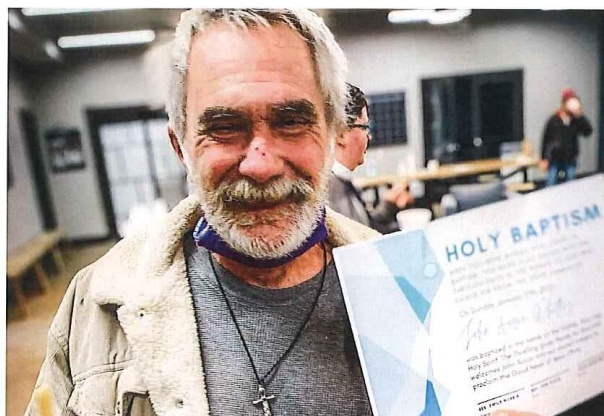


# ANNUAL REPORT

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."

## **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

213501 Legacy Street  
Stratford, WI 54484

### **2022 ANNUAL MEETING**

January 30, 2022

#### **2021 CHURCH COUNCIL**

#### **Term Expires March 1st**

Each Church Council Member serves a three-year term.

PRESIDENT	Carmella Moon	2022
VICE PRESIDENT	Brenda Castellano	2022
TREASURER	Marge Redetzke	2024
SECRETARY	Maryl Schoenfuss	2022
WORSHIP	Lois Miller	2023
STEWARDSHIP	Amy Cournoyer	2024
EVANGELISM	Cory Wiesman	2023
PROPERTY	Robin Curtis	2022
FAITH FORMATION	Ray White	2024
	Jasmine Grell (Youth Rep)	2022
TRUST FUND	June Krueger (2023) Wendy Grell (2022), Stacey Spindler (2024)	

#### **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF – 2021**

PASTOR	Pastor Sue Eidahl / Pulpit Fill
SECRETARY	Lori Lang / Kathy Busche
ORGANISTS	Judy Polege Marge Redetzke
CUSTODIAN	Barb Kaiser Gerry Viegut

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# **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **Agenda for Annual Meeting**

**January 30, 2022 after Worship**

<b>Call to order</b>	President Carmella Moon
<b>Opening Devotion</b>	Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel
<b>Staff Reports</b>	President Carmella Moon
<b>Secretary's Report</b>	Approval of Minutes 2021
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Approval of Report
<b>Acknowledge Teams</b>	President Carmella Moon
<b>Agenda Approval (Additions)</b>	
<b>Unfinished Business:</b>	None
<b>New Business</b>	
A.) Election of Council Members	
B.) Budget	Treasurer
<b>Give Thanks</b>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	
<b>Lord's Prayer</b>	
<b>Go in Peace</b>	





## Annual Report and Thank You!

### From Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson January 2022



*Thank you, for joining us in the work of sharing the gospel!*  
Randy Olson, Laura Ramlow, Laurie Skow-Anderson, Greg Kaufmann, Liz Bartsch, Erin Nelson

Dear Pastors, Deacons, SAMs, and Lay Leaders of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Are you ready for your annual congregational meeting? As a parish pastor I did everything I could to make our annual meeting a **celebration of ministry**. It was a time to thank everyone for their part of the good work we were doing together in Jesus' name. We had door prizes, church appropriate joke contests, and one year we had a fashion show featuring clothes from our church's thrift store. I created a PowerPoint with photos highlighting every

aspect of our congregation's ministry and a narrative budget that explained how we supported all these ministries financially. We had party themed meals, decorations, childcare and music. We laughed and had fun. There was even time for a business meeting to approve the budget, elect officers and talk about the new ministries we hoped to do in the future. I hope you can celebrate at least a little at your annual meetings. This year, more than ever, we need to find some way to celebrate that:

1. **We are still here!** COVID didn't win. A pandemic and social unrest didn't stop us from proclaiming the God's good news of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
2. **The church never closed**, it found new ways to connect with the community and share the transforming love of Jesus.
3. **We learned** how to live with this virus, looking for new ways move forward in God's mission.
4. We are all listening, praying and planning to take **our next most faithful step** as disciples following in the way of Jesus.
5. We've become clearer about **our purpose as a church**. We exist so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus and all generations will experience God's grace and forgiveness.

*I am grateful for your prayerful and financial support of the work that we do together as a public church.*

This is all amazing and worthy of a party. So throw a party during your annual meeting this year!

However, you and I both know that everything is not totally amazing and awesome. Yes, we can certainly give thanks and

celebrate. We can celebrate surviving, but we can't ignore the suffering, loss and the grief of the past two years. So we can celebrate this year at our annual meeting knowing that lament precedes joy. This joy is grounded on God's presence that was with us in our suffering and pain. Luther said "God can be found only in suffering and the cross,"<sup>1</sup> and that we can never be sure of God's presence unless we are looking at suffering. It is in the suffering that God is bringing hope and redemption. This is the basis of the Theology of the Cross and is what gives birth to a Theology of Joy.<sup>2</sup> It is from this place of deep joy, joy that remembers suffering, that we consider our next most faithful step. **What is your next most faithful step as a congregation?**

<sup>1</sup> [Martin Luther Helps Us See Divine Love in Pandemi... | Christianity Today](#)

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Anna Madsen, presentation to Region 5 bishops and staff, November 2021.



**April 30, 2022 Synod Assembly**  
**OUR NEXT MOST FAITHFUL STEP:**  
 Taking it to the Streets-Being a Public Church  
*Proverbs 1:20 Wisdom cries out in the street;  
 in the public places Wisdom raises her voice.*

That is the question we are asking at our annual synod learning events **Walking Together and EPIC** (Church Council Training) both on March 26 in person at UW EC Davies Center, and our **Synod Assembly** April at Trinity in Eau Claire.

Dear Partners in the Gospel, the theologian Douglas John Hall writes that *"the good news is good because it challenges and displaces bad news ... It is good news because it engages, takes on and does battle with the bad news, offering another alternative, another vision of what could be, another way into the future."*<sup>3</sup>

The church is called is to proclaim good news that challenges bad news. We are called to join God in this work in the public arena. There is a gap between what is currently happening in our community and God's will for all people to flourish and experience abundant life. The bad news is that gap. We see the gap as hunger, poverty, homelessness, sickness, violence, greed, and injustice. The church is called to do God's work with our hands and feet and voice to bridge the gap between what is and what God intends. We gather in worship and are sent out into the streets to serve the Lord as we affirmed in baptism *to proclaim Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following in the ways of Jesus, working for justice and peace in all the earth.*<sup>4</sup>

We are called out of our church buildings and into the streets, into the public arena to be public witnesses to the way of Jesus, the life that God intended for all people. We are pulled out of of our church buildings and into the streets to be church for the sake of the world.

This year's Bright Spots awards at the synod assembly will lift up congregations and organizations within this synod that are taking their ministry to the street, doing ministry out in public, engaged in the public arena.

Please let me know how your congregation is engaged as a Public Church. How is your church engaged in the public arena and taking its ministry to the streets? How are the members of your congregation being equipped/trained to be church in your community? I am truly grateful for your partnership in the gospel.

Bishop Laurie

#### 2022 Synod Calendar Dates

**January 17 Winter Theological Event**-Guest Speaker-Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton-Luther Park

**January 22-26 Civil Rights Pilgrimage**-Atlanta, Georgia and Montgomery, Alabama

**March 15 Deadline** for resolutions to be submitted for synod assembly

**March 19 Synod Council Meeting**

**March 26 Walking Together and EPIC** Eau Claire Davies Center: Your Next Most Faithful Step

**April 21, 24, 25 Zoom Pre-Assembly Forums**

**April 30 Synod Assembly**-Taking it to the Streets: The Public Church

**July 18-24 ELCA Youth Gathering** in Minneapolis and MYLE-Multicultural Youth Leadership Event

**August 9-12 ELCA Churchwide Assembly** in Columbus, Ohio



<sup>3</sup> [Public Church Scholars - Religion and Philosophy - | \(augsburg.edu\)](https://www.augsburg.edu/public-church-scholars-religion-and-philosophy)

<sup>4</sup> ELW 237

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remember before our God your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Our vision is to make a positive impact in our world by having open hearts and open doors. We are establishing a foundation and partnership between the ministry of the Congregation and the home by being Authentic, Affirming, Available Christians practicing faith through Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, Rituals and Traditions.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**Open Hearts, Open Doors, Open Hands**



*A special thanks to our church staff and volunteers  
for their work in preparing this Annual Report.*

*We also thank each member and attendee for gifts of time,  
talent, energy, and finances given to the ministry of Zion Church!*

*Your continuing prayers and participation  
are crucial to outreach in the village of Stratford,  
Marathon County, and the rest of the world  
with the "Good News" of Jesus Christ.*



## PASTOR'S REPORT 2021

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.

The Apostle Paul writes in his first letter to the church in Thessalonica about their perseverance and faithfulness. Paul tells them to rejoice in the ministry that they have been called to by the Spirit. He also encourages them and gives them instruction on a few issues of concern.

“<sup>2</sup> We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake” (1 Thessalonians 1:2-5)

The year 2021 didn't turn out how we planned or expected it to be. For many of you, Pastor Sue Eidahl's retirement left you with a mixture of emotions. During the last several months of the year, you took on leadership, team, program, and daily roles in the church to keep the mission and ministry of Zion Lutheran Church going. You learned to be the Body of Christ together and to be patient and flexible. You learned to be creative, imaginative and generous. You learned so much about who you are as the people of God in this place. The words from the Apostle Paul are words for you too; words of encouragement, words of faithfulness, and words of perseverance.

The words of the Apostle Paul will become increasingly important during this time of transition as you begin in earnest to interview and call a new, permanent pastor to encourage you, to support you, to help you grow in your faith in Jesus, and most importantly, to partner with you in ministry. During this time, as you learn and discover who you are as a Body of Christ, as the people of God together, you will have moments of excitement, joy, and challenge. It takes patience, endurance and prayerful discernment. It takes the whole congregation to prayerfully and actively ask, “God, what are you calling me to do and be in this place? God, what are you calling us as a congregation to do and be in this place?” Pray for the Holy Spirit's stirring in our hearts, lives and communities, so that we are able to share the Good News of Jesus with neighbors, strangers, and people we will never meet.

I am excited for this coming year and partnering with you in ministry. I am excited to see where the Holy Spirit is leading you, individually, as families, and as the people of God. Together, we will imagine, dream, hope, rejoice, and pray. Together, we will continue the work that God has set before us. Praise be to God for God's faithfulness, hope and love in Jesus' name.

Peace, blessings and joy in Christ.

Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel

## PAROCHIAL REPORT

1. MEMBERSHIP	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Baptized	685	706	701	707	721	730	741	752
Confirmed	453	475	486	498	509	515	522	531
Affiliated	238	238	238	238	238	238	238	238

### MEMBERSHIP LOSSES

Letter of Transfer	7
Death	1
Affiliated	1

### MEMBERSHIP GAINS

Letter of Transfer	8
Baptism	4
Non member baptisms	6

2. AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Sunday Worship	171	171	156	140	123	103	68
Summer Attendance (June - August)	101	107	120	88	87	74	64
Lenten Mid-Week	140	144	137	118	116	129	58
Advent Mid-Week	111	87	90	69	82	online	N/A

### 4. OFFICIAL PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms	10	Weddings	3
Confirmations	9	Funerals	2

<u>BAPTISMS</u>	Baptism Date	<u>BAPTISMS</u>	Baptism Date
Branigan Jonas	1-24	Leo VanDerLeest	5-22
Allison Hom	3-13	Sawyer Akey	6-26
Levi Balz	3-13	Sullivan Akey	6-26
Opal Maguire	5-09	McKinnley Weichelt	7-24
Colten Heiting	5-15	Adalynn Wood	12-26

### WEDDINGS

	Wedding Date
Eddy Peterson & Ann Temby	2-18
Ryan Bloom & Lisa Lofy	4-17
Arja Niskanen & Aleksander Glauvitz	6-24

### CONFIRMATIONS

	5-2-2021
Lydia Burrows	Sydney Kafka
Lexie Christopherson	Ian Mikelson
Brooke Faber	Jackson Ormond
Patrick Greenberg	Ashton Wrensch
Jasmine Grell	

### DEATHS

	Date
Elmer Hayes	5-2-2020 (burial 7-26-2021)
Ardell Emon	12-17-2021

### MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

Barry Cole	Keith Grell	Janita Syring	Kali Kann
Amy Cole	John Zuelke	Kathy Zuelke	

MEMBERS RECEIVED

Phil Schultz  
Lance Casperson  
Willie Casperson

Kerri Schultz  
Patti Casperson  
Ruby Casperson

Ella Schultz  
Annalee Casperson

**ZION LUTHERAN 2021 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 31, 2021 9:33 a.m.

**Meeting called to order:** President Carmella Moon

**Opening Devotions:** Pastor Sue

**Secretary's Report:** M – Dan Wieland; S – Brenda Huther; C

**Treasurer's Report:** M – June Krueger; S – Dan Wieland; C

**Staff Report:** President Carmella Moon / Pastor Sue

**Ministry Team Reports**

**Adoption of the Agenda:** M – Dan Thompson; S – Dan Wieland; C

**Old Business:** No Unfinished Business

**New Business:**

A. Voting for Council Members

- a. Motion to approve Ray White / Faith Formation, Property / open, Amy Cournoyer / Stewardship, Marge Redetzke / Treasurer, Jasmine Grell / Youth Rep
- b. M – Rhonda Thompson; S – Dan Wieland; C

B. Undesignated Funds

- a. Motion to accept designation of funds – Rhonda Thompson;
- b. S – Dan Wieland; C

C. Adoption/Approval of 2021 Congregational Mission Plan (Budget)

- a. Motion to approve the 2021 Budget – June Krueger; S – Roland Kauffman; C

D. Elevator – Property Committee Chair, Lee Spindler provided update on elevator project. Project on hold for the time being.

**Adjournment:** M – Dan Wieland; S – Tom Schoenherr; C

**Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Maryel Schoenfuss, Secretary

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2021**

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's been said that the only constant is change. Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3 starts with "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" and later continues with "A time to break down and a time to build up." Words later mainstreamed by The Byrds in their song "Turn, Turn, Turn." Looking back over the past year, it is in these words that I find comfort and inspiration. At the beginning of 2021, our sanctuary was vacant. Church services were held in the parking lot – we gathered in our vehicles, listened and participated via the radio. All around Stratford, throughout Wisconsin and across the nation, individuals tuned in online instead of gathering together on Sunday mornings to hear the word of the Lord. We were certainly outside of our comfort zone and our favorite pew, but we were out in the community sharing God's word, grace and love.

As the calendar pages turned, we progressed to the "new normal." Everyone doing their part to gather together in the sanctuary – wearing masks, allowing for separation, temperature scans, hand sanitizer and no singing. We continued to make a return to the old normal and our comfort zone when I addressed the congregation with Pastor Sue's Retirement Letter and we received notice of Lori's retirement.

Where do we go from here? How do we proceed? Who will take care of ..... well, everything? Throughout my years as a member of Zion, our congregation has always stepped up when there's a need. And with all of your helping hands, talents and efforts; the guidance of the synod; and the many pastors and lay-people who filled in, we are still spreading the word, love and grace of God. In the coming months, we will continue to break it down, lean on each other, learn from one another and build back up as we work towards making a call for a new pastor.

With my role as Council President coming to an end, I want to thank each and every one of you. Far too often, we take for granted how things get done. This year, it took all of us! I greatly appreciate all of you who have given your time, your talents, your support, your wisdom and continued to roll with all the changes that we were faced with providing a sense of normalcy in our ever-changing world.

God's many blessings to you,

Carmella Moon  
Council President

## **OFFICE REPORT – 2021**

Let me introduce myself, my name is Kathy Busche. I was hired as your Administrative Assistant in November 2021. Thank you to all of Zion's members that have made me feel welcome. There is much to learn but feel free to contact the office with any questions or concerns. I will do my best to work through each issue. A special thank you to Lori Lang who continues to help behind the scenes, also a thank you to Carol Beyer for her help as an interim Administrative Assistant.



The office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The phone recorder is available after hours and the office e-mail address is [office@zionlc.com](mailto:office@zionlc.com).

I would like to thank the crew of helpers who help to sort, fold, and staple the many publications that need to be sent out each year: Marge Hayes, Leon & Pat Tietyen, Tom & Nancy Schoenherr, Marge Kollmansberger and Sharon Mikelson. I couldn't get these publications out without your generous help. Thank you also to Marge Redetzke, Marge Hayes, Sheri Chrouser, Marge Kollmansberger, and Tom and Nancy Schoenherr for a variety of tasks including proofreading, stuffing envelopes, office assistance, moving files and office coverage. With the office staffing changes that occurred in 2021, we hope we didn't miss anyone. Thank you for your generosity of time and gifts to keep the church office and its support of Zion's ministry going.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN:**

- Your home or business address, phone, or e-mail changes
- You have a Post Office Box address
- You change from land line to cell phone
- A member of your family is in the hospital
- You have a prayer request
- A family member passes away
- Your group would like to have a meeting at the church
- A new baby arrives in your family
- You would like the pastor to call or visit
- You have a joy or concern to share
- A family member leaves for college or establishes a new residence
- If you are going to be gone for any length of time (such as heading south for the winter).

Submitted by,  
Kathy Busche, Administrative Assistant

**PRAYER CHAIN REPORT – 2021**

One of the great privileges and ministries listed in the New Testament is the opportunity to remember one another in prayer – to “bear one another’s burdens.” Zion has a dedicated group of people who do just that. When a prayer request comes into the church office, a call is made to the volunteers and e-mailed to another group. They can start praying as soon as they get the message. Thanks to everyone who has been involved in the Prayer Chain. If anyone would like to join the prayer group, please call or email the church office 715-687-4110 [office@zionlc.com](mailto:office@zionlc.com). The Prayer Chain prayed for 8 people this year. You may submit prayers by calling or e-mailing the church office, marking your communion card, or on the website.

Submitted by  
Kathy Busche, Prayer Chain Coordinator

## **EVANGELISM TEAM – 2021**

Our team updated our objectives including:

Hospitality – To be a welcoming congregation

*Current Activities:*

- Continued to keep up the grounds with a welcoming sense of seasonal flowers and a hard working group of volunteers that maintained the Meditation Garden that kept it looking fantastic all season!  
Welcomed guests as soon as they arrive; updated visitor packets and information.
- Follow-up with guests by sending a thank you for attending.
- Create a welcoming environment outside of worship through fellowship after services
- For Drive-in Worship services, helped provide the treats for service along with other teams/congregation members.

Discipleship – Involve and strengthen members within our congregation

*Current Activities:*

- Continue the “We Care” ministry through birthday, anniversary, get well and sympathy cards
- Review the gifts assessment/inventory with new members
- Promote our congregational members to invite others to services and church events/drive-in services
- Minister to shut-ins & continue the visitation program
- Continue prayer chain ministry and recruit additional people
- Connect with recent graduates/service members. This year we sent care packages to our active military members. We also send cards/gift cards twice a year to our most recent graduates.
- Sent Christmas cards to our shut-ins.

Community Outreach & Communication – Reach out to our local, regional, national, and world-wide communities by communicating the good news of the Gospel

*Current Activities:*

- Mail monthly newsletter and have copies available at the information stand
- Use current media to project the bulletin on the screen
- Maintain and grow our connection with our brothers and sisters in Malawi
- Hosted Trunk r Treat on Halloween downtown again this year with the community
- Put on Teacher Appreciation Dinner in August-great to be back in person and we had a great turnout and also sent carry outs for coaches.

Thank you to the congregation for supporting our events and we would love to have more members join our group. If interested, contact one of our current team members: Sharla Dreikosen, Dan & Rhonda Thompson, Deb Wieland, Cory Wiesman.

Cory Wiesman

### **COMMUNION STEWARDS –2021**

Our communion stewards prepare the chalices and baskets with wine, grape juice, and bread for communion services throughout the year. We also clean up and put everything away after the service. Thank you to the faithful stewards who served during this past year: Jill Dasler, Wendy Spaeth, Rhonda Thompson, and Deb Wieland. We've welcomed Amy Grell and Sandy Andersen to our Team this year – thank you for giving of your time! Also, thank you to our communion bread bakers!. Thank you to Chuck Foley, Pat Tietyen and Marge Redetzke for your many years of service on our Team!

Since the Covid-19 shutdown in March of 2020, we have continued to commune during our outdoor worship services using prepackaged wafer and juice packets. Since having services back inside, we still have the pre-packaged option but have gone back to our regular distribution. We continue to use the disposable plastic cups at this time.

We received a beautiful gift in memory of Don Hoesly of new communion ware. The cups actually sit inside the tray making it easier to reach the chalice and with using plastic cups, clean up is much quicker. Thank you, Eileen Hoesly, the set is beautiful!

If you would like to help out by being a communion steward or a bread baker, please contact the church office or any of the stewards.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Rhonda Thompson

### **FAIR TRADE MINISTRY REPORT – 2021**

Fair Trade is a trading partnership, that seeks greater equity in international trade. Equal Exchange works directly with the producers to provide high-quality foods at a fair price. By making the choice to buy fairly traded products, you help provide health care, education and technical training for farmers, workers, and artisans around the world. In 2021, \$290.80 of product was ordered and \$431.50 of Fair Trade was sold. Thank you, Zion Members, for continuing to support this ministry during the pandemic through our Fair Trade 24/7 Display. If you are interested in helping to promote this ministry at Zion, please let me know.

In Christ,  
Darla Leick

**SCRIP Program Treasurer's Report – 2021**  
**CHECKING ACCOUNT - Partners Bank**

BEGINNING BANK BALANCE - January 1, 2021	\$ 3,533.07
INCOME -- Deposits from card sales	\$ 18,620.00
EXPENSES -- Scrip orders	\$ (17,015.84)
ENDING BANK BALANCE - December 31, 2021	\$ 5,137.23

**PROGRAM ASSETS -- December 31, 2021**

Checking Account Balance	\$ 5,137.23	
Cards in stock	3,025.00	
Cash box (change fund)	55.00	
		\$ 8,217.23

**PROGRAM FUNDING HISTORY**

Start up funds	\$ 3,000.00	
Annual net profits (2013 - 2020)	6,613.07	
Annual net profits (current year 2021)	549.16	
Funds used to support youth events	(2,000.00)	
Cash on hand (change fund)	55.00	
		\$ 8,217.23

2021 completed the 9th year of fund raising through the Scrip Program. A percent of each gift card sold is retained by Zion to help with travel expenses for National Youth Gatherings and mission trips. The percent varies by company/retailer -- from 2% to 12% or more!

We keep many local business Scrip cards in stock and are able to order a wide variety of retailers and restaurants. Nearly everywhere you shop and eat out has cards available. If you are able to plan your shopping in advance by purchasing Scrip gift cards, you can help the Zion youth through this simple fund raising method.

Special thanks to everyone who supported the Scrip program during this year of online shopping! We appreciate all those who purchase Scrip regularly... and occasionally! If you haven't yet purchased Scrip cards, give it a try!

June Krueger , Scrip Program Coordinator

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**Scholarships of \$500.00 per student**

Isaac Thompson	
Ryan Huther	
Isabella Multerer	
Breanna Manecke	
Balance on 12-31-2021	\$ 8169.22



## **FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM REPORT – 2021**

2021 was an exciting year for the Faith Formation team. Ray White chaired for the last year and the other group members included Dan Wieland, Kathy Ballerstein, Wendy Spaeth, Jill Dasler, & Amii Kreft.

With the retirement of Pastor Sue and the community coming out of Covid, the Faith Formation team had to get creative for designing both the programs for the youth and look for ways to keep the confirmation classes moving forward. There were some late nights and slight modifications from what was done in years past, but we are incredibly proud of all the work that was done to keep the youth programs moving in the right direction.

Little Lutherans and J-team got off to a little bit later start than usual but starting in October 2021 they were able to meet twice a month. Jill Dasler, Darla Leick, and Brenda Huther have led the youth programs. We are very thankful for all their hard work and dedication. Thank you to Tom and Nancy Schoenherr and Wendy Grell to help with the setup and getting kids where they need to be for our J Team and Little Lutherans program.

Confirmation classes have been tweaked for 2021/2022 where we have suspended the retreats but offered additional classes for the confirmation students. The first couple classes and sessions have gone very well based on feedback. We appreciate all of the help and volunteer time from Mary Wussow, Darla Leick, Lois Miller, Sarah Schuette, and Dan Wieland.

Zion partnered with the Mill Church again to host Vacation Bible School in July. This year's theme was a Railroad theme and from the feedback it was a hit. The kids were able to partake in several activities and join children in the Stratford community to learn more about faith at different stations throughout the program.

I want to thank Jill Dasler and all those that volunteered to put the Christmas program together this year. I am truly grateful to all the members of this congregation as we navigate these waters in search for a new pastor.

Sincerely  
Ray White

## **WORSHIP TEAM REPORT-2021**

Members of the 2021 worship team were: Lois Miller, Brenda Huther, Marge Redetzke, Paul Untiet and Mary Wussow.

Leon Tietjen remained a valued advisory member who headed up the media portion of the team.

The Worship team is responsible for ensuring that everything necessary is done to make all worship services run smoothly. We organize volunteers to set up and take down decorations to celebrate the seasons within the church year. Mary Wussow and Paul Untiet select music for the choir and bell choir, along with recruiting new members and scheduling practice times. The team has been incorporating contemporary music services also. Mary Wussow does the secretarial duties. Our worship team leads, but we really appreciate everyone who is willing to help with the many things that keep our church beautiful. Brenda Huther recruits and trains volunteers for worship services, such as ushers, acolytes, etc.

Respectfully submitted by: Lois Miller, Chair

### **ALTAR GUILD – 2021**

We are so glad to have returned to normal indoor services this year!

The Altar Guild is responsible for keeping the altar clean, fresh, and inviting. The Altar is dusted and polished monthly. Brass items are polished in the Spring and Fall while linens are cleaned as needed.

The paraments change according to the season: blue for Advent; white for Christmas and Easter; black for Ash Wednesday; purple for Lent. The rest of year, other than special occasions, such as Pentecost Sunday and Reformation Sunday when they are red, the paraments are green.

The Guild is also responsible for setting up for baptisms and tending fresh flower arrangements or live plants on the altar. We have several beautiful artificial arrangements that grace the altar the rest of the time.

Each team member is responsible for a two-month period. I would like to thank the present team members – Jean Huser, Keri Manecke, and Jill Dasler. We would like to increase our membership by two or three to cover November-December, which, obviously, is one of the busier seasons of the year, and July-August, which remains green for Pentecost the entire two months.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Guild, please contact the office, or me by email at [mpkollman@yahoo.com](mailto:mpkollman@yahoo.com) or by phone at 715.687.4362.

Respectfully Submitted

Marge Kollmansberger – Team Chair

### **MEDIA MINISTRY REPORT 2021**

This year we continued to face a few new challenges and opportunities as well. Everyone rolled with these situations and it was business as the new normal. The new normal looks like we will continue to evolve and as we do so we need to thank the Zion Media Team members who did a fantastic job for the congregation in presenting the various forms of worship this year.

Our gratitude to team members Ted Dasler, Rod Huther, Marge Kollmansberger, Kevin Miller, and new member Conner Kreft. Our thanks also to Adam Maguire and Sarah Schuette for their past service.

Thank you also to Marge Redetzke for creating scene planners for the PowerPoint screens and to make sure they were correct and ready for worship.

Thanks to all who came in to do the readings and assist in any way with the video productions, your contributions enhanced our worship presentations.

Thanks to the office administrative assistants for all their help with getting the material ready for worship screen production. Thanks to Brenda Huther for scheduling the media members.

As always, we invite anyone interested to join our team, no matter what role; your participation would be greatly appreciated by the team and all those worshipping here at Zion.

Respectfully submitted, Leon K. Tietzen

## **LIBRARY REPORT – 2021**

\$100 was spent on new materials in 2021.

The following books were added to the library.

1. Days of Awe and Wonder by Marcus Borg
2. Blessings for the Morning by Susie Larson
3. Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café by Fannie Flagg (fiction)
4. The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop by Fannie Flagg (fiction)
5. The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief by Jan Richardson
6. Meet Me Halfway: Milwaukee Stories by Jennifer Morales (fiction)
7. The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes (fiction)
8. One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are by Ann Voskamp
9. The Gifts of Imperfection: Your Guide to a Wholehearted Life by Brene Brown

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Borman, Library Shepherd

## **STEWARDSHIP TEAM – 2021**

The year 2021 has continued to bring challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year the Stewardship Committee did not have a campaign. We had church services held in a variety of ways (online, drive thru in the parking lot and in-person). Throughout all of this, our congregation has been amazing at continuing to give and help when and where needed. As challenging as this year has been, we want to say thank you to all of you for your continued support.

Zion's Stewardship Team is made up of: Amy Cournoyer (Chair), Brian Leick and Sarah Schuette. If anyone is interested in being a part of the committee, please let Amy Cournoyer know.

A big thank you goes to Marge Hayes who counted and recorded our weekly offerings for many, many years. Marge decided to step down in September 2021 and we are so thankful for her time and efforts. Also a special thanks to Brian Leick, Nicole Curtis and Amy Cournoyer for their time counting and entering offering weekly.

Our giving is a tangible sign of God's work with our hands.

Amy Cournoyer  
Stewardship Team Chair

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT – 2021**

Items undertaken by the property committee in 2021 include:

### Inspections / Maintenance

- Life safety (exit lights, fire alarm, fire doors, etc.) inspections
- Lighting replacement
- Cleaning of eave troughs
- Elevator inspections
- Snow removal

### Projects

- Black topping of alley and parking lot
- Remodel Parsonage for new Pastor
  - Main level flooring replacement
  - New stair treads and risers
  - New door jambs on lower level
  - Repair deck
- Preparing rental home to sell
- Spraying weed killer on green space and Parsonage

Thank you to June Krueger for her leading the Parsonage remodel and all who assisted with above items and those not mentioned throughout the year. A special thank you to Property Members Bob Aschenbrenner, Tim Kreft, Rich Krueger, Jason Peirce, Tom Schoenherr, Lee Spindler, Jim Wiesman, Gary Wussow for all their insight and service. For those interested in joining this group and sharing of your talents please join us the second Sunday of each month after service.

Thank You  
Robin Curtis

## **CEMETERY TEAM REPORT – 2021**

Members of the Cemetery Team are Tom & Nancy Schoenherr, Harold Wensch, and Tim Schoenherr.

There were two burials this past year. Lawn mowing of both cemeteries was done by Randy Schwantes. There is a sign in both cemeteries that reads: SUMMER SEASON (May 1<sup>st</sup>-Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>) **ARTIFICIAL BOUQUETS MUST BE ATTACHED OR PLACED CLOSE TO MONUMENTS FOR MOWING PURPOSES.** If they are not attached, please visit the site periodically during the summer and trim the long grass growing around your flowers. Shrubs & tree planting need to be approved by the Cemetery Team. Winter Season (Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>) Wreaths & floral arrangements must be securely attached to the monument & must be removed by April 15<sup>th</sup>. **THE CEMETERY TEAM WILL THROW ALL ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS & DECORATIONS AWAY IF NOT TAKEN OFF THE MONUMENT BY APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>.** When flowers are taken off, please take them home with you.



## **THINGS DONE THIS PAST YEAR**

A number of monuments have been straightened.  
Many veteran stones have been raised.  
Graves that had sunk, due to all the rain this year, were filled in and reseeded.  
Perennials were thinned and/or pruned.  
A downed tree was cut up, cleared away and 2 toppled stones reset.

## **THINGS THAT NEED TO BE DONE**

Finish straightening some stones.  
Finish lifting the veteran stones.  
Try to clean more stones.

Hopefully get family members to help with maintaining their monuments and the area around them.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the cemetery team, please contact Tom Schoenherr or the church office.

Submitted by Tom Schoenherr

## **CEMETERY FINANCIAL REPORT – 2021**

### **Savings Account 0001 (11-30-2020)**

**\$ 4,051.81**

### **INCOME**

Interest from Savings Account 0001	\$2.78
Interest from PB CD 6281	\$169.36
Interest from ELCA Mission Fund CDs 49451	\$38.70
Interest from ELCA Mission Fund CDs 06260	\$69.09
Sale of Cemetery Lots	\$0.00

Total Income	\$279.93
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**\$4,331.74**

### **EXPENSES**

Total Expenses	\$0.00	<b>\$4,331.74</b>
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### **TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

Transfer from Savings Account 0001 to General Checking 1/29/2021 (Interest from 0001, 6281, 49451, & 06260)	-\$279.86	
Total Transfer of Funds	-\$279.86	<b>\$4,051.88</b>

Savings Account 0001 (11-30-2021)	<b>\$4,051.88</b>
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### **INVESTMENTS (as of 11-30-2021)**

Partners Bank CD #6281	<b>\$15,000.00</b> Matures 05-13-2022
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ELCA Mission Fund CD #54730000049451	\$1,500.00	Matures 10-28-2024
ELCA Mission Fund CD #54720000006260	\$2,000.00	Matures 12-01-2022

<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$18,500.00</b>
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Respectfully submitted by:  
Tim Schoenherr, Treasurer

# **ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH TRUST FUND REPORT – 2021**

Trust/Memorial end of year report

Beginning balance 1-1-2021	\$ 11,405.67
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## Income

Mission Investment fund	230.21	
Thrivent Investment	398.92	
Memorials	2000.00	+ 2,629.13

## Expense

Ralph Carpenter (paint parsonage)	
John and Kathy Zuelke (refund of Art and Virjean memorial money)	
Rice's Capital Carpet (parsonage)	
Dave Jacoby Flooring (parsonage)	
June Krueger (parsonage supply reimbursement)	
Concordia Supply (Hoesley communion supplies)	
Partners Bank (printed checks)	- 9,175.80

Ending balance 12-31-2021	\$ 4,859.00
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## Summary of accounts

Partners Bank checking 4,859.00	Thrivent (as of 9-30-2021) 23,516.15
ELCA Mission 13,597.13	

The current trust/memorial fund members include June Krueger, Stacy Spindler and Wendy Grell. The council and trust fund met and voted to send a letter to memorial givers to see if the funds given could be used for updates on the parsonage now the Pastor Sue has retired and moved out. After getting responses from the families, some memorial money has been used for the parsonage. Please contact us if you have any needs or updates for the church. Thank you and God bless all the families and friends who have been generous with their donations this year.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Grell

**COMMUNITY FUND (GERMANFEST) TREASURER'S REPORT – 2021**

BEGINNING BALANCE 1-1-21	\$ 11,195.89
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**RECEIPTS**

Ticket Sales	\$	
Sale of Food	\$	
Donation – Misc. *	\$ 450.00	
Interest Earned	<u>\$ 5.34</u>	
Total Receipts		\$ 455.34

**EXPENDITURES**

Meat and Bread	\$	
Milk	\$	
Kitchen supplies	\$	
Gifts Given	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>	
Total Expenditures		<u>\$ (5,000.00)</u>

BALANCE, December 31, 2021	<b><u>\$ 6,651.23</u></b>
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Due to COVID restrictions, the Germanfest meal was not held. \* Monetary donations were still received. We look forward to Germanfest in 2022.

**BUILDING FUND FINANCIAL REPORT – 2021**

Beginning principal loan balance at Partners Bank	\$ 222,595.82
Total monthly principal payments 1-04-21 thru 12-31-21	(34,031.66)
Additional principal payment 03-26-21 & 12-31-21	<u>(28,100.00)</u>
Principal balance of loan 12-31-2021	\$ 160,464.16

Interest paid in 2021 was \$7,818.34

Respectfully submitted by,  
Vicki Hughes

**BUILDING FUND TREASURER'S REPORT – 2021**

Partners Bank Checking Account	
Beginning balance 1-01-2021	\$ 11,545.42
Deposits for 2021	70,395.83
2020 tithe	( 3,000.00)
Principal loan payments 03-26-21 & 12-31-21	<u>( 28,100.00)</u>
Loan payments 01-04-21 to 12-31-21	<u>( 41,850.00)</u>
Ending balance for Partner's Bank Checking	\$ 8,991.25

Respectfully submitted by,  
Vicki Hughes

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of December 31, 2021

CHECKBOOK BALANCE 12/31/2021 \$ 114,411.34

## DESIGNATED & RESERVED FUNDS

Confirmation Camp 2nd Time	\$ 2,000.00
Confirmation Camp	\$ 1,285.00
Confirmation Gowns in/out	\$ 256.75
Council/Pastor	\$ 13,325.63
Elevator Fund	\$ 29,644.60
Evangelism	\$ 135.88
Experience Faith! (mission trip)	\$ 7,173.23
Fair Trade	\$ 239.19
Faith Formation	\$ 97.00
Kid's Globe Offering	\$ 14.94
Kitchen Wares (Garage Sale, funerals, coffee orders)	\$ 2,909.41
Other - Military Pkgs	\$ 23.07
PEP Squad Puppet Ministry	\$ 987.76
Rental Properties Total	\$ 218.35
Scholarship - Bev A	\$ 500.00
Scholarship - Grace C	\$ 1,000.00
Thrivent -- Choice Dollars	\$ 7,339.04

TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS \$ 67,149.85

UNDESIGNATED CASH BALANCE \$ 47,261.49

## BENEVOLENCE -- Ministry to the World

	<u>Proposed Goal</u>		<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Crossways Camping Ministries	\$ 2,750.00	\$	3,245.50	118.0%
ELCA 10% Benevolence	\$ 16,000.00	\$	15,084.46	94.3%
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 1,800.00	\$	1,800.00	100.0%
Missionary	\$ 3,500.00	\$	4,813.50	137.5%
ELCA World Hunger Appeal	\$ 3,250.00	\$	7,066.50	217.4%
	<u>\$ 27,300.00</u>		<u>\$ 32,009.96</u>	

Balance available in Germanfest / Crisis Bank Account: \$6,651.23

Balance available in Scholarship Fund--Savings: \$8,169.22

<b>BENEVOLENCE</b>	<b>2021 Approved</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Proposed</b>
<b>MINISTRY TO THE WORLD</b>			
1 Lutheran Social Services	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
2 Missionary	\$3,500.00	\$4,813.50	\$3,500.00
3 Crossways	\$2,750.00	\$3,245.50	\$2,750.00
4 ELCA World Hunger Appeal	\$3,250.00	\$7,066.50	\$3,250.00
<b>TOTAL MINIMUM BENEVOLENCE GOAL</b>	<b>\$11,300.00</b>	<b>\$16,925.50</b>	<b>\$11,300.00</b>
<b>BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE</b>			
100 MINISTRY THROUGH EXTENDED CHURCH			
101 ELCA Ministry Benevolence ***	\$16,000.00	\$15,084.46	\$16,000.00
102 Chequamegon Conference Benevolence	\$70.00	\$71.80	\$70.00
103 Local Benevolence	\$200.00	\$191.77	\$200.00
104 FCA Scholarship	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
105 Synod Assembly Offering	\$200.00	\$2,200.00	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,720.00</b>	<b>\$17,548.03</b>	<b>\$16,720.00</b>
*** 10%			
<b>CURRENT EXPENSES</b>			
200 MINISTRY AT HOME			
201 Synod Resource Center	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY AT HOME</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
300 STAFF COMPENSATION			
301 Custodian Salaries	\$18,490.32	\$6,748.83	\$19,558.00
301a Custodian FICA (church FICA)	\$1,414.51	\$394.44	\$1,496.19
302 Organist Salaries	\$2,034.90	\$1,889.30	\$2,137.50
302a Organist FICA (church FICA)	\$155.67	\$145.31	\$163.52
303 Secretary Salary	\$17,078.88	\$14,472.27	\$18,720.00
303a Secretary FICA (church FICA)	\$1,306.53	\$695.63	\$1,432.08
303b Conference (Soul Support)	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
304 Pastor Salary	\$51,256.75	\$36,244.99	\$4,406.00
304a Pastor FICA	\$4,887.35	\$2,833.87	\$3,927.00
304b Housing Equity	\$2,994.13	\$1,599.29	\$0.00
304c Auto Allowance	\$3,500.00	\$2,041.67	\$3,500.00
304d Continuing Ed/Book & Journal Allowance	\$2,100.00	\$139.95	\$2,100.00
304e Sabbatical Cost	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
304f Pastor's Official Meeting Cost	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
304g Housing Allowance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00
305 Pulpit Supply	\$500.00	\$3,176.52	\$500.00
310 Intern Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL STAFF COMPENSATION</b>	<b>\$106,519.04</b>	<b>\$70,392.07</b>	<b>\$93,740.29</b>

400 STAFF BENEFITS			
401 Medical & Disability Insurance	\$7,274.40	<b>\$4,484.76</b>	\$30,025.00
402 Insurance Deductible	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$0.00
403 Retirement	\$9,886.50	\$5,452.35	\$6,140.00
<b>TOTAL STAFF BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$17,340.90</b>	<b>\$10,117.11</b>	<b>\$36,165.00</b>
500 OFFICE			
501 Telephone	\$2,400.00	\$2,471.58	\$2,400.00
501a Web Design & Upkeep	\$410.00	\$426.35	\$410.00
502 Postage & Mailings	\$2,000.00	\$1,355.28	\$2,000.00
503 Office Supplies	\$1,800.00	\$660.67	\$1,800.00
504 Office Equipment Repair	\$600.00	\$199.00	\$600.00
504a Copier-Duplicator	\$1,000.00	\$621.60	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL OFFICE</b>	<b>\$8,210.00</b>	<b>\$5,734.48</b>	<b>\$8,210.00</b>
600 OTHER			
601 Conferences & Conventions	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
602 Other Expenses	\$500.00	\$47.48	\$500.00
603 Pastoral Call Expenses/Moving Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
604 Finance Expenses	\$300.00	\$22,745.81	\$725.00
605 Staff Support	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>\$1,650.00</b>	<b>\$22,793.29</b>	<b>\$7,075.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$133,719.94</b>	<b>\$109,036.95</b>	<b>\$145,190.29</b>

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<b>2021 Approved</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Proposed</b>
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## TEAMS

701 WORSHIP			
701a Altar Supplies	\$300.00	\$899.70	\$300.00
701b Music	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
701c Bulletins	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
701d Piano & Organ Repair/Maintenance	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
701e Worship (Liturgy) Resources	\$650.00	\$917.52	\$650.00
701f Copyright	\$350.00	\$732.00	\$350.00
701g Media	\$400.00	\$205.16	\$400.00
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP</b>	<b>\$2,800.00</b>	<b>\$2,754.38</b>	<b>\$2,800.00</b>
702 STEWARDSHIP			
702a Offerings Envelope	\$1,150.00	\$802.70	\$1,150.00
702b General	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
702d Stewardship Program	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>\$1,350.00</b>	<b>\$802.70</b>	<b>\$1,350.00</b>
703 EVANGELISM			
703a Fellowship	\$200.00	\$15.00	\$200.00
703b Advertising	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$125.00
703c Christ In Our Home	\$200.00	\$288.00	\$200.00

703d New Members	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
703e Box Holder	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
703f Workshops	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
703g Social Concerns	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
703h Stamps	\$250.00	\$110.00	\$250.00
703i Hospitality	\$300.00	\$80.00	\$300.00
<b>TOTAL EVANGELISM</b>	<b>\$1,475.00</b>	<b>\$493.00</b>	<b>\$1,475.00</b>

705 PROPERTY			
705a Church Repairs	\$5,000.00	\$3,863.30	\$5,000.00
705b Church Supplies	\$1,700.00	\$571.67	\$1,700.00
705c Parsonage Repairs/Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$1,900.00	\$3,000.00
705d Lawn Mowing (cemetery upkeep)	\$3,500.00	\$5,780.00	\$5,500.00
705e Fuel-Church & Parsonage	\$7,000.00	\$5,435.98	\$7,000.00
705f Elec/Water/Sewer - Church/Parsonage	\$9,000.00	\$7,628.56	\$9,000.00
705g Insurance	\$12,000.00	\$11,193.53	\$12,000.00
705h New Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
705i Snow Removal	\$1,500.00	\$263.76	\$1,500.00
705j Meditation Garden	\$200.00	\$62.85	\$200.00
705k Rental Expenses			\$3,000.00
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>\$42,900.00</b>	<b>\$36,699.65</b>	<b>\$48,900.00</b>

706 FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY			
706a Sunday School Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
706b Little Lutherans & J Team	\$700.00	<b>\$200.37</b>	\$1000.00
706c VBS	\$1,000.00	\$12.28	\$1,000.00
706d Puppets	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
706e Confirmation Materials	\$600.00	\$191.97	\$600.00
706f Youth	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
706g Adult Leaders (Chaperones)	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
706h Milestones Ministry	\$2,000.00	\$259.03	\$2,000.00
706i Cross+Generational Ministry	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
706j Continuing Ed-Youth/Adult	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
706k Library	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL FAITH FORMATION</b>	<b>\$6,100.00</b>	<b>\$663.65</b>	<b>\$6,100.00</b>

<b>TOTAL TEAMS</b>	<b>\$54,625.00</b>	<b>\$41,413.38</b>	<b>\$60,625.00</b>
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<b><u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u></b>			
ELCA BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE	\$16,720.00	\$17,548.03	\$16,720.00
TOTAL MINISTRY AT HOME	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$133,719.94	\$109,036.95	\$145,190.29
TOTAL TEAMS	\$54,625.00	\$41,413.38	\$60,625.00
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$205,464.94</b>	<b>\$167,998.36</b>	<b>\$222,935.29</b>



# 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



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://www.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.

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