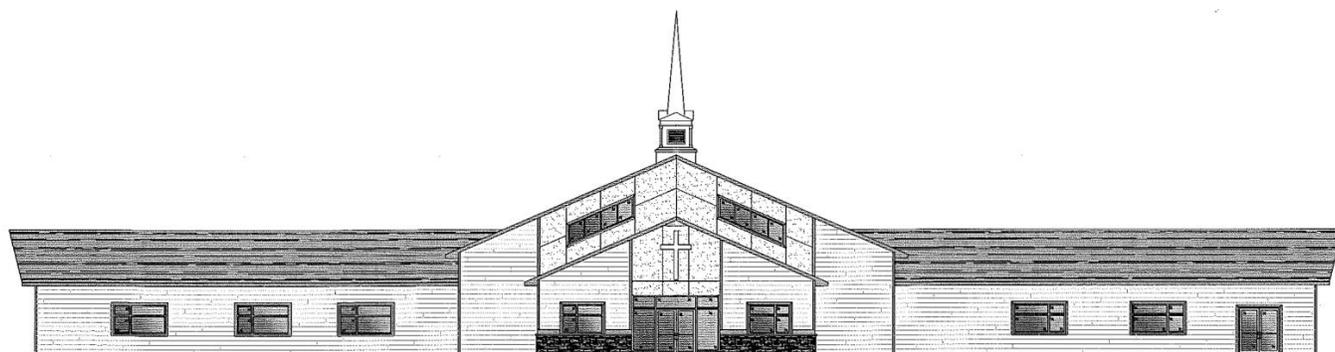


FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 7, 2021



lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Clear Lake, Wisconsin

Annual Meeting

February 7, 2021

(Reports given for 2020)

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2021 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

February 7, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order
2. 2020 Minutes
3. Review of Reports
 - a. Pastor
 - b. President
 - c. Finance
 - d. Property
 - e. Other Reports
4. Council Elections
5. Proposed Budget
6. Other Business
7. Adjourn

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff – 2020

Pastor..... Bryan Anderson
Sunday School Superintendent..... Patti Wyss
Custodian..... Julie Barfknecht
Office Administrator..... Terri Moe
Treasurer..... Jocelyn Ramsey
Music Director..... Brian Wick
Pianist..... Sheryl Wirth

Church Council Officers – 2020

President Dale Wirth
Vice President Dick Becker
Secretary..... Linda McIntire

Church Council Members

Until 2021

Dick Becker
Dennis Luehman
Linda McIntire
Dale Wirth

Until 2022

Laura Boche-Case
Curtis Glaesemann
Liane Petersen
Tim Wyss

Until 2023

Dick Buhr
Janette Cain
Aaron Johnson
Jennifer Munson



ANNUAL REPORT FROM PR. RANDY FREUND, SERVICE COORDINATOR

Like everything else in our lives, COVID-19 continues to dominate the ministry and mission of the Augustana District.

There are many positives that have come from this.

- Pastors and leaders have connected more often through Zoom meetings. This has helped increase communication and support.
- We had a successful and helpful webinar on communion practices during COVID-19. We hope to offer more webinars like this.
- Because of restrictions, we have become more creative in meetings and ways to accomplish ministry goals. Our Annual Convention was a prime example of a successful, creative, virtual and in-person experience.

There have been negatives, as well.

- While Zoom meetings have been helpful, they have also made us painfully aware of our isolation.
- We have seen increased pastoral and congregational stress as in-person worship services, visitations and programmatic ministries are navigated.
- Congregations are relational organizations by nature and by design. The inability to gather in usual ways has had an adverse effect on our congregations. In joys and sorrows, we move forward in faith and hope.

Looking ahead: One of the exciting and important outcomes for the Annual Convention is something called the **2020 Initiative**. At the convention, we looked back on our first ten years. We now look forward to the next phases of the Augustana District. Here are some goals and challenges the Convention laid before us.

AD 2020 Initiative Plan

Highlights and Goals.

1. At the Theological Conference we discussed promoting a senior high youth event at the 2021 AD Convention. It is important to share the need for pastors to identify youth who may be candidates for ministry work. When considering a convention theme we want to consider topics that will also be of interest to high schoolers.
2. We hope to publicize and host a youth event in conjunction with the AD Convention. This may be a modification of the previously mentioned senior high event.
3. From this group and from pastor's suggestions we want to develop a Youth Task Force.
4. This, hopefully, extends into some summer intern/creative staffing situations.
5. As these youth enter college; we want to follow them to campuses to begin campus ministry sites. Meeting with current campus ministers to learn what is successful for them will be beneficial.
6. Hopefully this develops into summer camp ministries as well.
7. Develop a Mission Start in Minneapolis area (West-Metro)

Initial Goal: \$35,000

Transition Ministry – This plan is under development. The basic concept is to provide a pastor or pastoral team to serve for a 4-6-week time of transition when a pastor leaves. This would be a service provided before the congregation starts the search for pulpit supply, interim, or begins the call process.

New Health Insurance option for AD congregations – The Hahn Financial Group has been meeting with Augustana Leaders about a group health insurance option for pastors and staff of Augustana District congregations. The prospects for and benefits of this plan look promising.

Giving – While we are currently experiencing a slight decrease in giving, throughout this time of COVID-19, congregational and individual support for the District has been consistent and strong. THANK YOU!

Thanks – The leadership of the District Council and the staff (Becky, Wendy, Niki and Karen) is a gift to all of us. God is faithful!

In Christ,
Pastor Randy Freund Service Coordinator Augustana District

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, February 9, 2020

Call to Order: Dale Wirth called the meeting to order, with 62 voting members present.

2019 Minutes: Motion made by Mike Johnson to approve minutes. Bill McIntire seconded motion and motion was carried with unanimous consent.

Various reports were reviewed.

Election of Council members: Five church members are running for Council: Aaron Johnson, Jenny Munson, Janette Cain, Dick Buhr, and Tim Wyss. Brian Wick made a motion to accept nominees for Council. Richard Selvig seconded motion and motion was carried unanimously.

Proposed Budget for 2020: Tim Wyss made a motion to approve budget. Seconded by Mike Johnson and was accepted.

Dick Becker made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Submitted by,
Linda McIntire, Secretary

2020 Pastoral Acts

7 Baptisms

Brooks Cardinal	Rowan Ruble
Kinzie Fleming (adult)	Hallie Tomesh
Aliya Kuhn	Klara Tomesh
Carson Olson	

5 Confirmation Class

Bailey Alvermann
Andrew Campion
Delaney Johnson
Kelli Niles
Mason Olson

8 First Communion Class

Devin Alvermann	Brennon Colbeth
Andrew Buhr	Max Everts
Seth Cain	Benjamin LaBeree
Jerret Case	Natalie Petersen

3 Funerals

James McNamara
Asha Nagy
John Rudeen

17 New Members Received

Amanda Greenlee (Anthony, Quinn)
Leroy & Liz Johnson
Carol Kobernick*
Jennifer Morse
Andrew & Ashly Ninke (Elizabrin, Benstrum, Bristle)
Elaine Solum*
Josh & Kristen Wallace (Arianna, Everett)

*Associate Members

8 Members Transferred Out

Darin & Nicole Anderson (Parker & Logan)
Carol Flath
Bethany Harper (Braxton)
Brittany (Campion) Tetzlaff

PASTOR'S REPORT

Given February 7, 2021, summarizing January 1-December 31, 2021

Beloved in Christ, grace to you and peace. Allow me to express my sincere appreciation for the ministry we share as we enter our 15th year together.

WORSHIP

Worship went quite routinely until the Pandemic hit. By order of the governor, we closed public worship on March 22nd. We went online via Facebook and offered drive-up worship until we were able to return to in person worship on June 21st. Your congregation was the first to return to indoor public worship in Clear Lake. We continue to offer the livestream option and hope to upgrade our equipment after the telephone company finishes their broadband installation this winter.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Our Sunday School closed after the Pandemic first hit. Theresa Anderson drew up online material for families to use in their homes. Vacation Bible School was also cancelled over the summer but we have since returned to regular Sunday School for those willing to come. What a joy to have a modified Christmas program this year. The addition of bells thanks to the Levenodski family was a real treat. Don't forget to let Patti Wyss, Sunday School superintendent and our volunteers know they are appreciated!

At first our Confirmation meetings used Zoom to hold classes but we are back to Wednesday gatherings. The addition of a dedicated youth room has been well received. Emily Nilssen donated the furniture and air hockey along with an anonymous donor gifting us a new foosball table – thank you! We look forward to a High School servant trip to Milwaukee this summer along with Bible camp.

BIBLE STUDY

High School and Junior High youth are now meeting for a weekly Bible fellowship on Wednesdays calling it their First Brew.

All through the Pandemic we continued with our men's Bible study and one of the women's studies. Our office remained open as well for many drop-in visits. Communion was shared and I enjoyed going to homes by request. Though offering these services came at some risk, this is what Christ expects, we are servants of the cross.

MISSIONS

We are greatly blessed with generous monetary mission support this year despite the circumstances. All of our benevolence commitments were met and exceeded. Over 100 quilts were brought to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul along with dozens of school kits for kids across the world. It was so moving to see our collection bin for Christmas

gifts overflow. Many local children were blessed! We look forward to Red Cross Blood Drives, an Easter Egg Hunt outreach and much improvements to our atmosphere of hospitality this new year. You are always welcome to take knitted shawls to give to anyone and keep filling the collection basket for the food pantry in our entry.

MEMBERSHIP

Despite the Pandemic we welcomed 17 new members into the congregation this year. Help us warmly greet all new faces. This can be a challenge with masks but it's so very important to do. All need to feel the love and embrace of Christ. Currently our total membership is at 611. As the Pandemic winds down we do hope to activate those who have been in "hibernation". Let's commit to that goal together.

FINANCES

We must say a word of sincere thanks for the sacrifice of so many who helped us meet all our budget expenses and mission commitments this year. Even those who haven't been able to come in person often stop by or mail in offerings. The office has set up convenient giving with a QR code form our bulletins or online via our website link. Praise God that our Building Project is finally complete. We will have to service a \$4,620/month debt load but if our generous giving continues that should not be a problem.

In closing, I thank you all for what God has been able to accomplish through us during 2020 – even during a Pandemic! Let us be in prayer as we seek to do God's will this year and grown His Kingdom.

Christ's Servant,
Pastor Bryan Anderson

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a blessing and an honor to serve as your Council President in 2020. A special thank you to all council members and especially those retiring after this year. Your dedication and love of the Lord and his Church has made this year very enjoyable and productive. I ask each congregational member to consider volunteering as a council member at some point. I believe you will find the experience very rewarding.

To say that 2020 was a challenge would be an understatement. In March most of us had our world changed dramatically and the Church was no different. On St. Patrick's Day the Governor limited all gatherings to less than 10 people and closed most businesses that were deemed non-essential and that included the Church. Pastor Bryan and others jumped into action and live streamed services on Facebook and the Church bought a FM radio tuner and broadcast the services to those wishing to hear them in their cars. Sherry, I and Shirley were one of those cars that drove up to listen to the service. Going somewhere, even to a parking lot, seemed comforting and Shirley loved it when Pastor, Theresa and the kids would wave out the door after the service was complete. During this time Pastor had many visits with people who wanted to talk or who were struggling. The council called Church members just to see how people were doing and, in some cases, needed items were purchased and taken to them. We tried three outdoor services but by the third one it was obvious that God wanted nothing to do with that as I have never seen such windy days. The camera blew over and broke at the second service we tried and at the start of the third it appeared the whole trailer holding Pastor would blow over. Theresa bravely said, "let's go inside" and we all gladly followed. How good it felt to be back in Church. In May the requirements for the number of people meeting at gatherings raised but our new sanctuary would not be ready until the 21st of June so we battled on until that day when we could open. It was not the grand opening we had hoped for but for those that were there it was wonderful.

It is easy to focus on the negative but in 2020 the Church has had a lot of things to be thankful for and some positive things did happen. First, our new sanctuary was complete and came in under budget. We were able to ask Bremmer to re-amortize the loan and we were able to significantly lower our monthly mortgage commitment. At last year's annual meeting we highlighted our desire to increase our junior and senior high school youth activities. We now have a youth room and have had very good numbers for youth events when we have been able to hold them. Also, the Church started a First Brew & You youth breakfast and bible study lead by Erica Monson, Jocelyn Ramsey, and Patti Wyss. The number of youth attending has been impressive, and we thank these three for leading this group and strengthening outreach to our youth. The numbers show our youth believe and want to learn more about God's word if we give them the opportunity. Probably the biggest thing to be thankful for (and it is sad that we even must consider this a success), is that we are open! Many Churches are still not open as of this writing (Jan. 2021) and it is evident by the number of people who are coming from other churches to our services at a regular basis. People want to fellowship with other believers and hear the word of God and feel his presence. For many a video feed does not give that. In the middle of any turmoil, whether it's a pandemic or some other disaster, people want to know and feel God's presence and the strength the Church can provide in these times.

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:1 "*But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come*". We do not know when Jesus will return, however this year was a good test to ask the questions, are you ready? Where does your strength lie in times of sorrow and need?

Dale Wirth
Council President

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – 2020

- January** Approved 2020 budget to go before the Annual Meeting.
- February** Elected Council officers: Dale Wirth, President; Dick Becker, Vice President; Linda McIntire, Secretary. Approved support of Easter Egg Hunt outreach and gift of \$500 to Lawrence Sarker.
- March** Public gatherings closed by Governor Evers. Contingency plans made to continue basic operations during Pandemic.
- April** **No Meeting.**
- May** Discussed finishing of Building Project. Will return to indoor worship after building inspector approves public occupancy by June. Will hold outdoor services until that time.
- June** Inside worship approved to begin June 21st. Discussed options to continue Livestream indefinitely.
- July** **No Meeting.**
- August** Heard from committee planning Women's Event. Approved space for youth room.
- September** Researching new bank relationship. Postponed Women's Event until February 2021. Investigating website upgrade.
- October** Mortgage finalized with monthly payment of \$4,620. Discussed planning for Memorial Garden.
- November** Decided Sunday school should close if local school should need to close. Approved Christmas Eve Services at 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Christmas Day 10:00 AM.
- December** Motion to pay any surplus receipts to mortgage. Decided to purchase signage for church from Highway 63. Heard Paycheck Protection Loan will be forgiven.

We thank the following Council members for their service this past year:

Dick Becker (Vice-President)
Laura Boche-Case
Dick Buhr
Janette Cain
Curtis Glaesemann
Aaron Johnson
Dennis Luehman
Linda McIntire (Secretary)
Jennifer Munson
Liane Petersen
Dale Wirth (President)
Tim Wyss

2021 COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Council is an elected body of 12 members serving 3-year terms on a rotating basis. The Council meets monthly to oversee the ministry of the congregation and its pastor. Each member also serves on one committee and serves as an offering counter and communion assistant on a rotating schedule. A group of four comes up for election at each Annual Meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor:

Term expires Jan. 2021	Term expires Jan. 2022	Term expires Jan. 2023
Dick Becker	Laura Boche-Case	Dick Buhr
Dennis Luehman	Curtis Glaesemann	Janette Cain
Linda McIntire	Liane Petersen	Aaron Johnson
Dale Wirth	Tim Wyss	Jennifer Munson

Nominees/Incumbent*

1. Dennis Luehman*
2. Dale Wirth*
3. Bill McIntire
- 4.

SAMPLE COUNCIL BALLOT **First Evangelical Lutheran Church – 2021** **Vote for 4 for a 3-year term and 1 for a 2-year term.**

Dennis Luehman	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dale Wirth	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill McIntire	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Nominees will also be taken from the floor at the Annual Meeting.)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you enjoy crocheting or knitting but don't have an outlet for your craft? The Prayer Shawl group is always open to new members. We meet once a month on the last Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. and share a cup of coffee and a snack and a little conversation while we work on our current project for an hour. Finally, we pray for all the recipients and those in need we have ministered to and we are done for the month. All was put on hold during the Pandemic yet we look forward to starting up again as conditions allow.

Maybe you don't have time for meetings, but you are more than welcome to donate whatever you make. Just leave them in the quilting room or the office with your name attached.

Ten prayer shawls were given out in 2020. If you know someone who could use the comfort of having a shawl with extra prayers woven into the pattern to help them heal, racks of available shawls are in the fellowship hall and office entry. Take what you need but leave a name on the clipboard, so we can pray for the recipient.

So, don't feel at a loss while your husband is watching sports on TV or off hunting or fishing. Grab some yarn and your needles of choice and get started constructing a warm hug wrapped in lots of prayer. Someone will be very appreciative.

WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW) 2020

Due to Covid-19, the 2020 year was quite different from previous years. In January, the WOW account at Associated Bank was closed. New accounts were opened at Westconsin Credit Union. Associated Bank had been charging a monthly fee to keep our account there and WCU does not charge us any fees to have our accounts with them. In fact, we receive a dividend at WCU on our account.

The annual Smorgasbord also had changes. No meal was served but the Smorgasbord Bake Sale netted \$975.05. We were unable to have a potluck lunch in June. In the past, we used these funds to go toward camperships. We were able to sponsor one campership for \$150.00 in 2020. We were also able to donate to our favorite local charities.

All women belong to the WOW group. We look forward to the time when we will be able to attend Bible Study Circles on a regular basis. All are welcome to join a Bible Study Circle of their choice. The Afternoon Stars meet the 1st Thursday of the month @ 1:00 p.m. at the church. Priscilla meets the second Thursday of the month @ 11 a.m. (or time chosen by host) in the member's homes. Joanna meets the second Thursday of the month at Ridgeview @ 1:00 p.m. Evening Grace Circle meets at the church the last Monday of the month @ 7:00 p.m. As of this writing (January 2021), the only Circle meeting is the Evening Grace Circle. All women are invited to attend the Evening Grace Circle led by Pastor Bryan.

Thank you for your continued interest and support with all of our fund raising projects to which you give so generously. We meet quarterly or when necessary to plan an upcoming event. There is no planned meeting at the present time.

Thank you to all the women of First Lutheran for your generosity and hard work! Our continued success is possible due to your generosity and support.

Barb Anderson, WOW Secretary

MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY

For 30 years now, the **Lutheran Men in Mission for Christ (LMMC)** has been the men's ministry at First Lutheran Church. It provides fellowship and spiritual growth through Bible study. The group meets on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month. All men are welcome and come from at least three area churches. Throughout the pandemic we have continued to meet twice a month but have discontinued serving breakfast before the Bible study. We average 8-10 participants. The morning activities include coffee and Bible study lead by Pastor Bryan from 7:00 to 8:00. In 2020, we finished the book of Daniel, spent some time going through Proverbs and just recently began the book of Revelation. We usually read and discuss one chapter of the book during a session, so we will be studying Revelation for the remainder of 2021.

No prior Bible study experience is needed in order to join this group. If you want Christian fellowship with other men and to explore your faith through Bible study, join us. No reservations are necessary. The church office will even put you on a mailing list to receive a reminder if you want.

To support church mission projects, in 2016 we began selling shopping cards to some of our favorite local merchants. The shopping cards are available at church each Sunday and can be used like a debit or gift card. The men's group purchases the cards at a discounted price from the merchants and makes them available to you at face value. The card's value never expires and you receive the full value of your purchase! When you shop local with these cards from the men's group, you are supporting local businesses while supporting church missions.

Among the ongoing missions of the LMMC is the monthly financial support of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). The area CEF office is located on the second floor of the Clear Lake Community Center and Pastor Bryan serves on their board. LMMC has also financially supported the youth Servant Trip, has supplied apples for the Sunday School Christmas program. We also recently purchased a defibrillator for the church. The number of missions supported can increase as more funds become available through your purchase of local shopping cards.

Tim Wyss
LMMC President

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION FOR CHRIST

TREASURER'S REPORT – 2020

RECEIPTS

Offering	281.00
Gift Card Sales	19,238.00
Dividend	.32
AED Donations	<u>175.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$19,694.32

DISBURSEMENTS

Gift Card Purchase	17,943.50
AED Defibrillator	1,208.00
Child Evangelism Fellowship	385.00
Becker Lawn Care	275.00
FFA Alumni	88.50
Youth Mission	200.00
Gifts	100.00
Membership Savings	<u>5.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$20,205.00

CHECKING ACCOUNT

January 1, 2020	\$5,038.34
2020 Receipts Deposited	<u>+19,694.32</u>
Total	\$24,732.66
2020 Disbursements	-20,205.00
	<u>\$4,527.66</u>
Outstanding Check	<u>+190.00</u>
Balance-December 31, 2020	\$4,717.66

Value of Cards on Hand - \$1,495.00

Michael Johnson
LMMC Treasurer

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

CRADLE ROLL

In 2020 we added six lambs to the Sunday School banner in the church. One for each child baptized by the congregation. These lambs go up on the date of a child's baptism and are sent to them on their 3rd birthday, along with a Beginner's Bible thanks to the Women of the Word. Children enter Sunday school following this ministry at 4 years old and continue through 6th grade when Confirmation instructions begins at 7th grade.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are currently 66 children enrolled in our Sunday School program (ages 4 through grade 6), but attendance has been sporadic because of the Pandemic.

First Communion for last year's fifth-grade students was postponed because of the Pandemic and rescheduled to Sunday, October 18th with eight participating: Devin Alvermann, Andrew Buhr, Seth Cain, Jerret Case, Brennon Colbeth, Max Everts, Benjamin LaBeree and Natalie Petersen.

First Lutheran Church continues to utilize the rotational model for Sunday school. The Good News Bible was distributed to the ten Sundays school students entering third grade and is used through Confirmation. The Beginners Bible is given to and used by children when they exit the cradle roll and is used through second grade.

The 2019-20 scope and sequence of curriculum lessons used (published by Augsburg Fortress) was: "Joseph and His Brothers", "Solomon Builds a Temple" and "House on the Rock". The last three rotations were cancelled due to the lockdown. Sunday, January 26th was utilized as Bible Camp Promotion Sunday with Heather Eggert, WAPO Camp Director as guest presenter for grades 3-6. Bible Camp had to be cancelled, however.

Rally Sunday was held on September 13th as we kicked off the Sunday school year. Theresa Anderson directed a modified Sunday School Christmas Program with the help of Kristen Wallace. This gift of song and story, "Our Savior is Born" was presented at the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, December 20th.

The rotational model requires the commitment and involvement of numerous members of our church family. As teachers, they bring their talents, experiences and gifts to share with our children. We thank them and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to stir their hearts to stay involved with this very important work of the church. Theresa Anderson and Stacia Hoefflerle continue to write and perform puppet shows to introduce each rotation. We thank Brian Wick for helping with music during opening when possible. We also extend a special thank you to all who volunteer as teachers for their ongoing dedication to the Christian education of the children of First Lutheran.

Submitted by Patti Wyss, Sunday School Superintendent

CONFIRMATION

Five 10th graders were confirmed on Sunday, November 8th. Confirmation instruction is held on Wednesday evenings for 7th-9th graders. Tim Wyss and Theresa Anderson team teach the 7th grade class. They study the Gospel of John. Pastor Bryan is the instructor for the 8th and 9th graders. 8th graders are led through a Bible overview and the 9th grade works their way through the Small Catechism. Youth group and regular worship attendance are also encouraged. Each youth must turn in a minimum of 20 sermon notes a year and acolyte on a rotating basis. All Confirmands are also expected to attend a week of Bible Camp in the summer or a servant trip during the three-year program.

YOUTH

Youth meet at least monthly for faith building, fellowship, and service outreach. The Pandemic put most of youth activities on hold but we have returned to monthly meetings as of late. The addition of Wednesday morning Bible study for church and community youth has also been a highlight. We now have a dedicated youth room and are looking forward to Bible Camp and our servant trip to Milwaukee this summer.

We thank the congregation for its generous support of the youth fundraisers, including special gifts received from both the men and women fellowships. Special thanks to council members Janette Cain and Curtis Glaesemann for leadership in this vital area.

YOUTH TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 395.35	Balance as of January 1, 2020
\$1,985.00	Donations Received and reimbursements to Youth Account for conference and hotel registrations.
\$1,779.60	Disbursements including LCMC Youth Conference and hotel registrations, movie night food & snacks.
\$ 600.75	Ending Balance December 31, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Liane Petersen, Treasurer

Congregational Report 2020

Thank you for being an Association Member Church! 2020 was an incredibly difficult and unpredictable year for churches, camps, and communities. Amidst the challenges of 2020, we are thankful for your partnership and support, and look forward to the opportunities for ministry in 2021. Here are some highlights from 2020 that we lift up with grateful hearts:

An Updated Brand and New Website Way back at the beginning of 2020, before we knew anything about a pandemic, we started on a fantastic journey with a marketing company to create a refreshed brand for the camps of LWLBC and a new website. Check it out! lakewapo.org

Summer 2020 Despite having to cancel all of our traditional summer camp programming we were still able to hire a small summer staff for Wapo/Ox and Wilderness Canoe Base. This group of talented and dedicated young adults created incredible camp experiences that campers and families could enjoy at home. We were sad to not gather in person but so grateful for the ways we could engage with campers virtually. We were able to provide limited cabin space for family rentals and our staff at Wapo and Wilderness were so happy to host real live people!

Retreats and Events in 2020 The COVID-19 health crisis caused a major disruption in our retreat calendar as well. Because this landscape changes quickly and is unpredictable, most of our groups canceled for the year but we were able to safely host a few groups in the Fall. We have implemented even more rigorous cleaning and disinfecting protocols for all of our sites and require masks and social distancing. Many of our normal events had a new look this year as we adapted to drive through versions of the Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast and Christmas Dinner Theater, a shortened and physically distanced Boat-in Worship season, and a golf tournament with picnic meals.

Rooted and Renewed The Rooted & Renewed campaign for Wilderness Canoe Base reached a significant milestone when we raised the \$300,000 needed to pay off the loan used for the final purchase of that site. And now, we are so close to raising the remaining \$100,000 for needed upgrades in the Cove. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Nathan Berkas at nathanb@campwapo.org.

The Gather Campaign for a new Dining Hall and Hospitality Center With the support of our Board, we decided to begin Phase 1 of this project in 2020. We had the funds in hand to begin building and the time was right due to the disruption in hosting guests and events at Camp Wapo. We anticipate that Phase 1 will be complete in time for the summer 2021 program to begin. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to financially support this important project as we continue to raise funds for Phase 2. See building progress at lakewapo.org.

Financial Gifts. 2020 was a rough financial year for so many families, businesses, and organizations. The financial impact of the pandemic is far reaching and long lasting. Here at camp we experienced an estimated \$2.3 million loss in summer and retreat program revenue. We adjusted our budget by reducing our expenses by 40% sustaining only our essential day to day operations. We could not have financially survived 2020 without the incredible support we have received from our partner churches and individuals. We are humbled and blessed by your generosity.

Leadership Transition. We are so grateful for the care and leadership that Pastor Jeff Barrow provided as Interim Program Director. As we said goodbye to Jeff in December, we welcomed Pastor Suzi Orlopp as the Director of Programs and Retreats for Camp Wapo and Ox Lake. Suzi brings a great deal of energy and expertise, coupled with her longstanding love and admiration for outdoor ministry.

Risk Management and Youth Protection In a year where nothing was normal, our mission was critical, "places of grace forming people of faith". LWLBC has the primary purpose of providing opportunities for campers to discover, build, and celebrate their relationships with Christ, the church and each other. We are passionate about proclaiming the good news of Jesus to kids in safe spaces. This year we prioritized improving our policies and procedures so we are well poised and ready for 2021. You can find our policies at lakewapo.org.

Our theme for 2021 is "Just Love" Psalm 33:5 says, "The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord". This theme will help us focus on living out justice that is formed and shaped by the unearned and utterly gracious love of God, which is longer, higher, wider and deeper than we can imagine. We look ahead with eager anticipation and a sure sense of hope.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Our time of worship happens when we gather around the Word and hear about what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. The Word we hear comes to us through the scriptures, the sermon, and the music. Our “School of Faith”, as Pastor likes to call our worship time together, is a time for us to refresh our souls and to prepare us to go out and “grow God’s family by serving”.

This past year has been a challenge for that proclamation of the Word to happen. We started out the year as normal but by March, everything changed. There is much that could be said about the efforts made to make sure our message of faith was available to our members and to the mission field around us. The decision was made to try a Facebook live stream, with a simplified worship setting when we were not allowed to have in person worship. This happened during the Sunday worship time and on the Wednesday Lent services through May. We also set up an FM radio transmitter that would broadcast out into the parking lot so people could drive to church on a Sunday morning and listen on the car radios. We kept that routine in place until Pentecost Sunday. The service was going to be all outdoors with Pastor leading the service from a trailer in front of the church. As the service was going to start, the wind started to pick up and became too much to have things work out so we moved everything inside and those people in the parking lot were invited inside as well. This was also about the time when health officials did allow things to open up to allow people in for live attendance provided we follow safe guidelines like mask wearing, safe distancing, and attendance limits.

The beginning of June began a new era for our church. The new worship space opened up. It is a very nice space with good acoustics and lots of seating. It’s good to have more space as more people want to get back in person worship. We still ask for people to be safe around our fellow members with mask wearing and distancing in the pews. We do continue the Facebook live stream along with the radio transmission at 87.9 FM. The sermon is also recorded and available on YouTube titled “Clear Lake First Evangelical Church Sermon”. A YouTube link to these sermons can also be found on the church’s web page.

Many thanks go out to Pastor, Theresa, Isaac, Lily, Kathy, Patti, Josh Wallace, and Dale Rosen for their efforts from the beginning of our Facebook live streams to the present time. In some shape or form, these individuals have helped set up and run the operations to make our streaming work. Modern technology is great when it works. There are times, however, that there are problems with that technology. We are aware that the picture is not always the best and sometimes the sound isn’t the best and sometimes the picture will freeze up. That is a problem that is connected with the internet service we have. Our connection at church is as high as we can get at this time. This will change as soon as Nextgen gets the fiber optic project complete in the village and hooked up. Some of the problem is on the church’s end but some of it may be your own internet speed. Once this fiber optic plan goes in effect, things should clear up on our end at least. All I ask is to please be patient. I also ask for that patience as we worship in the new worship space. With anything new, there are some little issues that need to be worked out especially with the adjustments to the sound system. It is a work in progress as we figure out settings to make the sound better.

Finally, a quick thank you to all those people and musicians who do great things to make our worship services happen. Computer/video screen operators, worship team, choir, special music performers, puppets, and ushers - THANK YOU!!! The choir has been meeting using good measures recommended for performing groups. We are working at getting all the members back on and welcome anyone interested to join us at 7:00 PM on Sundays.

We have added many technology programs to aid in our worship experience. These were added to make sure all of our members had a way to have a worship experience during the Pandemic. Many people did not feel comfortable coming to church in person and still have reservations. We will continue to offer the broadcasts to reach such members. At the same time, our broadcasts have been a witness to people outside of our church family. People from the area have expressed their gratitude. We have received comments and thanks from people outside of our immediate area and from out of state who have been able to watch broadcasts. We are making a difference in peoples' lives with what we are doing here.

To God be the glory for all He has done for us.

Brian Wick
Worship and Music Director

OUTREACH REPORT - 2020

The Outreach Committee started off the year with a Red Cross blood drive on January 13th. We filled 22 of our 28 appointment slots and collected 33 units, surpassing our 27 unit goal!

On January 16th we enjoyed helping out with the annual Empty Bowls Event at the High School. Funds raised support the weekend backpack supplemental food program of our district.

Due to Covid-19 there was no Easter egg hunt outreach last year.

September 11th we donated four boxes of quilts and 58 school kits to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul. These items will be used around the world.

Thank you to all the volunteers who help make these events possible.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda McIntire

Lifeline Food Pantry – 2020

*“And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”
Hebrews 13:16*

Another year has passed and what a year it has been trying to navigate our way through a pandemic. The food pantry had to make some changes in how we distributed food, but we seemed to have found a way that worked well for everyone. We could not have completed these changes without the help of our many volunteers and because of the generosity of our supporters, Lifeline Food Pantry was able to offer food assistance to many families in the Clear Lake and Clayton area. In the beginning we were not able to accept food donations, but our local communities continued to be generous with gifts of cash donations. We are thankful for the overwhelming support we have received.

Our donations come from churches and church groups, community drives, civic clubs and groups, individuals and local businesses. The bulk of our purchases are from Second Harvest Heartland; the upper mid west’s largest hunger relief organization. As an agency partner, we can receive items from them for pennies per pound, thus monetary donations go a lot farther.

Lifeline Food Pantry is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

We are open for service twice a week and emergency contact information is posted for those in need on the Clear Lake Community website. During 2020, LFP distributed over 65 ton of food. We supported an average of 83 families that followed our once per month visit policy. We sincerely respect our client’s privacy and confidentiality is a priority. The statistics below represent annual service activity.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of families	1738	1530	1526	1479	1007
Individuals in these families	4328	3665	3683	3499	2392
Adults 18 & older	2909	2536	2513	2436	1720
Children under 18	1419	1129	1170	1063	672

LFP continues to operate as a host site in Westcap’s seven county service area for the seniors only Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Low income seniors who are pre-qualified (age 60+ and at or below 139% of the federal poverty level) receive a box of assorted commodity foods as nutrition supplement. The USDA commodities arrive at the pantry and LFP distributes on behalf of Westcap. This service is separate from the normal pantry monthly service. This year we served an average of 53 individuals on this monthly program.

We are truly blessed with many volunteers who unselfishly share their time, talents and energy in picking up and helping to organize and distribute food. Thank you to all who generously offer help in any way. God bless you as you continue to support LFP’s mission to fight hunger in our community.

Deb Arcand/Kim Patterson, Co-Administrators

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

First Lutheran Church completed a 28-year journey on July 30, 2020 with the final “pay request” for the building of the new sanctuary. In the end, the project was completed with a balance of \$30,099.50 on our approved loan. We completed the project under budget!

In 1993, we began an organized effort to identify the long-range needs of the church. We then addressed the challenge of how to best meet those needs as we worked to continue our mission of “Growing God’s Family Through Serving”. With the completion of the sanctuary project, we have now faithfully addressed those needs.

Many people have worked on this project along the way. The most recent building committee consisted of Pastor Bryan, Bob Croes, Gary Hanson (co-chair), Jack Jungmann, Bert and Sharon Petersen, Dale Rosen, Dick Sullwold, Jerry Thompson, Tim Wyss and Patti Wyss (co-chair). We owe big debt of gratitude to Terri Moe (church administrator) and Jocelyn Ramsey (treasurer) for their time and talents in helping with the loan paperwork which required identifying a lot of financial history. The leadership of Council President, Dale Wirth and Jason Monson, our resident electrician, has also been instrumental in the completion of this project. Great thanks is finally extended to every member of the congregation for your encouragement, support and prayers along the way.

Submitted by, Patti Wyss & Gary Hanson, Co-chairs

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Our accomplishments this year have been a little more interesting to get done during the Pandemic, but we were still able to get the lights in the fellowship area and women’s bathroom repaired thanks to Jason and Terry Monson. All the ropes on the playground set along with some boards that were rotting were replaced with the help of Dennis Nelson. We helped the decorating committee put up wall hangings with assistance from Patti Wyss. Routine maintenance included fixing a water leak on the coffee maker and replacement of batteries on the automatic faucets in the bathrooms.

Thanks to Dean Scholz for watering the new grass seeding around the church addition and to all of the volunteers who mow the lawn and keep the sidewalks shoveled, along with the many other things that get done around here that we don’t even know about. Finally we invite everyone to keep your eyes open and let us know if anything needs attention.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dick Becker & Dennis Luehman

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – 2020

We continue to receive financial blessings to support the mission of our church, “Growing God’s Family by Serving.” This report outlines the activities of the congregation’s Finance committee.

This year has brought about a significant number of changes in our church and our world. The Pandemic brought about a shut-down of our church for a period of time, disruption to many of our programs, in addition to hardships for many people both physically and financially.

Jocelyn Ramsey continues as our Treasurer, handling many fiscal responsibilities. She and our Office Administrator, Terri Moe, have assisted in streamlining our procedures, saving time and resources.

Our Church Council took emergency action in March to apply for a loan through the Paycheck Protection Program. This was offered to businesses and non-profits through the federal government. The program was designed to allow businesses and non-profits to receive a 1% interest loan in order to retain their employees through the global pandemic. We were awarded a loan of \$22,800 in April through the program, which was forgiven in November with no interest. These funds have been retained to fund our payroll obligations.

The sanctuary construction project was completed, and we finalized our mortgage loan with Bremer Bank of Amery. We were able to pay down the principle of the loan in advance of the final re-amortization, which lowered our monthly payments from an estimated \$5,016 down to \$4,621 per month. This savings of nearly \$400 per month was significant relative to what we originally anticipated. We were able to more than meet our financial obligations, despite having no income this year from our shake shack, rummage sale or traditional Smorgasbord. Our main income this year came from the generous weekly contributions of our members, in addition to an ‘un-Smorgasbord’ fundraiser, with bake sale, basket raffle and traditional raffle.

We were notified of the closing of our local branch of Associated Bank in December, which has been used as our primary depository and checking accounts. We continue to utilize a different branch of Associated Bank with the hope another bank will purchase the Clear Lake branch in 2021.

Our congregation continues to be blessed by the time, talents and treasures of its membership. We are amazed and grateful to be financially stable and growing God’s family. Thank You!

*For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord,
‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11*

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Wirth, Finance and Stewardship Committee
Liane Petersen, Finance and Stewardship Committee

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

2020 Summary

January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Type	Date	Number	Name	Split	Amount	Balance
First Lutheran Memorial Account	01/01/2020					11,213.09
OUTDOOR SIGNAGE	01/01/2020					<u>1,527.00</u>
Total Outdoor Signage						1,527.00
MEMORIAL GARDEN	01/01/2020					6,002.00
Deposit	08/10/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	20.00	6,022.00
Deposit	12/31/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	<u>200.00</u>	<u>6,222.00</u>
Total Memorial Garden					6,222.00	6,222.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL	01/01/2020					2,627.43
Deposit	01/28/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	30.00	2,657.43
Deposit	05/14/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	15.00	2,672.43
Deposit	06/29/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	5.00	2,677.43
Check	10/08/2020	3502	First Lutheran Church from Memorials	Passthrough Donations	-83.35	2,594.08
Deposit	11/25/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	120.00	2,714.08
Deposit	12/31/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	<u>25.00</u>	<u>2,739.08</u>
Total Sunday School					2,739.08	2,739.08
UNSPECIFIED	01/01/2020					466.66
Deposit	01/28/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	60.00	526.66
Deposit	03/02/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	10.00	536.66
Deposit	05/14/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	160.00	696.66
Deposit	07/14/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	120.00	816.66
Deposit	08/10/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	20.00	836.66
Deposit	08/31/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	25.00	861.66
Deposit	10/13/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	130.00	991.66
Deposit	11/25/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	20.00	1,011.66
Deposit	12/07/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	15.00	1,026.66
Deposit	12/31/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	<u>70.00</u>	<u>1,096.66</u>
Total Unspecified					1,096.66	1,096.66
BUILDING	01/01/2020					590.00
Deposit	01/28/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	205.00	795.00
Deposit	03/02/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	160.00	955.00
Deposit	06/02/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	50.00	1,005.00
Deposit	06/29/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	25.00	1,030.00
Deposit	08/31/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	20.00	1,050.00
Deposit	11/25/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	55.00	1,105.00
Deposit	12/07/2020			Checking- ASSOCIATED	50.00	1,155.00
Check	12/21/2020	3503	First Lutheran Church from Memorials	Mortgage Fund BREMER	<u>-1,155.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Building					0.00	0.00
TOTAL FIRST LUTHERAN MEMORIAL ACCOUNT	12/31/2020				<u>371.65</u>	<u>11,584.74</u>

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

for the year ended December 31, 2020

	TOTAL		
	Jan - Dec 20	Budget	\$ Over Budget
GENERAL FUND			
Income	190,073.03	180,832.00	9,241.03
Total Income	190,073.03	180,832.00	9,241.03
Gross Profit	190,073.03	180,832.00	9,241.03
Expense			
Staff	116,884.76	119,244.00	-2,359.24
Property	27,508.74	33,040.00	-5,531.26
Office	5,596.71	5,748.00	-151.29
Worship	4,063.22	2,300.00	1,763.22
Education	3,627.11	3,500.00	127.11
Missions	12,994.00	12,000.00	994.00
Miscellaneous Expense	1,793.92	5,000.00	-3,206.08
Total Expense	172,468.46	180,832.00	-8,363.54
NET GENERAL FUND	17,604.57	0	17,604.57
BUILDING FUND			
Other Income			
Mortgage Reduction Fund	64,786.18	60,400.00	4,386.18
Interest Income-Building Fund	34.62		34.62
Total Other Income	64,820.80	60,400.00	4,420.80
Other Expense			
Bremer Principal Payments	58,252.41	60,000.00	-1,747.59
Interest Expense-Building Fund	29,884.65		29,884.65
Building Fund Expenditures	2,355.00		2,355.00
Total Other Expense	90,492.06	60,000.00	30,492.06
NET BUILDING FUND	-25,671.26	400.00	-26,071.26

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bank Account Balances As of December 31, 2020

	<u>Dec 31, 20</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Lutheran Memorial Account	11,584.74
Mortgage Fund BREMER	30,001.88
Checking-Gen Fund ASSOCIATED	<u>65,479.36</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>107,065.98</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>107,065.98</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>107,065.98</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00
Bremer Note Payable Principle Balance	\$759,180.32

2021 PROPOSED BUDGET (Rounded)

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed
Staff			
Pastor			
a. Base Salary	56,100	56,100	58,315
b. Social Security Offset	4,294	4,294	4,461
c. Pension	7,700	7,700	8,160
d. Health & Disability	1,500	1,500	1,500
e. Mileage	1,200	0	1,200
f. Continuing Education	600	279	600
g. Supply Pastor	400	0	400
Administrator/Secretary			
a. Salary	27,900	27,900	28,345
b. Continuing Education	300	0	0
Music Director	5,000	5,000	5,000
Pianist	1,200	1,200	1,200
Youth Director	1,200	0	1,200
Treasurer	1,500	1,500	1,500
Custodial Services	7,000	7,000	7,000
Payroll Taxes	3,350	3,259	3,385
Property			
Insurance (Including Workers Comp.)	5,240	4,949	5,000
Communications (Phone/Internet)	1,800	3,391	4,600
Utilities	20,000	12,799	15,000
Maintenance (Includes Gutters and Tree Trimming)	6,000	7,538	8,200
Office			
Postage	1,500	1,270	1,300
Copy Machine	1,048	1,130	1,400
Office Supplies	2,000	1,586	1,500
Software License/QuickBooks	1,200	1,582	1,600
Worship			
Supplies	1,500	3,323	3,000
Offering Envelopes	800	536	600
Education			
Cradle Roll/Sunday School/VBS	1,200	1,063	1,000
Confirmation & Youth	1,000	776	1,200
Adult Education/Library/Devotionals	1,300	1,922	1,300
Missions (See Benevolence Schedule on back.)	12,000	12,000	12,000
Miscellaneous	5,000	1,741	2,000
Total General Fund Budget	180,832	171,338	181,966
Minimum Mortgage Payment (\$4,621 x 12)	60,400	44,126	55,452
Grand Total with Mortgage	241,232	215,464	237,418

2021 BENEVOLENCE SCHEDULE

Month	LCMC	Augustana District	WAPO Bible Camp	Local Ministries	World Ministries
January	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$300 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Lutheran World Relief
February	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$300 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Lutheran World Relief
March	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$300 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Lutheran World Relief
April	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$300 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Christian Carpentry Ministries Rod Elbaor
May	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$250 Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	\$250 Christian Carpentry Ministries Rod Elbaor
June	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$250 Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	\$450 Lutheran Bible Translators
July	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$450 Child Evangelism Fellowship	\$450 Lutheran Bible Translators
August	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$450 Child Evangelism Fellowship	\$450 World Mission Prayer League
September	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$250 Habitat for Humanity	\$450 World Mission Prayer League
October	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$250 Habitat for Humanity	\$450 World Mission Prayer League
November	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$450 Salvation Army	\$450 World Mission Prayer League
December	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$450 Salvation Army	\$450 World Mission Prayer League
TOTALS	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$4,000	\$4,400

Grand Total \$12,000