

ANNUAL
REPORT
2020



Wabanica 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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Wabanica Lutheran Church

2020 Report of the Congregation

Our Mission

Wabanica Lutheran Church:

Is a welcoming family of faith united in Jesus Christ.

We are:

claimed by God's amazing grace,
gathered by the Holy Spirit at the water, Word, bread and wine,
growing together in faith, and
sent with hope to serve in all God's creation through word deed.

Our Vision

Wabanica Lutheran Church:

Is a place where we grow together in faith and fellowship, while serving and proclaiming the Gospel.

Our Core Values

Wabanica Lutheran Church holds these as their "guiding principles":

Honoring Place
Welcoming Everyone
Worshipping
Nurturing Growth
Supporting Family
Affirming Children and Youth
Acknowledging Multi-Generational Gifts
Encouraging Service



Wabanica Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Agenda
January 17, 2021
10:30 AM

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Devotions - Prayer**
- III. Approval of Agenda**
- IV. Secretary's report from January 19, 2020**
- V. Financial Reports**
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - b. Financial Secretary's Report
- VI. Reports**
 - a. Synod Reports
 - b. Pastor's Report
 - c. Committee Reports
 - 1. Health and Wellness
 - 2. Building and Grounds
 - 3. Christian Education / Sunday School
 - 4. Hospitality and Service
 - 5. Outreach Ministry
 - 6. Stewardship
- VII. Old Business**
 - a. LOWBC
 - b. PICS – Coordinators & Funds
 - c. Pizza Nights
 - d. Tiling and Rip Rap
 - e. Windows for Church
- VIII. New Business**
 - a. Review/Adopt Mission Plan for 2021
 - b. Reducing the number of members on the Council
 - c. Elections—Treasurer, 1 members at large (3yr. term),
 - d. Volunteers/ Synod Assembly Voting members
 - e. Committees --- How many do we need, their purpose
 - f. Adopting new Synod additions to our Constitution
- IX. Adjournment and Lord's Prayer**

Wabanica Lutheran Church - Annual Meeting Minutes - January 19, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Horntvedt at 9:40 a.m. with about 30 members present. Ken opened with the Litany in back of the Annual Report booklet and a hymn.

Motion by Bruce Streich., second by Sandy Muggli, to accept the Agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Roger Erickson, second by Jody Horntvedt, to approve the Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

The Financial Secretary's Report shows total income of \$111,317.00. The Treasurer's Report shows a General Fund balance on hand of \$32,290.18. The Building Fund gained \$4,090.00 with Fourth Sunday Offerings. Motion made by Carol Erickson, second by Rex Muggli, to accept the Financial Reports. Motion carried. Discussion as to whether we want two people to count the weekly offerings at the church, as recommended by Synod, or have varying pairs of "counters" as needed. Decided that what we are doing works well for us, so no change at this time. More online giving is available with the GivePlus app and that info will be shared.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Birgitte has been our pastor since February 2019! She has learned that we are committed to working together, curious about our faith, and want to know how/who we can serve. Highlights of the year: Joint Worship Services, Soul Food, and the Ploughing Competition. Pastor brought up the Area Conversation Meeting to be held on February 16 at Clementson. Bishop Bill Tesch and two others will lead this discussion about the fact that nine congregations from here to Roseau are served by only two full-time pastors, an interim pastor, and a part-time SAM. The meeting is open to anyone concerned about the future of ministry in our area.

Committee Reports are included in the Annual Report and all are encouraged to read them and enjoy the photos of all the activities. Thank you to all involved in any way with the work of our church. Sign-up sheets will be available in an effort to include more members.

Building and Grounds: Ken shared on the Soil and Water Conservation award received for our riverbank project. He and Jody attended the event in the Cities and have a plaque to be displayed at church. We were reimbursed 70% for the project. Not quite done as crushed rock is needed to prevent more erosion (as recommended by locals and not heeded by engineers). The flagpole will be placed by the rock at our entrance.

Judy Griffen noted that the financial report for the Quilters is not included here. They had \$3,801.39 to begin the year and took in \$1000 through quilt sales and memorials. After expenditures for quilting supplies, the end of December balance = \$4,362.83.

Old Business

1. Lake of the Woods Bible Camp (LOWBC) - The Bible Camp is for sale, with Reed Realty appraisal of \$700,000- \$900,000 for 60 acres, 2500 feet of river frontage. Second appraisal coming from ReMax in Bemidji. The property is to be put out on bids for 2-3 months, then consider top 2-3 bids. If it sells, money to be divided among the 28 churches. Motion by Roger Erickson, second by Shelley Spears, to form a task force to look into the parcel with the buildings, about 20 acres, and to see if Mt. Olivet in Moorhead is interested in purchasing this with us. Motion carried. Pastor Birgitte, Bruce Streich, Shelley Spears, and Roger Erickson to be on the task force. Notice to be put in the announcements as others are welcome to join the group.

2. Pie and Ice Cream Social will be the 3rd Sunday in July. Deb Perala agreed to coordinate it again and see if the Community Band will play. Motion by Roger Erickson, second by Jody Horntvedt, that the Council decide where the profit is to be spent. Motion carried.

3. The updated Constitution that we approved last year now needs to be ratified. Motion by Carol Erickson, second by Jody, to ratify our Constitution and submit to Synod. Motion carried.

4. Pizza Nights will continue under the direction of Roger and Carol Erickson, with proceeds for the six nights, from April - November, to go to the General Fund as before.

New Business

1. Mission Plan - Our percentage of parish expenses is 37.18% for 2020. Monthly amount needed to meet our 2020 Mission Plan is \$7,992.17. Motion by Roger, second by Doris Nelson, to accept the 2020 Mission Plan as presented. Motion carried.

2. Elections: Nominations by the Council include: President: Roger Erickson, Vice president: Brian Peterson, Secretary: Deb Perala, and Financial Secretary: Ken Horntvedt, all for 2-year terms. Members at Large: Shelley Spears and Colleen Stanton, each for 3-year terms, and Dale Brune for a 1-year term. Motion by Bruce Streich, second by Gloriann Fischer, to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for these candidates. Motion carried.

3. The Synod Assembly will be June 12-13 at Concordia College in Moorhead. Two voting delegates needed, one male, one female - will seek volunteers.

4. Appointments and Volunteers remain mostly the same, and we thank them all.

5. Discussion to see if any interest in broadcasting our weekly church service on new local radio station, 94.5, The River. No action taken due to lack of interest at this time.

Motion by Brian Peterson, second by Rex Muggli, to adjourn. Motion carried, and we adjourned at 11:15 a.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Deb Perala, Secretary pro tem

Financial Secretary's Report, January - December 2020

GENERAL FUND

Offerings

Plate.....	\$13,010.00	
Envelopes.....	\$58,829.99	
Online giving.....	\$25,040.00	(includes \$600.00 transfer to Bldg Fund)
Sunday School Offering...	\$0.00	
Easter Offering.....	\$0.00	
Christmas Offering.....	\$0.00	

Total Offerings: \$96,879.99

Donations for Missions

Lenten Gifts.....	\$41.00	<i>to L/W Food Shelf</i>
Bakeless Bake Sale.....	\$1,075.00	<i>to various missions</i>
Blanket Sunday.....	\$0.00	<i>to Church World Service</i>
Thankoffering.....	\$0.00	<i>to Women of the ELCA</i>
Garden/Egg Sales.....	\$0.00	<i>to L/W Food Shelf</i>
March Food Drive.....	\$0.00	<i>to L/W Food Shelf</i>
Santa Anonymous.....	\$750.00	<i>to Women of Today</i>
SS Noisy Offerings.....	\$0.00	<i>to various missions</i>

Total Donations for Missions: \$1,866.00

Other Income

Thrivent.....	\$1,098.00	<i>from member gift designations</i>
Donations.....	\$34,440.00	<i>\$34,237 from Parish account</i>
Pie & Ice Cream Social....	\$0.00	
Firebrick Pizza Nights.....	\$0.00	
Greeting card sales.....	\$0.00	
Cenex (dividend).....	\$17.06	
Funerals (serving).....	\$374.00	<i>for Jim Ney Sr.</i>
Weddings (building use)..	\$0.00	

Total Other Income: \$35,929.06

TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME: \$134,675.05

BUILDING FUND

Gifts

Fourth Sunday Offering	\$722.00
Online Giving	\$600.00

TOTAL BUILDING FUND GIFTS: \$1,322.00

Submitted by
Ken Horntvedt, Financial Secretary

Wabanica Lutheran Church

Summary on Memorial Fund Account

Prepared by Ken Horntvedt

Balance [1-1-2020] = \$ 10,183.22

Receipts..... = \$ 6,095.00

Perpetual Cemetery Care

Bette Michaels, George & Delores

Palm family, Harvey & Joan Haukaas

Cemetery plot = \$ 2,000.00

Memorials

Charlotte Anderson, Jim Ney, = \$ 4,095.00

Harvey & Garnett Stolt

Disbursements = \$.00

Balance [12-31-2020] = \$ 16,278.22

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**Wabanica Lutheran Church**

**Summary on Cemetery Fund CD**

Prepared by Ken Horntvedt

Balance [1-1-2020] ..... = \$13,296.34

Receipts ..... = \$ 106.51

*Interest (on 1-8-20) = \$ 53.62*

*Interest (on 7-8-20) = \$ 52.89*

Disbursements ..... = - - - - -

Balance [12-31-2020] ..... = \$13,402.85

# Income and Spending 1/1/20 through 12/31/20

## Income Categories

Balance on hand 1/1/20----- \$ 33,290.18

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Cenex Dividend       | 17.06           |
| Lent Offering        | 41.00           |
| Offering             | 96,879.99       |
| Other Income         | 35,912.00       |
| funeral              | 374.00          |
| other                | 34,440.00       |
| thrivent             | 1,098.00        |
| Special Offering     | <u>1,825.00</u> |
| Total Income         | \$134,675.05    |
| Income + Bal on hand | \$167,965.23    |

## Expense Categories

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1517 Media         | 1,116.86 |
| magazines          | 1,116.86 |
| Bank Charges       | 432.73   |
| Benevolence        | 9000.00  |
| Building & Grounds | 299.46   |
| Education          | 313.43   |
| bks. & suppl.      | 35.24    |
| misc.              | 278.19   |

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Electric              | 1,001.00        |
| Financial Sec.        | 75.00           |
| Garbage               | 227.28          |
| Groundskeeper         | 1,420.00        |
| Heating               | 4,054.58        |
| Hosp. & Service       | 376.36          |
| funeral exp.          | 304.96          |
| misc. rolls           | 71.40           |
| Insurance             | 4,196.00        |
| building              | 3,305.00        |
| work comp             | 891.00          |
| Janitorial            | 1,303.35        |
| salary                | 1,050.00        |
| supplies              | 253.35          |
| Misc.                 | 2,273.30        |
| Organists             | 810.00          |
| Parish Expense        | 54,000.00       |
| Special Occasions     | 144.13          |
| Special Offerings     | 2,016.00        |
| Telephone             | 398.03          |
| Treasurer             | <u>75.00</u>    |
| Total Expense         | \$ 83,532.51    |
| Transfer to Riverwood | <u>1,100.00</u> |
|                       | \$ 84,632.51    |

Bal on Hand 12/31/20 \$ 83,332.72

## Building Fund Income

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Bal. on Hand 1/1/19 | \$ 9,907.42     |
| Third Sun. Offering | <u>1,322.00</u> |
| Total Bal. Offering | \$ 11,229.42    |

# Wabanica Lutheran Church

## Mission Plan Worksheet 2021

| <u><b>Our Outreach Ministry</b></u>   | <u><b>Actual 2018</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2019</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2020</b></u> | <u><b>Proposed 2021</b></u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Northwestern MN Synod                 | \$ 8,500.00               | \$ 9,000.00               | \$ 9,632.70               | \$ 10,500.00                |
| Special Ministries (Food Shelf, etc.) | .00                       | .00                       | 6,572.55                  | .00                         |
| <b>Outreach sub-total =</b>           | <b>\$ 8,500.00</b>        | <b>\$ 9,000.00</b>        | <b>\$ 16,205.25</b>       | <b>\$ 10,500.00</b>         |

| <u><b>Parish Staff</b></u>           | <u><b>Actual 2018</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2019</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2020</b></u> | <u><b>Proposed 2021</b></u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pastor Salary and Benefits           | \$ 41,892.71              | \$ 35,788.38              | \$30,907.93               | \$30,100.00                 |
| Office Staff (Salaried)              | 9,993.04                  | 11,936.04                 | 6,465.23                  | -0-                         |
| Staff (Consulting)                   | -0-                       | -0-                       | 1,301.19                  | 8,700.00                    |
| Future Staffing Needs                | -0-                       | -0-                       | -0-                       | 9,800.00                    |
| Travel / Mileage                     | 701.10                    | 1,139.12                  | 551.76                    | 1,300.00                    |
| Synod Assembly (Pastor)              | 98.02                     | 243.98                    | -0-                       | 190.00                      |
| Business/Professional/Books/Etc.     | 1,419.69                  | 858.71                    | 256.44                    | 250.00                      |
| Continuing Education                 | 579.49                    | 447.67                    | 312.84                    | 280.00                      |
| First Call Theological Education     | -0-                       | 579.06                    | 20.88                     | 190.00                      |
| Pulpit Supply                        | 273.33                    | 89.33                     | 344.53                    | 750.00                      |
| <b>Pastoral ministry sub-total =</b> | <b>\$ 54,957.37</b>       | <b>\$ 51,082.29</b>       | <b>\$40,160.80</b>        | <b>\$51,560.00</b>          |

| <u><b>Parish Worship &amp; Education</b></u>                    | <u><b>Actual 2018</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2019</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2020</b></u> | <u><b>Proposed 2021</b></u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Confirmation & Retreats                                         | -0-                       | -0-                       | \$140.98                  | \$190.00                    |
| Baptismal Counseling                                            | -0-                       | -0-                       | -0-                       | 50.00                       |
| First Communion                                                 | -0-                       | -0-                       | -0-                       | 50.00                       |
| Adult Education ( <i>Christ in our Home / Living Lutheran</i> ) | -0-                       | -0-                       | -0-                       | 310.00                      |
| Vacation Bible Schools                                          | 333.48                    | -0-                       | 387.44                    | 750.00                      |
| Soul Food Worship/Education                                     | -0-                       | -0-                       | 67.49                     | 560.00                      |
| Worship Supplies                                                | 1,844.15                  | 1,733.57                  | 1,860.27                  | 270.00                      |
| Licenses / Materials                                            | 444.56                    | 435.19                    | 480.54                    | 425.00                      |
| <b>Parish Worship/Education sub-total =</b>                     | <b>\$2,622.19</b>         | <b>\$2,168.76</b>         | <b>\$2,936.72</b>         | <b>\$2,605.00</b>           |

| <u><b>Parish Administration</b></u>             | <u><b>Actual 2018</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2019</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2020</b></u> | <u><b>Proposed 2021</b></u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Copier Maintenance & Lease                      | 1,920.16                  | 1,586.83                  | \$1,831.21                | \$2,050.00                  |
| Internet / Phone                                | 693.77                    | 717.19                    | 689.36                    | 690.00                      |
| Website                                         |                           |                           | 664.64                    | 140.00                      |
| Paper/Office Supplies                           | -0-                       | -0-                       | 541.03                    | 1,675.00                    |
| Postage                                         | 490.58                    | 400.24                    | 702.39                    | 325.00                      |
| Revelation Online Database                      | -0-                       | -0-                       | 305.25                    | 310.00                      |
| Parish Treasurer / Accounting                   | 241.38                    | 214.38                    | 225.75                    | 575.00                      |
| Miscellaneous (gifts, etc.)                     | 498.07                    | 427.14                    | 2,751.96                  | 200.00                      |
| <b>Parish Administration sub-total =</b>        | <b>\$ 3,843.96</b>        | <b>\$ 3,345.78</b>        | <b>\$ 7,711.59</b>        | <b>\$ 5,965.00</b>          |
| <b>TOTAL PARISH Expense =</b>                   | <b>\$ 61,423.52</b>       | <b>\$ 56,596.83</b>       | <b>\$50,809.11</b>        | <b>\$60,130.00</b>          |
|                                                 | <i>[39.70%]</i>           | <i>[39.70%]</i>           | <i>[37.18%]</i>           | <i>[37.18%]</i>             |
| <b>Monthly needed to meet Parish expenses =</b> |                           |                           |                           | <b>\$5,011.00</b>           |

# Wabanica Lutheran Church / Mission Plan Worksheet 2021

| <u><b>Our Church Home</b></u>   | <u><b>Actual 2018</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2019</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2020</b></u> | <u><b>Proposed 2021</b></u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Telephone                       | \$ 358.87                 | \$ 380.94                 | \$ 398.03                 | \$ 400.00                   |
| Electric & Heating              | 6,157.00                  | 4,140.00                  | 5,055.58                  | 5,500.00                    |
| Janitor (& supplies)            | 2,839.11                  | 3,038.37                  | 1,303.35                  | 3,500.00                    |
| Groundskeepers                  | 1,470.00                  | 2,290.00                  | 1,420.00                  | 3,000.00                    |
| Buildings & Grounds Maintenance | 275.42                    | 545.79                    | 299.46                    | 500.00                      |
| Insurance (Building)            | 2,655.00                  | 2,981.00                  | 3,305.00                  | 3,500.00                    |
| Insurance (Workman's Comp)      | 803.00                    | 839.00                    | 891.00                    | 900.00                      |
| Garbage Pickup                  | 227.28                    | 227.28                    | 227.28                    | 250.00                      |
| Church Cleaning                 | -0-                       | -0-                       | -0-                       | -0-                         |
| Emergency Funds                 | -0-                       | -0-                       | -0-                       | 500.00                      |
| <b>Church Home sub-total =</b>  | <b>\$ 14,785.68</b>       | <b>\$ 14,442.38</b>       | <b>\$ 12,899.70</b>       | <b>\$ 18,050.00</b>         |

| <u><b>Congregational Life</b></u>          | <u><b>Actual 2018</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2019</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2020</b></u> | <u><b>Proposed 2021</b></u> |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| NWMN Synod Assembly                        | \$ 359.99                 | \$ 595.56                 | \$ -0-                    | \$ 650.00                   |
| 1517 Media (for Living Lutheran)           | 1,319.18                  | 1,232.68                  | 1,116.86                  | -0-                         |
| Organist                                   | 2,475.00                  | 2,385.00                  | 810.00                    | 3,000.00                    |
| Postage                                    | -0-                       | -0-                       | 77.00                     | 100.00                      |
| Piano Tuning                               | 116.00                    | -0-                       | -0-                       | 150.00                      |
| Altar Guild                                | 211.06                    | 119.79                    | -0-                       | 300.00                      |
| Treasurer                                  | 75.00                     | 75.00                     | 75.00                     | 75.00                       |
| Financial Secretary                        | 75.00                     | 75.00                     | 75.00                     | 75.00                       |
| Fund Raising Supplies                      | -0-                       | -0-                       | 413.88                    | 500.00                      |
| Misc (supplies, envelopes, greeting cards) | 734.95                    | 647.59                    | 760.92                    | 800.00                      |
| <b>Congregational Life sub-total =</b>     | <b>\$ 5,366.18</b>        | <b>\$ 5,130.62</b>        | <b>\$ 3,328.66</b>        | <b>\$ 5,650.00</b>          |

| <u><b>Committee Expenses</b></u>         | <u><b>Actual 2018</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2019</b></u> | <u><b>Actual 2020</b></u> | <u><b>Proposed 2021</b></u> |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Buildings & Grounds                      | \$ -0-                    | \$ -0-                    | \$ -0-                    | \$ 100.00                   |
| Congregational Life                      | 360.00                    | 320.00                    | -0-                       | 450.00                      |
| Christian Education (SS included)        | 539.90                    | 208.66                    | 213.43                    | 1,500.00                    |
| Hospitality & Service                    | 935.67                    | 646.93                    | 376.36                    | 1,200.00                    |
| Outreach Ministry                        | 527.58                    | 160.00                    | -0-                       | 300.00                      |
| Health & Wellness/Parish Nurse           | 90.00                     | 330.00                    | -0-                       | 400.00                      |
| Stewardship (postage/offering env 2 yrs) | -0-                       | -0-                       | -0-                       | 185.00                      |
| Youth (scholarship/camperships given)    | -0-                       | -0-                       | -0-                       | 1,300.00                    |
| <b>Committees sub-total =</b>            | <b>\$ 2,453.15</b>        | <b>\$ 1,665.59</b>        | <b>\$ 589.79</b>          | <b>\$ 5,435.00</b>          |

|                      |                                              |                    |                    |                    |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>GRAND TOTAL =</b> | <b>\$92,501.53</b>                           | <b>\$86,835.42</b> | <b>\$83,532.51</b> | <b>\$99,765.00</b> |
|                      | Proposed \$98,826                            | Proposed \$95,826  | Proposed \$95,906  |                    |
|                      | <b>Monthly needed to meet mission plan =</b> |                    |                    | <b>\$8,313.75</b>  |

## President's Message

*What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love Mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.*

In January, with some trepidation, I agreed to become the Wabanica Council President. This was a normal time: 8:30 church, 9:30 fellowship, Soul Food Wednesdays. Life in the county was routine.

Then on March 25, we started a 14-day shelter in place . . .

In December, our world is anything but normal. We have had parking lot worship, online worship, and a few in- person services. We are doing the best we can, trying to balance safety with our need to stay connected through worshipping together and the fellowship that follows. But right now, it is a very dangerous time. Good-bye 2020.

Hello 2021. Unfortunately, the first few months are going to be more of the same. The vaccine is giving us a light at the end of this very long tunnel. We need to stay positive, stay safe, and stay alert to help others when we can.

We are blessed to have Pastor Birgitte and the rest of our Parish Staff. Calista Wolf and Sam Lyon are wonderful assets for our Parish.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. Stay safe. THANKS BE TO GOD!

God Bless,

Roger Erickson

### Four Key Faith Practices:

1. Caring Conversations
2. Devotions
3. Service
4. Rituals and Tradition

## 2020 Statistical Report

|                                                                                       |                 |                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Baptisms</b>                                                                       |                 |                                         |
| Maddox Hill                                                                           |                 | Patrick Charles Wolf                    |
| Charlotte Kay Pierson                                                                 |                 | Lommen Samuel Abbey                     |
| Archer Allen Larson                                                                   |                 |                                         |
|                                                                                       |                 | <i>Total +5 baptized</i>                |
|                                                                                       |                 |                                         |
| <b>Confirmation/Affirmation of Faith</b>                                              |                 |                                         |
|                                                                                       |                 | <i>Total 0 baptized   0 confirmed</i>   |
|                                                                                       |                 |                                         |
| <b>Deaths/Funerals/Memorial Services/Burials</b>                                      |                 |                                         |
| Alyse Berggren                                                                        |                 | LeRoy Nelson                            |
|                                                                                       |                 | <i>Total -2 baptized   -2 confirmed</i> |
|                                                                                       |                 |                                         |
|                                                                                       |                 |                                         |
| <b>Membership</b>                                                                     |                 |                                         |
| <i>Transferred to other churches/removed by own request/removed by council action</i> |                 |                                         |
| Dorothy (Tootie) Oachs                                                                |                 |                                         |
|                                                                                       |                 | <i>Total -1 baptized -1 confirmed</i>   |
| <i>Members Received</i>                                                               |                 |                                         |
| Annika, Bradley and Anders Abbey                                                      |                 |                                         |
| Heather and Chad Larson                                                               |                 |                                         |
| Calista and Mike Wolf                                                                 |                 |                                         |
|                                                                                       |                 | <i>Total +7 baptized +4 confirmed</i>   |
|                                                                                       |                 |                                         |
|                                                                                       | <b>Baptized</b> | <b>Confirmed</b>                        |
| December 31, 2019                                                                     | 337             | 240                                     |
| December 31, 2020                                                                     | 346             | 241                                     |



**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.

## 2021 Council Officers, Members @ Large, & Committees

### **Council Officers:** *(Terms are 2 years with a maximum of two consecutive terms)*

|                                                   |                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| President: Roger Erickson (218-929-7749)          | 1 <sup>st</sup> term begins Jan. 2020 – Jan. 2022 |
| Vice President: Brian Peterson (612-220-5556)     | 1 <sup>st</sup> term begins Jan. 2020 – Jan. 2022 |
| Secretary: Deb Perala (218-434-0215)              | 1 <sup>st</sup> term begins Jan. 2020 – Jan. 2022 |
| Treasurer: Doris Nelson (218-766-1616)            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> term begins Jan. 2019 – Jan. 2021 |
| Financial Secretary: Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269) | 1 <sup>st</sup> term begins Jan. 2020 – Jan. 2022 |

### **Members at Large:** *(Terms are 3 years with a maximum of two consecutive terms)*

|                                |                                                   |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Rex Muggli (783-2491)          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term begins Jan. 2019 – Jan. 2022 |
| Colleen Stanton (218-202-1873) | 1 <sup>st</sup> term begins Jan. 2020 – Jan. 2023 |

### **Church Committees 2020:** *(Unlimited terms) \*Chairperson*

#### ***Buildings & Grounds***

\*Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269)  
\*Jerry Gubbels (218-434-3403)  
Nick Brekke (218-202-0320)  
Roger Erickson (218-929-7749)  
Vern Horntvedt (701-269-9481)  
Rex Muggli (218-395-0929)

#### ***Education***

Jessie Anthony (218-434-0486)  
Cara Brekke (218-202-1472)  
Carol Carlson (612-597-1163)  
Jody Horntvedt (218-689-0281)  
Wendy Peterson (612-812-1942)  
Sarah Pierson (651-353-0057)  
Colleen Stanton (218-202-1873)

#### ***Health & Wellness***

\*Carol Brune (634-1700)

#### ***Hospitality & Service***

\*Judy Griffen (634-1009)

#### ***Outreach***

\*Marlys Anderson (634-1669)

#### ***Stewardship***

\*Roger Erickson (218-929-7749)  
Doris Nelson (218-766-1616)  
Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269)

**Appointments and Volunteers 2020:**

| <i><b>Jobs/Positions</b></i> | <i><b>2019</b></i>                                                                    | <i><b>2020</b></i>                                                                    |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Altar Guild                  | Laurie Mollberg, Merlyce Gubbels, Leah Larson, Deb Perala, Cara Brekke, Vicki Streich | Laurie Mollberg, Merlyce Gubbels, Leah Larson, Deb Perala, Cara Brekke, Vicki Streich |
| Organist                     | Jody Horntvedt, Heidi Olson                                                           | Jody Horntvedt, Heidi Maus                                                            |
| Worship Coordinator          | Brian Peterson                                                                        | Brian Peterson                                                                        |
| Custodians                   | Rex & Sandy Muggli                                                                    | Rex & Sandy Muggli                                                                    |
| Groundskeepers               | Muggli Family                                                                         | Muggli Family                                                                         |
| Parish Nurse                 | Carol Brune                                                                           | Carol Brune                                                                           |
| Cemetery Records             | Eugene Mollberg, Ken Horntvedt                                                        | Eugene Mollberg, Ken Horntvedt                                                        |
| Memorial Fund                | Ken Horntvedt                                                                         | Ken Horntvedt                                                                         |
| ELCA Women Contact           |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| Guest Book                   | Carol Brune                                                                           | Carol Brune                                                                           |
| Cheer: Get Well/Sympathy     | Carol Brune                                                                           | Carol Brune                                                                           |
| Historians                   | Doris Nelson, Sandy Muggli, Marsha Beckel                                             | Doris Nelson, Sandy Muggli, Marsha Beckel                                             |
| Wedding Book/Policies        | Laurie Mollberg                                                                       | Laurie Mollberg                                                                       |
| Nominating Committee         | Council                                                                               | Council                                                                               |
| Auditing Committee           | Brian Peterson, Bruce Streich                                                         | Brian Peterson, Bruce Streich                                                         |
| Synod Assembly Delegates     | Nick & Cara Brekke                                                                    |                                                                                       |

## **Wabanica Health and Wellness Report 2020**

What can I say? COVID has changed the duties of the Parish Nurse as well as everyone else. We were able to have two Services of Healing before the pandemic hit us. Although there were no cases in LOW county until July, in March everything got shut down and that included in-church worship. This was done with orders from the CDC. Just when we needed the church the most, and the services of healing, we were closed down. With the work of our Pastor, and other innovative members, we were still able to have online, phone and parking lot services. A task force was set up in the parish to plan how we could do church services, once we were able to attend, following CDC guidelines. When the church opened up, we followed the following guidelines: hand sanitizing stations, masks, social distancing and no singing. This worked until we were shut down again. We went back online, but since people expressed a need for music and to sing, parking lot services were added for Advent and Christmas. The parking lot services allowed us to sing, greet and meet people which felt great.

We were unable to go Christmas Caroling to the Assisted Living, Nursing Home and Senior Apartment buildings. These are the vulnerable people that have been hit hardest and have been under quarantine all these months. They have been unable to have visitors, families and activities come in. We need to keep these people in prayer. Please call, send mail or set up window visits. I have attempted to keep in touch with these, and those in their homes. Thank you to the members for informing me of those with special needs.

Our Public Health, medical staff, front line workers, and our community have been proactive. Our first case was in July and we were the last county to have a reported case. Testing is done locally, but if people need hospitalization, they are sent out to facilities that can handle COVID. This keeps our hospital and clinic open to those in need. Vaccination has started. I am praying that 2021 will finally get us back to a new normal, that will make us more caring and giving people.

May God Bless,  
Carol Brune  
Parish Nurse

# Building and Grounds Committee Annual Report, 2020

*There's not enough room in all of heaven for you, LORD God. How could you possibly live on earth in this temple I have built? But I ask you to answer my prayer. This is the temple where you have chosen to be worshiped. Please watch over it day and night and listen when I turn toward it and pray.* 1 Kings 8:27-29 (Contemporary English Version)

## ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The role of the Building and Grounds Committee is to be responsible for the overall management, maintenance and repair of the congregation's property.

*Their responsibilities include, and are not limited to the following:*

- Developing plans and setting priorities for the short- and long-range maintenance of the building and grounds, and organizing efforts to complete them (i.e. identifying building-related expenses for improvement and repairs, finding volunteers to work on projects, hiring contractors, etc.),
- Inventorying contents of church building and other structures on the property
- Reviewing insurance policies (annually) and making recommendations to the Council,
- Paying attention to OSHA guidelines and other safety issues (i.e. fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, exit lighting, etc.),
- Maintaining indoor/outdoor equipment (i.e. check for safety/cleanliness of electrical appliances, playground equipment, etc.),
- Identifying (annually) individuals to serve as janitors, lawn maintenance, and others as needed
- Scheduling clean-up events (i.e. interior cleaning including carpets, window washing, spring clean-up of grounds, trimming trees and shrubs, etc.), *and*
- Other responsibilities as identified by the Building and Grounds Committee and/or requested by the church council.

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (2020):

Co-Chairs: Ken Horntvedt (634-1973, home / 218-434-0269, cell / [KenHorntvedt@mncable.net](mailto:KenHorntvedt@mncable.net))  
Jerry Gubbels (634-2218, home)

Council Liaison: Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269, cell)

|                                               |                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Members: Eugene Mollberg (218-368-4159, cell) | John Perala (218-395-0531, cell)    |
| Nick Brekke (218-202-0320, cell)              | Roger Erickson (218-929-7749, cell) |
| Rex Muggli (218-395-0929, cell)               |                                     |

## 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The L/W SWCD & Conservation Corps repaired the riverbank erosion caused by high water and strong winds in November of 2019. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there weren't many opportunities to work on projects.

## PLANS FOR 2021:

**Our Goals:** In addition to the ongoing work of the committee (above), *we will specifically...*

1. Inspect and possibly replace the sash in the windows in the sanctuary
2. Relocate the flag pole
3. Install a concrete or crushed rock path to the picnic shelter

## Education Committee Annual Report, 2020

*I will guide you and teach you the way you should go. I will give you good advice and watch over you.*

-Psalm 32:8 (NIRV)

*O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old- what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. -*

Psalm 78:1-4 (NIV)

### ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The role of the Education Committee is to guide the educational programs for Wabanica Lutheran Church. Their responsibilities include, and are not limited to the following:

- Providing structure to youth education programs (i.e. Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, etc.),
- Providing guidance for parish-wide Christian education (i.e. First Communion, Confirmation, etc.),
- Maintaining calendars/records relating to education in the congregation (i.e. Confirmation photo book, attendance at Bible studies, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, etc.),
- Coordinating the Splash! Kits (for Baptism) and Splash! Packs (newsletters and music CDs for families with children from Birth to Age 3)
- Encouraging Christian reading and studies (i.e. Lutheran Women Today subscriptions, The Lutheran subscriptions, lending library, etc.),
- Supporting opportunities for ongoing Christian education for all ages (i.e. Bible studies, retreats, educational bulletin boards, etc.), *and*
- Working with the Church Council (*as needed*) to develop new programs to meet the needs of the congregation.

### MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

*NOTE: Committee membership was never confirmed this year.*

### 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

*We accomplished the following...*

#### • **Sunday School in 2020.**

A small group met with Pastor Birgitte on February 20 to discuss plans for Sunday School for youth in the congregation. Several ideas and options were discussed and the following items were determined:

**Curriculum:** Use the KidsStuff bulletins and include a Craft Day (on Youth Sunday, with Confirmation-aged youth teaching it)

**Schedule:** Sunday Morning Sunday School Program to be offered: 1) Spring (Easter through the end of the school year), Summer (Wednesday night youth worship once a month), and Fall (September through Christmas).

**Adaptations due to COVID-19:** The plans discussed never materialized. Pastor Birgitte offered online Bible stories for youth during the Spring season. The Christmas Program was recorded via Zoom from the homes of family members (Pierson, Peterson and Wolf) and used as the Christmas Day Worship Service for the Baudette Lutheran Parish.

#### • **Maintained youth records.**

We continued to maintain and update the membership lists for all youth in the congregation.

- **Continued to mail out *Splash! Newsletters*.**

These parent pages are monthly newsletters that help families incorporate faith formation into the events of daily life. The newsletters are age specific and designed to focus on faith formation from birth up to age 3.



Newsletters went out to the families of these little ones: Lila Cauble, Adeline Poppitz, Andy Ney, Christian Fiala, Charlotte Pierson, Archer Larson, Patrick Wolf, and Lommen Abbey. We thank Shelley Scribner for mailing these out on behalf of the congregation.

*NOTE: If you'd like to sponsor this project, a \$50 donation would cover 3 years of newsletters and postage for one child. Please contact Jody Horntvedt if you are interested.*

- **Provided Baptism kits.**

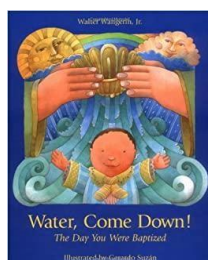
In 2020 we had five baptisms in the congregation: Maddox Hill (son of Mike & Annie [Gubbels] Hill), Charlotte Pierson (daughter of Andy & Sarah Pierson), Archer Larson (son of Chad & Heather Larson), Patrick Wolf (son of Mike & Calista Wolf), and Lommen Abby (son of Brad & Annika Abbey).



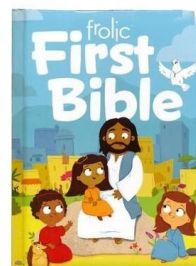
We continued to present *Splash! Kits* to individuals when baptized. These kits contain Bibles, blankets, prayer books, coloring pages, shells, music CDs, and other items to nurture the faith of the "Children of God" and remind them they are loved.

This year we changed up a couple of our books in the kits, so they now include these:

My First Bible:  
**Frolic First Bible**  
from Augsburg Fortress



Baptism Book:  
**Water, Come Down**  
By Walter Wangerin



*NOTE: We have kits available for infant, teen and adult baptisms.*

## Encouraged faith formation.

### *Vacation Bible School.*

- Colleen Stanton provided leadership for VBS Grades K-6 (July 20-24, 2020) – Compassion Camp was the theme. This program was designed to be a virtual VBS experience and had lots of great resources available to help support families at home. Colleen Stanton, Sarah Pierson, and Pastor Birgitte all helped record various components and Pastor Birgitte helped put the pieces together into a slideshow for each day. There was an opening, Bible Story, Yoga/Movement, Craft, Music, and a Compassion in Action piece all included. We had 19 sets of materials delivered or picked up by families of the parish.
- Sarah Pierson provided leadership for pre-school VBS (August 3-6, 2020) – The theme was Rainforest Explorers - Jesus Leads the Way! The Concordia Publishing House curriculum was used. Sarah recorded the intro, bible story and closing. There were videos provided for the puppet stories and Pastor Birgitte helped create the slide show for each day that was available on Facebook and Youtube. Colleen Stanton helped put backpacks together! We created approximately 20 backpacks with supplies. It was a lot of fun!

**Confirmation.** There were no youth confirmed in 2020 due to CoVid. Confirmands to be confirmed: Sam Stephani, Mia Gubbels, Riley Stromlund, Malik Klaustermeier.

- Pastor Birgitte offered Soul Food for the winter Session in January and February and then switched to Lent worship. Following that online classes were offered through May due to COVID.
- Samantha Lyon was contracted by the Baudette Lutheran Parish to provide leadership for Confirmation. She, along with Pastor Birgitte hosted a Confirmation Orientation (as part of Pizza Night on September 23, 2020 for youth and parents to share the plan for the coming year and a day-long retreat in October. Confirmation will look different during this school year. Please see Confirmation Report for more details.

### **Gifted our graduates with quilts.**

We had five graduates this year, who are pictured (L-R below): Griffen Sonstegard (*quilt sewn by Carol Erickson*), Malik Klaustermaier (*quilt sewn by Laurie Mollberg*), Zach Viscoe (*quilt sewn by Jody Horntvedt*), Ella Warnke (*quilt sewn by Wabanica quilters*), and Nicholas Martin (*quilt sewn by Wabanica quilters*).

The recognition event was held in the church parking lot and included lots of “horn honking” for each of the graduates!



***Report Submitted by Jody Horntvedt, Sarah Pierson, Wendy Peterson, and Pastor Birgitte Catlin***

## Annual Report 2020 Confirmation Update

In approaching the 2020-2021 school year, the Parish hired me, Samantha Lyon, as a Community and Family Ministry Associate primarily to help Pastor Birgitte with the Confirmation curriculum and other community ministry opportunities that arose during the pandemic. In an attempt to build a meaningful curriculum that could withstand the flexibility required in a pandemic, we moved to a retreat model for the structure of Confirmation. These 8-hour weekend-day events offered two main advantages:

1. COVID precautions and scheduling flexibility – Planning the curriculum to be delivered in more concentrated events provided for being able to move that event depending on what came of the pandemic. It also allowed us to schedule these days when COVID seemed less risky within the community (e.g., not during an outbreak in the school).
2. Concentrated time together – Spending longer periods of time as a Confirmation group allowed for stronger group development and more progress in the curriculum. We are able to spend more time having fun, Bible- study activities, and spiritual discernment.

Our goal is to have 5 retreats throughout the year, each centered around a baptismal promise:

1. live among God's faithful people;
2. hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper;
3. proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;
4. serve all people following the example of Jesus; and
5. strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

We held one of the 5 retreats prior the winter shutdown and were excited with the enthusiasm from our students. We had 16 students attend and spent the day playing games and discussing what it meant to live in community with one another. Our conversations centered around making positive impacts in our communities by reflecting on Luther's study of the 10 Commandments. We also built marshmallow and toothpick representations of our communities – many meaningful connections were made, and the appropriate amount of sugar consumed. We look forward to our next retreat, in which we will dig into the Lord's Supper by way of making bread!

Be well,

Samantha Lyon

# Hospitality and Service Committee Annual Report, 2020

*“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:9-10 (NIV)*

## ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The role of the Hospitality & Service Committee is to plan for the food and special recognition events in the life of the congregation.

Specifically,

- Coffee/Refreshments (serving after Sunday worship, Lenten worship, others)
- Funerals (serving refreshments, meals, etc.)
- Special Celebrations (Mother's Day, Graduation Sunday, Father's Day, Confirmation Sunday.)
- Special Events (serving for anniversary or birthday parties, Women of the ELCA events, weddings, etc.)
- Kitchen Management (ordering supplies – paper products, juice and coffee, other items – and organizing and cleaning the space – ordering cleaning supplies, scheduling annual cleaning, etc.)
- Other responsibilities as identified by the Hospitality & Service Committee and/or requested by the church council

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Chairperson: Judy Griffen (634-1009, home/ jegriff@mncable.net)

Council Liaison:

Members:

- Janeva Erickson (634-2480, home / deejay56623@hotmail.com )
- Marlys Anderson (634-1669, home / jermara@wiktel.com)
- Laurie Mollberg (634-1092, home / elmollberg@centurylink.net )
- Carol Brune (634-1700, home / brune.carol@yahoo.com )
- Sandra Sindelir (634-1034, home)
- Merlyce Gubbels (634-2218, home/ merlycegubbels@gmail.com )
- Sheri Gibbins (634-1564, home/ moosetracks@wiktel.com)

Individuals identified to help with special projects:

- Coffee after Church: Judy Griffen
- Kitchen Supplies Sub-Committee: Laurie Mollberg

**2020 Accomplishments:** The Hospitality Committee served for 1 funeral in

March. Submitted by Judy Griffen

## Outreach Ministries Committee Annual Report - 2020

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*"They have spread their gifts around to poor people. Their good works continue forever." Psalm 112:9*

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*ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE: The role of the Outreach Ministries Committee is to promote, and direct projects and activities focused on assisting those in need in the local community and beyond.*

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- In February, the Bakeless Bake Sale was organized and distributed to the Women of the Wabanica Church to decide which missions to support this year. We collected \$1045.65, which was distributed to 4 organizations, each receiving \$234.37. Those organizations were: LLS Nutritional Board, Lake of the Woods School Backpack Program, Friends Against Abuse, and Brink Center.
- We sent 36 boxes of quilts to the Minneapolis Lutheran Relief Center in October.
- We also gave away quilts to the following:
  - 5 quilts and 1 afghan to fire victims.
  - 2 baby blankets to the WIC program
  - 17 quilts to the Veterans Hospital in Fargo
  - 4 quilts to the Nursing Home
- We received many donations of material as well as money throughout the year. We thank all those who have contributed and worked to make our quilts. Also, a thank you to the ones transporting our quilts to Minneapolis.

*Submitted by Marlys Anderson and Judy Griffen*

## 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."

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.**