,000 in new funds were donated in late 2021 for secondary school sponsorships. In addition to funds raised in late 2021, \$1,000 will be used to support post-secondary students from the Iringa Diocese and \$1,000 will support secondary students from churches without partners in Tanzania.
- **Other Kihesa Project Support** – In addition to the student sponsorship support, St. Mark's donated \$3,000 for other general projects yet to be named by Kihesa.
- **Bega Kwa Bega Support** – St. Mark's was also able to donate \$2,000 to the Bega Kwa Bega Reconnecting Appeal. This funding was needed by BKB to help make up for lost revenues due to no congregational trips to Tanzania, which is a significant source of BKB funding in normal times. This campaign paid for technology updates for the BKB coordinators in Tanzania as well as for Ambassador visits to Tanzanian congregations in the absence of visitors from the US.
- **Life Skills Center – Funds from Oehlke Endowment Fund** – The Inez Oehlke Endowment Fund provided a net amount of \$12,672 for the Kihesa Life Skills Center in 2021. So far, \$3,022 was used for sewing machines and other materials for the Kihesa Life Skills Center in 2021.
- **Other Funding Sources** – In addition to the donations from members and friends for Tanzania, our Tanzania Mission received \$1,231.74 from India mission funds that members redirected to the Tanzania Mission as well as \$500 from St. Mark's general budget funds.
- Travel plans to Tanzania are still on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Wolf, Chair

#### India

The India Mission Team continues to discern the way forward after the death of the founder of REACH Home, Kusuma Paul. We have sadly ended St. Mark's 38+ year relationship with REACH Home. The new operators want to use local Indian donors to fund this mission. We pray for the future of REACH, the children and teachers, and that God will take care of them and guide their mission.

The India Mission Team is now in the process of working with a few other organizations in areas not far from REACH, in the hopes we will find another partner with which to work. We pray for God's guidance as we look forward to what will be the next chapter in St. Mark's Global Outreach.

We are grateful to God for over 38 years of service St. Mark's was called to do. We gave thousands of children a great start to life by providing a home, food, education, Christian Education, and love. I have seen over the past 20 years so many miracles first hand for these children, born without parents to care for them, in what is a very difficult environment.

With my own eyes I have seen them go from orphan babies to college graduates. My time helping to oversee the India Mission, REACH Home, has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. **I am so grateful to God for calling me and for St. Marks and its many sponsors for allowing God's work to be done.** I hope to find another organization in India to work with and I will keep you informed.

Yours in Christ,  
Peter Mogren

**Mission Committee Members:** Jim & Betty Wolf, Pete & Angel Mogren, Betty Beane

## Personnel Committee

### 2021 Annual Report

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The Personnel Committee is an advisory group. The responsibilities of the committee include:

- Develop personnel policies
- Conduct annual performance reviews for the pastors
- Provide oversight on personnel matters
- Develop and update employee job descriptions
- Provide annual budget for approval

This year has brought some changes to the staff at St. Mark's.

- First, we welcomed Pastor David Bjorklund, who is a wonderful addition to the pastoral staff. We are very thankful to have Pastor David and his family here with us.
- The janitorial staff has also changed. Heather is no longer with us. She has a full-time job and we wish her well. She will be missed.
- Hunter has also indicated that he would like to cut back his hours. Therefore, after much consideration and research, we have hired a cleaning company called Victory Cleaning. They come with many great reviews.
- Heidi McKenzie's job title has changed to Campus Administrator. This was done to reflect the full variety of job duties performed.
- An annual personnel budget was completed and submitted to the church council for approval.
- Yearly Reviews for all employees were completed.
- The security manual was updated.
- St. Mark's has wonderful volunteers who work in our church office. Currently, Terri Borowick and Sue Fletcher have each dedicated two days a week to work in the front office. We also would like to recognize Barbara McNeely for the time she previously volunteered in the office. They are the first face our members, staff and visitors see when coming to St. Mark's. Thank you all for your commitment!

We are still looking for additional volunteers for Sunday Mornings. Please let us know if you would be interested.

*Our goals for 2022 are:*

- Update the Personnel Manual
- Conduct reviews for all employees
- Maintain budget

The members of the Personnel Committee are: Kelly Kleppe, Lynn Wyman, Suzanne Ericson, Caroline Newell and Beth Ingberg.

This group is very dedicated, ensuring all areas of personnel affairs are conducted professionally and according to our bylaws.

I would like to close, by expressing my thanks to all of the above members, as well as each and every staff member, all our volunteers and our wonderful pastors here at St. Mark's. You are all truly doing wonderful work for the community of St. Mark's.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Julie Urban, Personnel Chair

## Property Committee 2021 Annual Report

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During the past year the St. Mark's property committee was able to complete several projects in addition to ongoing maintenance of our facilities and grounds. These projects were completed thanks to the time, talent and dedication of volunteers and committee members. Below is a list of efforts that were accomplished during 2021.

### Completed during 2021

- Replacement of a split rail fence (Eagle Project)
- Planted hydrangea trees outside of Rees Hall (Gods Work Our Hands)
- Repaired damaged concrete walkway (Saturday Stewards)
- Purchased entryway mats and small carpet cleaner
- Installed new rollup garage door on the shed
- Purchased a Roomba vacuum and mop/sweeper

We were unable to complete some projects originally planned for 2021. The St. Mark's property committee will continue to work to improve the facilities and grounds of St. Mark's with the volunteers, and efficient use of funding during 2022. Below is a list of projects planned for 2022.

### Looking ahead to 2022

- Railing improvements and upgrades (Eagle Project)
- Continued security and safety upgrades
- Sanctuary beam and baffle repairs

Special thanks to Sherry Berry for her many years of dedicated service. Sherry has served on the property committee for over 20 years, spearheading many projects and taking detailed meeting minutes.

We are grateful for the volunteers, including Saturday Stewards, who faithfully contributed their time and talent to maintaining and improving the St. Mark's property during 2021. If you are interested in volunteering for upcoming property committee efforts, please let us know. We look forward to working together!

### Current Members:

Heidi McKenzie – Chair  
Hunter Winner – Custodian / Co-Chair  
Brian Larson  
Gary Hook  
Heather Fogelson  
Mark McKenzie  
Mike Clasen  
Neil Knutson – Custodian  
Rod Larkins

### Outgoing Members:

Sherry Berry (Ended July 2021)

## Social Ministry

### 2021 Annual Report

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As a congregation of Christ's Church, the center of our life together is worship, where the Word of God is preached and the Sacraments are shared. From that center we are sent out to serve, and St. Mark's has a long and strong history of service in our church and community. Here are some highlights of the past year:

- Our **Caring Hands** people continue to serve families at a time of grief and loss by setting up a comfortable space and serving a meal at the time of a funeral or memorial service.
- Our **Caring Ministries Team** is a group of people who care for those who are homebound. When it is possible, Holy Communion is shared. When in person visits are restricted, phone calls and cards keep folks connected.
- **Wednesday Evening Dinners** resumed this fall after being suspended last year due to Covid restrictions. Thanks to Julie Urban for heading up the team of dedicated volunteers who make this possible. Since September 15, 935 dinners have been served. Unfortunately we have had to suspend this ministry again due to the Covid surge, but hope to resume again soon.
- St. Mark's partnered with **Interfaith Action's School Supply Drive** (serving 10 programs in the Greater St. Paul area) to provide students from low-income families with the essential school tools they need. Backpacks, supplies and \$100 in cash were collected. Thank you for your generosity!
- The **Polar Pack Project**, a partnership with North High, is still ongoing, though due to Covid, numbers are down. The staff at North are very happy that we continue to help them provide backpacks of food for the weekend for families experiencing food insecurity. We are averaging about 15 back packs a week. Grocery gift cards were also provided at Christmas.
- Exciting things are in store for the **North St. Paul Food Shelf** in 2022! The Board of Directors met earlier this week and voted to move ahead with a lease for a new site. The new site will provide much more room, the opportunity for clients to "shop" and select their own groceries, a better, less crowded space for staff and volunteers, good parking, and many other upgrades. The new site will also provide space for the North St. Paul Toy Shelf.
- St. Mark's has been a long time partner of the NSP Food Shelf, and there are many opportunities for volunteer service. Currently, **there is an immediate and urgent need for volunteers to drive to area grocery stores to "rescue" surplus food and deliver it to the Food Shelf where it can be distributed to clients.** This volunteer opportunity could best be filled by a team of two. The Food shelf has a couple of vans if you don't have your own van or truck. If you can help in this way, please let Pastor Mary know, or call directly to Ron Czerepak at 651-770-6303. He would be happy to put you on the schedule!
- Once again this past summer we partnered with Second Harvest and the NSP Food Shelf to host three **Free Produce Give-Away events** in our parking lot. This is a great way to both serve and connect with our neighbors. About 200 families participate at each event.
- St. Mark's participated once again in **The Gift Goes On**, providing Christmas gifts and gift cards to a total of 14 families (49 individuals) from our own congregation, Head Start families, and Ramsey County families in need. Giving included: 65 knitted hats, 18 scarves, 49 pairs of gloves/mittens, 21 blankets, and 68 food cards. Thanks to Liz Elicerio-Nelson for making it all run smoothly!

It is a joy to serve together as we work to be the heart and hands of Jesus in our congregation and community.

## Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) Committee

### 2021 Annual Report

#### Committee members:

Betty Beane	Beth Jensen
Pastor Mary Froiland	Rod Larkins
Bob Engwer	Ann Mott, staff
Kelly Kleppe	Kathy Hanon, chair



**GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE**  
LOVING GOD. LOVING OTHERS.

The Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) committee meets monthly to consider opportunities to share the blessings received by the St. Mark's community in an effort to embrace the work God calls us to do in this place and time.

A specific task for the group is to develop and manage the annual fall stewardship campaign, during which all congregants are asked to provide their intent to support St. Mark's through giving and prayer. The SAS committee identifies initiatives and goals for the campaign, explains and promotes those initiatives and goals, and assists Pastor Mary and Ann in preparing materials and giving temple talks.

The 2021 campaign wrapped up with Intent Sunday on November 21, 2021. The goal of the campaign was to increase annual giving by \$40,000 and to increase the number of intent cards returned by 10 percent.

The results of the 2021 Fall Stewardship campaign are listed below:

<b><u>Initiative</u></b>	<b><u>Goal</u></b>	<b><u>Results</u></b>
Sustain ministry and refresh and update signage	\$40,000 in new gifts	\$28,653
Increase # of Intent Cards returned	15 new	4 new

In addition to the congregation's commitment to this campaign, a private donor has pledged \$20,000 in support of the electronic signage, and the St. Mark's Foundation has awarded \$2,500 for this purpose.

On behalf of the Stewardship for All Seasons committee, thank you for your thoughtful and generous response to the fall campaign. We are grateful for your commitment to St. Mark's.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the SAS Committee,

Kathy Hanon

## Women of St. Mark's

### 2021 Annual Report

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**Ministry Vision:** As an organization of Christian women, we encourage all women to grow in their faith, be of service to others and engage in fellowship with other women.

The Women of St. Mark's have four Bible study groups. We are a part of the St. Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization and the Women of the ELCA. The groups meet for Bible study and fellowship. During the COVID pandemic many of them met via Zoom.

We remember St. Mark's shut-ins with cards and small gifts throughout the year. Cards of support are sent to St. Mark's Women in the Military and to Women in God's Service. The Prayer Shawl Ministry knits/crochets comforting shawls for those in need. We choose Secret Prayer Sisters to pray for and remember throughout the year. Monetary support is given to the North St. Paul Food Shelf, Polar Packs, Welcome Desk at North High School, Feed My Starving Children, Kihesa Student Support in Tanzania and the Tanzania Water Project.

In addition, we plan the following events. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend.

- **January-March:** Quilting sessions were not held in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. However, in August, 66 quilts which were made in 2019 were delivered to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse.
- **September:** Fall Event "Together Again." Fifteen women attended and enjoyed a catered lunch, a fun game and a chance to reconnect.
- **November:** Children's waterproof mittens were purchased for *The Gift Goes On* Christmas program.
- **December:** The Women's Advent Brunch was held on December 11 and was attended by 26 women. The North St. Paul Police Department gave a very informative presentation about Women's Safety. Dorothea Jirsa led us in a Christmas sing-along.
- Other events, including the St. Paul Area Women's Synodical Convention were cancelled or postponed.

The **Collection Cupboard** is located in Rees Hall. Items collected include pop tabs, eyeglasses and kits/projects for the women's organization. Bar soap and Boxtops for Education are no longer being accepted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Coller, Chairperson

Committee Members:  
Sherry Berry, Sue Fletcher, Darlene Dent and Bible Study representatives

**Women of St. Mark's Financial Report**  
2021 Annual Report

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Prepared by Sue Fletcher

CASH ON HAND 12-31-2020		\$ 4,186.34
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
CIRCLE OFFERING		\$ 2,565.00
GIFTS AND MEMORIALS		\$ 940.00
ADVENT BRUNCH		\$ 208.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR 2021		\$ 3,713.00
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
WELCA OFFERING		\$ 650.00
WELCA TRIENNIAL OFFERING		\$ 75.00
NORTH ST. PAUL FOOD SHELF		\$ 275.00
ST. PAUL PARTNERS		\$ 75.00
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN		\$ 100.00
LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE		\$ 200.00
SHOBI'S TABLE		\$ 100.00
ST. MARKS LUTHERAN CHURCH (office supplies donation)		\$ 150.00
POLAR PACKS		\$ 100.00
POLAR DEN (Welcome Desk North High)		\$ 50.00
TANZANIA STUDENT SPONSORSHIP		\$ 125.00
MITTENS FOR GIVING TREE		\$ 146.50
ADVENT BRUNCH		\$ 84.17
TOGETHER AGAIN BRUNCH		\$ 194.42
GIFTS		\$ 100.00
QUILTING		\$ 111.92
MISC EXPENSE		\$ 27.95
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$ 2,564.96
<b>BALANCE 12-31-2021</b>		<b>\$ 5,259.38</b>
<b>SPECIAL ACCOUNTS</b>		
QUILTING	\$ 1,640.11	
PRAYER SHAWLS	\$ 230.58	
CRAFT DAY	\$ 87.75	
TRIENNIAL 2021 set aside	\$ 75.00	
CAPITAL FUND RESERVE	\$ 325.00	
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS		\$ 2,358.44
<b>BALANCE AFTER SPECIAL ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>\$ 2,975.94</b>

## Minutes: St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 31, 2021

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action
<b>Establish Quorum / Call to Order</b>	Today's meeting was online and recorded via Zoom. Quorum obtained at 11:31 AM. Established online procedures for conducting the meeting.	Called to order at 11:32 AM by Beth Ingberg.
<b>Opening Prayer</b>		Pr. Mary Froiland
<b>Review of 2020 and What's Next</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pr. Mary Froiland updated congregation of several points from the annual report:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Though we haven't been in the building, church is still happening virtually.</li> <li>○ Caring Ministries Team continues to care for homebound.</li> <li>○ St. Mark's continues to feed the hungry through partners, such as North St. Paul Food Shelf, Second Harvest pop-up Farmers' Markets, and North High Polar Pack/Polar Den programs.</li> <li>○ Virtual meetings of worship, Confirmation and Youth Group, Bible study, building committees, and much more continue.</li> <li>○ The fall Stewardship for All Seasons campaign, with intent cards showing a \$30,935 increase in giving, has opened opportunities to add a Pastoral Intern this upcoming year, as well as enhancing technology to support virtual platforms and community outreach.</li> <li>○ St. Mark's continues to partner with Head Start and Genesis East.</li> <li>○ A Call committee has been formed to begin a search for an Associate Minister.</li> <li>○ This is a third balanced and sustainable budget in a row.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Pr. Mary Froiland
<b>Annual Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Approval of the Meeting Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting</b></li> </ul>	Motion by Shannon Young, seconded by Kelly Kleppe to approve the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting.

## Minutes: St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 31, 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nominating Committee report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Election of church Council members:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Karen Biedermann (i), Mike Ericson (i), Martha Klopp, Carolyn Newell (i), and Tyler Ronsberg</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Election of Synod Assembly voting members:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Kurt Biedermann, Jenn Luong, Karyn Mikel, and Bonnie Meyers</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Election of Auditor:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dave Benck</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Election of Nominating members:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dan Colber, Beth Jensen, Mark McKenzie, and Shannon Young</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Thank you for your service.</b> The outgoing members of the Council were recognized. They were Nick Glendenning and Pam Simanski, as well as our youth representative Erin Koppen.</li> <li>• <b>Sexual Harassment Policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Julie Urban announced the updated policy is in the office and St. Mark's is in compliance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Review of 2020 Finances</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ St. Mark's ended the year with a balance of \$95,000.</li> <li>○ Revenue was higher than projected due to Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loan of \$68,000.</li> <li>○ Expenses were lower than projected because of limited building use.</li> <li>○ The Reserve Fund has been reimbursed and paid off stemming from last year's roof repairs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>All were in favor.</p> <p>Karen Biedermann introduced Council nominees, Synod Assembly voting members, the Auditor nominee, and Nominating nominees.</p> <p>Motion by Adam Reinke to elect the slate of officers by acclamation. Seconded by Kathy Hanon. All in favor and approved.</p> <p>We are required to make an annual notification and review of this policy.</p>
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## Minutes: St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 31, 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion and Adoption of 2021 Budget             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Balanced budget numbers</li> <li>◦ Stewardship for All Seasons campaign projected giving increase of \$31,000 allows for three targeted areas:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Moving forward to resume Seminary Pastoral Intern program with Luther Seminary</li> <li>▪ Purchase of new technology/software to enhance virtual platform and communication</li> <li>▪ Outreach to present and new North St. Paul communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ No staff reduction and a 2% pay increase</li> <li>◦ Discussion                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jim Wolf: Are we looking into the possibility of applying for the PPP loan again in 2021?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bonnie Meyers stated in light of our consistent giving in 2020, increased projections for 2021, and current financial situation, we may consider not applying for moral/ethical reasons.</li> <li>• Finance committee will research in due diligence, but St. Mark's may not be eligible. All of this will be taken into consideration.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jim Wolf: Is there any detail about how the \$12,000 SAS pledges for technology will be used?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be determined on amounts realized, but as of now, there is no specific commitment; however, in order to continue live streaming, new cameras are in need. In addition, the media room needs to be Zoom accessible and we are out of compliance with microphones.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Motion made by Bob Engwer and seconded by Dan Colberg to approve 2021 budget. All in favor and approved.</p>
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## Minutes: St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 31, 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Kurt Biedermann: With the prospect of going back to in-person worship, will there need to be an increase in the maintenance/janitorial budget to ensure proper procedures and safety?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Property committee will look into it as St. Mark's makes that transition.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>New Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Restoration Team:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ As chair of the committee, Kurt Biedermann thanked congregation for its patience during this time.</li> <li>■ As of now, St. Mark's will stay in the current restricted and virtual model.</li> <li>■ The team will continue to look at state and county guidelines for safe reopening procedures.</li> <li>■ The outdoor services and events have been highly successful, so look to future events in coming months.</li> <li>■ Alan Wyman: What precautions are Head Start and Genesis East taking at this time?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Head Start is following strict guidelines and Genesis East has not been meeting in person.</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Suzanne Ericson: Is there a plan for small gatherings?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No date has been set but will be addressed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Sherry Berry recognized staff and committees for their efforts during this time. In addition, there was special recognition for Gary Martin and all of the work he's put into virtual services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Closing Prayer and adjournment</b></p>	<p>Closing prayer by Pr. Mary</p>	<p>Motion by Gary Martin and seconded by Sharon Hamilton to adjourn at 12:11 PM - all in favor.</p>

Respectfully submitted by Josh Hirman, Council secretary

# *2021 Financial Report & 2022 Proposed Budget*

*For financial information, please contact  
the church office at 651-777-7451 or  
email [stmarks@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarks-nsp.org).*