

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Annual Congregation Report
Annual Meeting, November 14, 2021**



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Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Congregational Annual Meeting Agenda
November 14th, 2021 at 11:30am

Call to Order

Devotion – Hebrews 10:23-25

Qualifications for a Quorum – (need 22 members)

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting (p 2-5)

Financial Year-end Statements (p 6-9) – Samantha Aleshire

Recognition of those concluding council service in January 2022

Vice President: Sean Garrison

Treasurer: Samantha Aleshire

Kaylee Lindhag

Curt Renner

Nominations for Council Members:

Vice President: Bob Thoma

Treasurer: Dianna Lindhag

At-large member: Kevin Powers

At-large member: _____

At-large member (1yr): John Hoffmann

Financial Secretary: Becky Peterson

Continuing on Council: Liz Sandbo, Cheryl Park, Denise Hradecky

New Business:

Election of Church Council Members

Budget review and approval (p 10)

Local Mission Support allocation

Appointment (no vote needed) of Auditing and Nominating Teams

Auditing Team: Samantha Aleshire (3yrs)

 serving with Fran Hradecky (2yrs) and Jo Small (1yr)

Nominating Team: Carol Dahl, Sean Garrison, _____

Appointment of Delegates to Synod Assembly, April 22-24, 2022.

1 male, 1 female - preference of one being under 40

_____ and _____

Adjournment and Benediction

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes

November 8th, 2020 at 11:30am
In-Person and Zoom Conference Meeting

Call to Order: 11:37 a.m.

Devotion – Romans 8:28-32

Qualifications for a Quorum – (need 22 members)

31 Confirmed by Liz Hursh Sandbo

Members present: 12 in sanctuary and 19 via Zoom.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting – November 10, 2019 (p 2-3)

Motion to accept minutes by: Paula Fritsche

Seconded by: John Hoffmann

All in favor: unanimous

Financial Year-end Statements – Samantha Aleshire

Review Pages 4 thru 6 in annual Report: Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss as of the end of October 26, 2020 graph of expenses and graph of income to expenses.

As of October 26, 2020 we have \$ 13,297.68 in undesignated funds
and \$ 6,752.49 in designated funds
and \$ 7,199.49 in savings

Question from Eileen Dubowski: How do we get the WELCA funds to be used for something else? We don't really meet as Women of the ELCA any longer. Can we donate the funds for our sewing projects?

Answer, Margi Ungrodt: Some money goes to the AK Synod, some has been donated recently.

Samantha Aleshire: ½ of the offering gets sent to the Synod every six months.

Eileen: It seems like it is sitting there and needs to be used.

Margi: If the women are meeting as a sewing group, it could be used for that.

Statement from Missy and Dan Rees: Beef is going to be donated to cover the church fuel bill. Missy has the beef back and organized in shares. She can be in touch with Pastor or Liz as they are ready to deliver the shares.

Samantha: We have about \$900.00 left in the Cares Act funding and we are going to use those funds for fuel. If we did not have the Cares funding, we would be about \$5,000 in the red as a whole.

Question from Missy: Are we allowed to put in for any other funding?

Answer, Samantha: Because we took the Federal Cares funding, we don't know if we can get any other funding. We will keep checking for other funding opportunities.

Recognition of those concluding council service in January 2021

Education: Paula Fritsche
Facilities: Tim Schackman

Nominating Team Report: Eric Peterson, Denise Hradecky, and Lisa Garrison

President: Liz Hursh Sandbo, 2nd term
Secretary: Cheryl Park, 2nd term
Education:
Facility:
Mission and Social Ministry: Evie Freeman, 2nd term
Financial Secretary: Becky Peterson
Nancy Uptgraft resigned from Evangelism in the meeting

Motion to accept the Nominating Committee Report by: Samantha Aleshire
Seconded by: Fran Hradecky
All in favor: unanimous

Individuals continuing in their current positions:

Treasurer: Samantha Aleshire – 2nd Term, 1 year left
Vice President: Sean Garrison – 2nd Term, 1 year left
Worship and Music: Curt Renner – 2nd Term, 1 year left
Stewardship: Julie Tanguay – 1st Term, 1 year left
Youth: Kaylee Lindhag – 1st Term, 1 year left

Question from Eileen – Are we going to be starting the new council set up in January?

Answer, Liz Hursh Sandbo: We have created ministry teams, with at-large members to be voted upon later in this meeting. We will be starting the work to implement the changes in 2021 if they are approved.

New Business:

Election of Church Council Members

Motion to approve the nominees as a slate by: Becky Peterson
Seconded by: Denise Hradecky
All in favor: unanimous

Motion to elect these persons to a two-year council term by: Denise Hradecky
Seconded by: John Hoffmann
All in Favor: unanimous

Budget Review and Approval (p 8). Council decided not to include Coronavirus effects in budgeting to ensure that we are prepared for a full year of ministry.

Entertain a motion to adopt the 2021 budget by: Al Griswold
Seconded by: Paula Fritsche
All in Favor: unanimous

Liz Hursh Sandbo, “Thank you to all for your support and generosity for the church.”

Approval of Constitution and Bylaws

Oral Review of Constitutional changes

Entertain a motion to accept changes in one motion moved by: Bob Workman

Seconded by: Nancy Uptgraft

All in Favor: unanimous

Entertain a motion to approve the Constitutional changes by: Nancy Uptgraft

Seconded by: Bob Workman

All in Favor: unanimous

Oral Review of Bylaw changes

Motion to add the language to C.11.01.04, "The newly elected treasurer will begin training immediately upon election and work with the outgoing treasurer for a minimum of three months." Moved by Paula Fritsche

Seconded by: Eileen Dubowski

All in Favor: unanimous

Entertain a motion to accept all bylaw changes in one motion, moved by: Janis Robertson

Seconded by: Dixie Keil

All in Favor: 2 no, motion passes

Entertain a motion to approve the Bylaw changes by: Fran Hradecky

Seconded by: John Hoffmann

Discussion:

- Eileen: "With the size of our congregation, this is a good move. Glad to see that it is getting taken care of."
- Motion to amend C5.02.01 by removing the second sentence: "They are elected as chairpersons of the committees represented on council." due to conflict with C12.01.01 (supervising the areas of ministry) and C12.02.01 ("elected to serve as four at-large council members") by: Carol Dahl
Seconded by: Curt Renner
All in favor: unanimous
- Becky Peterson: Concern the congregation as a whole is not being represented by limiting the positions to four.
Clarification, Liz: The change keeps 4 officers (C11.01) and changes from 7 committee chairs to 4 at large members. We are going from 12 to 9. Concern alleviated.
- Question from Lynne Skefte: Clarification that the pastor is a voting member to ensure we don't have a tie.
Answer, Liz: Pastor Amanda is a voting member of council.
- Carol Dahl: The way you set up the ministry teams, more church members will be included in the teams and do not have to be on council.
Liz Hursh Sandbo: This will help to engage more people.

All in favor of making the bylaw changes: Unanimous

Local Mission Support allocation:

We have already approved the \$2,500 to local ministry for 2021. Suggestions to council on where you want to see the funds to go to.

- Food Bank – Al Griswold
- Love INC – John Hoffmann
- The Door (local youth shelter) – Sam Aleshire
- Rescue Mission / Joshua Project (step-up housing) – Eileen Dubowski
- Stone Soup – Denise Bates
- Meals on Wheels

Appointment of Auditing and Nominating Teams: (no vote needed)

Auditing Team: Fran Hradecky (3yr)

Nominating Team: volunteers from the floor: Eric Peterson, Nancy Uptgraft, need one more to serve on the team to be appointed by council at a later date.

Appointment of Delegates to Synod Assembly, April 23-25, 2021.

Evie Freeman and Paula Fritsche

Will discuss with Julie Tanguay, appointed for 2020 (canceled due to pandemic)

Adjournment and Benediction

Motion to Adjourn: Fran Hradecky

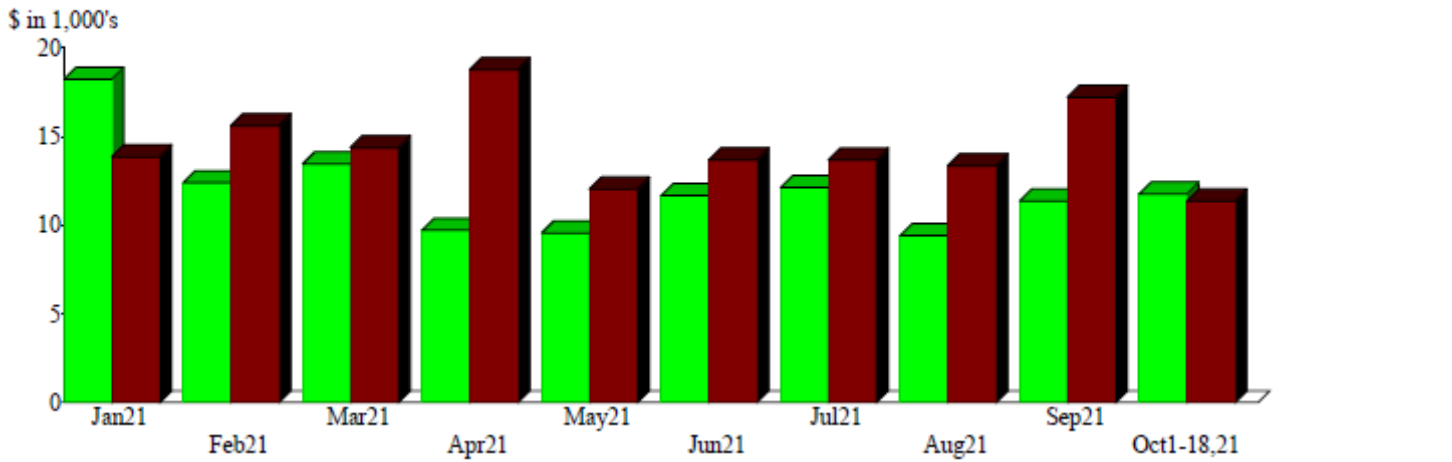
Seconded by: Eileen Dubowski

Adjourned at 12:45pm

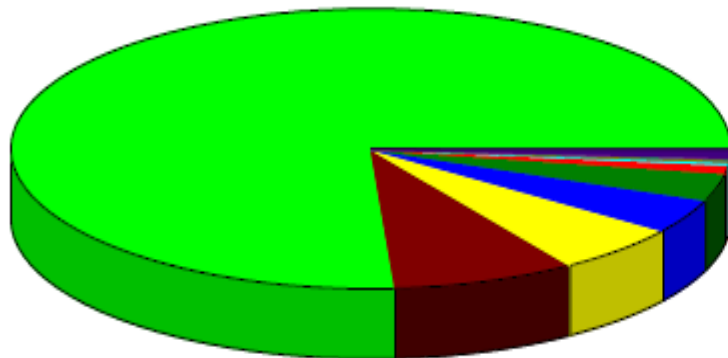
Close with Aaronic blessing:

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord's face to shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord look on you with favor, and give you peace.

Income and Expense by Month
January 1 through October 18, 2021



Expense Summary
January 1 through October 18, 2021



66000 · Payroll Expenses	76.21%
60700 · Benevolence Giving	8.41
62400 · Designated Expenses	5.74
63300 · Insurance Expense	4.07
68600 · Utilities	3.27
64900 · Office Expense	0.98
60400 · Banking Fees	0.44
64500 · Mileage Reimbursement	0.39
62700 · Evangelism and Special Events	0.20
67200 · Facility Maintenance & Supplies	0.12
Other	0.16
Total	\$144,164.30

By Account

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of October 18, 2021

	Oct 18, 21
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 - Undesignated Checking - 0026	3,763.11
11000 - Designated Checking - 3594	
11003 - Building Fund	135.70
11004 - Fuel	59.60
11005 - Disaster Relief	26.00
11006 - Education	310.30
11007 - Evangelism	100.00
11010 - Kuwaa Mission	183.50
11012 - Missions & Social Ministry	393.50
11016 - Sunday School	48.55
11019 - Youth	4,205.88
11000 - Designated Checking - 3594 - Other	-190.00
Total 11000 - Designated Checking - 3594	5,273.03
12000 - Debit Card Checking - 3607	616.38
13000 - Savings - 0862	16,038.12
Total Checking/Savings	25,690.64
Total Current Assets	25,690.64
TOTAL ASSETS	25,690.64
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 - Payroll Liabilities	5,252.98
Total Other Current Liabilities	5,252.98
Total Current Liabilities	5,252.98
Total Liabilities	5,252.98
Equity	
30000 - Opening Balance Equity	30,060.06
32000 - Unrestricted Net Assets	12,119.70
Net Income	-21,742.10
Total Equity	20,437.66
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	25,690.64

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss
 January 1 through October 18, 2021

	Jan 1 - Oct 18, 21
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
41000 · Designated Income	
41004 · Fuel	1,794.32
41005 · Disaster Relief	95.00
41006 · Education	131.16
41013 · Savings	22,851.43
41017 · WELCA	90.00
41018 · Worship & Music	1,000.00
41019 · Youth	190.00
	26,151.91
Total 41000 · Designated Income	26,151.91
49500 · Tithes/Offerings	96,196.65
49501 · Rebate	214.16
	122,562.72
Total Income	122,562.72
Expense	
60400 · Banking Fees	
60402 · Online Deposit Fees	631.46
	631.46
Total 60400 · Banking Fees	631.46
60700 · Benevolence Giving	
60701 · Local Benevolence	2,050.00
60703 · ELCA Mission Support	10,077.00
	12,127.00
Total 60700 · Benevolence Giving	12,127.00
61800 · Conferences and Meetings	
61801 · Conference Attendance Fees	150.00
	150.00
Total 61800 · Conferences and Meetings	150.00
62000 · Continuing Education/Collegium	55.00
62400 · Designated Expenses	
62404 · Fuel	5,253.03
62405 · Disaster Relief	69.00
62406 · Education	586.95
62412 · Missions & Social Ministries	1,277.17
62417 · WELCA	0.00
62418 · Worship & Music	858.64
62419 · Youth	373.87
	8,418.66
Total 62400 · Designated Expenses	8,418.66
62700 · Evangelism and Special Events	281.57
63300 · Insurance Expense	
63303 · Commercial Multi-Peril	5,874.00
	5,874.00
Total 63300 · Insurance Expense	5,874.00
64500 · Mileage Reimbursement	560.67
64900 · Office Expense	1,420.60
66000 · Payroll Expenses	
66001 · Health & Disability Insurance	25,426.66
66002 · Pension Plan	6,891.06
66000 · Payroll Expenses - Other	77,556.07
	109,873.79
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	109,873.79
66700 · Professional Fees	25.00
67200 · Facility Maintenance & Supplies	178.51

9:40 PM

10/30/21

Accrual Basis

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss
January 1 through October 18, 2021

	<u>Jan 1 - Oct 18, 21</u>
68600 · Utilities	
68601 · Electric	2,108.00
68603 · Cellular Phone	2,605.81
	<hr/>
Total 68600 · Utilities	4,713.81
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Total Expense	144,310.07
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Net Ordinary Income	-21,747.35
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
70200 · Interest Income	5.25
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Total Other Income	5.25
	<hr/>
Net Other Income	5.25
	<hr/>
Net Income	<u><u>-21,742.10</u></u>

	2020 Actuals Totals	2021 Proposed Budget	2021 Actual Budget to 10.18.21	Estimated Budget 12.31.21	2022 Proposed Budget
INCOME: DESIGNATED OFFERING	23,071.88	15,000.00	25,481.91	30,578.29	15,000.00
GENERAL OFFERING	126,681.02	172,269.00	94,185.65	113,022.78	172,584.00
REBATES	205.52	170.00	214.16	256.99	170.00
North Pole CARES Funding	18,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CARES Funding	25,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	193,758.42	187,439.00	119,881.72	143,858.06	187,754.00
EXPENSE:					
Mission Support (Benevolence)					
ELCA Mission Support	12,323.63	14,904.00	10,077.00	12,092.40	14,904.00
Local/Other <small>(cong must vote)</small>	369.15	2,500.00	2,050.00	2,050.00	2,050.00
Total:	12,692.78	17,404.00	12,127.00	14,142.40	16,954.00
PASTORAL:					
Salary	35,960.08	38,966.00	31,472.49	37,766.99	38,966.00
Housing Allowance	35,000.00	35,000.00	28,269.36	33,923.23	35,000.00
SECA	5,429.06	5,660.00	4,571.70	5,486.04	5,660.00
Pension/Health/Disability	35,306.42	36,684.00	32,317.72	38,781.26	36,684.00
Continuing Ed/Travel/Collegium	315.00	1,000.00	55.00	66.00	1,000.00
Mileage Reimbursemnt - IRS RATE	435.53	1,200.00	560.67	672.80	1,200.00
Total:	112,446.09	118,510.00	97,246.94	116,696.33	118,510.00
PROGRAM / Ministry Teams					
Faith Formation (Education & Youth)					700.00
Outreach (Mission & Social Minsitry & Evangelism)					700.00
Education	903.98	400.00	586.95	704.34	0.00
Evangelism	407.70	400.00	281.57	337.88	0.00
Missions & Social Ministry	233.58	600.00	277.17	332.60	0.00
Stewardship	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Youth Program	133.41	250.00	352.58	423.10	0.00
Worship	6,483.59	1,000.00	1,742.60	2,091.12	1,000.00
Total:	8,162.26	2,750.00	3,240.87	3,889.04	2,500.00
ADMIN & GENERAL					
Advertising	50.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Facility Maint/Janitorial/Supplies	552.54	650.00	178.51	214.21	600.00
Insurance - Liab, Prop, Work Comp	5,554.00	6,000.00	5,874.00	5,874.00	6,000.00
Office Expenses	1,802.60	2,500.00	1,437.16	1,724.59	2,800.00
Conferences / Meetings	1,050.00	1,050.00	150.00	180.00	1,050.00
Utilities	11,789.78	13,200.00	9,966.84	11,960.21	14,000.00
Acctg / Bank / On-Line Fees	681.99	700.00	631.46	757.75	700.00
Total:	21,480.91	24,250.00	18,237.97	20,710.76	25,150.00
PAYROLL EXPENSE					
Janitor	0.00	700.00	570.00	684.00	1,440.00
Nursery (1 Lead)	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Office Assistant	9,563.66	15,000.00	8,564.27	10,277.12	15,000.00
Payroll Taxes	2,911.92	2,500.00	2,481.04	2,977.25	3,000.00
Pianist/Organist (\$125/Sunday - \$100/Sub)	4,737.50	3,625.00	3,125.00	3,750.00	4,000.00
Treasurer (\$100/mo)	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
Total:	17,213.08	24,525.00	14,740.31	17,688.37	24,640.00
Grand Total Budget (Expenditures)	171,995.12	187,439.00	145,593.09	173,126.91	187,754.00



Greetings Everyone,

Guess what.... this is the last year you will have to read my fun-loving treasurers report. Thank you so much for bearing with me through this past year. We have had our ups and downs. We are still living and working our way through a pandemic that everyone wishes would just go away, so life can get back to normal. Thank you for being awesome, Thank you for being kind, Thank you for being understanding, and caring about others.

Now, what to say about the financials for the past year, yep they happened, yep we stepped up when asked to, yep we may have to step up again. This past year has been one of ups and downs for the finances of the Church. We put in and received North Pole CARES funding, which helped out a lot with payroll, heating, and electric. The church as a whole has not had very high utility bills, as the church has not had the “normal” activity it is used to seeing.

We have upgraded the computers and internet capabilities to help with the online and church audio and visual upgrades that have happened over the past year. Thank you to all of those who supposed those upgrades, as everyone is greatly benefiting from your generosity. I am so excited that we now have and get to keep having multiple ways to attend services.

One thing I would like to remind everyone of, is that we have a budget that we vote on as a congregation, as one, as a whole. We need to keep in mind that it is something we need to keep up and review closely, if we do not think this is something we will be able to meet as a whole, we really need to have that conversation. Take a step back and look at the things that truly make us Lord of Life and what outreaches that we can support and help the community. There will be hard choices coming up, do we pay for heating, or do we donate to community organizations? This is just one item, there are others. Please try and keep things in perspective, as the church budget is just like your home budget, if you do not have enough funds, what gets paid first?

Thank you for being awesome! I am going to miss being treasurer....maybe....as I don't like to give not-nice-news. I love working with everyone, and seeing the members of Lord of Life work, it is a wonderful sight. Thank you for letting me part of it as the treasurer for the past four years.

Sam Aleshire

Pastor's Report

This has been a year of resting in God's faithful promises as we wait and long for an end to this pandemic. It has been both a good and hard year full of hope and starting anew and gathering again safely as the pandemic loomed. So let me remind you of the good:

God was still worshiped as the Faithful One.

You cared for one another with patience and deference.

You discovered our own stories of faith, looking for God's hand at work.

You enjoyed times of fellowship outside this summer: preparing food around silly themes, bringing our harvests and sending \$70 to World Hunger, shared stories, laughter, hope, worries, and plans for the future.

You are working on knowing our own gifts and putting them to use.

You are working on knowing each other! Building spiritual friendships to strengthen our faith and deepen our community connections.

You are raising up some amazing children and youth: supporting their questions, accepting their ideas, encouraging them to trust God in everything.

Caden Lindhag and Caleb Boatman are two of those young men who continue to ask those big questions of God as they affirmed their faith this past May. PLEASE, don't make a big deal when they come to church. You should encourage and expect their presence! And the same is true as anyone sets foot in the church. Let's meet one another with joy and grace, especially in this tender season of the pandemic.

Because in all truth, you are the ones who create the atmosphere of Lord of Life. It is your choices that make the community what it is. Lord of Life will only be welcoming if you welcome everyone. Lord of Life will only be an organization of service if you serve. Lord of Life will only support the community and people in need if you do too. The church's trust in God will only deepen if you choose to be a disciple of Jesus.

You are in a good place, Lord of Life. I take my leave, trusting that you are firmly in God's hands. There are some amazing things on the horizon and amazing people in your pews. I am grateful to have served you all through these 12 years.

I borrow the words of Paul in Philippians 1,

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me...

In peace, with a heart full of love,

~Pastor Amanda Kempthorne

2021 President's Report

In January, your new council took on ministry teams and set goals for the new year. Here are the goals we set for this year:

- Discover and tell our own faith stories.
- Research and launch a signup and serve program.
- Complete gift inventory with the congregation.
- Strengthen connection between members.
- Engage people in worship planning teams.

You will see in the ministry team reports the incredible progress that has been made toward these goals. I am so thankful for the dedication and effort of Pastor Amanda and her team, council members, and the volunteers who have made so much amazing work happen this year. And to all of our congregational members for being so faithful to our church and our mission.

Sincerely,

Liz Sandbo

WORSHIP & MUSIC REPORT 2021

The Worship and Music Team are dedicated to making worship the best that it can be. They meet several times a year. The team lead is Curt Renner and in his absence, Eileen Dubowski has stepped in. The primary focus of the team has been choosing the music that will be used for both the traditional and contemporary services.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions our worship has taken multiple forms. We started the year with online or virtual worship through Facebook Live and YouTube. As COVID-19 numbers declined, in person worship along with online streaming began once again. Especially during the summer when we were able to worship outside. Worship continues both in person and online at this time with restrictions on after service fellowship when the COVID-19 cases are excessive.

The team has been blessed with multiple people, including our youth, which have volunteered their time to assist with worship planning.

Sean Garrison, Vice President
Curt Renner

Faith Formation Report

Faith Formation Overall – Cheryl Park

This year has been a challenge, through a continued Covid Pandemic for bringing people together, however, we have found creative ways to do this. Over the summer, we were fortunate to have great weather for most of our Sundays which allowed us to have outdoor worship and fellowship, with continued social distancing. We were blessed to have many people attend and continued to have to stream our services online.

Many of these we have continued to build faith

- Bible Study on Sunday Scriptures – masked and distanced on Monday mornings at Lord of Life
- Pastor Amanda did a BLOG for 6 months which included weekly Bible Study of a different chapter of a book every week.
- Confirmation – we had two new confirmed members in the church last May and a new confirmation group has just gone underway.
- Vacation Bible School was held the 2nd week in July and had thirteen children attending with the Youth group leading. Meals and many activities were provided. The theme was “Wilderness Escape.”
- We were unable to initiate any new member classes during this period but are working on setting them up in the fall/winter.
- Spiritual Gift Inventory – Congregation filled out a self-assessment on their spiritual gifts. Pastor Amanda provided the list of ways their spiritual gifts could bless the church, youth, community, and others.
- Although we were unable to have our Sunday School for Children and Adults the Youth continued to find ways to meet.

Youth Faith Formation – Kaylee Lindhag

The youth started off in January with a determination to meet regularly every 2 weeks to maintain some sense of normalcy among the pandemic. We continued meeting through the spring and summer and added outdoor activities such as spring clean-up, fire pits and Chena Lakes. As we are headed into fall/winter we are participating in game nights and bible studies. Fundraising activities will be added in anticipation of the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer, 2022. We appreciate the congregation’s support and I appreciate the voice on council on behalf of my peers.

2021 Ministry Team Report: Outreach

The Outreach Team got off to a great start in 2021. We combined the work of Mission and Social Ministries and Evangelism together toward the goal to *strengthen connection between members*.

Even with the pandemic still impacting so much of our lives, our church outreach was far and wide. Lord of Life continues to engage with a growing faith community through Facebook posts and live worship services. The church office and volunteers picked up a second day of distributing food boxes to those community members in need, along with bonus Farm to Table boxes this year. This summer, we returned to our outdoor worship space for Sunday services and finally got to enjoy some great Lutheran fellowship with fun food themes, grilling, a six foot sub sandwich, and coffee (of course!). Don't forget our Sunday, October 31st, Reformation Sunday Celebration for all ages! We prayed and bought meals for our Loving Families through Love INC early in the year and are ready to host again when local families are can safely come back into the church to stay the week. We continue to provide weekend school-age lunches to our local students (up to 55 last spring and starting this fall with 25). Our sewing team sent 150 feminine hygiene kits with Bethel Church's missionaries and are geared up to make 80+ more kits.

Special thanks to Pastor Amanda for creating a beautiful church directory with photos and contact information to keep us connected for years to come.

In addition, our church building is a ministry to our community for 14 hours each week! We host two Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings (AA), two Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) groups, two Girl Scout Troops, and the 17-mile Homemakers.

Thank you all for your support of these programs throughout the year.

Liz Sandbo & Denise Hradecky, Outreach Team

STEWARDSHIP

Our new structure of council works to expand what we think of as “stewardship” to reach beyond what we put in the offering plate. The work of stewardship is to promote a “consciousness of **finances, facilities, and faithful use of abilities** in all members throughout the year” (from our Constitution, chapter 13 point 07.04.)

As to the first thing you think of: your **financial** generosity and support of God’s work at Lord of Life is what makes all these ministries possible. Throughout the second year of the pandemic, you have provided enough to keep our building warm and lit and available to groups needing healing. You’ve kept faithful with Pastor Amanda’s salary so we didn’t have to cut her hours. We have cut down on costs by installing LED lights, using fewer office supplies, being creative with VBS supplies (and returning the extras) and turning the thermostats down. When we called for financial support in September, you responded quickly and generously. Thank you.

For the **facility**, Kevin Marshall continues to donate his time twice a month to clean our building. He is faithful, thorough, and generous in this work. We have hired Jesse Fults (nephew of Gary Ojala) to clean the other weeks. We have cleared out clutter (old books not used, broken items, kitchen extras). Bob Thoma has been our solo snowplow each winter, though we’d like to have someone share the work. Al Griswold, Kevin Powers, Evan Keil, and Tim Schackman meticulously care for our grounds while Carol Dahl, Penny Warnke, and Dixie Keil tend the gardens. Thank you.

And the **faithful use of abilities**, we continue to invite everyone’s participation in ministry. Partners have organized storage spaces, provided skill in broadcasting worship, led parts of worship, adorned our church with flowers and banners, rearranged spaces, cleaned nooks and crannies, and offered themselves as teachers, leaders, care-givers, and helping hands on many different projects. Thank you.

New to 2021 was a Spiritual Gift Inventory, a 60-question survey of your interests and gifts. Didn’t know that was stewardship, did you? We provided devotions and suggested ways to engage your faith through Lord of Life’s ministries. Council has the compilation of your gifts, so expect to be contacted so you can put your faith to work for the glory of God! Thanks be to God!

Stewardship team members,
Samantha Aleshire and Pastor Amanda Kempthorne