



CONGREGATIONAL Annual Report



LIVING OUR FAITH

How the COVID-19 pandemic is inspiring ELCIC members to adapt and find new ways to live out the call to be *In Mission for Others*

2020 has been a challenging year for all. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we function in our day-to-day lives drastically. Working from home is a reality for many. Visits have become phone calls. Gym memberships have turned into home workouts. And traditional church worship has also been impacted.

When the first wave of this reality started to impact us here in Canada in the middle of March 2020, we saw many congregations turn from

grieving the loss of gathering together in person to exploring new ways of connecting with church members and the wider community, while ensuring physical distancing strategies were maintained and those who were vulnerable were protected.

It hasn't always been easy but across the church—coast to coast to coast—we are finding new ways to come together as community.

When COVID-19 drives us out—we drive in!

As the world unexpectedly embraced the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, New Denmark Lutheran Parish, New Brunswick (comprised of St. Peter's and Bethany), adapted to the challenging circumstances before them.

Social distancing measures closed the door on in-person worship, and poor bandwidth allocation made virtual worship extremely challenging. In light of this, an adaptive and alternative approach was taken: drive-in style worship services. In the beginning it was an adventure filled with newness and uncertainty, but it quickly shaped into an enjoyable means of gathering and worshipping together while maintaining social distancing protocols.

Rather than focus on what the pandemic has prohibited, we strive to focus on the new opportunities that it creates! COVID-19 attempted to drive us out of our buildings, but has instead driven us into a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages and skill-sets to work collectively in the service of Christ and the church.



PHOTOS BY NATHALIE CECIRE



PHOTOS BY REV. DENNIS HENDRICKSEN



Virtual Vacation Bible School

As many worship services had to adapt over 2020 to allow for virtual options, so too has Vacation Bible School (VBS). Christ, Regina approached this with open hearts and minds using the approach from *Illustrated Ministry's* Compassion Camp—looking beyond ourselves in compassion for others.

Compassion Camp consists of five sessions with the same format—a Bible story, singing, crafts, games, yoga, colouring and reflection

on the session's Bible story.

Each session began with the leader putting on their "compassion glasses," enabling them to see and greet the VBS participants in their homes.

Both parents and grandparents participated with their children and the feedback showed virtual VBS was well received.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – Provost, Alberta
ANNUAL MEETING – January 17, 2021

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Devotion
3. Consideration of Agenda
4. Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting (p. 2)
5. Old Business
 - A. Second Reading of Revised Constitution and Bylaws
 - B.
6. Correspondence
 - A. Bishop's Letter (p. 4)
 - B.
7. Reports – the following reports to be adopted in one motion
 - A. Committees
 - i. Mission and Outreach
 - ii. Worship (p. 7)
 - a) Attendance Record for 2020 (p. 8)
 - b)
 - iii. Education and Youth (p. 9)
 - a) Sunday School Superintendents (p. 10)
 - b)
 - iv. Property (p. 11)
 - v. Cemeteries
 - a) Skyline Historical Society (p. 12)
 - b) Our Saviour's
 - B. Treasurer's (p. 13)
 - C. Pastor's (p. 16)
8. 2021 Budget (p. 17)
9. Nominations and Elections
 - A. Church Council (p. 18)
 - B. National Convention 2022
10. New Business
 - A. Date of 2022 Annual Meeting
 - B.
11. Closing Devotion
12. Lord's Prayer
13. Adjournment

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – JANUARY 19, 2020

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Gerry Motta	Linda Aker Paulgaard	Antionnette Erasmus
Irene Motta	Paul McCormick	Blair Whidden
Darlene Downing	Carol Paulgaard	Ove Aasen
Deon Erasmus	Andrew Rab	Melanie Hilt-McGowan
Elton Paulgaard	Alyssa Rab	Andrew Rab
Donna Paulgaard Johnston	Norris Pahlke	Jenna Whidden
Dawn Paulgaard	Ruth Pahlke	Joyce Larson
Susan McElhinney	Sherrilyn Spencer	Dick Brouwer
Vivian Baier	David Baier	Elaine Brouwer
Norma Paulgaard	Trevor Provick	ML Gendron Provick

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Trevor called the meeting to order at 11.06 AM / quorum was confirmed and there were no special housekeeping announcements.
2. **OPENING DEVOTION & PRAYER:** Pastor Paul opened with devotion by reading from Acts 9:36-42, Hymn # 695 was sung and had opening prayer which was written on the back of the report cover.
3. **CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA:** Melanie motioned that the agenda be accepted as presented. ML second/ carried.
4. **MINUTES OF THE PRECEEDING MEETING:** AGM 2019 minutes – Darlene moved they be accepted / Susan second. Carried.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - First reading of REVISED CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS- Deon made a motion to accept as presented/Donna second. Carried
6. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - Bishop's letter (page 4)
7. **REPORTS:**
 - A. COMMITTEES**
 1. Mission & Outreach -- (page 6) -- There were no questions or concerns.
 2. Worship & Music -- (pages 7 -10) -- There were no questions or concerns.
 3. Property -- (page 12) -- There were no questions or concerns
 4. Education & Youth -- (page 11) -- There were no questions or concerns
 5. Cemeteries --Skyline (page 13) / Our Saviours (page 12) -- No questions or concerns
 - B. TREASURER'S REPORT**— (page 14) -- There were no questions or concerns.
 - C. PASTOR'S REPORT** -- (page 17) -- There were no questions or concerns.
 - Gerry made a motion to accept the reports as presented/ Deon second. Carried.
8. **2020 BUDGET** -- (page 18) ML made the motion to accept the 2020 budget as presented/ Antionnette second. Carried.

9. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- New Council Members – Brad Pylypow, Kim Larson, Norris Pahlke, Blair Whidden. Trevor thanked all council members for their time and commitment.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. CARPET PROJECT – Donna and Trevor spoke on this “future” expense. Our carpet is starting to show wear and we hope to maintain them so we can get a few more years out of it but we should start a fund so some of the money is there since this will be a sizeable expense. Susan made a motion that we start a “carpet fund” / Ruth second. Carried

B. REPLACEMENT OF FLOURESCENT LIGHTING – Blair suggested we replace our fluorescent lights with LED’s as they “die”. He will provide more information at the next regular council meeting.

C. STAINED GLASS – Gerry inquired about adding stained glass to the windows along the north and south side of the sanctuary. Deon made a motion for property committee to investigate this details and cost of this project and bring it to council / Melanie second. Carried

D. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING – Darlene made the motion that the date for the next AGM will be January 17, 2021/ Deon second. Carried.

11. CLOSING DEVOTION: From the report cover. Hymn # 712

12. LORD’S PRAYER

13. MEETING ADJOURNED: Trevor adjourned the meeting at 11:41 AM. We sang Table Grace and went down stairs to enjoy a hot potluck dinner and fellowship.

January 2021

Dear Beloved in Christ,



May grace and peace be yours in abundance (1 Peter 1:2a).

I send you greetings in the Name of the One who is the light of the world, Jesus our Lord, as you gather for your Annual General Congregational Meeting.

These past months have been a season of incredible change.

Our patterns of life, as we have known them, continue to be disrupted and there is much anxiety around and within us. There is an increased awareness of many issues in our lives, our communities, and world, which for many had existed unobserved, silent, hidden, ignored. Employment needs, violence, mental health concerns, food security issues, racism, climate change, deaths, losses of many kinds....

At the same time, these past months have accelerated the movement of the church into profoundly adaptive changes and challenges and opportunities, which needed to be addressed in order to be vital communities of witness to Jesus in the 21st century.

I am realizing that the “new normal” is not something we have to still envisage in a time to come; the new normal is already among us.

There are new opportunities and possibilities before us, including recommitting to a missional model of listening, discerning, experimenting, reflecting, and learning, while continuing to ask the questions: where is God in our neighborhood? our community? our world? And equally important: how might we join God in God’s mission?

I continue to be grateful and encouraged by the amazing resilience of congregational leaders, lay and rostered who under extraordinary stress, pressure and restraints have poured themselves into the work of leadership; and though tired and weary and wondering, have reached out to one another, and to those in their midst, providing pastoral care, connection, compassion and care.

And our synod and church, working together in ways that witness to the Spirit of God among us. The Day of Pentecost synod-wide video and the Reign of Christ synod-wide worship service. Joint correspondence from national and synod treasurers, and from national and synod bishops. Sharing of resources and experience.

Creativity, ingenuity, openness, support, encouragement, trust, community.

I urge you, during your Annual General Meeting, and at other times, to continue to be in conversation together. Conversation as lay and rostered leaders and congregational members, as well as across your Synodical Area and together throughout our Synod.

I offer the following questions again for reflection and discussion. In considering these questions, keep in mind not just worship, but spiritual life, faith formation, service to the neighbor, and relationships in general as the body of Christ along the continuum that includes both physical and digitally mediated presence to one another.

What is God calling us to be and do in the time ahead? What is God's purpose for us – what is God's mission through us – moving forward?

What have we learned during the past months about what is important in our life together as the body of Christ? How might we use this knowledge to shape how we will live, work, and serve together? What might we bring into the future from this experience?

What new skills have we learned? What other skills and gifts will we need to embrace a new future?

How might our theological, denomination, and biblical perspective and traditions inform how we move forward?

What are the things that seemed so important before the coronavirus crisis that we might give less attention to, or let go of, altogether?

When you meet, you will be making decisions about your priorities for ministry. You will be adopting budgets that enable ministry that joins in God's mission of reconciliation in the world. You will be supporting your partners in ministry – the rostered ministers of this Synod, and especially those who serve among you as they, first and foremost, seek to equip you for the work of ministry: the building up of the Body of Christ.

Joining God's mission means that your ministry is among the people with whom you live and move and have your being. Your ministry is done each day in the living out of your baptismal identity as God's beloved children through your service in word and deed.

Ministry continues beyond the neighborhood and congregation through the many faces of the church and many facets of its ministries: our Synod and its staff, our National Church expression, the Lutheran World Federation, *En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador*, and our Companion Synod – The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

As you gather be sure to join others across the Synod as you:

Receive and share the 2021 Synod Narrative Budget. I encourage you to share the brief Narrative Budget prepared in two formats for your use, in addition to the hard copy text: video or PowerPoint and text formats

Review the Synod Council Meeting "Talking Points" (<https://albertasynod.ca/synod-council-highlights/>)

Subscribe to our Synod's e-mail newsletter: Wednesday's Word, Subscribing is easy on our Synod's website

Participate in learning and conversation the second Thursday (noon-1pm) of each month through Synod Connect

As we journey together join me in prayer. Continue to be humble and gentle with one another. Honor each other. Make space for lament. Welcome moments of joy. Help each other live into hope. Learn from this journey in the coronavirus wilderness and let the learning lead us forward. Trust that God is at work in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now.

Thank you for your witness to patient trust in God and to sacrificial, cruciform love for your neighbors.

Know that I continue to be inspired and excited by the creative ways in which you have proclaimed the Gospel, offered pastoral care, knit together the body of Christ, and served the neighbor in our current reality.

Know that you are held in prayer.

Most importantly, know that God is with you and even now is planning and nourishing seeds of resurrection life.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

In Christ Jesus-

Shalom,

+The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop

Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Spirit-Led Leadership Hope-Filled Discipleship Innovative Tradition Collaborative Partnerships

Worship Committee report 2021

Thank you to all the faithful and willing servants for your time and dedication, you have not gone unnoticed. Those who prepare the bulletin, alter guild, organists, pianists, VBS and Sunday school teachers. Our many thanks to them and those that served as ushers, readers, communion hosts, and those who keep our church clean.

Each one of us is given special gifts from God and we are blessed by so many who are willing to use these gifts.

Our special thanks to Pastor Paul, for his continued dedication and preparation for worship services, special church events, Bible studies, personal contributions, and for bringing so much joy to our community and congregation.

We ask that you would continue to support one another through your actions and prayers as we serve the Lord in our congregation and community.

Respectfully submitted

Brenda Sullivan
Melanie Hilt-McGowan

1 Corinthians 12: 12 "The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up only one body. So it is with the body of Christ".

Church Attendance 2020

(virtual in brackets, Zoom marked with Z)

<u>Sundays</u>				
Jan 5 - 44	Jan 12 - 59	Jan 19 - 46	Jan 26 - 62	
Feb 2 - 47	Feb 9 - 57	Feb 16 - 40	Feb 23 - 57	
Mar 1 - 43	Mar 8 - 50	Mar 15 - 42	Mar 22 - (n.r.)	Mar 29 - (n.r.)
Apr 5 - (n.r.)	Apr 12 - (Znr.)	Apr 19 - (n.r.)	Apr 26 - (n.r.)	
May 3 - (n.r.)	May 10 - (n.r.)	May 17 - (n.r.)	May 24 - (Z18)	May 31 - (Z23)
Jun 7 - (Z12)	Jun 14 - (Z11)	Jun 21 - (Z11)	Jun 28 - (Zn.r.)	
Jul 5 - 38	Jul 12 - 30	Jul 19 - 23	Jul 26 - 32	
Aug 2 - 18	Aug 9 - 27 (9)	Aug 16 - 33 (11)	Aug 23 - 25 (5)	Aug 30 - 32 (3)
Sep 6 - 17 (4)	Sep 13 - 28 (11)	Sep 20 - 20 (6)	Sep 27 - 41 (6)	
Oct 4 - 40 (6)	Oct 11 - 39 (3)	Oct 18 - 22 (4)	Oct 25 - 29 (3)	
Nov 1 - 32 (5)	Nov 8 - 21 (10)	Nov 15 - 30 (9)	Nov 22* - 24	Nov 29 - 21 (7)
Dec 6 - 58 (8)	Dec 13 - 48 (8)	Dec 20 - 32 (14)	Dec 27 - (13)	
*synod stream				
	2020 avg. - 36	2019 avg. - 55	2018 avg. - 62	2017 avg. - 66
	Virtual avg. - 7			
<u>Midweek - Lent</u>				
Mar 4 - 21	Mar 11 - 23	Mar 18 - (n.r.)	Mar 25 - (n.r.)	Apr 1 - (n.r.)
	2020 avg. - 22	2019 avg. - 21	2018 avg. - 27	2017 avg. - 30
<u>Midweek Festival</u>				
Ash Wednesday	Good Friday	Easter Vigil Sat.	Christmas Eve (Thursday)	
Feb 26 - n.r.	Apr 10 - (n.r.)	Apr 11 - no svc	Dec 24 - 70 (32)	
<u>Christmas/Easter</u>	2020	2019	2018	2017
Easter Sunday	n.r.	115	119	101
Christmas Eve	70	190	200	259

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT
January 2021

The year 2020 was no regular year. In March, the Government of Alberta implemented restrictions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 (a contagious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2). This led to the cancellation of many activities in our church.

The Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services provided guidelines for organizations to follow during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Education and Youth Committee recommended that our Sunday School classes should not resume until there was enough evidence that we could operate safely during the pandemic. We waited until our public schools successfully transitioned back to a “new normal.” Then, our Sunday School Superintendents – Sherrilyn Spencer and Candace Swanson – recommended our own set of guidelines to supplement the ones given by the Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services. With the support and encouragement of Pastor Paul and the Congregational Council, Sunday School was able to re-start on November 29.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our annual Vacation Bible School and our Christmas Concert were cancelled in 2020.

The Education Committee would like to thank Pastor Paul, the Sunday School Superintendents (Sherrilyn Spencer and Candace Swanson), the members of our Congregational Council, and the volunteer Sunday School teachers. They have worked so hard to provide educational programming for our children.

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it” (New International Version, Proverbs 22:6).

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Pylypow

Kathy Kazakoff

Sunday School Superintendent Report 2020

Sunday school started in the new year on Jan. 12, 2020 and we were able to hold 8 Sunday classes and 1 craft Sunday before Sunday school was suspended in March due to COVID 19, ending our 2019-20 Sunday School year early.

The start to the 2020-21 Sunday School year was delayed due as a precaution this fall. It was decided that we would monitor the return to school until after Thanksgivings and then re-evaluate. Following AHS guidelines, Sunday School officially started on Nov.29 with the plan to get in 4 advent lessons in prior to Christmas. We did not schedule a craft Sunday for Christmas as they present increased challenges to adhere to the COVID guidelines. We have 16 children on the roster this fall, supported by 6 teachers. We continue to have the students divided into 2 classes – one class for children ages 3 to grade 3 and one class for children in grades 4-6.

This was the 3rd year using a Sunday school curriculum by Spark House called “Holy Moly”. This year, students continued to work through lessons from the New Testament as well as 4 lessons for Advent and 4 lessons for Easter. Each “Holy Moly” lesson introduces kids to a specific Bible story by watching an animated Bible story video, having them hear the story from their storybooks (primary class) or bibles (gr. 3-6 class) and then participate in a hands-on activity in their leaflet.

Due to COVID, our 2019/20 year-end celebration, VBS and the 2020 Christmas program were not held this year.

We continue to be grateful for the support of so many people who contribute to making the Sunday School Program successful, to the great benefit of our children. We would not be able to offer such an engaging and diverse program without our students, parents, volunteer teachers and congregation. Through the efforts of so many, our young people have the opportunity to learn about the word of God in a variety of ways while witnessing the love of God through these volunteers. We are also thankful for Pastor Paul, Brad Pylypow and council’s guidance and support through the challenges of this unique year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrilyn Spencer
Candace Swanson
Sunday School Superintendents

Property Committee Report – 2020

Below is a list of changes or upgrades that happened throughout the year:

1. A new cooler was purchased for the kitchen in the spring
2. Lights were changed out in the front entrance, main floor, and basement
3. A second tree was found to be split and laying on the roof. Approximately 40 feet of the tree was removed. However, there is still parts laying on the roof, so we are considering cutting the tree down all together.
4. Donna looked after purchasing and installing a film on the windows in sanctuary. It looks great!
5. Eavestroughs on the church were cleared by Tom Kroetsch
6. Painting projects in the parsonage were completed by Pastor Paul and Wenona. Thank you!
7. Back door was replaced
8. An addition to the deck was completed

We have also set up a fund to replace the carpet throughout the church in the future.

Submitted on behalf of the Property Committee:

Norris Pahlke, Blair Whidden, and Kim Larson

Skyline Church Historical Society Annual Report – 2020

Skyline Church Historical Society (SCHS) hired Stacey Lakevold to mow the grass and maintain the cemetery grounds at the Skyline Cemetery for 2020. He has submitted an invoice for his maintenance hours directly to the Provost Central Lutheran Church.

There were no burials at Skyline Cemetery during 2020.

There were no purchases of repair supplies for the Skyline Church building.

SCHS has been re-scheduled for a Red Deer casino event during Oct/Nov/Dec 2021. Due to COV-ID19 casino dates have changed and procedures are constantly evolving. The Casino Chairperson is Jody Paulgaard. Volunteers will be needed to work at the 2 day casino event.

Thanks to the continuing work and dedication of Iris Larson and Janet Paulgaard all known burials at Skyline Cemetery are recorded on the website findagrave.com and most headstones have been photographed. A short history of Skyline Cemetery is also on this website.

SCHS is a registered Alberta Society and is governed by a four person executive. Current executive members are:

Chairperson	Ove Aasen
Vice – Chair	Darwin Berg
Treasurer	Joan Olson
Secretary	Jody Paulgaard

Submitted by:
Jody Paulgaard
Secretary
Skyline Church Historical Society (SCHS)

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Financial Statement
January 1 – December 31, 2020

Income

Current Envelopes			\$ 118,879.00
Synod Benevolence			
Benevolence/Alberta	\$ 4,055.00		
CLWR	3,885.00		
LCBI	<u>1,875.00</u>		9,815.00
Loose Offerings			756.00
SS & VBS Offering			1,290.00
Other: Interest	\$ 11.13		
Funeral Lunches	650.00		
Wage Subsidy	1,375.00		
Lent	436.25		
Cookbooks	<u>20.00</u>		2,492.38
Donations to:			
Christmas/Building	\$ 100.00		
Carpet	3,090.00		
Thanksgiving	250.00		
Food Bank	1,300.00		
Skyline Cemetery	<u>1,050.00</u>		5,790.00
Honorariums			300.00
Hub Capital: Skyline Yard/Cooler			4,092.00
Memorials:			
A. Merriman	\$ 25.00		
A. McCormick	<u>25.00</u>		<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME			<u>\$ 143,464.38</u>

Expenses

Salary/Receiver General			\$ 66,014.41
Health & Dental			5,724.00
Pension, Group Benefits, CEP, & Book Allowance			10,690.10
Car Expense			0.00
Parsonage Repair & Maintenance			4,377.54
Parsonage Utilities:	EPCOR	\$ 1,589.11	
	DERS	1,201.11	
	Telus	1,291.44	
	Water	<u>917.11</u>	
			4,998.77
Synod: Benevolence/AB	\$ 4,055.00		
CLWR	3,885.00		
LCBI	<u>1,875.00</u>		
			9,815.00
Janitor/Yard			3,995.00
Sunday School			102.24
Vacation Bible School			0.00
Church Utilities:	Telus	\$ 757.33	
	EPCOR	4,389.63	
	DERS	2,744.06	
	Water/Garbage	<u>1,212.36</u>	
			9,103.38
GST Paid			1,310.44
Repair & Maintenance (Cooler - \$ 3,300 approx.)			7,909.71
Office Supplies			485.06
Other:	Canada Lutheran	\$ 92.80	
	Envelopes	285.32	
	Advertising	668.00	
	Conference Reg.	722.65	
	Kitchen Supplies	192.74	
	Miscellaneous	<u>270.00</u>	
			2,231.51
Insurance			5,526.00
Skyline Yard Maintenance			792.00
Invest in Hub Capital/Worship Enhancement			4,490.00
Donations to: Ministerial Food Bank			<u>1,300.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES			<u>\$ 138,865.16</u>

BANK RECONCILIATION - 2020

December 31, 2019 Balance Forward	\$ 27,386.75
Plus: 2020 Income	<u>143,464.38</u>
	170,851.13
Less: 2020 Expenses	<u>138,865.16</u>
Balance at December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 31,985.97</u>

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Paulgaard-Johnston, Treasurer

TD Funds

December 31, 2020

TD FUNDS (Worship Enhancement)

2019 Balance Forward	\$ 9,482.48
2020 Interest	264.57
Carpet/Building	3,090.00
New Kitchen Cooler	(3,300.00)
Skyline Yard	(792.00)
2020 Donations	1,050.00
2020 Memorials	50.00
2020 Honorariums	<u>300.00</u>

TD Fund Balance at December 31, 2020

\$10,145.05

** These Funds are included in the total TD Fund Balance above:

Skyline Cemetery Fund

2019 Balance Forward	\$ 2,169.00
2020 Yard	(792.00)
2020 Donations	<u>1,050.00</u>
	\$2,427.00

Our Saviour's Cemetery Fund

2019 Balance Forward	\$ 980.00
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Carpet Fund

2020 Donations	\$ 3,090.00
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Pastor's Report for 2020

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. 2 Timothy 4:1-2

Is a global pandemic a favorable or an unfavorable time to proclaim the message? I think the jury is still deliberating. Meanwhile, we persisted, and delivered the message in new ways. As we consider what to do in the future, here are the highlights of what we have done in the recent past:

Outreach:

We made the difficult decision to shelve Vacation Bible School for 2020, due to the extreme difficulty of keeping 100+ children safe in close quarters. We did, however, hold our fifth Free Garage Sale outdoors on Friday September 6, and it was a success from the standpoint of number of items given to new homes, number of people participating, and small quantity of material to the landfill. When allowed, we continued to offer the use of our building to the Girl Guides and private tutors. And before the capability was taken away from us in March, we provided hospitality at funeral luncheons for Archie Merriman and Norman Bertram.

Wider Church:

No conventions were scheduled in 2020 due to our new triennial cycle. However many Zoom meetings of various clusters of ministers took place! The National Church's program *Living Our Faith* switched from a focus on prayer to a focus on bible study in September.

Education:

Thanks to our Sunday School superintendents, teachers, and volunteers for their efforts in teaching the regular way until March, and then restarting the Sunday School with enhanced safety procedures in November. Confirmation class currently has 1 second year student and 2 first year students working through a new curriculum. We were unable to celebrate the confirmation of two confirmands in 2020, so that celebration is still pending. Bible study was terminated at Hillcrest Lodge and the nursing home in March, but restarted at the nursing home in October – we are using the book suggestions from *Living Our Faith* for this study, which is also offered on-line.

Worship:

It is almost useless to calculate the average Sunday morning worship attendance for 2020! The building stood empty for the months of April-June, including Good Friday and Easter Sunday, while audio pre-recordings of services were placed on the website, and for several weeks, we experimented with live Zoom worship. Functionality was built into the website in August to track the number of on-line "listeners", so we now have an idea of its usage. Our Lenten sermon series was on "Prayer" by Dr. O. Hallesby, and this year we also had a summer sermon series on "Duty and Sacrifice." We celebrated the addition of Aubree Lavigne, Perri Zmurchyk, and Cayden Ellis to God's family through baptism, and we celebrated the wedding of Ryan Kroetsch to Kiera Heintz.

Property:

Several issues were addressed in the church this year, including replacing lighting in the basement, entry, and narthex, and repairing the ceiling fan in the balcony. At the parsonage, the back door was replaced, and the deck was extended.

Personal:

Thanks for your support of my time involved with the Provost Ministerial (and food bank), and for providing the food bank storage room downstairs! And thanks for your support and words of comfort on the death of my mother, your care was deeply felt!

Outlook:

What could I have said in my Outlook for 2020 that would have made any difference this past year?! We respond to the call of the Holy Spirit in whatever circumstances we face. We hope and pray that circumstances in 2021 are more favorable, however, we stand ready to deliver the message regardless! May God guide us in 2021, such that His grace and truth communicate through everything we do, to everyone we encounter...

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Paul McCormick

Central Lutheran Church

Proposed 2021 Budget

Expenses

	<u>Actual '20</u>	<u>Budget '20</u>	<u>Proposed '21</u>
Salary			
Car Expense	\$ 61,917.50	\$ 61,917.50	\$ 63,100.50
Receiver General	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
ELCIC Pension & Benefits	4,096.91	4,200.00	4,500.00
CEP	9,590.10	9,700.00	9,500.00
Book Allowance	600.00	600.00	600.00
Pulpit Supply	500.00	500.00	500.00
Conferences & Convention	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Parsonage	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Parsonage Utilities	4,377.54	5,000.00	5,000.00
Dental & Medical	4,998.77	6,000.00	6,000.00
	<u>5,724.00</u>	<u>5,724.00</u>	<u>5,220.00</u>
	\$ 91,804.82	\$ 97,641.50	\$ 98,420.50
Janitor/Yard Maintenance			
Telephone	\$ 3,995.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Office Supplies	757.33	1,000.00	1,000.00
SS & VBS	485.06	5,000.00	5,000.00
DERS	102.24	6,000.00	6,000.00
EPCOR	2,744.06	4,000.00	4,000.00
Water, Sewer, Garbage	4,389.63	7,000.00	6,000.00
Canada Lutheran	1,212.36	1,200.00	1,500.00
Repair & Maintenance	92.80	100.00	0.00
Conferences & Convention	7,909.71	6,000.00	6,000.00
Church Envelopes	722.65	0.00	1,000.00
Insurance	285.32	300.00	300.00
Advertising	5,526.00	5,500.00	6,000.00
Choir Music	668.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
GST	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Conference Dues	1,310.44	1,000.00	1,000.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	500.00	500.00
Educational Supplies	270.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Mission/Outreach	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Kitchen Supplies	0.00	500.00	500.00
	<u>192.74</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
	<u>\$30,663.34</u>	<u>\$ 50,100.00</u>	<u>\$ 50,800.00</u>
	<u>\$ 122,468.16</u>	<u>\$ 147,741.50</u>	<u>\$ 149,220.50</u>

Nomination Report 2020

Church Council

Terms expiring at this meeting (all ineligible for re-election):

Darlene Downing
Kathy Kazakoff
Melanie McGowan
Trevor Provick

One member resigned during the year – Janie Crawford

Terms expiring in January 2022:

Deon Erasmus
Donna Paulgaard-Johnston
Brenda Sullivan

Terms expiring in January 2023:

Kim Larson
Norris Pahlke
Brad Pylypow
Blair Whidden

Thanks to our departing and ongoing Church Council members for all their work in the challenging circumstances of 2020!

This member has agreed to let her name stand for Church Council election, with term expiring January 2024:

Susan McElhinney

Further nominations will be solicited during the Annual Meeting. Unless four additional members are identified at the meeting, we will begin the new council year with vacancies. Please make sure when nominating that you have the permission of the person nominated, thanks!

Compiled by Paul McCormick



PHOTO BY AMBER NEUFELD

Adapting to serve during the pandemic

In a time of constant flux, the need for care for the vulnerable hasn't stopped.

As the threat of COVID-19 hit British Columbia, the Surrey Urban Mission (SUMS) collaboratively merged with BC Housing, Fraser Health Authority and the City of Surrey to facilitate the opening of a new shelter consisting of sixty beds.

This new Emergency Response Centre ensures reduction of risk to those sheltering from outdoor living by providing safe physical distancing and care.

The pandemic has offered opportunity for individuals and organizations to come together in a true sense of community, striving for the common good of our neighbours most in need.

A unique pastoral installation

When Rev. Gregory Smith accepted the call to be the new pastor at Our Saviour, Calgary, he looked forward to his installation, but had no idea that the ceremony could very well be the first of its kind for an ELCIC pastor. Pastor Greg was installed during the first months of the COVID-19 lockdown and was installed online.

Rev. Kevin Powel installed Smith. The service included a socially distanced audience and several musical performances.

While the installation service and his new beginnings at Our Saviour weren't exactly as imagined, Pastor Greg remains hopeful.

"I will continue to reach out and get to know my new congregation, just as they will learn to know me and my family," he said. "What will change is the fact that these friendships will be formed differently. This is part of the new normal... I look forward to the challenge and the joy of sharing God's love, even if the medium of communicating God's love is no longer traditional. We'll all learn together."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL MIYACHUK

A bikeathon from afar

The Luther Village Bikeathon is an annual event in support of this vital outdoor ministry that provides all individuals with the opportunity for growth and renewal of mind, body and soul. The group ride event is one that many look forward to but then the year 2020 struck.

Organizers decided to consider a different way to come together and thus was born the Luther Village Bikeathon From Afar.

Off went the riders on their own, including Jett Isleifson and his little companion "Playmobil Martin Luther," for company.

While the participants may have missed the fellowship of their other riders, they all enjoyed the support and prayers of the many who helped with their financial pledges to ensure Luther Village will be able to hold many bikeathons in the years to come.



PHOTO BY JETT ISLEIFSON

On the cover, from top left: A sweat lodge at the Sandy-Salteaux Spiritual Centre near Beausejour, MB; photo by Monica Bortoluzzi. Neighbourhood park clean-up by members at St. Peter's Ottawa; photo by Rev. Elina Salonen. Ninety-year-old Shirley Holcomb from St. David Anglican-Lutheran church in Orillia, ON, organized a donation cross in the community garden for mittens, toques, scarves and socks; photo by Ainsley Munro. Seven-year-old Lillian gets high fives after her baptism at Trinity, New Hamburg, ON; photo by Dave Mello.

With written contributions from Rev. Jonah Bruce; Jett Isleifson; Richard Janzen; Amber Neufeld and Patricia Mulvaney; Wanda Walter.

WORSHIP FOR A CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Faithful, hopeful, loving

OPENING OF A MEETING

Prayer

Gracious God, we ask for your presence with us as we gather to meet, whether in person or virtually. This last year has been challenging. Help us still to celebrate the ministry we have done together in the past year. Give us vision and hope as we plan for our shared future. Give us courage to follow you in all we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Reading – 1 Corinthians 13: 4–7, 13

Hymn – *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, EvLW #733

Litany

Leader As we gather to meet,
All *Be with us, God.*

Leader We praise you for your faithfulness.
All *Be our wisdom and counsel—guide our decision-making.*

Leader We put our trust in your hopefulness.
All *Give us courage to envision your future for us.*

Leader We thank you for your steadfast love.
All *Help us to be loving with each other, and with all we meet.*

Leader As we gather to meet
All *Be with us, God. May all that we do and say today be pleasing in your sight. Amen.*

CLOSING OF A MEETING

Litany

Leader Faithful God, we thank you for seeing us safely through another year.
All *We trust in your faithfulness to be with us this coming year.*

Leader Hopeful God, you continue to show us the vision of a future of justice, peace and mercy.
All *Empower us with your hope, and lead us into your ways of righteousness.*

Leader Loving God, we give you thanks for your presence with us this day.
All *Fill us with your love, so that we may embody your love in all we do this year.*

Leader In your holy name we pray
All *Amen*

Hymn *Lord of All Hopefulness*, EvLW #765

Leader Go in peace. Faithful, hopeful, and loving.
All *Thanks be to God.*



Devotions by ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson
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