



ANNUAL REPORT

2020



First Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



A message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear friends in Christ,

Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents, and resources. Yes, This year has been a challenging one! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church and society. We have had to shift the ways we engage in ministry from a focus on in-person worship and meetings to livestream worship, virtual meetings, and gatherings in the parking lot. We have had to shift to teaching children at home and working from home. We have not been able to travel to see friends or relatives or to celebrate life events. This has also been a time to address economic and social justice issues, to shift our thinking and our way of life.

In times such as this, our baptism in Christ makes a difference and makes us different. Like Christians before us, we recall that God is faithful to God's promises and God's people. We see that God enables us to connect with one another even when we are separated. Shifts in the world invite us to be innovative in how we do God's work and reach out to all ages in making disciples. We see that God is at work not only in our buildings but beyond them as well. We have found new ways to serve our neighbors and reach those in need.

As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future. God does continue to bless us! God will provide both relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.” —Ephesians 4:11-16

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING **OPENING** **LITURGY**

Litany

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.

L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...

C. ... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you...

C. ... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...

C. ... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest, and grow in the Spirit.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with

C... wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Build Us Up, Lord

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

Refrain

Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in

faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your

word to spread the news of your Son!

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First Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Agenda
January 24, 2021
10:30 AM

I. Call to Order

II. Devotions - Prayer

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Secretary's report from January 26, 2020

V. Financial Reports

VI. Reports

- a. Synod Reports
- b. Pastor's Report
- c. Committee Reports
 - 1. Financial
 - 2. Nominations
 - 3. Education
 - 4. Worship and Music
 - 5. Stewardship
 - 6. Property
 - 7. Garden of Grace
 - 8. Stewardship
 - 9. Altar Guild
 - 10. Nurse's Oral Report
 - 11. FLCW
 - 12. Memorials

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

- a. Approval of Budget for 2021
- b. LOW BC
- c. Visual sound equipment ordered
- d. Outside Doors
- e. Worship

IX. Adjournment and Lord's Prayer

First Lutheran Church

2020 Annual Meeting - Jan. 26, 2020

The annual meeting of First Lutheran Church was held on Jan. 26, 2020 at 10:50 AM with President, Linda Burk calling the meeting to order. There were 50 members present.

Devotions were led by Pastor Birgitte , reading the Litany in the back of our report.

Approval of the agenda – there was one addition to new business.

Approval of the January 27, 2019 annual meeting minutes – motion was made by Lori Neilsen seconded by Bev Becklund to approve these minutes. MC

Reports - Mark Washburn reported that since this printing the loan for the furnace was paid off. Linda Bauers volunteered to do the memorials.

Jeff Bauers reported on property and what they did last year.

A motion was made by Ruth Lee seconded by Judy Humeniuk to approve all the reports. MC

Election of offices was then opened for discussion –

The Secretary's office was open and Patty Frohreich was nominated.

The Treasurer's office was open, and Mary Sopkowiak was nominated.

Financial secretary was open, and Eileen Cordray was nominated.

A motion was made by Don Smith to cast a unanimous ballot as presented; Judy Humeniuk seconded this motion. MC

President - Linda Burk

Secretary – Patty Frohreich

Financial Sec. - Eileen Cordray

Vice President - Linda Bauers

Treasurer - Mary Sopkowiak

The 2020 Synod/Conference assembly voting members were then discussed. Being we had no one interested to go, the council will try to find someone to represent us at this meeting.

The church boards were then discussed.

Education – Phyllis Paulsen

Nominating committee –

Worship and Music –Sue Smith, Joyce Washburn Sopkowiak and Jim Frohreich

Audit – appointed by council.

Evangelism – Jerry Moline,

Stewardship –Judy Humeniuk and Darcy Hansen

Property – Jeff Bauers, Mark Washburn, John

Mission Endowment Fund - Ruth Lee

Rosie Hanson asked if the annual meeting booklet could be sent out earlier so people could read it over and review things.

Much discussion was held on some of the offices and the description of duties for each one. Judy Humeniuk said she would be willing to go through these.

The mission plan (Budget) for 2020 was then discussed - Motion was made by Don Smith, seconded by Jeannie Haukaas to approve this budget. MC

Old Business:

Constitution and By-laws – ratify vote – a motion was made by Jeannie Haukaas seconded by Karen Hanson to accept changes to our constitution that were updated. MC

New Business:

Visual sound system – was discussed as putting on the memorial list and a motion was made by Don Smith seconded by Lori Neilsen to appoint a team to look into this system with screens or TV's.

Memorial ideas – if anyone has ideas, they are to let the board know.

Podium purchase – there has been money set aside for a new podium for the fellowship hall. President asked for a volunteer to look into purchasing this item. Judy Gubbels and Lori Neilsen volunteered to work on this.

Judy Gubbels also discussed redoing the Sunday School rooms that are being used. They could use paint and some fixing. She encouraged others to help in some of these rooms.

The Lake of the Woods Bible Camp was then discussed, and part of the grounds are going to be put up for sale. The 20 acres by the church was talked about in keeping with the buildings. A motion was made by Jon Hanson seconded by Jeannie Haukaas to look into possibilities to keeping these 20 acres a committee of people from the 3 churches would be on this committee. Eileen Cordray, Jon Hanson and Phyllis Paulsen volunteered to be on this committee from our church.

New signers for the check book need to be approved for the bank. A motion was made by Mark Washburn that President, Linda Burk remain as a signer on the First Lutheran checking account and that incoming treasurer, Mary Sopkowiak be added as a new signer and outgoing treasurer, Mark Washburn be removed as a signer, seconded by Eileen Cordray.

A motion was made by Bev Becklund, seconded by Lori Neilsen to adjourn this meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Smith, Sec.

2020 Presidents Message

Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” How do we sum up 2020 in the life of First Lutheran. In March, COVID-19 threw us a curve ball with the lockdown issued by the state of Minnesota that included churches. While we Lutherans are not big on change, we thought “outside the box” and had online Facebook services, parking lot services, Zoom meetings, and Sunday services available via the telephone. October allowed us back in the sanctuary with masks, social distancing, communion in the pews and no singing.

It has been said that every cloud has a silver lining and First Lutheran’s silver lining was overcoming the obstacles in the way of services in the sanctuary. We look forward to 2021 with the hope of once again worshipping in person with no masks, joyful singing, handshakes and hugs, coffee and fellowship. As a congregation we need to give ourselves a big round of applause for working thru the pandemic with a special thanks to Pastor Birgitte, the councils of the Parish and First Lutheran. God bless us as we venture into 2021.

In Christ,

Linda Bauers, Acting president/VP of First Lutheran Council

2020 Statistical Report

Baptisms		
Forrest Alan Spires		Kaelyn McClain
Lily Rose Spires		Arthur Charles Spires
		<i>Total +4 baptized</i>
Confirmation/Affirmation of Faith		
		<i>Total 0 baptized 0 confirmed</i>
Deaths/Funerals/Memorial Services/Burials		
George Palm		Maxine Dally
Frederick “Curt” Rudd		Helen Curtis
		<i>Total -4 baptized -4 confirmed</i>
Membership		
<i>Transferred to other churches/removed by own request/removed by council action</i>		
Carol Sindelir		Noah Olson
Bryce Palm		Sarah Palm
		<i>Total -4 baptized -4 confirmed</i>
<i>Members Received</i>		
Twyla Gjovik		
		<i>Total +1 baptized +1 confirmed</i>
	Baptized	Confirmed
December 31, 2019	713	460
December 31, 2020	710	457



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

"Simeon took [the baby Jesus] in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'"

- Luke 2:28-32

Dear Beloved in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

I am writing in the final days of 2020, a year we will be happy to put behind us! In Luke 2, old Simeon meets the baby Jesus and praises God, because in this child the long era of Israel's oppression was behind them and a new era of salvation was dawning. Yet the baby Jesus was, like all babies, all promise and no product. Simeon may have died a satisfied man, but had he lived 33 more years, he would have seen Jesus fulfill some promises... and leave others yet to be fulfilled. Now we live in "the time between." This is the time between the revelation of Emmanuel, God with us in all of life, and the time when Jesus "will come again to judge the living and the dead," bringing justice and healing to all. In this time, we walk with the faith of Simeon, thanking God for the salvation we have seen and trusting God for the salvation yet to come. Our Gospel work is also shaped by the "in-between-ness" of these times. We are reassured by the countless ways that God has been faithful to us and to our church in the past, even while we trust that God will continue to show up for us in the daunting challenges we face in the future.

Please take a look at the enclosed/attached document which describes just some of the work we've been about as your synod staff this last year. This list is by no means comprehensive (that would be long, and possibly boring!). It's just the result of some brainstorming at one staff meeting last fall.

Since the start of the pandemic, I've understood our work to be keeping people connected, encouraged, informed and resourced. This has involved weekly and now semi-monthly virtual gatherings with rostered leaders, weekly and now monthly virtual meetings with congregation presidents, along with what has now become a vast collection of resources for church leadership in time of pandemic, COVID safety resources, virtual ministry resources, online worship services, etc.

This last year we've also been hard at work on our new strategic plan for the NW MN Synod. The plan flows from our vision: a people set free by the Gospel to be wholly devoted to Jesus and our neighbor in love. It is guided by our mission to foster safe and healthy places for the ministry of the Gospel to unfold and to shape an abundant future for all. It will focus on four lines of effort: vital small-membership congregations, leadership development, striving for justice and peace and responding to emerging change. Watch for more information on the strategic plan early this year.

Dear ones, thank you for your faithfulness in the Gospel! When the pandemic hit, you quickly adapted and found ways to share the good news in changed and challenging circumstances. Thanks also for your generosity that makes ministry happen, not only there in your congregation, but through your Mission Support, all across NWMN and around the world! Good work. Be encouraged: we are in this together.

In Christ our Brother,

Pastor Bill Tesch, Bishop of the NWMN Synod of the ELCA



Northwestern Minnesota Synod - 222 Congregations Better Together in Making a Difference as WE...

- ❖ Provided over 200 hours of “boots on the ground” support for leaders and communities from our Synod Ministers for Community and Leader Engagement.
- ❖ Responded to the COVID-19 crisis with resources, coaching and giving 76 congregations and individual pastoral leaders resiliency grants totaling \$35,420 (as of 12/15/2020).
- ❖ Host weekly Zoom meetings for council presidents, pastoral leaders, and those working with First Third of Life ministry, offering support and resources.
- ❖ Accompanied 66 rostered leaders and SAMs to their call to serve in congregations, parishes, care centers, and outreach ministry across our Synod.
- ❖ Provide First Call Theological Education for 17 pastors in our Synod and are accompanying nine candidates for rostered leadership.
- ❖ Support the Native Neighbors Table and Synod’s Commission on Racial Equity and Justice work (e.g. “Transform: Faith, Race & Justice” and Blanket Exercise events)
- ❖ Facilitated area strategies in the Roseau, Detroit Lakes and Fergus Falls Conferences.
- ❖ Train and coach 58 leaders from 19 congregations involved in our Synod’s *Practicing Resurrection: Experiencing Vitality* process.
- ❖ Prepared a virtual Middle School Gathering resource for congregations to use with youth groups, confirmation, or as a retreat in this unique time that we all are living in.
- ❖ Are starting new worshipping communities in Moorhead with people experiencing homelessness, and in Bemidji with young adults.
- ❖ Equip and encourage lay leadership through LIFE - Living in Faith Everyday (formerly known as the School for Lay Ministry).
- ❖ Provided on-site guidance and support to 11 congregations in a conflict situation.

2020 Annual Report of Pastor Birgitte Catlin

Psalm 126

*When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.*

Friends in Christ,

What a year it has been. I am so tired of saying “unprecedented” and yet it is the only word to describe this year. For us it has been unprecedented in more ways than just CoVid.

The year 2020 began with hopes for a continued successful trimester with Soul Food, a new staffing organization, and even a strategic plan in our conference. We were prepared for a year of change and growth, one that would focus on possibility and potential.

In February Jeannie Haukaas retired after nearly three decades of work with the Parish. We kicked off Lent expecting to dig into our commitment as disciples and asking the question, “why Jesus?”; then CoVid restrictions began. Suddenly the whole system of the world and our parish was completely off. There was no more sense of normalcy and only constant questions of “how do we do this” and “what will happen next?” Alyse Berggren stepped into a full-time role in order to get the office reorganized and archived; she served full time until August when she stepped back to part time work as a contracted employee. After many conversations and planning sessions with the Parish presidents and the personnel committee, two contracted job descriptions were written up- one for an office manager and one for a confirmation director. The confirmation director role was filled by Sam Lyon and plans were put in place to begin a new format for confirmation (see Sam’s report for more details). Then Alyse died and the systems in the office that she was sustaining dropped off as well.

Thankfully, the office is now in the capable and caring hands of Calista Wolf. The parish spent the last quarter of the year trying to worship both online and in person, heading back to the parking lot for advent, and finding ways to bring some joy in the midst of struggle.

We all kept saying, “2020 is the worst, I can’t wait until it’s over.” Now it’s over and there is a light at the end of the tunnel, but we have a ways to go still. Psalm 126 is a guiding voice of reality and hope for me these days and I hope that it can be for you as well. The psalmist writes a song called “A Harvest of Joy”; it is a song that bears the weight of sorrow and the promise that sorrow will not win. Verse 5 says, “may those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.” This year we have planted many seeds- resilience, flexibility, creativity, connection- but they were all sown with tears. These seeds were only planted because of global pandemic and death of loved ones, and yet they are seeds that we will be able to harvest with joy. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, we know that 2021 will be different from 2020, and we will build and rebuild in this new year. Just as verse 1 says, when the Lord restores the fortunes, we will be like those who dream. This year we will pick up our dreams from last year, dust them off, decide if they still fit this new world and our new harvest. We will reinvest in our congregations, asking for God’s direction and the Spirit’s guidance so we too may sing “the Lord has done great things for us” and come home with shouts of joy, carrying the fruit of our labors.

First Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report 2020				
<u>Account Balances</u>				
<u>Bank Accounts</u>	<u>2019 Year End</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>2020 Year End</u>
Riverwood - Checking	\$4,796.46			\$ 7,224.23
Riverwood - Designated Funds	\$53,027.29		\$4,792.32	\$ 48,234.97
Riverwood - Endowment Fund	\$1,282.96	\$0.31	\$0.00	\$ 1,283.27
Thrivent Invest - Endowment	\$4,692.41	\$619.87	\$0.00	\$ 5,312.28
	<u>\$63,799.12</u>			<u>\$62,054.75</u>
<u>Designated Funds</u>				
Building Fund	\$8,412.01	\$1,303.00	\$0.00	\$ 9,715.01
Endowment Fund	\$5,240.05	\$350.88	\$1.00	\$ 5,589.93
Furnace	\$15,177.78	\$13,591.99	\$24,741.52	\$ 4,028.25
Garden of Grace	\$8,867.98	\$1,360.00	\$15.00	\$ 10,212.98
Music	\$2,550.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 2,550.06
Pastor's Discretionary	\$225.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 225.78
VBS	\$677.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 677.00
Visual/Sound Equipment	\$3,401.00	\$3,920.00	\$171.85	\$ 7,149.15
Youth	\$1,740.18	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,990.18
Alter Guild	\$442.95	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$ 467.95
Parking Lot	\$4,360.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$ 4,480.00
Temporary	-\$73.50	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$26.50
Kitchen	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 500.00
Podium for Fellowship Hall	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$788.10	\$ 211.90
Quilt Materials	\$500.00	\$25.00	\$500.00	\$ 25.00
Food shelf	\$6.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 6.00
Sunday school	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$ 250.00
Lent offering	\$0.00	\$129.28	\$0.00	\$ 129.28
Total Designated Funds	<u>\$53,027.29</u>			<u>\$ 48,234.97</u>

2021 Budget/2020 Distributions

Category	2021 Mission	2020 Actual	2020 Mission
Admin: Financial Secretary	\$ 540.00	\$ 540.00	\$540.00
Admin: Miscellaneous	\$ 200.00	\$ 205.41	\$200.00
Admin: Postage	\$ 75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Admin: Treasurer	\$ 540.00	\$ 540.00	\$540.00
Administration Total	\$ 1,355.00	\$ 1,285.41	\$1,355.00

God's House			
God's House: Fuel	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 2,487.09	\$4,500.00
God's House: Insurance & Worker's Comp	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 6,363.00	\$6,200.00
God's House: Maintenance Service Salary	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 4,664.69	\$6,500.00
God's House: Maintenance and Repair	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 680.74	\$4,000.00
God's House: Snow Removal	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 993.75	\$1,800.00
God's House: Tax	\$ 125.00	\$ 120.00	\$125.00
God's House: Utilities	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,526.00	\$7,500.00
God's House Total	\$ 30,825.00	\$ 20,835.27	\$30,625.00

Outreach			
Outreach: ELCA - Benevolence	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Outreach: Roseau Conference	\$ 100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Outreach Total	\$ 10,100.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$10,100.00

Parish		\$ 69,960.00	
parking lot offering	\$ -	\$ 279.00	
Total	\$ 160,688.00		
First % 47.50	\$ 76,326.80	\$ 70,239.00	\$69,942.06

Worshiping God			
Worshiping God: Altar Guild	\$ 200.00	\$ 359.15	\$200.00
Worshiping God: Evangelism	\$ 450.00	\$ 525.39	\$450.00
Worshiping God: Music Dept	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,705.00	\$5,000.00
Worshiping God: NW Synod Assembly	\$ 1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Worshiping God: Sunday School	\$ 500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Worshiping God: Worship Supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 252.90	\$1,500.00
Worshiping God: Youth	\$ 500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Total Worshiping God	\$ 9,150.00	\$ 2,842.44	\$9,150.00

<u>Budget Total</u>	<u>\$ 127,756.80</u>	<u>\$ 105,202.12</u>	<u>\$121,172.06</u>
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Non-Budget Distributions			
Furnace Loan Payoff	\$ -	\$ 24,741.52	
Sewing machine	\$ -	\$ 449.95	
Podium	\$ -	\$ 788.10	
Microphone	\$ -	\$ 471.85	
FLCW memorial	\$ -	\$95.00	
		\$ 26,546.42	
<u>Grand Total</u>		\$ 131,748.54	

Historical Balances

Bank Accounts	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Riverwood	\$15,241.89	\$32,926.66	\$42,358.56	\$57,823.75	\$55,459.20
Riverwood - Endowment Fund	\$1,281.69	\$1,282.18	\$1,282.47	\$1,282.96	\$1,283.27
Thrivent Invest - Endowment	\$4,012.29	\$4,375.84	\$4,345.00	\$4,692.41	\$5,312.28
Total	<u>\$20,535.87</u>	<u>\$38,584.68</u>	<u>\$47,986.03</u>	<u>\$63,799.12</u>	<u>\$62,054.75</u>

2020 Income

<u>Income</u>	<u>2020 Income</u>	<u>2019 Income</u>
Envelope	\$97,195.00	\$95,001.00
Loose	\$1,221.25	\$4,418.00
Church Use	\$0.00	\$490.38
Thrivent	\$1,905.00	\$2,306.00
Daycare	\$4,060.00	\$3,650.00
Dividends	\$619.87	\$347.90
Memorial	\$753.75	
Misc.	\$1,002.45	
Total	<u>\$106,757.32</u>	<u>\$106,213.28</u>
Designated	\$10,454.55	\$35,486.98
Insurance	\$12,791.99	\$14,397.64
TOTAL Income	<u>\$130,003.86</u>	<u>\$156,097.90</u>

2020 First Lutheran Church Council ~ 2021 Nominations

2020 Council Officers Terms are two years with a max of two consecutive terms		
President	Linda Burk	2 nd Term Jan. 2019-2021
Vice President	Linda Bauers	1 st Term Jan. 2019-2021
Secretary	Patty Frohreich	1 st Term Jan. 2020-2022
Treasurer	Mary Sopkowiak	1 st Term Jan. 2020-2022
Financial Secretary	Eileen Cordray	1 st Term Jan. 2019-2021
2020 Members at Large Terms are two years with a max of two consecutive terms		
Education	Phyllis Paulsen	2 nd Term Jan. 2020-2022
Music and Worship	Sue Smith	1 st Term Jan. 2020-2022
Property	Jim Frohreich	1 st Term Jan. 2020-2022
Evangelism		
Stewardship	Darcy Hanson	1 st Term Jan. 2020-2022
Youth Representative		
WELCA	Karen Hanson	

2021 Council Officers Terms are two years with a max of two consecutive terms		
President	Linda Bauers	1 st Term Jan. 2021-2023
Vice President		
Secretary	Patty Frohreich	1 st Term Jan. 2020-2022
Treasurer	Mary Sopkowiak	1 st Term Jan. 2020-2022
Financial Secretary	Eileen Cordray	1 st Term Jan. 2021-2023
2021 Members at Large Terms are two years with a max of two consecutive terms		
Education	Phyllis Paulsen	2 nd Term Jan. 2020-2022
Worship and Education	Sue Smith	1 st Term Jan. 2020-2022
Property	Jim Frohreich	1 st Term Jan. 2020-2022
Evangelism		
Stewardship	Darcy Hanson	1 st Term Jan. 2020-2022
Youth Representative		
WECLA	Karen Hanson	

2021 Synod/Conference May 21st and 22nd Zoom Conference

Assembly Voting Members	Alternates
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4. (Youth)	4. (Youth)

2021 Church Boards Terms are 1 year and unlimited unless otherwise noted.

Education	Outreach/Evangelism	Nominating 5 members, 2 yr terms, 2 yr limit
Stewardship/Finance	Worship & Music	Mission Endowment Fund 5 members, 3yr terms
Property	Audit 3 members, 3 yr terms	

2020 Education Report

Education for Sunday School this year has been a challenge. When Covid began, we were no longer able to continue in church services or teaching classes for young people. The hope is that parents and grandparents were able to carry on and teach and read the Bible to their children. It helped when there were children's sermons along with online Sunday services. Thank you to Joyce Palm with help from Meg Hemmingson for providing the children with short lessons and craft sessions at the beginning of the year. Joyce has given notice she will not be back to teach when in church services begin again. Thank you again, Joyce for doing what you have done.

If there is anyone that feels a call to help teach, please let us know.

Phyllis Paulsen, Education

Worship and Music Report

We did some things even though we were quarantined. The bell choir did start up in the fall, but with the increase of COVID-19 we were shut down. There has been no choir or bell choir this past year since COVID-19 hit. Hopefully, we can get back to this soon.

Pastor has been picking songs to go with the sermons she does online. Hopefully, we can be back in church soon.

Worship and Music Committee.

Stewardship Report 2020

The Northwest Minnesota Synod put together a team of pastors, lay leaders, and synod staff to organize and create resources for stewardship. These resources were geared specifically towards smaller congregations that didn't have a history of stewardship practices. The theme for 2020 was, "Lord, stir us to dream." As a member of the planning team, Pastor Birgitte decided to implement the program within the Parish. This was the first stewardship campaign in the parish in a very long time. Each week had a different theme- Lament, Repent, Dream, Celebrate- intended to help the congregation members engage with the faith practice and intention behind stewardship. A letter was sent out to our active member lists throughout the parish outlining the plan for the campaign. The third Sunday was set as the response Sunday in which members were asked to write down their financial commitment to their home congregation on an ornament, the commitments were kept confidential, and then hung on the Christmas tree at the front of our parking lot sanctuary. While there were not many responses this year, the campaign should be considered a success. We spent time together reflecting on stewardship and commitments to God and dreaming together of a future for the church. This was our first stewardship campaign, but it will definitely not be our last. We look forward to another campaign next year, one that will continue to lead us to ask, "Lord, stir us to dream."

First Lutheran Church – 2020 Annual Property Board Report

Lawn Maintenance:

Due to the dry summer the lawn only required one mowing per week, and occasionally once every two weeks. The mower is in good condition. We are grateful to the volunteers that assisted with the mowing. Recommend Property Board to consider spraying the lawn for control of dandelions in 2021 if approved.

Insurance Inspection July 7, 2020:

Church Building, with the following recommendations completed:

- 1) Placement of basement stairway railing
- 2) Place a CO2 detector in the area of the furnace
- 3) Add “Adult Supervision” signage in the playground area (safety and liability)
- 4) Define/paint uneven sidewalk areas with yellow paint

Church Security:

As a result of vandalism on the church grounds, two remote surveillance cameras were purchased for the front and the back of the church.

Sunday School Wing:

The area was toured and assessed after cleaning the area for use during Soul Food. Removal of three old televisions and a broken ping pong table (a safety issue for unsupervised children who play in the area).

Podium Project:

Reviewed podium options (refurbish, rebuild, new purchase) with member of the Kothrade family, and purchased a new podium in memory of Leila Kothrade. Contacted the pastor from the Covenant Church to seek information about a portable sound system that could be used with the podium, outdoors, and as a backup. Purchase was denied.

Rod Gubbels built and donated an alter which will be used for the Soul Food services. Rod also cleaned the basement, basement drain and drainage channels in an attempt to eliminate the problem of standing water in the basement and disposed of trash that had accumulated there.

Judy Gubbels spent approximately two weeks cleaning and organizing the archive room with much input from ELCA Archivist. There is still more to be done, but the project was interrupted due to COVID restrictions. Choir closet and practice area were also cleaned and organized.

After a fire on the playground, Rod Gubbels built and replaced the steps that had been burned.

Board discussions included the need to replace certain exterior entry door frames, doors, and weather stripping due to rust and air leakage. The Women of the Church are actively fundraising for this project.

Church Front Entry Safety: The City of Baudette is no longer providing salting/sanding services. A push/walk behind Broadcast Spreader was purchased to promote safety during icy conditions.

Respectfully Submitted-

Jim Frohreich, Property

Garden of Grace ~ Outdoor Beautification Project

“To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under heaven.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

As winter turned to spring, the Garden of Grace committee members communicated via email and discussed goals for areas around the church outdoor property in need of maintenance, repair, and/or beautification. Along with the usual tasks of filling the large planters, weeding, and general “gardening,” several projects were identified. Priorities included landscaping around the fire pit and playground, and work began in that area. However, plans for beautifying the area near the daycare entry were placed on hold until repair work can be done along the lower level of the Sunday School wing of the church.

As spring became summer, more plans were put on hold, this time due to the pandemic. Several faithful gardeners watered and weeded and continued to keep our church grounds maintained. We sincerely appreciate their dedication and the generosity of all those who volunteer their time to keep the church property attractive and groomed throughout the summer months: those who mow, pick up litter, weed, and complete the necessary chores to improve and enhance our church outdoor property.

Now in the midst of winter, there is time to reflect on the sending message of Advent, when we prayed “Lord, stir us to dream.” As we anticipate the 2021 growing season, we invite the congregation to continue to dream with us.

When this committee was formed in 2013, it began with a tiny seed of faith. Excited “gardeners” gathered to create a vision that grew to include features we hoped for on the church property, features that would extend our welcome beyond the sanctuary, spill out onto the beautiful church grounds, benefit not only our church family and our parish, but provide a gathering place for our entire community. By 2014, we had shaped a vision, and we had set lofty goals, as dreamers tend to do:

Vision Statement: To develop and manage a cohesive and comprehensive strategic plan for a unified outdoor extension of our sanctuary.

Goals and Objectives:

- *To create an outdoor gathering place where all are welcome*
- *To ensure appropriate location, configuration, appearance and maintenance of all features*
- *To establish a sense of enclosure and to define property boundaries*
- *To reflect a liturgical and sacred vision in every aspect of the project*
- *To assist the Property Board in continual assessment of the outdoor property and church grounds for improvement and maintenance needs*
- *To help determine feasibility and affordability of outdoor projects and to help coordinate fundraising when necessary or desired*
- *To oversee outdoor property construction projects and details from development through completion*
- *To improve and enhance our current church grounds*

The vision for the improvement of our church grounds is seen as an extension of our sanctuary, a sacred space, with a cohesive and unified design that reflects the style and appearance of our church.

May the year 2020 remind us of the need to pause, and to begin again with new purpose, refreshed and renewed. As our “garden” grows and thrives, may it continue to serve as an outdoor gathering place, inviting and unifying, a place where all are welcome. “Lord, stir us to dream.”

Committee Members: Birgitte and Jared Catlin, Rod Gubbels, Karen Hanson, Jeannie Haukaas, Ruth Lee, Joyce Palm, Don Smith, and Joyce and Mark Washburn

2020 Alter Guild Report

We want to thank the many volunteers that helped thru this year of unusual circumstances, especially those who helped weekly for communion the first 3 months. At Advent time and beginning of celebrating of the birth of Jesus, suggestions were made to cut a tree to decorate outside, and to arrange the manger scene figures differently. Thank you Jim and Patty Frohreich, Karen Hanson, Mike Larson, and Jeff and Linda Bauers for making that happen.

Thanks to Altar members Ruth and Otto Lee for getting flowers and keeping oil in the candles and putting up banners in the proper season of the church year.

Thank you Micheal Paulsen for putting up the candle every week when we did have indoor services. Thank you to all other members for helping when possible.

Altar guild members,
Phyllis Paulsen, Michael Paulsen, Becky Curran, Eileen Cordray, Meg Hemmingson, and
Ruth and Otto Lee.

Parish Nurses Report

FLCW Annual Report

As with everything that has happened in 2020, the women of the church have very little to report! We were able to host the Prayer Breakfast and had a very good turn out to enjoy the breakfast served and the program that followed. We also hand delivered palms before Palm Sunday with a wish for everyone to stay home and safe while using COVID precautions. Then after missing the delivery of Easter Baskets to the elderly, we decided to deliver them as 'May Baskets' under the same precautions. At that time, we never dreamed that we would still be under restrictions at this time of year! The other project we were able to accomplish was the delivery of 7 'Senior Quilts' to our graduates utilizing the parking lot and social distancing. We are hoping that our attempts to reach out to our parish members has made some positive impact.

We do want to especially thank our members for the response we have had to our request for donations in our fundraiser letters. Both the 'Bakeless Bake Sale' and the late fall fund request were responded by very generous donations. Thank you all and God Bless you. Throughout the year, the one thing we have missed most is the fellowship of working together, but hopefully soon we can again be together and really appreciate the simple pleasure of each other's company! Until that day comes, please stay safe!

Vice President: Karen Hanson

FLCW FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2020 - December 31, 2020

CHECKING ACCOUNT BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 10,148.10			
Comments				
INCOME				
Action Group	95.00			Donation from Flossie Moen Funeral
Angels of Mercy	90.00			
Bible Sales	40.00			
Bakeless Bake Sale	1,985.00			\$1985.00 - \$37.74 for Expenses - Net Profit of \$1947.26
Bread and Soup Supper	75.00			
Circle Offering	226.00			
Coffee Donations	340.95			
Easter Fruit Baskets				
Fall Bazaar				
Fall Fund Raising	4,850.00			\$4,850.00 - \$126.01 for Expenses = Net Profit of \$4,723.99
Funerals	1,150.00			
Lutefisk and Meatball Supper				
Misc Income				
Prayer Breakfast Donations	115.00			
Quilt Raffle				
Rummage Sale				
Unit Meeting Offering				
WELCA Blanket Offering				
WELCA Thankoffering				
TOTAL INCOME	8,966.95			
EXPENSES				
1st Lutheran Alter Guild				
1st Lutheran Sunday School				
Action Group	60.94			
Angels of Mercy	556.76			
Annual Meeting Expenses				
Bakeless Bake Sale	37.74			
Benevolence Payment				
Bibles	539.88			
Care Center Bingo Prizes	100.00			
Christ In Our Home	142.00			\$56.00 of this total was for a 4th QTR 2019 bill that was not turned in until Jan 2020
Cradle Roll	125.33			

EXPENSES (cont)				
Easter Fruit Baskets	174.75			
Fall Bazaar				
Fall Fund Raising	126.01			
Funerals	448.60			
Gather Subscription				
Gifts, Plants, Misc for Pastors & Staff	96.24			
Kitchen Equipment & Supplies	651.17			
Lutefisk and Meatball Supper				
Misc Expenses	12.91			Hanging File Folders for File FLCW File Cabinet
Mission Outreach	600.00			
New Furnace Expense				
Over 80 Banquet				
Parking Lot Repair (2018 Quilt Raffle Money)	1,161.00			Transferred Monies from the General Fund that were designated for Parking Lot Repair to Thrivent Investments so that all monies for Parking Lot Repair were in one Account.
Post Prom Donation	50.00			
Postage				
Prayer Breakfast	72.93			
Quilt Raffle				
Quilts for Graduates	302.09			
Rummage Sale Expenses				
Stewardship /Backpacks				
Synod Convention Registration/Travel Expenses				
Synod Convention Expense & Offering				
Synod Scholarship Offering				
Triennial Convention Offering				
Unit Meeting Expenses	59.50			This charge was for the food for Dec. 2019 Christmas Unit Mtg, which we were not billed for until Jan 2020
WELCA Blanket Offering	200.00			
WELCA NWMN Cluster Offering				
WELCA NWMN Cluster Travel Expense				
WELCA Quarterly Offering	240.00			
WELCA Thankoffering	400.00			
WELCA World Hunger	75.00			
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,232.85			
CHECKING ACCOUNT ENDING BALANCE	\$ 12,882.20			
DESIGNATED FUNDS				
	Income	Expenses	Balance	Comments
Angels of Mercy	\$ 661.00	\$ 556.76	\$ 104.24	
Easter Fruit Baskets	\$ 250.27	\$ 174.75	\$ 75.52	
Quilt Raffle (2018 Quilt Raffle)	\$ 1,161.00	\$ 1,161.00	\$ -	Money was tranferred to Thrivent Investments for Parking Lot Repair
Total Designated Funds	\$ 2,072.27	\$ 1,892.51	\$ 179.76	
TOTAL UNDESIGNATED				
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 12,702.44			
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$ 3,310.62			
THRIVENT FINANCIAL FUND				
(Designated for Parking Lot Repair)	\$ 18,698.67	As of Jan 5, 2021		

2020 Memorials

George Palm Memorials		
Betty Sorenson	Parking Lot	\$25.00
Meg Hemmingson	Garden of Grace	\$20.00
Carol Sindelir	Garden of Grace	\$25.00
Brian & Amy Potts	Garden of Grace	\$25.00
Don & Sue Smith	Garden of Grace	\$25.00
Wayne & Kay Schell	Garden of Grace	\$25.00
Frank & Margaret Marvin	Garden of Grace	\$100.00
Laurel Lind	Garden of Grace	\$10.00
Ina Nesmoe	Garden of Grace	\$10.00
Otto & Ruth Lee	Garden of Grace	\$10.00
Toby & Linda Burk	Garden of Grace	\$10.00
Jeff & Linda Bauers	Garden of Grace	\$20.00
James & Jeannie Kuehl	Garden of Grace	\$10.00
From Family & Friends	Garden of Grace	\$1000.00
Flossie Moen Memorials		
Betty Sorenson	Parking Lot	\$25.00
Carol Sindelir	Quilting	\$20.00
Karen Hanson	Quilting	\$20.00
Larry & Eileen Olson	Quilting	\$20.00
Laurel Lind	Quilting	\$10.00
William & Cathy Dunshee	Quilting	\$25.00
Helen Curtis	Quilting	\$25.00
Bette Dally Memorials		
Jeff & Linda Bauers	General Fund	\$20.00
Don & Sue Smith	General Fund	\$20.00
Betty Sorenson	Parking Lot	\$25.00
Eunice Sorenson	Parking Lot	\$20.00
Ross Dally	Sound System	\$1000.00
Ross Dally	Sound System	\$300.00
Karen Hanson	Sound System	\$20.00
Laurel Lind	Sound System	\$10.00
Eileen Olson	Sound System	\$20.00
Dale & Louise Cook	Sound System	\$25.00
Wayne & Kay Schell	Sound System	\$25.00
Carol Sindelir	Garden of Grace	\$15.00
Linda Thuringer Memorial		
Meg Hemmingson Sister		
Brian & Joyce Palm	Alter Guild	\$25.00
Ruth Elaine Young Royer		
Edith (Young) Grosland Sister		
Edith Grosland	Garden of Grace	\$25.00
Edith Grosland	Garden of Grace	\$15.00

Alyce Robinson Memorial		
Helen Curtis	Unknown	\$25.00
Alyce Berggren Memorial		
Jim & Jeanie Kuehl	Unknown	\$10.00
Timothy & Kathy Deal	Unknown	\$100.00
Katrina Mavis Ball	Unknown	\$100.00
From her mother	Unknown	\$48.75
Curt Rudd Memorial		
Betty Sorenson	Parking Lot	\$25.00
Jeffrey & Patricia Dittrich	Unknown	\$20.00
Shelley (Robinson) Weidner	Unknown	\$25.00
Helen Curtis Memorial		
Jeff & Linda Bauers	Unknown	\$25.00
Carol Sindelir	Unknown	\$20.00
Betty Frohreich Memorial		
Carol Sindelir	Unknown	\$20.00

In the early verses of Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus, a city on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of a river and at the intersection of three trading routes. The letter was written about ten years after the church had started. During the early years of this congregation, Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities had come together to form “one body.” Paul was aware that they had done well and commended them for their faith and love.

The word “one” appears more than seven times in the first four verses. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the “unity of Christ.” He wanted to note that, although many of the church members came from far off, there is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” This oneness reflects God’s gift of reconciliation in Christ.

A second emphasis from Paul was that, as believers, they were to “bear with one another in love.” This would require humility, gentleness, and patience as each of them practiced their faith. It would require tolerance to “maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew in faith, each person contributed to building up the body of Christ.

The fourth and final emphasis was that by “speaking the truth in love,” each person must grow into Christ. This means taking time to learn about one another and their gifts. Knowing these gifts, we can do God’s work both within and beyond the faith community. When there are decisions to make or relationships to reconcile, we know to begin with prayer and reflection, always desiring to speak the truth in love — not for our own benefit but for God’s glory, that we might become more complete.

As our members and friends gather today, whether face-to-face or online, we are reminded of our calling into “unity in Christ.” We come from many places and work in many contexts, and yet we recognize “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

Whether new to a worshiping community or further along the journey, we realize that humility, gentleness, and patience are required both in the good times and especially in times of uncertainty and struggle. God wants us to be more complete through our work. Christ provides the way. The Holy Spirit is with us for guidance and courage. Each of us has been given the gifts to be complete, and through our faithfulness we will grow stronger and work together as one body.

Let us pray: Lord, let the words of the apostle Paul dwell in us deeply. May we embrace the reconciling power of oneness with Christ. May this oneness guide our congregation as we live into the new realities of these times. As we meet new partners in ministry, may we take time to get to know them with patience, humility, and love. Help us to see how sharing our gifts will make your work easier and more fulfilling while bringing all of us closer to Christ. May the blessings you give each day strengthen us to a living, daring confidence in your grace. Amen.