



# ANNUAL REPORT

— 2020 —



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





## A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future.

Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents and resources. Yes, God does continue to bless us! God will provide both relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,

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

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

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**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA  
2021 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of Agenda

Congregational Meeting-online voting

Treasurer's Report

Proposed Budget for 2021

Approval of 2021 Budget

Thank You to outgoing members-

Kent Kreutz, Jeff DeKraai, Mel Hanes, Rick Hultman, Stuart Johnson, and Alex Boy

Congregation Council President Report

Pastor's Report

Old Business:

New Business: Window Campaign

Elections:

Nominating Committee – 4 members

SD Synod Assembly Voting Members – 2 members

## **2020**

### **CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

President – Jeff DeKraai  
Vice President – Kent Kreutz  
Secretary – Mikayla Wilson  
Treasurer – Robin Baldwin

### **CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Building (Facilities) Committee	Mel Hanes and David Lyons
Youth & Education Committee	Mikayla Wilson, Mel Hanes and San Monahan
Evangelism Committee	Alex Boy and Stuart Johnson
Stewardship Committee	Kent Kreutz, Brandon Caneva, Rick Hultman and Jeff DeKraai
Worship & Music Committee	Robin Baldwin

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES** – Jenn Aldren/Madison Pankratz

**SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** – Melissa Kohle/Madison Pankratz

**CONFIRMATION** – Tessa Gunderson and Dennis Chowen

**LIBRARY** – Glynda Smith

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN** – President – Debbie Patmore

**QUILTERS** – Eileen Raforth

**2020 GRACE LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE -**

JD Williams & Robin Baldwin

### **2020-21 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Jeff DeKraai, Kent Kreutz, Eileen Raforth, Mikayla Wilson, Brandon Caneva and Darla DeKraai recommend the nominations of Linda Hemmah, Dennis Chowen, Clay Lange, Kelly Magdanz, Debbie Patmore and Chris Koontz to serve on the Grace Lutheran Church Council beginning Feb. 2021.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**  
**January 12, 2020 Annual Meeting**

Council Members Present: Pastor Kris, Al Weidenbach, Al Smith, Gloria Wiedmann, Mel Haines, Jeff DeKraai, Robin Baldwin, Brandon Caneva, Kent Kreutz, Rick Hultman and Carl Erickson

Council Members Absent: Alex Boy, Mikayla Wilson

Attendance by sign in sheet 74.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Kris.

Approval of Agenda.

Glynda Smith moved, Eileen Raforth 2<sup>nd</sup>, Approved

SD Synod Report by Bishop Constanze Hagmaier via video.

Treasurers Report was given by Robin Baldwin.

There was a question regarding Synod Dues and one on Sunday School and maintenance financing. It was reported that the \$19,000 CD was cashed in and applied to the parsonage loan. Since there were no changes to the report it was accepted as written.

No motion needed.

Proposed Budget for 2020.

Motion by Dan Boy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roger Ivers to approve budget as presented. Approved.

Outgoing council members Gloria Wiedmann, Al Smith, Al Weidenbach and Carl Erickson were presented gifts of appreciation.

Kent Kreutz presented Council Chairman report.

Pastor Kris gave the Pastor's Report.

Old Business: None

New Business: Marlene Kotab reported on upcoming Grace Lutheran 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events. Events include an August 30 congregational barbecue in the park and October 24<sup>th</sup> will be a banquet and program at the Sturgis Community Center.

New Council Members elected by unanimous ballot were:

San Monahan, David Lyons and Stuart Johnson.

There is one vacancy remaining.

SD Synod Assembly delegates will be Tim And Deb Patmore.

Jeff and Darla DeKraai as alternates.

Meeting was adjourned by President Kent Kreutz

Acting Recorder: Bonnie Lange

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from your 2020 church council! It has been great to see some of you back at church, I know we would all like to have it be a little closer to how it was, and hopefully we are working toward that. Recent news of home testing and vaccines are being delivered, and fill us with relief and hope. Prayers are being answered.

In today's congregational meeting, you will see our proposed 2021 budget , which you likely have seen in the newsletter and we hope it will meet your approval. As you will notice, we have cut our total budget each year in the past three, in an effort to try to function more efficiently, but also take care of all the things around the church that are needed, and take care of our staff as well. We did give raises to our staff this year, we have a phenomenal staff that deserves it. We got considerable help this year from a \$22,100 PPP loan , which was fully forgiven, as expected. We are waiting to hear back from the State of South Dakota to find out if we qualify for additional grant funds, to assist in a shortfall we had in income due to COVID-19. These are federal dollars distributed by the State's COVID Small Business Grant Program. If we qualify, this payment is expected by the end of January 2021.

We also appointed a nomination committee chairperson, myself, with help and support from Eileen Raforth, Darla DeKraai, Kent Kreutz and Mikayla Wilson. We experienced a need to fill 6 vacancies, and by the grace of God we have 6 candidates for this year's election. The council has worked to support this effort, and I thank Clay Lange, Kelly Magdanz, Debbie Patmore, Linda Hemmah, Chris Koontz, and Dennis Chowen for their willingness to serve.

The third item of business is a plan approved by the council, to kick off a new window campaign, Which started on December 1, 2020. We are currently meeting to discuss fund raising ideas, and we are open to hearing any ideas you might have. This project could range anywhere between \$20,000 and 33,000, depending on how far we go and how many windows we decide to replace. The council is aware from visiting the pastor's office, that her windows have daylight, wind, bugs, and moisture sneaking in through them and definitely need replacement.

As a council, we considered arrangements for online "Zoom" participation in the congregational meeting; due to attendance, logistics and constitutional provisions, we are not offering this option for this meeting.

I will close this message by saying it has been my honor and privilege to serve on this church council. The people in this church are fantastic, and truly a family. "This too shall pass;" we continually remind ourselves. With faith, hope, and love, we will get through this pandemic and emerge as sisters and brothers in Christ, with the never-failing Grace and Peace from God.

Jeff DeKraai, 2020 Council President



# 2020 Pastor's Report:

## *Kris Garlick*

### Isaiah 43:18-19

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

### 2020 — What a year!

I remember praying, at the beginning of 2020, for “calm” and “life-giving” Christian programming to come to Grace Lutheran Church. The year began with the church crowded with children and families, alike. There was overcrowding in some of the classrooms as well as youth group. And, the WNL services and meals topped 125 persons for Ash Wednesday Services. Friendship ministers were installed, LovelInc hosted classes, Aspen Grove services were happening monthly, Campers were planning for summer and plans were underway for the BIG 100 — the GLC Centennial Celebration.

Then, COVID hit ...  
Where was the  
“calm and life-giving?”

Remember the old adage:  
Want to see God laugh?  
Tell God your plans.

Well, the 2020 Planner went out the window, along with Camp, VBS, Advent & Holy Week Special Services, WNL, Rally HQ & Breakfasts, etc. Instead, a creative Spirit led us to send out Easter Communion kits and host Cuddle Duds & Christian Stories online.

The Church Council wrestled with “how” to offer services safely; how to keep the budget in the black without parishioners in the pews; and how to Zoom monthly meetings.

The Alliance of Churches & Friendship Ministry, along with hospital visits, Aspen Grove services, and such — were put on hold.

The Grace musicians & worship assistants were able to continue to offer the Word & praise to people on KBHB radio and online during special services. The Centennial Celebration with Bishop Constanze Hagmaier was offered on Facebook LIVE. And, by the time Christmas Eve came, technologies aided in reaching more than 700 persons on Youtube through Facebook.

The 2020 year in review also saw changes in children's ministry as Jenn Aldren resigned as the Children's Ministry

coordinator to pursue a nursing degree.

In September, Madison Pankratz signed on to lead the HS Youth Group, assist with Confirmands, and produce the Christmas Family video that premiered at Rally Point Dec 20.

The year 2020 has uncovered blessings amidst the challenges. As Isaiah would echo the Word of God:  
“Do you not perceive it?”

Yes, God is good. We still see it in the love God's children of GLC share with others.

A shout out to the worship team, the council and the guides who continue to serve—shining the light of Christ in some of the darkest of times.

A special thank you to the 12 callers who have offered frequent check-ins to GLC family members.

And, a big “thank you” to Keri Fischer, the GLC office manager. She is flexible and fluid— always knowing what's on my mind and producing it before I even ask.

God's blessings to you,  
*Pastor Kris*



## **2020 New Members**

Stuart Johnson

Thomas Magdanz Jr. and Kelly Magdanz

## **2020 Baptisms**

Debbie Merritt

Mackenzie Magdanz

Winston Douglas

Jasper Williams

Benjamin Williams

Riley Raftevoid

# IN MEMORIUM

Remembering those who have departed this life this past year.  
Many were near and dear to the Grace Lutheran Church family.  
Their funerals were conducted at Grace Lutheran  
or under our care and ministry.

Michael J. Beck

Rodney "Rod" D. Mundt\*

Erling (Mick) Sather

Winfred "Punk" E. Bauer\*

Eldon Herring\*

Evelyn F. Alexander\*

Susan K. Hanson

Alanna and Robert Strand

Brian K. McKay\*

Arlie L. Mullins

Mev Shipley\*

\*Members

2021 Proposed Budget	2019	2020	2021
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET
60000 · Advertising Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ -	
60100 · Bank Charges	\$ 600.00	\$ -	
60200 · Children's Ministry	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
60300 – High School Youth	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
60400 · Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
60500 · Training/ Education	\$ -	\$ -	
60800 - Facilities & Equipment-other(Elevator)			\$ 1,800.00
60801 · Building Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00
60803 · Cleaning Supplies	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
60804 · Equipment Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
60805 · Grounds Maintenance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
60806 · Insurance	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
60807 - Janitorial Services	\$ 18,200.00	\$ 18,750.00	\$ 19,000.00
60808 · Leased Equipment	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 4,500.00
61600 · Licenses and Registrations	\$ 400.00	\$ -	
61700 · College Scholarship	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
61710 · Kitchen Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
61900 · Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00
61901 - Music Expense-Piano Tuning			\$ 200.00
61902 · Sheet Music for Choirs	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00
62000 · Office Supplies, Library Supplies, Office S	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
62100 · Organist	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
62101 · Worship Supplies, General	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
62201 · Parsonage Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
62202 – Mortgage Interest	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
62203· Mortgage Principle	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 4,000.00
62204 · Utilities	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
62301· Pastor's Base Compensation	\$ 41,688.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 44,300.00
62302 - Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	
62303· Continuing Education	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
62304 · Lodging	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
62305 · Meals	\$ 200.00	\$ -	
62306 · Mileage	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
62307 · Pension, Medical, Dental	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
62308 Social Security Reimbursement	\$ 4,106.00	\$ 3,290.00	\$ 3,390.00
62401 · FICA/Medicare Expense	\$ 1,221.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 1,700.00
62402 · Administrative & Office Wages	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
62500·Youth Ministry Coordinator	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	
62501 – Workman's Comp Ins	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,800.00
62600 · Postage	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
62800 - Professional Accounting	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
62900 - Pulpit Supply	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
63000· Pulpit Supply Mileage	\$ 500.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
63304 · SD Synod Monthly	\$ 6,120.00	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 6,325.00
63700 · Telephone, Telecommunications	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
63901 · Electricity	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
63902 · Natural Gas	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
63903· Water Expense	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 226,535.00</b>	<b>\$ 224,340.00</b>	<b>\$223,765.00</b>

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
40002 - COVID-19 Payroll Income	22,100.00
40004 - Interest Income	54.56
40013 - Offerings	163,437.87
40015 - Thrivent Choice Dollars	84.00
40016 - Rent-Funerals, Weddings, Other	775.00
40017 - Coffee Fund	528.42
40018 - WNL Supper Fund	402.06
40020 - Miscellaneous Income	615.00
	187,996.91
<b>Total Income</b>	
<b>Expense</b>	
60100 - Bank Service Charges	0.00
60200 - Children's Ministry Exp	1,477.74
60300 - High School Youth Exp	37.15
60400 - Dues and Subscriptions	1,090.74
60800 - Facilities and Equipment	
60801 - Building Repairs & Maintenance	257.18
60802 - Bus Expense	198.90
60803 - Cleaning Supplies	614.10
60804 - Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	1,502.64
60805 - Grounds Maintenance	2,928.81
60806 - Insurance	6,772.92
60807 - Janitorial Services	18,750.00
60808 - Leased Equipment	4,435.05
60800 - Facilities and Equipment - Other	1,783.34
	37,242.94
<b>Total 60800 - Facilities and Equipment</b>	
61700 - College Scholarships	500.00
61710 - Kitchen Supplies	274.20
61900 - Miscellaneous Exp	864.91
61901 - Music Exp	85.00
62000 - Office Supplies	1,694.94
62100 - Organist	300.00
62101 - Worship Supplies-General	1,705.97
62200 - Parsonage/Housing Allowance	
62202 - Mortgage Interest	8,055.14
62204 - Utilities	2,501.15
	10,556.29
<b>Total 62200 - Parsonage/Housing Allowance</b>	
62300 - Pastoral Ministry	
62301 - Pastor's Base Compensation	43,000.08
62307 - Pension, Medical, Dental	29,047.26
62308 - Soc. Sec. Reimbursement	3,288.00
	75,335.34
<b>Total 62300 - Pastoral Ministry</b>	
62400 - Payroll Expenses	
62401 - Fica/Medicare Expense	1,874.25
62402 - Administrative Wages	28,359.25
62400 - Payroll Expenses - Other	0.00
	30,233.50
<b>Total 62400 - Payroll Expenses</b>	
62501 - Workman's Comp Ins	1,322.00
62600 - Postage	110.00
62900 - Pulpit Supply	400.00
63000 - Pulpit Supply Mileage	18.56
63300 - SD Synod	
63304 - SD Synod Monthly	6,250.00
	6,250.00
<b>Total 63300 - SD Synod</b>	
63600 - Tax Expense	166.53
63700 - Telephone, Telecommunications	1,998.82

Grace Lutheran Church  
**Profit & Loss**  
January through December 2020

	<u>Jan - Dec 20</u>
63900 - Utilities	
63901 - Electricity	6,782.76
63902 - Natural Gas	3,600.33
63903 - Water	<u>1,288.68</u>
Total 63900 - Utilities	<u>11,671.77</u>
Total Expense	<u>183,336.40</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>4,660.51</u>
Net Income	<u><u>4,660.51</u></u>

**Treasurer's note:**

In reviewing the 2020 Profit & Loss, the year ended with a balance of \$4,460.51. During this unpredictable and challenging year, offerings were down from 2019 by over \$27,000.00, while most of the normal expenses continued. Fortunately, GLC received a \$22,100.00 Payroll Protection Plan loan that has been forgiven and will not require repayment. What a blessing! Without the PPP monies, GLC would have ended 2020 with a large negative balance.

Once again the year ended being under budget. Much of that was due to the changes imposed on operations during the pandemic. There is no way to predict what 2021 will bring, but we do know that GLC will continue to have set expenses to meet.

Blessings in 2021!

Robin Baldwin, Treasurer



## Grace Lutheran Church

**Balance Sheet**

As of January 5, 2021

01/05/21

Accrual Basis

	<u>Jan 5, 21</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
14000 - Pioneer Bank 2236	163,100.23
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>163,100.23</u>
Other Current Assets	
15001 - Endowment Funds	152,775.65
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>152,775.65</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>315,875.88</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
16000 - Capital Improvements	67,389.84
16001 - Church Building	607,610.16
16002 - Parsonage	230,000.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>905,000.00</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>	
17005 - Bus Dedicated	2,029.70
17006 - Children's Ministries	1,000.00
17007 - High School Youth Dedicated	19,603.15
17008 - Window Campaign Dedicated	7,884.16
17010 - Memorials	25,551.79
17011 - Music Dedicated	460.02
17012 - Radio Broadcast Dedicated	1,792.15
17014 - Pastors Benevolence Dedicated	913.40
17018 - Zto Close out Dedicated Funds	-59,234.37
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>1,220,875.88</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	
50000 - Accounts Payable	-3.53
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<u>-3.53</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 - Payroll Liabilities	7.25
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>7.25</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>3.72</u>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	
19000 - Parsonage Mortgage	132,314.56
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<u>132,314.56</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>132,318.28</u>
<b>Equity</b>	
20000 - Opening Balance Equity	1,048,878.43
20003 - Unrestricted Net Assets	36,660.67
Net Income	3,018.50
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>1,088,557.60</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>1,220,875.88</u></u>

## Education and Youth Committee Annual Report

We had a great year in youth education at Grace Lutheran, despite the many challenges we faced with the Covid-19 virus. The beginning of the year started like the year before ended, a record number of kids attending the Wednesday night Kids Alive program run by our awesome Youth Coordinator, Jenn Aldren and the many amazing volunteers. We also had a number of kiddos attending Journey with Jesus on Sundays after church with the wonderful Vicki Monahan and Cindy Milek. When schools went to virtual learning in March, our in-person meetings ceased. In lieu of our summer VBS, Cooking with Jesus kits were prepared for the children of our church. It was enjoyed by all! Before school started we had our annual backpack blessing "Covid" style, outside in a walk-through format!

Some of the most exciting news in the youth education was the hiring of the youth coordinator for our pre-confirmation/confirmation & HS youth program, Madison Pankratz. Madison has taken over the program and has done some AMAZING things. We are so incredibly blessed by her talents and love for Jesus that she is sharing with the youth of our congregation! We were also sad to lose Jenn Aldren as our previous youth coordinator, but we are so excited for her to follow her dream of becoming a nurse practitioner!!

As the 2020-2021 school year commenced, the older youth programs (pre-confirmation through high school youth group) persevered through the challenges of COVID-19 to continue sharing faith-filled fellowship on Wednesday evenings. Groups began meeting in September and continued through the middle of December. Some of the highlights of this year included: pre-confirmation hosting a Bible themed escape room, high school youth sharing stories around a campfire, and confirmation delivering a basket of goodies to illustrate their gratitude for the workers at Kinkade's funeral home. Although regular attendance was impacted by the pandemic, everyone's willingness to overcome this adversity was evident. We are looking forward and hopeful for this upcoming semester!

Although we don't have the younger kids back in session yet, we look forward to the time when we do and have enjoyed the Advent books that Pastor Kris purchased for our families with littles to keep Jesus front and center during this Christmas season. Thank you Pastor Kris!! We look forward to a new year and getting back to teaching our littles in person!

Mikayla Wilson

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## Journey With Jesus

My report is brief this time simply because we have had to refrain from gathering with our Sunday morning 'Journey with Jesus' kiddos, because of covid precautions. However, as soon as possible, we will resume our Sunday Journeys.

'Journey with Jesus' is our 'Sunday Morning' program for children in pre-school (age 4) through 5th grade. Older kids have the opportunity to help younger children while learning and growing through these weekly Journey/Adventures with Jesus. Each Sunday we explore a different Bible story about Jesus to learn His teachings, His parables, His miracles, His love and we do this through fun games, great songs, cool art projects and meaningful stories and activities. High school and middle school students frequently join our class, sharing their knowledge, skills, help and friendship with the younger kids. We try to "teach as Jesus taught", by keeping it simple and understandable and by caring about, having fun with, and learning from, each other...

I am looking forward to the time when we will be able to resume a full Sunday morning schedule and hope you will once again join us for our weekly, Journey with Jesus :)

Vicki Monahan

## **CONSTITUTION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

Thank you to Kent Kreutz, Stuart Johnson, and all who assisted in considering and helping this revision effort for our constitution. The Synod asked us to update our constitution, to make it consistent with the state and national policy's, which make us a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

To do this, we did compare our existing constitution with the suggested changes. We took things line by line, and completed most of the constitution. At this point, we do not have a completed project, but we are continuing to work on it. I would say we have it about 60-70 % done. Kent and I will complete this, and we will report back to the council after we're done. We are trying to be careful to maintain our own identity as grace Lutheran Church, but also take into account necessary changes that The Synod is asking for.

Thanks again to the committee, and to Keri Fischer and Pastor Garlick, in steering and producing this revision.

Jeff DeKraai, committee chair

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## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

No large projects were done this year due to Covid-19. Projects completed included maintenance on the door to Rose Room — new locks were installed. Also routine maintenance was done on the Church by volunteers and building committee members. Thanks to all the volunteers for keeping the grounds in good condition and all the other things you do to help out. We are in the process of upgrading the outside sign in the front of the Church. The bus has been started and run by workers periodically to make sure it will run when needed. Building Committee includes Dave Lyons, Al Weidenbach and Mel Hanes.

Mel Hanes

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## **GRACE LUTHERAN STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Thank you to the members of this year's stewardship committee, to include Rick Hultman, Kent Kreutz, Brandon Caneva, and myself. We pursued ideas for creative fund raising, and we did several temple talks to that effect. We also moved forward with drive-in church opportunities, at the Community Center parking lot, which gave us an opportunity to get together before the indoor church options became available. We also did work to support the PPP loan and later the SD Small Business Grant which definitely helped our financial situation.

Moving forward, Stewardship committee acknowledges many opportunities they have not pursued due to COVID-19. We will strive to be creative and aim for productive pursuits in the coming year. Keeping the congregation informed of our financial situation, and stepping up to ask for donations, as well as some more creative fund-raising activities, will definitely be goals for this committee in the coming year.

Jeff DeKraai

## 2020 WORSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Grace Lutheran Worship Committee's chief duty is to plan, lead, and implement worship and the music ministries of the congregation. But once the pandemic invaded our world, this most unusual year created worship needs far beyond what anyone could have imagined. Throughout 2020, the committee prayerfully accepted the challenge and together with Pastor Kris Garlick, Office Manager Keri Fischer, and the dedicated musicians, technical staff, and worship leaders, the Grace congregation was blessed to continue weekly worship through the radio broadcast, in-house worship, and occasionally on Facebook Live and YouTube.

**Cancellation of in-house Lenten/Palm Sunday/Easter services** – A rotation of ministers in the Bear Butte Conference was planned for the Lenten season. Palms were ordered and the children, adult choir, and Cantata Choir began practicing music for Palm Sunday. The confirmation and high school youth planned a Maundy Thursday and Reverse Advent drama. A new banner announcing the sunrise Easter service was ordered and Easter plans were set. Soon after the Ash Wednesday service on February 26<sup>th</sup> all these plans and Wednesday night activities were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Radio Broadcasts** – Grace was blessed to have the weekly broadcast of the Sunday services already in place when in-house worship was halted. Members of the congregation soon began meeting at the parking lot of the Sturgis Community Center, staying in their cars to listen to the radio broadcast, but still gathered together. Dedicated personnel continued to volunteer on a weekly basis for the next 10 months. Musicians included Dan Chapman, Danilee Pudwill, Candy McKay, Marge Erion-Johnson, Christian and Marlene Kotab, and Marcia Potts. Guest musicians offered special music throughout the year – especially for Palm Sunday, Easter, Veteran's Day, and Christmas. All readings and music sent from both the adults and the children were greatly appreciated.

**Graduation** – Annie Calhoon's graduation from Sturgis Brown High School was celebrated with a drive-by parade. Melissa Kohle recorded a special graduation song for use during the worship broadcast. Others personal messages by youth leaders and mentors were recorded to congratulate Annie.

**Communion** – Safety protocols suggested no face-to-face communion, so Pastor Garlick ordered individual communion kits. Easter communion kits, hand-delivered by a friendship committee, were deeply appreciated by Grace members. The kits were made available throughout the rest of the year so that the congregation could continue to receive the Lord's Supper in the safety of their homes. Volunteer callers also contacted members of the congregation.

**ZOOM** – The Worship Committee began meeting on ZOOM (an online video/audio conference platform) in April. All in-house meetings were deemed unsafe and this was a perfect way for the committee to continue meeting.

**Rally** - The church was closed for the two weeks of the Motorcycle Rally. Radio broadcasts were pre-recorded for the August 9 and 16 worship services.

**Screen repair** – In August, the screen would not stop at the appropriate place. Tim Patmore ordered a new motor and together with Brandon McGillivray and Randy Berg, the motor was replaced.

**Back-to-School Blessing night** – Marcia Potts assisted Pastor Garlick as children were given gifts and could experience a number of outdoor activities to get ready to return to school.

**Outdoor sign** – Two new vinyl signs for the outdoor sign were ordered by Marlene Kotab. The sign's trim was scraped and repainted.

Continued.....

**Confirmation** – Morgan Myers, Koyer Kelly, Reeve Ross, and Breanna Shoun were confirmed on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. Each student recorded a faith statement which was broadcast at the service.

**Centennial** – Bishop Constanze Hagmaier arrived prior to the October snowstorm and was still able to preach for the Centennial Service on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Tim Potts livestreamed the service. Gary Meyers' special "100 Years" song was played and the Grace musicians sang "Celebrate the Day." Mayor Mark Carstensen read an Executive Proclamation deeming Oct. 24, 2020 as Grace Lutheran Church Day in Sturgis. Ruth Smit and her committee baked cookies and assembled bags to hand out after the service. A drive-by Bishop parade followed the service.

**Christmas** – The church was decorated on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Advent Wreath readings were recorded by worship team families. Madison Pankratz and Pastor Garlick produced a video which included recordings of Advent and Christmas activities by Grace members. The worship team and musicians recorded the Christmas Eve Service to be broadcast on KBHB radio, Facebook, and YouTube on Christmas Eve. Christian Kotab and Tim Potts were the video/audio technicians.

**A note of thanks:** The worship team gives God the glory in thanksgiving for the dedication of the individuals who continued bringing news of hope and comfort to our congregation this year. What would we do without Pastor's innovative and timely suggestions and the leadership of our assisting ministers (Tim Patmore, Tim Potts, Garland Dobler, and Kim Webber)? God has blessed our church with talented musicians (Dan, Danilee, Candy, Marge, Christian, Marge, Marlene, and Marcia Potts) who overcame their own difficulties to bring you the musical messages of joy, peace, love, and hope each week. We give thanks for the technical expertise of Christian Kotab, our sound technician, producing quality recordings for our radio broadcasts every week. Thanks to Tim Potts who helped produce our online views. We also appreciate the weekly help from our computer/screen technicians, Deb Patmore, Michelle Williams, and Debbie Haivala. What dedication all these folks exhibited as we faced the challenges of 2020. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Marlene Kotab, Chair    Candy McKay    Ruth Mechling – Altar Guild Representative  
Pastor Kris Garlick    Tim Patmore    Robin Baldwin – Church Council Representative  
Christian Kotab    Marcia Potts

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## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Grace Lutheran Evangelism committee goal is to carry out the planning, leadership and implementation of the evangelism ministry of the congregation and seek to develop and promote the parish life of the congregation.

Alex Boy and Stuart Johnson were the 2020 council representatives to this committee. With the pandemic putting the skids on gathering, the committee curtailed meeting.

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## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LIBRARY

The GLC Library mission is to maintain the library for the purpose of contributing to the spiritual growth of members of the congregation, in all levels of knowledge and religious advancement. Books, CDs, videos, and audiocassettes for adults and children are available for members to check out. Currently, the library is not accepting donations until it can inventory and sort what it has on hand.



<b>Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund</b> <b>2020 Annual Report (prepared before receiving EOV 1099 's)</b>
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The Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund is invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust as of August 27, 2015.

Total Investment in HCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust:

Beginning Value	12-31-19	\$158,067.56	
Additions		.00	
Withdrawals for expense & 2020 distributions		.00	
-Reinvestments		\$ 4,388.60	
Change in Market Value		\$ (5,562.99)	
Total Balance as of September 30, 2020		\$156,893.17	\$156,893.17

Checking Account report at Pioneer Bank and Trust

Balance as of 1-1-2020		\$ 5,658.79	
Deposited earned income	\$ .00		
Deposited-Donation	\$ .00		
	<u>\$ .00</u>		
	\$ .00	\$ 5,658.59	

Checks:

Grace Lutheran VBS	\$1,000.00		
Sturgis Alliance of Churches	\$1,000.00		
Behavior Management Services	\$1,000.00		
New Checks	\$ 19.35		
	<hr/>		
	\$3,019.35	\$ 2,639.24	\$ 2,639.24

Grand total of all Endowment Fund and checking \$159,532.41



Robin Baldwin  
 GLC Endowment Fund  
 Treasurer

Committee Members: JD Williams, Ethan Dscaak, Linda Hemmah, and Keith Smit

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The women of Grace Lutheran are busy in a variety of ways to see to the need of many organizations. Every season of the church calendar, every Sunday and every Wednesday service the Altar Guild is busy making sure that Grace Lutheran is ready for a service. Whether it is setting up for Holy Communion, making sure that the candles have oil or changing the paraments on the altar and pulpit. Come Wednesday morning a group is making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, Cornerstone Mission, Behavior Management, Crisis Intervention to name a few of the organizations that reap the benefits of these quilts. The women and helpers make many types of kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits are School Kits, Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits. The women serve many meals: coffee hour, Wednesday night supper, soup suppers for Lent, funeral luncheons and of course the Rally Breakfast. We have food drives for Kiwanis, personal care products for Crisis Center, the women are involved with the community along with Grace Lutheran Church.

Grace Lutheran Women meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm to conduct business and have a program. We have 3 circles of women who meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month: Martha meets in the morning, Rachel in the afternoon and Mary in the evening. We supply a booklet with a list of each circle member and a calendar of events for the year. If you are a woman or confirmed young lady member of Grace Lutheran Church, you automatically become a member of a circle. Providing three different times for a circle to meet we hope you are able to join us for a bible lesson, business meeting and of course fellowship. We welcome you all. The women of Grace Lutheran Church have been today, and will be in the future a very vital part of this congregation. We need your participation to keep this founding legacy thriving.

Even though 2020 was not a normal year with the pandemic the GLCW were still able to fulfill some of their normal endeavors as in service church and all organizations within the church were cancelled for safety reasons. The quilters didn't meet at church but worked at home quilting away so that when a few of them started meeting this summer on Wednesday mornings again they had tops to make into quilts. The school kits and baby kits were still being put together at home by members and sent out worldwide. Cards and calls were made to the shut ins and members to keep in touch with each other. In April it was voted on to not have the Rally Breakfast for the safety of all. It was the first time since the breakfast started that it was not held. As the church remained closed and summer turned to fall the GLCW officers held their meeting in October to discuss the 2020 and 2021 budget. We were a little concerned about fulfilling our yearly obligations as we did not have the revenue from the Rally breakfast. It was determined that all of our charitable obligations local and worldwide would be met as budgeted. It was also time to start nominations for new officers. Blessings to these women as they all decided to keep their position for this following year of 2021. Thank you for your service.

Thankoffering Sunday was held in November with a skit and temple talk over the radio. Thank you women of Grace for your donations to the Women of ELCA and their charitable organizations.

December and Christmas...Our shut-ins received a card this year as visiting is still not encouraged. We are hoping by summer we can see and visit with our friends again.

Wishing you health and happiness in 2021

Yours in Christ,  
Debbie Patmore, GLCW President



**ONE  
PERSON**  
can make  
an impact.



## 2020 Annual Report to Congregations Life Stories Take Shape at LSS

LSS helps to transform the lives of people of all ages, faiths, races and economic status with professional, confidential and affordable services. With vital services offered statewide, LSS touched the lives of those we serve 38,099 times last year. LSS is where life stories take shape. We strive to care for, support and strengthen those in need, bringing clarity, stability, family and support to people of all ages, families of all kinds and communities of all sizes.



*"I honestly don't know what we would be doing without LSS. The extra bit of normalcy is what matters most right now (COVID-19 pandemic). If my daughter didn't have routine, I think she would be more scared or confused about what is happening."*  
– first responder parents of children at LSS Childcare & Education Services

LSS has assisted with **4,184 ADOPTIONS SINCE 1920**. We are ready for a second century of service.

The COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges. LSS has reacted quickly, safely and compassionately to offer many of our services using telehealth technology. It is a good alternative for individuals and families experiencing overwhelming stress and anxiety associated with separation and isolation.

Clients receiving outpatient counseling experienced a **23%** reduction in symptoms from the first session to the fourth session.

LSS continues to improve its capacity to deliver trauma-informed care. **91%** of youth in Psychiatric Residential Treatment and **83%** of youth in Foster Care showed a reduction in trauma symptoms upon discharge.

**85%** of clients who received financial counseling reported reduced stress after their session. **88%** of clients participating in a debt management plan successfully completed their payments.

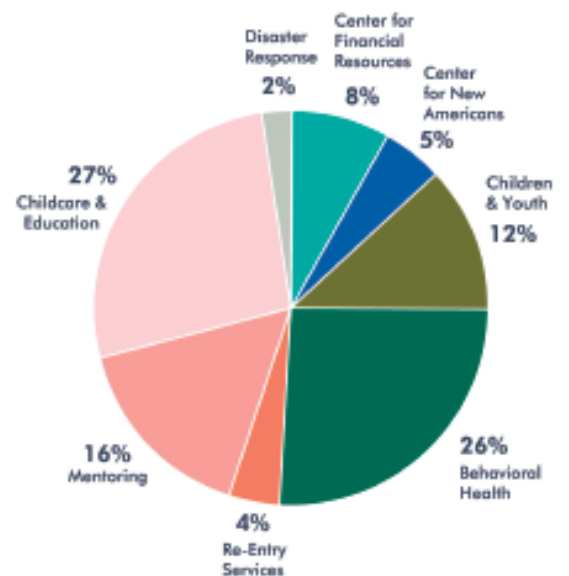
**100%** of the residents of the New Alternatives Intensive Independent Living Services improved their independent living skills and improved their overall wellness and health.

Youth who participate in the Arise Shelter Care are successful. **90%** of youth are discharged to safe and stable housing.

For 100 years, LSS has not just been about looking at one person and trying to help them with their situation, but coming from a bigger, more holistic picture. It's not just one person's life today, it's about what do we do to make things better into the future, for other people.

Betty Oldenkamp  
President and CEO

### How Your Gift is Used



# LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA



# 2020

## CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

### **Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota welcomes all to explore and experience Christ's love in community and creation.**

The year 2020 may not have allowed Lutherans Outdoors to share four beautiful ministry sites with you, but it has not stopped Lutherans Outdoors from continuing its mission. Lutherans Outdoors is still a vibrant, meaningful ministry that will continue to provide life-giving and faith-growing experiences for people of all ages for years to come.

## PROGRAM

On March 13, 2020, the Lutherans Outdoors' Board of Directors made a decision to stop all programming at our camp sites for a 10-week period. On April 7, 2020, the Board of Directors made the decision to cancel the summer program at Outlaw Ranch, Joy Ranch, NeSoDak, and Klein Ranch. **This was the right decision, yet very difficult.**

The empty camps continued in this way for the rest of the year, except for some horse riding programs at Joy Ranch and some family rentals at Outlaw and NeSoDak. It will continue to be quiet during the first months of 2021.

Lutherans Outdoors found several ways to keep the relational ministry happening last summer through successful special event fundraisers. Klein Ranch had many supporters participate in the Adopt-A-Horse program. Joy Ranch held special drive-thru Chef Nights. NeSoDak had a fun Road Runner 5K Run/Walk. Outlaw Ranch offered a Thursday night Concert Series featuring Family Camp musicians from past years with a special Christmas Concert in December.

We look with optimism and excitement to Summer 2021! Lutherans Outdoors is moving forward in providing summer camp programs at a 60% capacity for the summer of 2021. We are hopeful that retreats and gatherings can begin again this fall. It will be wonderful to hear the laughter and music and life that has been missing for too long.

We hope that your congregation can feel safe at camp and allow Lutherans Outdoors to provide an important and much needed faith-growing experience called Bible Camp for members of all ages. **We will see you at camp!**

## FINANCIAL NEED

During the course of our need to cancel summer camp and not host retreat groups, Lutherans Outdoors lost approximately 1.7 million dollars of anticipated income. The loss of revenue will continue into 2021 with the hope that revenue streams can begin again with summer programs--but they are not guaranteed.

Thus, there has been a great need for financial help from our ministry donors. And many, many of them did indeed make wonderful financial contributions to help fill the revenue need. Lutherans Outdoors also was able to receive a Federal PPP loan.

But the financial need is still great and we will be making a large financial ask during 2021 through our **Keep The Campfires Burning Appeal**. Your congregation will be receiving and sharing information on how you can make a vital decision to help Lutherans Outdoors continue to be a strong ministry through a generous donation.

Thank you for making our campfires burn bright into the future with your positive response to this appeal.



South Dakota Synod  
Mission Plan  
02/01/2020 - 01/31/2021

	Adopted 2020	Revised 2020	Proposed 2021
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS</b>	1,823,305	1,733,093	1,733,093
<b>Program Ministry Income</b>			
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,000	45,000	45,000
<b>Other Income Streams</b>			
SD Synod Mission Support	37,000	29,927	29,927
DEM Support Staff	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	7,500	8,000	8,000
SDS Transportation LLC Income	12,472	5,000	5,000
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000	-	-
Misc Income	503	1,000	1,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,960,780</b>	<b>1,832,020</b>	<b>1,832,020</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	<b>Adopted 2020</b>	<b>Revised 2020</b>	<b>Proposed 2021</b>
<b>CHURCHWIDE MISSION</b>			
<b>Mission Support to ELCA</b>	820,487	779,892	779,892
% of Mission Support	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%
<b>Region III</b>	8,702	7,626	7,626
<b>SHARED MINISTRIES</b>			
<b>South Dakota Sustained Ministries</b>			
Campus Ministry	128,919	122,177	122,177
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	58,300	58,300	58,300
Heartland Ephphatha	6,325	5,994	5,994
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605	3,605	3,605
<b>South Dakota Supported Ministries</b>			
SD Ministries Support	16,650	13,467	13,467
Luther Seminary	73,110	69,287	69,287
Lutheran Social Services	73,110	69,287	69,287
Lutherans Outdoors	36,462	34,555	34,555
Church Colleges	6,325	5,994	5,994
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
<b>Total Shared Ministries</b>	<b>403,838</b>	<b>383,698</b>	<b>383,698</b>
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES</b>			
<b>Staff Leadership</b>			
Bishop	107,500	90,605	90,605
Associate Director of Evangelical Mission	10,606	6,528	6,528
Associate Mobility/Candidacy	89,017	74,394	74,394



**South Dakota Synod  
Mission Plan  
02/01/2020 - 01/31/2021**

Bishop/Associate Benefits	69,991	78,897	78,897
SDS Travel	35,734	20,500	20,000
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	18,800	16,300	16,299
<b>Program Ministries</b>			
Native American Ministry	74,265	79,248	77,748
Synod Youth Gathering Coordinator	15,814	6,959	6,959
Companion Synod Coordinator	11,993	12,315	12,065
<b>Support Staff and Office</b>			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	148,859	152,501	152,501
Resource Center Supplies	150	300	300
Synod Office Expenses	66,222	68,164	65,559
Augustana University	20,949	20,949	20,949
<b>Synod Leadership</b>			
Synod Council	7,000	7,000	5,500
Support to Ministries Committee	2,600	2,600	2,100
Candidacy Committee	4,500	4,500	3,750
Electronic Communications	1,750	1,750	1,750
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,700	1,700	1,550
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	500	250	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,350
Mission Strategy Committee	2,000	2,000	1,850
<b>Ministry Projects</b>			
Stewardship Project	500	500	-
Continuing Education Projects	250	-	-
<b>Outreach Ministries</b>			
Multicultural Center/Woyatan	15,000	16,500	16,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	3,950
Companion Synods	500	500	-
<b>Contingency</b>			
	16,053	674	-
<b>Subtotal SD Synod Ministries</b>	<b>727,753</b>	<b>671,134</b>	<b>660,804</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,960,780</b>	<b>1,842,350</b>	<b>1,832,020</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-10,330</b>	<b>0</b>

The 2021 mission plan for the synod was discussed and proposed by the Synod Council in the absence of the Synod Assembly being able to convene and pass a mission plan during 2021. The mission plan is reflective of the Synod Council's hopes for how we, as the church, will be able to support and engage in ministry together, while recognizing the unusual uncertainty which began in 2020 and may continue in 2021. Accordingly, the Synod Council proposed a flat budget based upon the congregational statements of intended mission support for the 2020 mission plan year. No significant changes from the 2020 mission plan were proposed other than prudently planning to reduce meeting and leadership related expenses in order to propose a balanced 2021 mission plan.



**South Dakota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



Dear Siblings in Christ of the South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

"But we had hoped" – is probably the most used phrase of 2020. However, this is also the phrase of the two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus after Christ's death and resurrection. While on the road wrestling with things

that they cannot understand, Jesus joins them on the road, sharing with them how all of these things rested in God all along. It is not until the breaking of the bread that the holy heartburn the two disciples felt all along propels them to run back to their friends to share that Christ truly is alive and not dead, and that therefore his followers need to live into the promise that they too are alive and that death has lost its power.

I cannot help but come to understand that this story is our story. It has always been our story, but 2020 has brought this story alive for me in new and profound ways. We too have found ourselves saying countless times this year, "but we had hoped." We too wrestled with the hard questions about what to make of the events of this past year as they unfolded in our life. We have wished many times to go "back to normal." As I heard from people, I invited them to expound on what going back to normal means to them. Creating this space allowed for a deeper reflection on who we are as people of God in South Dakota. Jesus accompanied the disciples on the road and shared scripture with them to open their eyes to God's continued provision and presence in the world. Even in the midst of these life-altering and events of Christ's death and resurrection God is alive and at work. My staff and I have accompanied your community of faith during this life-altering pandemic assuring you that God's Holy Spirit is inspiring and sustaining.

Early on, we hosted weekly Zoom meetings for rostered and lay leaders. We continue these meetings on a monthly basis. Task forces were created to provide resources and training for congregations to continue ministry, such as "Canvas" an online resource platform and network for everything educational. Two worship documents and guidance were created: "Extending the Table, Expanding Participation" and "Come Let us Worship in a New Way." I can say that the pandemic and the challenges of living into a new way of being church has created some heartburn. Many may not call it a holy heartburn, but remember neither did the disciples until they sat at the table with Jesus and ate. Only when bread was broken, and wine was poured, did they remember the promises that God's got them and that they have nothing to fear. I pray that you too will come to recognize and interpret your heartburn as *holy heartburn* that empowers you to be church in a new and different way for the sake of the Gospel.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Now, as we move forward, let's commit ourselves to journey together in Christ, and in Christ alone.

*C. Hagmaier*

Journeying with you in Christ,  
Rev. Constanze Hagmaier  
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

