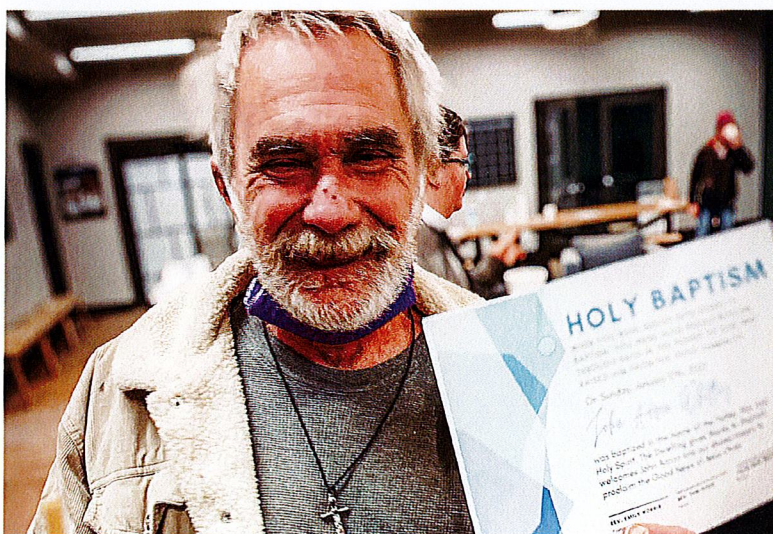
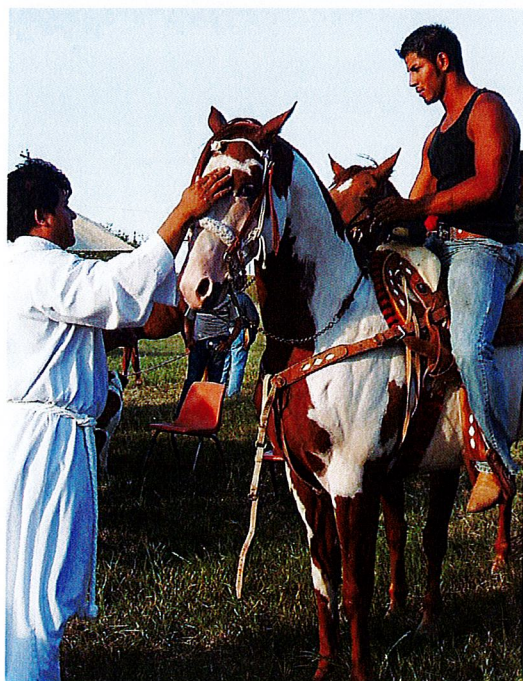
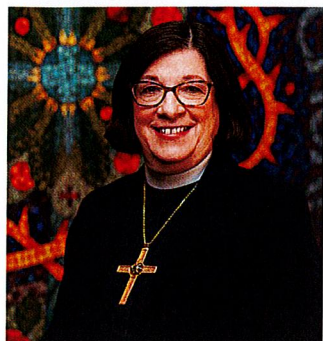


ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God's enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

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

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

Annual Meeting Agenda
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
January 30, 2022

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of Agenda

Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes White pages

Approval of 2021 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes White pages

Reports

Pastor White pages

Financial Officers Green pages

Committees & groups Ivory pages
 BWELCA, Farm, Social Concerns, Memorial

Mission Endowment Fund Gold pages

Old Business

1. Vote to ratify Amendment to Constitution re: size of Council

New Business

1. Elections – Council, Endowment Committee,
Farm Committee, Nominating Committee

2. Approval of the 2022 Budget Green pages

3. Approval of the 2022 Mission Endowment Budget Gold pages

4. Approval of Parsonage repair expenses

5. Discussion on Basement Flooring

Other Business

Closing Prayer – Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

Voting Members

December 31, 2021

Bethlehem's Constitution defines a voting member as follows: ***Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.*** Attendance records and offering statements based on envelope usage are the only records on which the following list can be based.

1. John Alden
2. Shelley Beeck
3. Kathy Becker
4. Lary Becker
5. Meagan Behrle
6. Deanne Bennett
7. Rochelle Busch
8. Debra Christiansen
9. Jerimiah Christiansen
10. Kelly Doll
11. Scott Doll
12. Donna Dosland
13. Kathy Duffey
14. Leta Dunt
15. Joyce Feuss
16. Tricia Feuss
17. Darla Fields
18. Lisa Fields
19. Katie Fields
20. Jeff Fields
21. Tom Gerdes
22. Pat Hansen
23. Darrell Hicks
24. Jimmey Hicks
25. Marlene Hicks
26. Jenna Holtz
27. Jim Holtz
28. Jody Holtz
29. Joshua Holtz
30. Brent Ihns
31. Diana Ihns
32. Enos Ihns
33. Jessica Ihns
34. Warren Ihns
35. Carol Kapinski
36. Jerry Kapinski
37. Connie Kleppe
38. Joan Kleppe
39. Roger Kleppe
40. Jone Paarmann
41. Les Paarmann
42. Callie Petersen
43. Coy Petersen
44. Becky Ihns-Petersen
45. Bill Pithan

46. Ellen Pithan
47. Betty Rehmke
48. Herold Rehmke
49. Pauline Schoop
50. Al Schroeder
51. Jeanette Schroeder
52. Kelly Schroeder
53. Lucile Schurbon
54. Ed Sheldon
55. Eleanor Sheldon
56. Barb Small
57. Allan Smith
58. Jason Sullivan
59. Haley Sullivan
60. Xera Tubbs
61. Tim Thiede
62. Madge White
63. Brent Willimack
64. Jessica Willimack
65. Kassidy Willimack
66. Doug Wulf
67. Noah Zeller
68. Sue Zeller

Associate Members

1. Kris Becker
2. Elenor Bentrrott
3. Karisa Brown
4. McKenna Brown
5. Chad Christiansen
6. Cody Current
7. Courtney Current
8. Gary Current
9. Stacy Current
10. Heth Davis
11. Shawna Davis
12. Lola DeMoss
13. Richard DeMoss
14. Rex Duffey
15. Melissa Ford
16. Stella Franck
17. Chase Gruenwald
18. Halie Gruenwald
19. Hannah Gruenwald
20. Ryne Gruenwald
21. Emily Kleinsmith
22. Marcia Kleinsmith
23. Paul Kleinsmith
24. Ryne Kleinsmith
25. Tracy Kleppe
26. Melissa McChesney
27. David Mickelson
28. Sara Mickelson
29. Heather Moore
30. Kindy Nissen
31. Dale Rickels
32. Dylan Rickels
33. Laurie Rickels
34. AJ Schroeder
35. Emma Thiede
36. Jo Thiede
37. Bruce Von Sprecken
38. Joan Von Sprecken

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
Sunday January 24, 2021

Meeting was held both in person and via zoom due to covid 19.

Called to order at 9:44 am and Pastor gave opening Prayer.

Roll call was done first for in person members then virtual members were asked to give their names and who was all in attendance with them.

Each member was provided with a ballot to vote on issues. President Jessica briefly went over how to use and turn them in for count.

2020 meeting minutes: no objections, vote on ballot to approve.

2020 Treasures report: vote on ballot to approve.

Pastor's report: Pastor went over the list of duties he has done this past year noted if it was for a BLC member or non-member. Reported that numbers of members are still being revised to get to a more realistic number of members.

Elections: Jessica thanked all out going members who had served. People nominated for vacant positions on Endowment, Farm and Council are listed on ballot for members to vote on.

Request for nominations from the brought one from Ellen nominating Scott Doll for farm committee. Scott was not present to accept but could write him in and he will be contacted about his decision to accept or decline the nomination.

2021 Budget:

Mission Endowment: No questions were raised but it was reported that interest rates have made decisions a little tighter.

Amendment for Scholarship Policy: Would like to raise scholarship amount from \$500 to \$750. Jessica went over rules for individuals to qualify for a scholarship. There was a request made that maybe scholarships could be raised to \$1000.

Other Business: Pastor will be gone for 2 weeks in Feb. Members were wondering about finding a replacement for that period. Pastor said he has been in contact with some possible fill ins.

Jessica asked for members to write in some names for people to be on nominating committee for next year.

Meeting closed with the Lords Prayer.

Motion to Adjourn: Marlene/m, Connie/s at 10:03 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darla Fields
Council Secretary

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday October 17, 2021**

Call to order at 9:55 am by President Jessica Ihns
Pastor Daniel opened with a prayer.

Reducing the size of council from 9 to 6 members. There was some discussion on how the number of 6 was determined. The size of voting members has been reduced -- in 2020 there was 68 voting members. Reducing to 6 council members will reflect the new size of the congregation. There will still be a requirement for 5 council members to be present to make significant decisions. The request was approved by a vote of 26 – 4 to reduce council.

Land Sale – Sell strip of land between Rickels and church property. This land was donated to the church many years ago, Rickels would like to put it back with their property and offered \$600.00 plus attorney fees for said property. Ellen Pithan made the request that because the property was given to the church that we should just give it back with no dollars changing hands. Warren stated that if sold the funds would go into memorial fund. If the vote reflected a no sale out come it would go back to council for further consideration and discussion. The vote was 24 – 10 to sell the land.

Distance worship 800 number – Anyone wishing to use this number was asked to contact Pastor so he could get a number of of people using it so a discussion to keep or drop the number can be determined.

Conflict of interest – Council is seeking the congregations feedback on asking members who serve on council and committees and employees to sign a conflict of interest. Ed Sheldon spoke up against this requirement, could possibly send the wrong message to people who wish to serve our church, the feeling that we don't trust them. Others members also agree with this point. Brent Ihns spoke up for the requirement, said its only a formality of doing business. If someone doesn't want to sign then they wont be able to run for council.

Connie Kleppe requested that we should possibly look into limiting members of the same family chairing 2 committees at the same time.

No decision was made on conflict of interest at this time, President Ihns said she would take it back to council for more discussion.

Pastor Daniel gave the congregation same words of guidance to ponder over as we try to come together on the discussion of conflict of interest.

Meeting was closed with a prayer.

Adjourn: Darla/m, Jone/s,/c at 10:36am.

Respectfully submitted,
Darla Fields
council secretary

May God's grace abound in your hearts and give you courage when faint of heart.

It seems as if sometimes time speeds by too quickly. In a world that is still feeling the impacts of a global pandemic, that may not be the worst of things. I am, however, always being reminded that there are times that we should be able to take a moment, a deep breath, and be present in the moment. If not, then we run the risk of losing what could be a crucial part of who we are and what we could one day become. These moments can come in a myriad of different ways. Perhaps the first time you find a new place to walk or eat, the smell of a fresh pot of coffee, a conversation with an old friend, a child's first steps or words, a moment of peace and quiet, or any other. In essence, the moments that grow to become the memories that shape us into who we will be in the days to follow. Without a break, we run the risk of becoming what is next on our never ending to-do list instead of who God sees us as capable of being; a beloved and unique child of God claimed in the waters of baptism and called to live as a member of the Body of Christ. In this, we are more than enough.

I invite you to read and reflect on part of Paul's letter to the church in Rome (Romans 12:2-12):

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."

In our quickness and hurriedness, we can find ourselves seeing ourselves as not as valuable compared to another, and as one hurting person, hurt others in turn. The love of God, and the story of the cross and empty tomb declare this to be pain for no purpose. May you, as sisters and brothers, go forth in the confidence that you are called and valued as members of the body of Christ. As we continue into a new year that already is forever changing and sometimes feels like standing on shifting sands, may you remember your worth. Despite everything that may go wrong; all the trials and difficulties we make for ourselves or are thrust upon us, I look forward to sharing more moments with all you, so that we all may continue to grow into the people God calls us to be.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and guide you in the months ahead,

Pr. Daniel Pell

2021 BLC Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Lily, Dewey, Amelia, *Emerson

Confirmations

N/A

Marriages

*Augustine & Mille Vogeles

*Noah & Celess Sepich

Funerals/Burials

*Treva Cabbage

Robert Feuss

*Bob Novachek

*Eloise Vacek

Dennis Kleppe

*Marlene Flory

*Donna Fae Schepers

*Algean Novachek

*Carter Conner

*Marlyn Willey

*Dave Flory

Membership Statistics

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership: Dec 31, 2020	290 ^Δ	189 ^Δ
Membership Received		
Baptism	4	0
Transfers	1	1
Adult Affirmations	0	0
Baptized Youth Confirmed	0	0
Membership Removed		
By death	2	2
By transfer to ELCA	1	1
By transfer to Non-ELCA	5	5
Total Removed	8	8
Membership: Dec 31, 2021	287 ^Δ	182 ^Δ
Voting Membership	68	

Average Attendance

2019- 36

2020- 33

2021- 34

* - Indicates non-BLC individual

#- indicates pending

^Δ- indicates info to be updated

2021 Officers and Committees

Council:

President	Jessica Ihns
Vice President	Al Schroeder
Secretary	Darla Fields
Treasurer	Tim Thiede
	Trish Feuss
	Jody Holtz
	Kelly Doll
	Deanne Bennett

BWELCA Board:

President	Connie Kleppe
Secretary	Diana Ihns
Treasurer	Darla Fields

Mission Groups:

Rochelle Busch
Jone Paarman
Madge White

Endowment:

President	Warren Ihns
V-President	Enos Ihns
Secretary	Jim Holtz
Treasurer	Jone Paarman

Member:

Kassidy Willimack

Farm:

— Darla Fields, Jerimiah Christiansen, Brent Ihns

Memorial:

Treasurer Jessica Ihns

Members:

Joan Kleppe, Betty Rehmke, Kelly Schroeder

Social Concerns:

Rochelle Busch, Jone Paarman

Nominating Committee:

Jim Holtz, Jone Paarman, Becky Petersen, Ellen Pithan, Al Schroeder

Audit Committee:

Connie Kleppe, Joan Kleppe, Allan Smith

Education:

Kelly Doll

Church Financial Secretary: Deb Christiansen

Church Bookkeeper: Jone Paarman

Personnel: Organist: Brenda Vacek
Custodian: Sara Mickelson

Church Secretary: Deanne Bennett

2021 Treasurer's Report

Income

Offering	\$ 57,827.81
Benevolence	\$ 434.50
Initial	\$ 52.50
Loose	\$ 811.00
World Hunger	\$ 67.12
SMLC Reimbursement	\$ 23,109.64
Farm Rent	\$ 35,655.00
Other (food pantry, rent)	\$ 686.51
TOTAL	\$ 118,644.08

Expenditures

Our Mission In World/Community	\$ 9,091.39
Our Mission at Home	\$ 5,755.79
Our Pastoral Ministry	\$ 50,646.25
Supporting Mission/Ministry	\$ 46,678.44
Non-budgeted Mission World/Comm	\$ 200.46
TOTAL	\$ 112,372.33

Checking Account

Balance 1/1/21	\$ 11,555.49
Income	\$ 118,644.08
Expenses	\$ 112,372.33
Balance 12/31/21	\$ 17,827.24

ELCA Mission Support

	2021
8.25% of Member Giving	\$ 4,837.70
Designated Benevolence	\$ 434.50
World Hunger	\$ 67.12
	\$ 5,339.32

Savings Account

Savings Rainy Day Sub Acct	\$ 10,535.03
Parsonage Fund Sub Acct	\$ 19,966.82
Interest for 2021	\$ 123.81
Balance 12/31/21	\$ 30,625.66

CD - renewed 2/26/21 at 1.00%	\$ 70,197.43
Interest on CD for 2021	\$ 348.10
CD Balance 12/31/21	\$ 70,545.53

Total Liquid Assets	\$ 118,998.43
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INCOME	2021 Budgeted	2021 Received	2022 Proposed Budget
Member Giving	\$ 57,300.00	\$ 58,691.31	\$ 57,500.00
Farm Rent	\$ 35,655.00	\$ 35,655.00	\$ 43,837.50
Other			
<i>Benevolence</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ 434.50	\$ 400.00
<i>World Hunger</i>	\$ 400.00	\$ 67.12	\$ 375.00
<i>Thrivent, use of church, misc</i>	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 686.51	\$ 400.00
TOTAL INCOME FOR BLC	\$ 97,155.00	\$ 95,534.44	\$ 102,512.50
<i>St. Mark's 40% of Pastoral Ministry</i>	<i>\$ 27,500.00</i>	<i>\$ 23,109.64</i>	<i>\$ 28,215.00</i>
Total Income for BLC with SMLC Reimbursement	\$ 124,655.00	\$ 118,644.08	\$ 130,727.50

EXPENSES	2021 Budget	2021 Expenses	2022 Proposed Budget
Line #			
Our Mission in the World & Community			
1 ELCA Mission Support (8.25%)	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 5,086.39	\$ 4,700.00
2 Synod Assembly Costs	\$ 500.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 500.00
3 Gifts and Memorials	\$ 500.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00
4 Fruits from Farm to Endowment	\$ 3,565.00	\$ 3,565.00	\$ 4,383.75
	\$ 9,265.00	\$ 9,091.39	\$ 10,083.75
Our Mission at Home			
6 Worship - supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,874.07	\$ 2,000.00
7 Organist	\$ 3,125.00	\$ 2,675.40	\$ 2,985.00 *A
8 Faith Formation / Education	\$ 750.00	\$ 206.32	\$ 500.00
9 Evangelism (Supplies, Materials, Events)	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
10 Stewardship (Supplies, Events)	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
	\$ 5,725.00	\$ 5,755.79	\$ 5,735.00
Our Pastoral Ministry			
11 Pastor's Salary	\$ 40,700.00	\$ 40,599.92	\$ 42,740.00 *B
12 Pastor's Benefits (soc sec + med + pension)	\$ 8,600.00	\$ 8,589.90	\$ 8,975.00
13 Extra Pastoral Services	\$ 1,100.00	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00
14 Reimbursements	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 1,456.43	\$ 5,680.00
	\$ 55,500.00	\$ 50,646.25	\$ 58,495.00
Supporting Our Mission and Ministry			
15 Secretary	\$ 5,450.00	\$ 4,244.15	\$ 4,800.00 *A
16 Custodian	\$ 4,020.00	\$ 4,007.69	\$ 4,225.00 *A
17 Bookkeeper	\$ 1,340.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
18 FICA - Secretary & Custodian	\$ 725.00	\$ 720.05	\$ 800.00
19 Office supplies / equipment	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,837.21	\$ 2,000.00
20 Communications / Telephone	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,558.42	\$ 3,600.00
21 Postage	\$ 350.00	\$ 307.15	\$ 350.00
22 Repairs/upkeep - church	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,884.56	\$ 3,200.00 *C
23 Repairs/upkeep - parsonage	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 408.10	\$ 6,000.00 *B
24 Electricity	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,785.49	\$ 5,000.00
25 Fuel	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,775.98	\$ 4,000.00
26 Water, Sewage, Garbage	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 879.64	\$ 1,000.00
27 Insurance	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,031.00	\$ 6,200.00
28 Farm Expenses and Taxes	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 4,909.00	\$ 5,250.00
29 Special Maintenance (10% farm)	\$ 3,565.00	\$ 3,565.00	\$ 4,383.75
30 Retained for savings from farm rent (10%)	\$ 3,565.00	\$ 3,565.00	\$ 4,383.75
	\$ 53,715.00	\$ 46,678.44	\$ 56,392.50
Other 5 Non Budget Sharing (WH, 20/20, Food Pan)	\$ -	\$ 200.46	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 124,205.00	\$ 112,372.33	\$ 130,706.25
<i>Minus Reimbursements from St. Mark's for Pastor's Salary</i>	<i>\$ 27,500.00</i>	<i>\$ 23,109.64</i>	<i>\$ 28,215.00</i>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES FOR BLC	\$ 96,705.00	\$ 89,262.69	\$ 102,491.25

*A - 5% increase per employee

*B - total increase 5% - see Pastoral Salary sheet for further information

*C - consists of snow removal, mowing, pest treatment, bathroom repair, etc

2022 Budget Pastor Salary

	2022	60%	40%
		Cost Share BLC	Cost Share SMLC
Base Pay	\$ 38,900.00	\$ 23,340.00	\$ 15,560.00
2% Pay Increase per Year - 4-years	\$ 3,112.00	\$ 1,867.20	\$ 1,244.80
raise to bring to 5% increase	\$ 727.00	\$ 436.20	\$ 290.80
Housing Allowance	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 2,400.00
SS Allowance	\$ 3,728.53	\$ 2,237.12	\$ 1,491.41
Defined Compensation	\$ 52,467.53	\$ 31,480.52	\$ 20,987.01
Cash to Pastor (Base + 2%/yr + SS)	\$ 46,467.53	\$ 25,577.12	\$ 17,051.41
Health Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Disability	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Life Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Retirement	\$ 5,246.75	\$ 3,148.05	\$ 2,098.70
Retiree Support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Benefits Cost	\$ 5,246.75	\$ 3,148.05	\$ 2,098.70
Base Pay + Benefits	\$ 51,714.29	\$ 28,725.17	\$ 19,150.11
Mileage	\$ 4,032.00	\$ 2,419.20	\$ 1,612.80
Continuing Education	\$ 850.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 340.00
Fall Conference	\$ 300.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 120.00
Books / Publications	\$ 500.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00
Misc. Expenses	\$ 5,682.00	\$ 3,409.20	\$ 2,272.80
Total Pastoral Care Cash Expense	\$ 57,396.29	\$ 32,134.37	\$ 21,422.91
Phone & Internet & Cable	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 720.00
Garbage, Water, & Sewer	\$ 720.00	\$ 432.00	\$ 288.00
Electricity	\$ 2,820.00	\$ 1,692.00	\$ 1,128.00
Gas - Heat	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 720.00
Utilities	\$ 7,140.00	\$ 4,284.00	\$ 2,856.00
Total Cash Outlay with Parsonage	\$ 70,536.29	\$ 42,321.77	\$ 28,214.51
Supply Pastor - Drill Weekends	\$ 3,825.00	\$ 2,295.00	\$ 1,530.00
Total Cost with Supply Pastor	\$ 74,361.29	\$ 44,616.77	\$ 29,744.51

Housing allowance - \$500/mo
7.65%

0.00% Covered by Reserves - No Cost
1.30% Defined Compensation
0.90% Defined Compensation
10.00% Defined Compensation
0.00% Defined Compensation

600 miles / mo \$0.56 Fed reimbursement rate

150.00 per month
60.00 per month
235.00 per month
150.00 per month

225.00 per Sunday - Assume 13 Drill Weeks + 4 Vacation Sundays

Memorial Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2020 \$3406.33

Income – Memorial Gifts

Joan Clapp 545.00

Bob Feuss 310.00

Dennis Kleppe 230.00

Income – Interest 2.07

Total Income \$ 1087.07

Expenses

N/A -0-

Total Expenses \$ -0-

Balance (1/1/2021) + Income for 2021 \$ 4493.40

Expenses - 0.00

Balance as of 12/31/2021 \$ 4493.40

Committee Members

Jessica Ihns, Treasurer Joan Kleppe Betty Rehmke Kelly Schroeder

Social Concerns

Beginning Balance 1/1/21 \$ 1,588.34

INCOME:

Fellowship \$ 364.93

Memorials \$ 10.00

Interest \$ 1.71

Total Income \$ 376.64

EXPENSES:

Fellowship Expenses

Christian Outreach \$ 600.00 See breakdown below

Total Expenses \$ 600.00

Ending Balance 12/31/21 \$ 1,364.98

April: \$200 - DVIP - Gifts cards

October: \$200 - DVIP -
coveralls

November: \$200 - Fr. Francis: Project Hope Wells in
Ghana

Members: Rochelle Busch, Jone Paarman

BWELCA 2021 REPORT

Quilting began Jan. 4 with social distancing implemented. We had 2 groups, some met on Mondays, and some met on Wednesdays through March 15. Even with fewer quilters, we set a record of 210 quilts, (maybe 2 days / week made the difference, but what a dedicated group!) and 4 pillows. The quilts were sent to: the Domestic Violence Intervention Program in Iowa City, The King House and High Tower in Clinton, Lutheran Services of Iowa- Clinton, Davenport, and Muscatine, Union Presbyterian Church in Lost Nation, 33 quilts were given to LWR, 3 were given to local benefits. 12 quilts/ wall hangings were sent to EWALU for their annual Quilt Auction in September, and 3 Quilts of Valor were presented at the Annual Veterans Day Event.

Our annual Cheer Brunch was cancelled due to Covid, but several women assembled 34 cheer plates and on Feb.20 distributed them. The Friendship Party was also cancelled due to Covid.

The World Day of Prayer was observed on Mar. 7 with a noisy offering of \$67.12 including our budgeted amount of \$25.00. The Republic of Vanuatu in the South Pacific was the focal country this year.

The Lenten soup suppers were cancelled due to the Covid.

We packed 64 layette kits and 88 health kits in March. They were delivered to LWR along with the quilts.

The Spring Quilt Display and Luncheon was held on Mar.20 with carryouts only in place of the Bazaar

The Senior/Senior Celebration was held on Sunday April 18 with Callie Petersen being our only graduating senior.

We had a small group for church cleaning on Sunday April 25. Some small projects inside and out were completed, and all enjoyed pop & pizza courtesy of the Endowment Committee.

We did not have the Community Coffee in June due to Covid, but the Ice Cream Social was held as a drive thru/carryout. It was very successful as we served 155.

In July we helped with the Rustic Days Ecumenical Brunch, which was hosted by the OLOHR. Approximately 65 attended.

Restrictions prevented us from serving a meal for the DVIP residents, but we purchased a gift card for meals for them and in August delivered cookies, corn, and watermelon as well as food items that were gathered from Bethlehem and St. Marks.

In September was election of officers and we welcomed Kelly Schroeder to the Board as Mission Growth/Stewardship position.

We packed 128 school kits for LWR in September & October.

The EWALU Quilt Auction was held September 18. Bethlehem's quilts brought \$665.

On October 1 several women traveled to Cuba City Wisconsin to visit Stella Franck for a lunch out and a tour of her church rounded out the day.

Other Fall activities were Treat the Food Pantry, The Harvest Table, and the Thankoffering Service all coordinated by the Mission Community/ Justice Committee.

On December 5, we decorated the church after worship and enjoyed brunch for our joint Circle Christmas Party at the Pub Club.

Audit Committee

The audit committee meet on January 18, 2021, they found all books to be satisfactory.

Committee:

Connie Kleppe, Joan Kleppe, Allan Smith

Farm Committee 2021

The Farm Committee met in early August as a group and with the renter, Keith Dexter. Before the time of the meeting, the Committee received an unsolicited offer at a higher rental rate than currently being paid. The Committee decided that we were happy with Keith and would allow him the opportunity to make an offer that he felt was fair and with which he was comfortable. It was decided by the Committee to not disclose the unsolicited offer rate and allow Keith to make his decision bias free. It was decided that if Keith's offer was less than the unsolicited offer that the lease with Keith would be terminated and the farm would be put out for public bid. Keith's rental offer came in higher than the unsolicited offer and Committee decided to proceed with renting the farm to Keith for the next year. Keith did request different payment terms with the new rate which would be ½ payment March 1st and ½ payment October 1st instead of a payment in January and July. The new rental payment for 2022 will be \$43,837.50.

Respectfully submitted,
Farm Committee – Darla, Jeremiah, Brent

Bethlehem Mission Endowment Fund

2022 Budget

Endowment Value	2021 \$ 779,200.00	2022 Proposed Budget \$ 780,325.00
Interest Income	1.44%	1.00%
1 Interest on CDs	\$ 11,240.00	\$ 7,805.00
2 10% returned to CD principal	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 780.00
Total Interest Income to Disburse	\$ 10,115.00	\$ 7,025.00
Disbursements		
I. Local		
1 LN EMTs	\$ 450.00	Moved to First Fruits
2 LN Food Pantry	*****	*****
3 LN Cemetery	\$ 415.00	Moved to First Fruits
4 Busch Cemetery	\$ 275.00	Moved to First Fruits
5 Smithtown Cemetery	\$ 275.00	Moved to First Fruits
Local Total	\$ 1,415.00	\$ -
II. Synod and Area		
6 LSI - Bremwood, Beloit	\$ 750.00	\$ 500.00
7 Women's Resource Center	\$ 750.00	\$ 500.00
8 Carroll Assistance Center	\$ 200.00	Moved to First Fruits
9 Anamosa Prison Ministry	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
10 DVIP - Iowa City	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Synod and Area Total	\$ 2,650.00	\$ 1,950.00
III. World		
11 Missionary Sponsorship	\$ 750.00	\$ 600.00
12 BWELCA Quilts/LWR Kits	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 715.00
13 Mawuvio Outreach-Child Sponsorship	\$ 200.00	\$ 360.00
World Total	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 1,675.00
IV. Bethlehem		
14 Elevator Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
15 Parsonage/Church Remodeling	*****	*****
Bethlehem Total	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
V. Education		
16 College Scholarships (Full & P.T.)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
17 EWALU - General	*****	*****
18 EWALU - Camperships	\$ 500.00	\$ 400.00
19 Midland Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 200.00	*****
20 Delwood Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 200.00	*****
21 Cal-Wheat Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 200.00	*****

22	LN Community Education	*****	*****
	Education Total	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 1,900.00
	Total Interest Income Disbursements	\$ 10,115.00	\$ 7,025.00
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	First Fruits from Farm Income	\$ 3,565.00	\$ 4,385.00
	Disbursements		
23	DAC, Inc. - Maquoketa	\$ 315.00	\$ 300.00
24	Veterans - LN Legion	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
25	LN Scoop	\$ 500.00	\$ 485.00
26	VNA - Hospice	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
27	Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
28	EWALU - General	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
29	LN EMTS		\$ 450.00
30	LN Cemetery		\$ 300.00
31	Busch Cemetery		\$ 200.00
32	Smithtown Cemetery		\$ 200.00
33	Carroll Assistance Center		\$ 200.00
	Total First Fruits Disbursements	\$ 3,565.00	\$ 4,385.00

**Bethlehem Mission Endowment Fund
2021 Budget Checklist**

		2021	PAID
Endowment Value		\$ 779,200.00	
Interest Income		1.44%	
	1 Interest on CDs	\$ 11,240.00	
Dec	2 10% returned to CD principal	\$ <u>1,125.00</u>	12/6/2020
		\$ 10,115.00	
Total Interest Income to Disburse		\$ 10,115.00	
Disbursements			
I. Local			
Apr	1 LN EMTs	\$ 450.00	4/12/2021
Apr	2 LN Food Pantry		
Apr	3 LN Cemetery	\$ 415.00	4/12/2021
Apr	4 Busch Cemetery	\$ 275.00	4/12/2021
Apr	5 Smithtown Cemetery	\$ <u>275.00</u>	4/12/2021
	Local Total	\$ 1,415.00	
II. Synod and Area			
Apr	6 LSI - Bremwood, Beloit	\$ 750.00	4/12/2021
Apr	7 Women's Resource Center	\$ 750.00	4/12/2021
Apr	8 Carroll Assistance Center	\$ 200.00	4/12/2021
Apr	9 Anamosa Prison Ministry	\$ 200.00	4/12/2021
Apr	10 DVIP - Iowa City	\$ <u>750.00</u>	4/12/2021
	Synod and Area Total	\$ 2,650.00	
III. World			
Nov	11 Missionary Sponsorship	\$ 750.00	11/3/2021
Apr	12 BWELCA Quilts/LWR Kits	\$ 1,000.00	4/12/2021
Apr	13 Mawuvio Outreach-Child Sponsorship	\$ <u>200.00</u>	4/12/2021
	World Total	\$ 1,950.00	
IV. Bethlehem			
			Pd 1/1/21
Jan	14 Elevator Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,432.31
	15 Parsonage/Church Remodeling		
	Bethlehem Total	\$ 1,500.00	
V. Education			
			Pd 1/9/21 Pd 8/9/21
Sep/Jan	16 College Scholarships (Full & P.T.)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 250.00 \$ 375.00
Apr	17 EWALU - General		
Apr	18 EWALU - Camperships	\$ 500.00	4/12/2021
Nov	19 Midland Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 200.00	11/3/2021
Nov	20 Delwood Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 200.00	11/3/2021
Nov	21 Cal-Wheat Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 200.00	11/3/2021
	22 LN Community Education		

Education Total	\$ 2,600.00
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Total Interest Income Disbursements	\$ 10,115.00
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First Fruits from Farm Income	\$ 3,565.00
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Disbursements

Nov	23	DAC/Imagine the Possibilities - Maquoketa	\$ 315.00	11/3/2021
Nov	24	Veterans - LN Legion	\$ 1,000.00	11/3/2021
Apr	25	LN Scoop	\$ 500.00	4/12/2021
Apr	26	VNA - Hospice	\$ 750.00	4/12/2021
Apr	27	Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach	\$ 700.00	4/12/2021
Apr	28	EWALU - General	\$ <u>300.00</u>	4/12/2021
Total First Fruits Disbursements			\$ 3,565.00	

ENDOWMENT FUND REGISTER 2021

DATE	CHECK#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1/1/2021	BAL	Balance Forward		9,989.21
1/1/2021	1233	Schumacher Elevator - annual maint	-1,432.31	8,556.90
1/9/2021	1234	Kirkwood Comm. College - Chloe	-250.00	8,306.90
1/8/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.73	8,307.63
1/31/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	764.87	9,072.50
2/7/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.81	9,073.31
2/26/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	690.79	9,764.10
3/9/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.81	9,764.91
3/31/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	764.87	10,529.78
4/9/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.93	10,530.71
4/12/2021	1236	LN EMTs	-450.00	10,080.71
4/12/2021	1237	LN Cemetery	-415.00	9,665.71
4/12/2021	1238	Busch Cemetery	-275.00	9,390.71
4/12/2021	1239	Smithtown Cemetery	-275.00	9,115.71
4/12/2021	1240	LSI - Bremwood/Beloit	-750.00	8,365.71
4/12/2021	1241	Women's Resource Center	-750.00	7,615.71
4/12/2021	1242	Carroll Assistance Center	-200.00	7,415.71
4/12/2021	1243	Anamosa Prison Ministry	-200.00	7,215.71
4/12/2021	1244	Domestic Violence Intervention Program	-750.00	6,465.71
4/12/2021	1245	BWELCA	-1,000.00	5,465.71
4/12/2021	1246	Mawuvio Outreach	-200.00	5,265.71
4/12/2021	1247	EWALU - camperships	-500.00	4,765.71
4/30/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	740.16	5,505.87
5/7/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.71	5,506.58
5/28/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	764.87	6,271.45
6/7/2021	DEP	Interest - CD	1,123.94	7,395.39
6/9/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.68	7,396.07
6/30/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	740.16	8,136.23
7/9/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.68	8,136.91
7/30/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	764.87	8,901.78
8/9/2021	1256	NE Iowa Community College - Callie	-375.00	8,526.78
8/9/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.74	8,527.52
8/31/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	764.87	9,292.39
9/9/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.75	9,293.14
9/9/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS - reinvested	197.28	9,490.42
9/30/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	361.74	9,852.16
10/8/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.74	9,852.90
10/29/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	509.80	10,362.70
11/3/2021	1259	ELCA - Division for Global Mission	-750.00	9,612.70
11/3/2021	1260	Midland Elementary Comm. School	-200.00	9,412.70
11/3/2021	1261	Delwood Comm. School	-200.00	9,212.70
11/3/2021	1262	Cal-Wheat Elementary Comm. School	-200.00	9,012.70
11/9/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.83	9,013.53
11/30/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	493.34	9,506.87
12/6/2021	1263	First Trust - reinvest 10% of budget	-780.00	8,726.87
12/7/2021	DEP	Interest - CD	1,130.12	9,856.99
12/9/2021	DEP	Interest - Checking	0.72	9,857.71
12/31/2021	Transfer	To Discretionary - unused Elevator maint	-67.69	9,790.02
12/31/2021	Transfer	To Discretionary - unused Scholarships	-875.00	8,915.02
12/31/2021	DEP	Interest - CDARS	509.80	9,424.82

FIRST FRUITS FUND REGISTER 2021

DATE	CHECK#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1/1/2020	BAL	Balance Forward		\$ 897.58
1/29/2021	DEP	2021 First Fruits from General Fund	3,565.00	\$ 4,462.58
4/12/2021	1248	LN Scoop	-500.00	\$ 3,962.58
4/12/2021	1249	VNA Hospice	-750.00	\$ 3,212.58
4/12/2021	1250	Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach	-700.00	\$ 2,512.58
4/12/2021	1251	EWALU - general	-300.00	\$ 2,212.58
11/3/2021	1257	LN Legion	-1,000.00	\$ 1,212.58
11/3/2021	1258	Imagine the Possibilities	-315.00	\$ 897.58

DISCRETIONARY FUND REGISTER 2021

DATE	CHECK#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1/1/2021	BAL	Balance Forward		7,370.52
4/4/2021	1235	Jone Paarmann - flowers for Adrian grave	-21.38	7,349.14
4/12/2021	1252	Postmaster - stamps	-11.00	7,338.14
4/12/2021	1253	Midland Post Prom	-100.00	7,238.14
4/26/2021	1254	John or Deb Vacek - help w/exp for baby Nolan	-500.00	6,738.14
4/26/2021	1255	Warren Ihns - pizza for cleaning day	-50.00	6,688.14
12/31/2021	Transfer	From Endowment - unused Elevator maint	67.69	6,755.83
12/31/2021	Transfer	From Endowment - unused Scholarships	875.00	7,630.83

CHECKING BALANCE 12-31-21

Endowment Fund Balance	9,424.82
First Fruits Fund Balance	897.58
Discretionary Fund Balance	7,630.83
TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUND	17,953.23

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Litany

Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

You have called us for such a time as this.

God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused, your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

All Creation Sings #1063

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**O God,
 you have called your servants
 to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
 by paths as yet untrodden,
 through perils unknown.
 Give us faith to go out with good courage,
 not knowing where we go,
 but only that your hand is leading us
 and your love supporting us;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen. (ELW, p. 317)**

Change and the need for creativity have become constants over the last year and a half in many aspects of life, including the church. This was the case for **Living Christ Lutheran Church** in Flagstaff, Ariz., even before a global pandemic caused many of us to rethink what it means to be church. Generosity from all three expressions of the ELCA (the churchwide organization, the Grand Canyon Synod and members of Living Christ) helped turn a congregation “on the road out of town, near the mall” into an online presence reaching over 500 people a week from Phoenix to the Philippines. (Read more about Living Christ in the current issue of “**Stories of Faith in Action**” at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).)

Many other congregations have found new ways to connect both when in-person worship was impossible and when congregations began to return to their sanctuaries. Generosity, especially through Mission Support, helped us find and support these new ways of being connected. Early in the pandemic, ELCA Worship launched the “Worship in the Home” webpage, with Scripture, hymn links, prayers and reflections for each

Sunday. These resources were and continue to be used in congregations across the ELCA—even at **Sitka Lutheran Church** in Alaska, whose members printed and hand-delivered “Worship in the Home” resources to fellow members without internet access.

Change and creativity have taught us many things. As Pastor Sandra Rudd of Sitka Lutheran Church noted, “The pandemic was a stark illustration of the fact that the church is not a building. A lot of people say that, but we didn’t fully know it until we didn’t have a building to use. We learned that there are many ways to be connected as the church.” Throughout the pandemic, the ELCA has changed and adapted, doing ministry in new and creative ways, because of the generosity of its members. Even now, you may be gathering in a new way for your annual meeting, to discern how you will steward the gifts shared generously with your congregation to do ministry in your community and beyond. As you have these important conversations, remember that your gifts of time, talent and resources have helped create new spaces beyond our walls and buildings where we continue to worship, serve and love God and each other.

ANNUAL REPORT

— 2021 —