

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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

**PVLC**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**and Reports**

**Agenda**  
**2020 PVLC Annual Meeting**  
**February 7, 2021 10:00am**

- 1) **Call To Order:** Gary Garner, *Council President*
- 2) **Opening Devotions:** Pastor Sonja
- 3) **Adoption of Agenda:** Gary Garner
- 4) **Minutes of February 2, 2020 Annual Meeting:** Donna Wright, Council Sec.
- 5) **Income Report:** Bonnie Miller, *Financial Secretary*
- 6) **Expense Report:** Beverly LeCates, *Treasurer*
- 7) **Reports to Congregation:**
  - A. **Pastor's Report**
  - B. **Financial Mgmt.**
  - C. **Audit**
  - D. **Worship and Music**
  - E. **Property Mgmt.**
  - F. **Education and Youth**
  - G. **Outreach**
  - H. **Parish Board**
  - I. **Council President**
- 8) **Old Business:** from 2019 Annual Meeting held 2-2-2020. None
- 9) **New Business:**
  - A. **Adoption of 2021 Budget**
- 10) **Elections:**
  - A. **Church Council ( 3 Vacancies 3 year terms) (1 Vacancy 2 year term)**  
(Terms Expiring Gary Garner, Chris Millum, Ce Faulkner)
  - B. **Synod Assembly**
- 11) **Adjournment**
- 12) **Closing Prayers**

**Special Council Meeting Immediately Following Annual Meeting for Election of Officers**

**Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
February 2, 2020 @ 10:00am**

- 1) **Call To Order:** Gary Garner, *Council President*
- 2) **Opening Devotions**
- 3) **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to accept agenda. Ce Faulkner/Jeff Baker MSC
- 4) **Minutes of February 3, 2019 Annual Meeting:** *Shari Hanks, Council Sec.* MSC to accept.
- 5) **Income Report:** Bonnie Miller, *Financial Secretary* \$108,782.04 motion to accept Brenda Pates/Dave Dryer MSC
  
- 6) **Expense Report:** Beverly LeCates, *Treasure*
  - a) 2019 total expenses \$99,564.59. January 1, 2019 there was a balance of \$17,000.75 in the savings account. The interest that was accrued for the year was \$5.00. As of December 31, 2019, Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church's Savings Balance is \$22,005.75. We have been able to deposit some money back into savings each month as we are not paying a full time Pastor a salary. Addressed snow removal costs and the fee of \$50 in the budget which is the membership fee for the Piedmont Valley Chamber. Motion to accept Financial Expense report Collette Ganske/Sheila Nold MSC
  
- 7) **Reports to Congregation:**
  - A. **Financial Mgmt.** Mortgage, Investments/Savings and Special Funds,
  - B. **Audit** – Sheila Nold questioned if we have an audit committee of 3 members. We do not. Bob and Mary Burns have been reporting for us. It was suggested that a committee of 3 members be started again by the council. We will hopefully have a new Pastor so this is very important. A committee of 3 would be selected and serve on a rotating basis of 3 years. (3,2,1)
  - C. **Worship and Music**
  - D. **Property Mgmt.**
  - E. **Education and Youth**
  - F. **Outreach** - Much discussion was held on outreach, and the amount of money needed to reach new members. Facebook, advertisement, website were all suggested ways of reaching out. Ce Faulkner stated April 4<sup>th</sup> is Piedmont Valley Chamber Day. She suggested PVLC have a booth to promote ourselves. It is from 10-2:00pm.
  - G. **Mutual Ministry-** Not Active
  - H. **Parish Board** - The report included in the 2020 annual report details what the Parish Board discussed through 2019.
  - I. **Council President**
  
- 8) **Old Business: from 2018 Annual Meeting held 2-2-1019.** (none)
  
- 9) **New Business:**
  - A. **Report from Call Committee**

Bonnie Miller reported that both PVLC and Atonement Lutheran have submitted information for each church to the Synod as to the needs per each church. Our

Parish is a necessity at this time due to costs involved in hiring a new Pastor. As part of the Parish Study the Bishop is coming on February 9<sup>th</sup> at PVLC (5:30 pm) to explain and clarify the process of call.

**B. Adoption of 2020 Budget**

Proposed 2020 budget is \$110,201.00. President Gary explained that the budget shows \$47,700 as Pastor's Salary. We share the cost of a full time Pastor with Atonement for salary, and this is the portion paid to Atonement to cover salary for the Pastor.

PVLC Secretary also had increase of \$750.00 in the budget. This is budgeted for the possibility of extra secretarial expenses needed in the case a new Pastor is hired in 2020.

Motion to adopt proposed 2020 budget of \$110,102.00 Ce Faulkner/Bonnie Miller  
MSC

**10) Elections: Church Council (3 Vacancies 3 year terms)**

a) Donna Wright DuPret made motion to thank Ron Merwin, Tim Nold and Shari Hanks for serving on council. Sheila Nold seconded. Shari Hanks thanked Gary Garner for job well done as our Council President.

b) Names submitted for 3 open council positions are Carol Osten, Len Hofer, Bob Burns and Brenda Pates. These are 3 year terms. Gary made motion to cease nominations as there were non from the floor. Carla Garner/Bonnie Miller

c) After vote was held new members voted into 3 year terms are:

Len Hofer, Brenda Pates, and Bob Burns

**11) Synod Assembly Delegates June 5-6, 2020 will be held in Sioux Falls 2 Adults / 1 Youth**

Let a council member know if you would like to serve.

**12) Newsletter**

Bonnie will do the newsletter, and will talk to Becky on how to get info.

**13)** Shari expressed a huge thank you to Gary Garner for serving as President. Job well done.

**14) Adjournment** Motion to adjourn by Jeff Baker follow by congregational 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**15) Closing Prayer** Carla Garner led the Lord's Prayer

**Special Council Meeting Immediately Following Annual Meeting for Election of Officers**

Respectfully Submitted by Shari Hanks, Council Secretary.

## Devotion Annual Meeting February 2021



Welcome in the name of Christ,  
the one who came to be one of us,  
that all might be saved.

As we gather today for our Annual Meeting we reflect on the past year, and plan for the year to come. I am sure many of would agree that the last year was challenging to say the least. It was challenging for our churches in the Graceful Hills Parish, having to find a new pastor, braving the pandemic, and the many hardships our members and friends went through.

But we are not given the choice of when we live, and while we might feel these are times of unprecedented struggle, the truth is, the Christian church has always faced challenging times. Throughout the New Testament there is evidence of that. They even had to encourage attendance at worship, as we read in Hebrews 10:24-25: “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...”

The first Christians wrestled with differences of understanding in terms of acceptable practice and doctrine within the church. In the letter to the Romans Paul talks about not quarreling over different opinions and not to pass judgement on each other. Paul reminds us what truly counts:

“We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” (Romans 14:7-8) Listen to Paul’s declaration “We are the Lord’s”. That’s what holds us together. It is Jesus who called us into fellowship with one another and it is Jesus who holds us together in love. A love that will not let us go, even in death!

This pandemic has made many of us think about mortality but also what it means to live, and at such times we need to remember these words: in life, in death, we are the Lord’s! Facing the challenge of a pandemic and our own mortality has a way of putting things in perspective. We learn what really matters, and I think we discovered that it is relationships that matter most. Our relationship with God and one another. God made us longing to be in relationship with others and with God. We recognize our need to be present with each other and to hear the Good News Jesus has for us. But we also wrestle in our relationship with God, and we struggle in our relationships with each other. In the end the final word is not struggle though, the final word is a promise: “We are the Lord’s.”

As we gather to reflect on the past year, with its mixture of moments to celebrate and times of struggle, and as we plan for the future and our mission:

May we always remember what holds us safe and secure,  
what brings us together and gives us a mission,  
what has sustained the church of Christ from its very beginning until the present time,  
may we remember, and be grateful for, God’s love and mercy.  
And the promise that we, this Parish, and this church, are the Lord’s.  
May it be so.

**- Pastor Sonja Pilman**

## 2020 FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

This is a report on giving during 2020. Included in this report is regular Sunday giving as well as special offerings, and donations for special projects.

During 2020, there were about 35 active families in our congregation who gave offerings on a regular basis, up until the summer which were recorded by envelope number or check amount during 2020. Our offerings dropped when the church was closed and those who didn't want to wear a mask, didn't come. There may be some who put loose cash in the offering which is not recorded if it wasn't in an envelope. \$1415.00 was given during 2020 through loose cash. \$0 was given through loose coins. \$570.00 was given through loose checks. Anytime a member donates materials rather than money (such as kitchen supplies or repair supplies, etc.) and I receive the receipt, it is recorded as an in-kind donation and added into the giver's total giving. There was \$12.10 in In-kind contributions, reported this year. Recorded general and special offerings totaled \$98,648.00.

The total amounts given by members throughout the year through general offerings were as follows:

\$0-\$100	4	\$2001-\$2100	3
\$101-\$200	3	\$2201-\$2300	1
\$301-\$400	4	\$2301-\$2400	1
\$401-\$500	1	\$2401-\$2500	1
\$501-\$600	2	\$2501-\$2600	1
\$601-\$700	1	\$3001-\$3100	1
\$701-\$800	1	\$3101-\$3200	1
\$801-\$900	1	\$3501-\$3600	1
\$1901-\$1000	1	\$4001-\$4100	1
\$1101-\$1200	1	\$4201-\$4300	1
\$1201-\$1300	1	\$5101-\$5200	1
\$1301-\$1400	4	\$5401-\$5500	1
\$1401-\$1500	2	\$5501-\$5600	1
\$1501-\$1600	1	\$10,701-\$10,800	1
\$1901-\$2000	1	\$14,101-\$14,200	1

If anyone has any questions, please contact me as I am the only person in the congregation that has this giving information.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Bonnie G. Miller*

Financial Secretary  
Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church

2020 Budget update - General Fund

Income Annual				Expenses Annual				YTD
		\$ 110,102.00				\$ 110,102.00		Budget Estimated
		Monthly Ave			Monthly Ave			Gain/Loss
	Actual	Income	Gain/Loss	Actual	Expenses	Gain/Loss		
January	\$ 6,516.00	\$ 9,175.00	\$ (2,659.00)	January	\$ 10,528.22	\$ 9,175.00	\$ (1,353.22)	\$ (4,012.22)
February	\$ 6,638.00	\$ 9,175.00	\$ (2,537.00)	February	\$ 2,576.43	\$ 9,175.00	\$ 6,598.57	\$ 4,061.57
March	\$ 10,085.00	\$ 9,175.00	\$ 910.00	March	\$ 8,277.04	\$ 9,175.00	\$ 897.96	\$ 1,807.96
April	\$ 9,338.00	\$ 9,176.00	\$ 162.00	April	\$ 2,897.64	\$ 9,176.00	\$ 6,278.36	\$ 6,440.36
May	\$ 8,703.00	\$ 9,175.00	\$ (472.00)	May	\$ 6,371.64	\$ 9,175.00	\$ 2,803.36	\$ 2,331.36
June	\$ 7,883.00	\$ 9,175.00	\$ (1,292.00)	June	\$ 8,857.96	\$ 9,175.00	\$ 317.04	\$ (974.96)
July	\$ 6,223.00	\$ 9,175.00	\$ (2,952.00)	July	\$ 8,668.88	\$ 9,175.00	\$ 506.12	\$ (2,445.88)
August	\$ 7,644.00	\$ 9,175.00	\$ (1,531.00)	August	\$ 6,772.18	\$ 9,175.00	\$ 2,402.82	\$ 871.82
September	\$ 5,724.00	\$ 9,175.00	\$ (3,451.00)	September	\$ 7,173.70	\$ 9,175.00	\$ 2,001.30	\$ (1,449.70)
October	\$ 4,782.00	\$ 9,175.00	\$ (4,393.00)	October	\$ 5,687.77	\$ 9,175.00	\$ 3,487.23	\$ (905.77)
November	\$ 6,799.00	\$ 9,175.00	\$ (2,376.00)	November	\$ 7,921.19	\$ 9,175.00	\$ 1,253.81	\$ (\$1,122.19)
December	\$ 18,223.00	\$ 9,176.00	\$ 9,047.00	December	\$ 11,917.98	\$ 9,176.00	\$ (2,741.98)	\$ 6,305.02
	\$ 98,558.00	\$ 110,102.00	\$ (9,168.00)		\$ 87,650.63	\$ 110,102.00	\$ 22,451.37	\$ 10,907.37
Of Budget	90%			Of Budget	80%			

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2020 Actual Income/Expenses	2020 Income	2020 Expenses	Gain/Loss
January	\$ 6,516.00	\$ 7,793.00	\$ 7,013.00	\$ 8,751.37	\$ 98,558.00	\$ 110,102.00	\$ 11,544.00	\$ (2,986.00)
February	\$ 6,638.00	\$ 6,731.00	\$ 8,144.00	\$ 7,917.50	\$ (87,650.63)	\$ 98,558.00	\$ 10,907.37	\$ (2,357.37)
Feb. Lent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 485.00	\$ -				
March	\$ 9,826.00	\$ 9,465.00	\$ 7,653.00	\$ 7,199.00				
March Lent	\$ 259.00	\$ 439.00	\$ 367.00	\$ 807.17				
April	\$ 9,338.00	\$ 8,704.00	\$ 11,151.00	\$ 11,803.00				
April Lent	\$ -	\$ 117.00	\$ -	\$ 342.00				
May	\$ 8,703.00	\$ 8,084.55	\$ 7,794.00	\$ 7,161.00				
June	\$ 7,883.00	\$ 10,361.00	\$ 9,067.00	\$ 7,769.01				
July	\$ 6,223.00	\$ 7,176.00	\$ 7,923.00	\$ 7,932.00				
August	\$ 7,644.00	\$ 7,602.00	\$ 6,721.00	\$ 7,094.00				
September	\$ 5,724.00	\$ 9,648.00	\$ 12,378.25	\$ 8,156.00				
Ocober	\$ 4,782.00	\$ 7,035.85	\$ 7,044.00	\$ 9,174.25				
November	\$ 6,889.00	\$ 8,245.00	\$ 7,180.00	\$ 7,278.00				
December	\$ 18,223.00	\$ 14,994.53	\$ 10,573.00	\$ 11,614.91				
	\$ 98,648.00	\$ 106,395.93	\$ 103,493.25	\$ 102,999.21				



# Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church Profit & Loss

January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20	2021 Proposed
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
4001.00 · General Offerings		
4000.5 · Undirected General Offerings		
4000 · General offerings undirected	46,600.00	\$ 47,000.00
4032.00 · Simply Giving Amount	28,320.00	\$ 29,000.00
4000.5 · Undirected General Offerings - Other	0.00	
Total 4000.5 · Undirected General Offerings	74,920.00	\$ 76,000.00
4000.9 · Directed General Offerings		
4007.00 · General Offering Local only	23,688.00	\$ 24,000.00
Total 4000.9 · Directed General Offerings	23,688.00	\$ 24,000.00
Total 4001.00 · General Offerings	98,608.00	\$ 100,000.00
4020.00 · Reimbursements	150.00	
4024.00 · Miscellaneous Income	720.00	
4026.00 · Interest Income - Savings	4.13	\$ 5.00
Total Income	99,482.13	\$ 100,005.00
Gross Profit	99,482.13	\$ 100,005.00
Expense		
6000.00 · BENEVOLENCE		
6002.00 · South Dakota Synod	5,272.02	\$ 5,300.00
6004.00 · Bear Butte Conference	225.00	\$ 225.00
6014.00 · Valley Relief Pantry	300.00	\$ 300.00
Total 6000.00 · BENEVOLENCE	5,797.02	\$ 5,825.00
6100.00 · PERSONNEL COSTS		
6102.00 · Salary	18,685.38	\$ 20,087.00
Housing		\$ 10,043.00
FICA Tax		\$ 2,305.00
Retirement and health insurance		\$ 7,914.00
6105.00 · Pastor's Pension & Benefits	182.58	
6112.00 · Pianists/Contract Services	1,500.00	\$ 1,200.00
6114.00 · Vacation Pulpit Supply	3,286.80	\$ 600.00
6116.00 · Worker's Comp Insurance	1,131.00	\$ 1,200.00
6125.00 · Secretary Salary Expense	4,673.79	\$ 6,195.00
Total 6100.00 · PERSONNEL COSTS	29,459.55	\$ 49,544.00
6200.00 · EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
6202.00 · Office Supplies	70.27	\$ 75.00
6204.00 · Postage	94.00	\$ 100.00
6212.00 · Bank Charges	283.58	\$ 300.00
Total 6200.00 · EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	447.85	\$ 475.00
6500.00 · OUTREACH COMMITTEE		
6510.00 · Foothills Chamber Membership	100.00	\$ 100.00
Total 6500.00 · OUTREACH COMMITTEE	100.00	\$ 100.00

## Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church Profit & Loss

January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20	2021
<b>6600.00 · FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>		
6604.00 · Income Management Materials	184.83 \$	175.00
6606.00 · Property Insurance	6,851.00 \$	3,500.00
6612.00 · Mortgage	20,016.00 \$	20,016.00
<b>Total 6600.00 · FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>27,051.83 \$</b>	<b>23,691.00</b>
<b>6700.00 · PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>		
6718.00 · Maint Snow Removal	1,347.12 \$	1,400.00
6132.00 · Janitorial/Custodial Services	6,367.67 \$	6,400.00
6704.00 · Heat	1,588.31 \$	1,600.00
6706.00 · Lights	2,769.76 \$	2,800.00
6708.00 · Telephone & Internet	1,159.39 \$	1,860.00
6710.00 · Building Repairs & Maintenance	57.95 \$	1,500.00
6712.00 · Garbage	567.48 \$	560.00
6714.00 · Copier	1,707.57 \$	1,700.00
6726.00 · Misc. Seal Parking Lot	1,050.61	
<b>Total 6700.00 · PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>16,615.86 \$</b>	<b>17,820.00</b>
<b>6800.00 · WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC COMMITTEE</b>		
6802.00 · Bulletins & Inserts	326.45 \$	350.00
6804.00 · Altar Supplies	803.18 \$	900.00
6805.00 · Flowers and Palms	61.25 \$	60.00
6806.00 · Misc Word & Sacrament	728.50 \$	790.00
6809.00 · Licensing	137.00 \$	150.00
6810.00 · Other	249.33 \$	300.00
<b>Total 6800.00 · WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC COMMITTEE</b>	<b>2,305.71 \$</b>	<b>2,550.00</b>
<b>6900.00 · MISCELLANEOUS/NON-BUDGET</b>		
6910.00 · Pastor Moving and Misc expense	5,882.37	
<b>Total 6900.00 · MISCELLANEOUS/NON-BUDGET</b>	<b>5,882.37 \$</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>87,660.19 \$</b>	<b>100,005.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>11,821.94</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>11,821.94 \$</b>	<b>-</b>

# Special Fund Report

Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church  
 Special Funds Recap  
 12-31-20

35th Anniversary & Commerative Book	192.36
Cameroon Hospital	35.00
Campership	2,160.50
Church Staining	402.00
Coffee/Kitchen Supplies	326.75
Cook Books	30.00
Dar Nupen Memorial	10.00
Dresses for Africa	20.00
Evangelism & Nurture	231.39
Flower Fund	188.46
Funeral Fund	50.00
Myrtle Hamm Memorial	650.00
Hog Roast	0.00
Ruth Kraft Memorial	265.00
Men's Group	0.70
National Youth Gathering	6,649.34
Pastor Margie Hershey Memorial	3,544.13
Scout Suppers	110.21
The Sewing Group	500.00
Sunday School	124.00
Thrivant Choice Dollars	4,095.75
VBS	1,068.02
Youth	5,305.36

25,958.97

12-31-19 Balance 25,246.43

Deposits		Checks	
1-21-20	Scouts	90.00	1-5-20 2028 Cori Bliese-Scout Supper 80.43
1-21-20	Kraft Memorial	40.00	1-11-20 2029 Cori Bliese-Scout supper 81.47
2-18-20	Scouts	75.00	2-23-20 2030 Cori Bliese-Scout Supper 79.76
2-18-20	Kraft Memorial	225.00	3-8-20 1096 Heidi Huruis-Food Pantry 225.00
2-27-20	Thrivent	158.00	3-8-20 1093 Brenda Pates-Campership 400.00
3-2-20	Donation-Food Pantry	225.00	3-8-20 1095 Cori Bliese-Scout Supper 79.20
3-9-20	Thrivent	60.00	9-22-20 1097 Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center 1,026.10
3-16-20	Scouts	64.00	Monthly Service Charge 20.00
7-12-20	Myrtle Hamm Memorial	600.00	
8-7-20	Evangelism & Nurture	17.50	
8-7-20	Dar Nupen Memorial - Youth	1,090.00	
12-14-20	Myrtle Hamm Memorial	50.00	
12-14-20	Dar Nupen-Memorial	10.00	
Total Deposits		2,704.50	Total Withdrawals 1,991.96

12-31-20 Balance 25,958.97

# Annual Report

Rev. Sonja Pilman

The beginning for the Graceful Hills Parish and I was in March 2020. I received the call to Region 3 and had an encouraging phone call with Bishop Constanze Hagmaier and Associate to the Bishop Renee Splichal Larson who were excited for me to come to South Dakota. When I had a Zoom call with the call committee of the Graceful Hills Parish, I got more and more excited too. My husband Markus and I came out in May to go house hunting and found the perfect house for us and our cat Bella. It is located right in the middle of the churches, just about 15 minutes to each church. Thank you for your help, and many offers of help, during this time! I thank God for supporting us in our decision-making and encountering the right people at the right time.

I want to extend my appreciation to each one of you who has journeyed with the parish through probably one of the most challenging times of ministry. This is of course not how I would have imagined or wished for my first call to start but I am truly grateful that I can be your shepherd in this time. What I have seen in my two churches these past six months is a remarkable longing and joy for worship. At Atonement we have had wonderful instrumental music accompany our service and a dedicated team to provide everyone in the parking lot with bulletins and communion elements. At Piedmont Valley we have had a faithful group on our virtual connection and a team of people always making this connection better with new equipment and better internet. This joy, dedication, and the need to keep the church going and meaningful has been encouraging. I enjoy being your pastor and although I have not met all of you yet or seen your whole faces yet, I am learning more and more about you. As I have preached during Advent, Piedmont Valley and Atonement feel like families. You have a strong bond in many ways, and I feel welcome in your group.

To extend this welcome to the community and beyond has been important to the outreach teams. My husband Markus and I created a new website [www.gracefulhills.church](http://www.gracefulhills.church) for our parish which also contains individual pages for both churches. Having this website provides information, visibility, and advertisement for our parish and churches. I am maintaining and updating the website regularly. Thank you to everyone who has sent me pictures or content for the website. Thank you also for sharing the website with your friends and family. I also created an electronic monthly newsletter with links to our many videos, events, and online resources. Providing these links has made it easier for you to access the content we are creating or to stay updated with our Synod.

On our website you also find my sermons that have been videotaped by my husband Markus. I am grateful for his support in filming the sermons, the Christmas video or live streaming the Christmas Eve service at Atonement. His equipment and his knowledge of cameras is put to good use and we all get to enjoy the high-quality videos.

Throughout the last six months, I made many phone calls to members of our parish or done a few visits with my camping chair in backyards. I would welcome opportunities to talk with others from the Graceful Hills community and an invitation from you to do so is always

welcome. You can continue to reach me Sunday through Thursday on my cellphone at 650 431 6693 or via email at [pastorsonjapilman@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsonjapilman@gmail.com). My office hours are currently two afternoons during the week. I understand your hesitation to meet me at my office but hope to see people stop by once this pandemic is behind us. It has been a blessing for my husband Markus that we can have lunch together during the week since we have not been able to socialize with others as we would in normal times. I expect to extend my office hours after the pandemic though.

We kept the mission of our parish going while still taking the virus seriously and protecting the health of our most vulnerable members. My six months with you started with a funeral at Atonement and ended with a baptism at Piedmont Valley on Christmas Eve. I now look forward to a continued ministry with you where I accompany you in varied stages of life. Please let me know if you are in need of a pastoral conversation or a listening ear. I want to walk with you in all aspects of your lives and am just a phone call, text or email away.

Doing more things online has meant not traveling for the Synod Assembly or continuing education classes I took. Our Synod has done a wonderful job at checking in with the pastors and providing Zoom calls for various purposes and groups. I am impressed and grateful to our Synod for creating meaningful content like the podcast during Advent, varied sermons, or other things.

Finally, thank you to our dedicated and wonderful staff and volunteers at Atonement and Piedmont Valley. Everyone views their work as supporting the mission and ministries of the churches. There is a spirit of cooperation among staff and volunteers and a willingness to help wherever needed. I deeply appreciate the many gifts and strengths the councils bring to the churches. Atonement's Director of Operations, Michael Borden, is great to work with and continues to impress with his willingness to go beyond his list of duties. Both churches have talented musicians who enhance our worship service greatly.

I am humbled to work with such dedicated and talented people, staff and volunteers, and cannot praise them enough for their faithful efforts, hard work, and commitment to both Piedmont Valley and Atonement. As we are in a New Year together as congregations and a parish, may we continue to be open to God's Spirit in guiding our ministries – reaching out to the neighborhood, wider community and world with the grace, mercy and love of Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Sonja Pilman

# FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2020

**MEETING TIME:** Monthly as needed

**PURPOSE:** Responsible for all aspects of the budget, both for the current year as well as the coming year.

**GOALS:** Give the Treasurer support. Plan for fiscal responsibility.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Continued improvement in using QuickBooks including expanding its use by the Financial Secretary. The 2017 end of the year report showed that giving lagged behind spending by \$17,077.35. For 2018 that deficit was cut almost in half to \$8,938.80 and in 2019 we had a surplus of \$9,217. At the end of 2020 we have a surplus of \$11,821.94. This year's proposed budget will have no deficit.

## **PROJECTED GOALS FOR 2021:**

We continue to look for new ways to keep the congregation informed with understandable reports and financial updates in the newsletter. We also hope to return to having an annual stewardship drive and possibly a Stewardship committee to organize it.

We will continue emphasizing the "Simply Giving" program offered by Thrivent. A growing proportion of our church family is participating in this program that aids significantly during the summer months. Joining the program is simple and the amount you give is easily changed making it very flexible.

We will continue supporting our very capable and dedicated Treasurer, Beverly LeCates and Financial Secretary Bonnie Miller through good financial planning.

## **2020 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Bonnie Miller, Beverly LeCates, Bob Burns, Tim Nold

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Burns, Chairman

**MORTGAGE ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED December 31 2020**

Principal Balance at 12/31/2019 \$201,431.52 Loan # 200087910  
Interest Paid through 12/31/2020 \$ 11,103.06 Maturity Date 1/15/2036  
Principal Balance at 12/31/2020 \$192,518.58 Interest Rate 5.625%

**THRIVENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT INC.**

Account Value as of Dec 31, 2020

Total Shares: 606.731

Share Price: 27.26

Market Value: \$16,539.49

Trade date	Tran Desc	Dollar Amount	Share Price	Number of Shares	Total Shares
	Beginning Value 1/1/2020	\$14,451.70	\$24.55		588.664
12/10/20	L/T CP Gain Rein	\$373.77	\$26.76	13.967	602.631
12/30/20	Div Reinvest	\$111.61	\$27.22	4.100	606.731
	Ending Value 12/31/20	\$16,539.49	\$27.26		606.731

NOTES: The funds in this long term investment fund are designated as Seminary Fund, Capital Improvement Fund and Paulson Endowment Fund. The portion that is the Paulson Endowment Fund, as the name suggests, is the original endowment of \$500.00 and must be held. Only the interest can be spent.

**WELLS FARGO BANK PASSBOOK SAVINGS**

January 1, 2020 there was a balance of \$25,005.75 in the savings account. The interest that was accrued for the year was \$4.13 As of December 31, 2020 Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church's Saving Balance is \$30,909.88.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverly A. LeCates, Treasurer

## **PVLC 2020 Audit**

All transactions - income and expenses in PVLC Checking and Savings accounts - for 2020 have been reviewed. The records have been found to be in proper order.

Submitted by:  
Mary LaHood  
January 8, 2021



# Worship

## Worship Connection update letter:

We want to share some new developments at Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church. For our Christmas Eve Service at PVLC, we offered in-person worship, as well as a virtual worship connection. During Christmas Eve service we experienced some technical problems with our virtual connection. Despite the fact that we tested all the new cameras and devices several days before, our service connection was... to say the least... "frustrating!" We were unable to broadcast through the virtual connection. We had 25 people online, and to all those who chose to connect this way, we are truly sorry we could not make it work that evening. Over the past 9 months our knowledge of virtually connection have been an ongoing learning curve. And we thought we had most of the bugs worked out. But we experienced some more problems.

Now here is the good news. We discovered our bandwidth at the church was too low for such a large group online and using newer and better cameras. So we have had a techno-consultant come out to the church and upgrade our connection and equipment. We are now functioning at 5x the capacity we had before. We are ready to rock and roll. So we invite you to join us virtually (or in-person).

Again, we are sorry for the glitch on Christmas Eve. But I guess the good news is that our number of attendees was much higher at Christmas. That is a wonderful thing. We had a third of our overall attendance online. We praise God for this gathering of people to celebrate the birth of our Lord. And from all of this, we are becoming an even more dynamic church.

So to everyone, we wish you joy this season and look forward to gathering together (in creative ways) to worship our Lord and Savior. Where two or more are gathered in his name...

Our virtual services are live. We see the service directly from the church. And we have an opportunity to socialize after the worship virtually as well if you like.

We welcome you to join our virtual service and check out our new connection. 2021 is looking bright.

The PVLC Council

(Donna Wright, Council Secretary)

# PVLC Property Maintenance Report

Submitted by Len Hofer

Helped mow and trim grass all summer. Trimmed trees on east side of parking lot, west side and back of church to make it easier to mow. 13 trees in all.

Relayed patio blocks on both sides of front door to improve drainage. Taped electrical wires by outside air conditioner units.

Moved Scout Trailer onto asphalt to make it easier to mow.

Brought my skid steer over to help Kirk Ford and Burt LeCates take down the playhouse that was a safety hazard. Loaded it on Kirk Ford's trailer to take to garbage.

Along with Kirk and Wendi Ford sprayed weeds in back of church.

Got two bids on asphalt crack sealing on parking lot. Had them sealed.

Redid bottom of ten downspouts around church.

Len Hofer

## Volunteer work by Kirk and Wendi Ford:

- Painted church signs
- Trimmed evergreens
- Cleaned out, replaced, and maintained shrubbery, and plants around church
- Sprayed church lawn for weeds many times
- Mowed and trimmed church during summer
- Pulled and sprayed weeds on playground
- Helped dismantle and dispose of some playground equipment
- Cleaned up and disposed of tree branches

# PVLC Education Report

Submitted by Heidi Huiras

Due to The Covid-Pandemic we were unable to have our weekly Word on Wednesday gatherings for our youth and congregation.

Our confirmation class started in fall 2020 with Pastor Sonja Pilman. It is monthly with special guidelines in place set by the State of SD, Rapid City and the SD Synod.

The class is held alternating between our sister church Atonement Lutheran and at Piedmont Valley.

# PVLC Outreach Report

Submitted by Donna Wright  
PVLC Council Liaison for Outreach

PVLC engages in outreach both locally and globally.  
Here are a few of the activities that we have done in the area of ministry outreach.

**Food Pantry** – Special thanks to Curt and Pam Johnson who help coordinate our connection in the Piedmont Valley churches to support the food pantry in the community. This has been a longtime, ongoing ministry.

**Haggars Receipts** – Special thanks to Bev LaCates who help coordinate the Haggars grocery store receipt program. There was some confusion that this program was discontinued, but it is not. For the dollar amount that we spend at Haggars, PVLC receives a donation back. So anytime you spend money at Haggars, put the receipt in the box in the narthex or put it in the PVLC drawer at the Haggars.

**Sewing group** – Thanks to the women who gather at PVLC to create wonderful fabric items of love and caring. Everything from quilts to uniforms for Cameroon students of the Leprosy community. Their ongoing efforts are touching lives in a profound way.

**Companion Synod committee** – Donna Wright is part of the So Dak Companion Synod committee that support our companion synods in Nicaragua and Cameroon. There are 14 people on the committee (3 are West River). We are currently raising money to help people of Nicaragua who have been affected by 2 massive hurricanes and Covid. Dr Solliette (Lutheran pastor and medical doctor) from Nicaragua is on our committee and is coordinating our efforts in Nicaragua.

**Worship Outreach** -- Due to the pandemic, PVLC has leaned into the challenges of worship options. Since April 2020 we have added a virtual worship option and an FM broadcast options was added in June. Since June we have offered three worship options – In-person with masks, virtual connection to see church live, and FM broadcast to the parking lot. Our president, Cary Garner has lead the efforts to make all of these options come together. (see additional letter regarding our latest upgrade over Christmas).

## Parish Board Meeting (via zoom)

January 12, 2021

**Attendance:** Pastor Sonja Pilman, Marty Hogen, Gary Garner, Sandy Nelson, Bev LeCates, Donna Wright, Darlene Bailly.

Marty listed items on the agenda as:

- Pastor Sonja's asking how each congregation is doing
- Lenten Service planning
- Pastor's salary

Marty said Atonement is doing well. We have had some technical difficulties but are working on replacing a computer/software and have also purchased a new camera. Atonement has been averaging around 25 to 30 people each Sunday. We were struggling for a while financially and had acquired a low interest loan, but giving since then has improved and we were able to return the loan. Sandy (Education) says they have 10-15 kids every week for WOW making sure to follow safety guidelines. They keep the kids busy with different activities and have had some meetings outside using a fire pit for smores. They did meet on zoom for several weeks, but overall it is going very well.

Gary said Piedmont's attendance averages 10 - 15 in church, around 10 on line with a few in the parking lot. Financially it was looking dim for a while but now is looking good. Donna commented that they did a good job dealing with this and that they were very thankful they had such a good Pastor. Gary added that they have had some internet issues but have fixed those and that they have added another camera. Donna said they have also added a virtual social time after church which was well received, it also allows them to see who is joining on line and they hope to add the on line people to participate in the service.

Pastor Sonja has suggested we use bags for Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services like we did for Christmas Eve Service since they were so well received. We could put small containers in each bag with the ashes so people can do their own on Ash Wednesday after leaving church. She thought we could do a virtual Ash Wednesday Service using both congregations with just a few people present for music and readings. For Lenten Services we would have in house services and alternate between the two churches. Everyone will collect a bag containing devotions and then will ask them to return the bag with food donations. Donna suggested we have one location for people from both congregations to join on line services, that would eliminate confusion from week to week. Piedmont has a "go to" link we could use. Marty stated she thought it was important to have in house services on Ash Wednesday, Donna agreed. Pastor Sonja will meet with worship and outreach committees from both churches to finalize the services.

Marty asked Pastor Sonja to leave the meeting so we could discuss her salary. Marty had contacted the Synod office and spoke with Pastor Renee in regards to when Pastor Sonja would be eligible for a raise. Pastor Renee stated there is nothing in writing setting any time line, she did suggest that if we are pleased with our Pastor we should consider giving a raise. Marty had done a rough estimate on a 3% cost of living raise and what the total cost would be, roughly around \$2,000 annually for each congregation. Gary said their council had discussed it and they had agreed to this, his figures were about the same. Darlene suggested that both congregations double check their figures before presenting to the congregations. Sandy said that Pastor Sonja has done an amazing job with the kids. After further discussion it was unanimous that both church councils will recommend to their congregations that they approve the 3% raise to begin March 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. This will be voted on at the annual meetings.

Marty adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Bailly

# Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church

## Church Council President's Report

February 7, 2021

Life is filled with both joy and challenges. As council president, for the past three years, I started this annual report with those same eight words every year. The past two years I went on to thank all those in the congregation for the things they have done. This year, I instead wish to give thanks to God for all the amazing people at PVLC and Atonement Lutheran who, in spite of the challenges we have faced, have placed worship central in their lives. By doing so we have continued to worship in one manner or another. This could not have happened without the desire of the congregation to continue worship. There are those that worked diligently on the logistics of making that happen but the faith of those who we serve is what keeps it all going.

Covid has disrupted everyone's life. There is not a single person who has not been affected by the pandemic. There are those that have lost loved ones. There are those that have lost their livelihood and struggle to have the most basic needs met. There are those who struggle with their mental and physical well-being as a result of the isolation caused by the pandemic. The faith of so many remains strong. I do worry about the many who we no longer see. I do pray that their spiritual needs are being taken care of and hope that someday soon we will once again gather together to worship and serve God.

We are blessed as a parish to have Pastor Sonja Pilman accept the call we issued. To start a new phase of life in a new place is not an easy task in the best of times. Taking on the roll as pastor for a two-point parish is not an easy task. The two churches are similar in many ways but very different in many ways. To be the spiritual leader for a group of people, that in many cases she has not had a chance to meet in person, is no easy task. Yet she shines. Her energy and positive focus are truly amazing. We are blessed.

2020 has not been an easy year. At the start of the pandemic there was so much unknown about the illness that would eventually claim millions of lives. We made decisions based on what we believed to be the best and most truthful sources. As time went by more was known and we found perhaps not all decisions were the right ones, but they were the best one at the time. This learning process created division in our nation, state and community, including our church community. It will take a long time for all to be physically well as COVID leaves our planet. It will take even longer for the many wounds to heal in our faith community. It is by our faith in God and placing that faith central in our lives that we will heal.

I have served as council president for three years. This past year there have been many sleepless nights. We all miss family and friends. We tend to long for what we once knew and called normal. Perhaps the pandemic has displayed that our normal, that we loved, was perhaps broken. Perhaps the bonds we had were not as strong as we believed. Perhaps those who were once central in our lives will never be again. OR Perhaps by faith in God we can restore those relationships as we build new ones.

May there be peace in your lives.

Gary P. Garner

Council President

## Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church Profit & Loss

January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20	2021
Ordinary Income/Expense		Proposed
<b>Income</b>		
4001.00 · General Offerings		
4000.5 · Undirected General Offerings		
4000 · General offerings undirected	46,600.00	\$ 47,000.00
4032.00 · Simply Giving Amount	28,320.00	\$ 29,000.00
4000.5 · Undirected General Offerings - Other	0.00	
Total 4000.5 · Undirected General Offerings	74,920.00	\$ 76,000.00
4000.9 · Directed General Offerings		
4007.00 · General Offering Local only	23,688.00	\$ 24,000.00
Total 4000.9 · Directed General Offerings	23,688.00	\$ 24,000.00
Total 4001.00 · General Offerings	98,608.00	\$ 100,000.00
4020.00 · Reimbursements	150.00	
4024.00 · Miscellaneous Income	720.00	
4026.00 · Interest Income - Savings	4.13	\$ 5.00
<b>Total Income</b>	99,482.13	\$ 100,005.00
<b>Gross Profit</b>	99,482.13	\$ 100,005.00
<b>Expense</b>		
6000.00 · BENEVOLENCE		
6002.00 · South Dakota Synod	5,272.02	\$ 5,300.00
6004.00 · Bear Butte Conference	225.00	\$ 225.00
6014.00 · Valley Relief Pantry	300.00	\$ 300.00
Total 6000.00 · BENEVOLENCE	5,797.02	\$ 5,825.00
6100.00 · PERSONNEL COSTS		
6102.00 · Salary	18,685.38	\$ 20,087.00
Housing		\$ 10,043.00
FICA Tax		\$ 2,305.00
Retirement and health insurance		\$ 7,914.00
6105.00 · Pastor's Pension & Benefits	182.58	
6112.00 · Pianists/Contract Services	1,500.00	\$ 1,200.00
6114.00 · Vacation Pulpit Supply	3,286.80	\$ 600.00
6116.00 · Worker's Comp Insurance	1,131.00	\$ 1,200.00
6125.00 · Secretary Salary Expense	4,673.79	\$ 6,195.00
Total 6100.00 · PERSONNEL COSTS	29,459.55	\$ 49,544.00
6200.00 · EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
6202.00 · Office Supplies	70.27	\$ 75.00
6204.00 · Postage	94.00	\$ 100.00
6212.00 · Bank Charges	283.58	\$ 300.00
Total 6200.00 · EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	447.85	\$ 475.00
6500.00 · OUTREACH COMMITTEE		
6510.00 · Foothills Chamber Membership	100.00	\$ 100.00
Total 6500.00 · OUTREACH COMMITTEE	100.00	\$ 100.00

## Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church Profit & Loss

January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20	2021
<b>6600.00 · FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>		
6604.00 · Income Management Materials	184.83 \$	175.00
6606.00 · Property Insurance	6,851.00 \$	3,500.00
6612.00 · Mortgage	20,016.00 \$	20,016.00
<b>Total 6600.00 · FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>27,051.83 \$</b>	<b>23,691.00</b>
<b>6700.00 · PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>		
6718.00 · Maint Snow Removal	1,347.12 \$	1,400.00
6132.00 · Janitorial/Custodial Services	6,367.67 \$	6,400.00
6704.00 · Heat	1,588.31 \$	1,600.00
6706.00 · Lights	2,769.76 \$	2,800.00
6708.00 · Telephone & Internet	1,159.39 \$	1,860.00
6710.00 · Building Repairs & Maintenance	57.95 \$	1,500.00
6712.00 · Garbage	567.48 \$	560.00
6714.00 · Copier	1,707.57 \$	1,700.00
6726.00 · Misc. Seal Parking Lot	1,050.61	
<b>Total 6700.00 · PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>16,615.86 \$</b>	<b>17,820.00</b>
<b>6800.00 · WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC COMMITTEE</b>		
6802.00 · Bulletins & Inserts	326.45 \$	350.00
6804.00 · Altar Supplies	803.18 \$	900.00
6805.00 · Flowers and Palms	61.25 \$	60.00
6806.00 · Misc Word & Sacrament	728.50 \$	790.00
6809.00 · Licensing	137.00 \$	150.00
6810.00 · Other	249.33 \$	300.00
<b>Total 6800.00 · WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC COMMITTEE</b>	<b>2,305.71 \$</b>	<b>2,550.00</b>
<b>6900.00 · MISCELLANEOUS/NON-BUDGET</b>		
6910.00 · Pastor Moving and Misc expense	5,882.37	
<b>Total 6900.00 · MISCELLANEOUS/NON-BUDGET</b>	<b>5,882.37 \$</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>87,660.19 \$</b>	<b>100,005.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>11,821.94</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>11,821.94 \$</b>	<b>-</b>



**Reports from  
ELCA and  
SD Synod**



## 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

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*



**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



South Dakota Synod  
Mission Plan  
02/01/2021 - 01/31/2022

	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>			
	Adopted 2020	Revised 2020	Proposed 2021
<b>CHURCHWIDE MISSION</b>			
Mission Support to ELCA	820,487	779,892	779,892
% of Mission Support	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%
Region III	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  
02/01/2021 - 01/31/2022**

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.

# 2020 MINISTRY CELEBRATION



2020 was not at all what we expected it to be. Many of our expectations were not met, just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus confessed to Jesus, “we had hoped” for things but they went differently. Yet Jesus walked with the disciples, and the Holy Spirit has still been at work in South Dakota in 2020.

Here are some of the many projects that still took place, even though we might have hoped for something different.

All that, in the middle of a pandemic! All this work is possible because of the connections we have to each other. God has called us into ministry together, and many people have been generous with their different blessings of time, talents, and treasure.

We plan to continue to show up for you, no matter what 2021 holds for us. God promises us that we are not abandoned, and the body of Christ is the living testament to the world that God is here. Thank you for being part of the work as we Journey Together in Christ. Peace and blessings to you and your community.

**Rev. Jonathan Steiner**  
*Director for Evangelical Mission*  
*Associate to the Bishop for*  
*Stewardship & Outreach*

[journeywithfaith.org](http://journeywithfaith.org)

- Knowing things were already tough at the start of 2020, we provided opportunities for **Mental Health First Aid and Psychological First Aid** in response to the farm stress crisis.
- **18 leaders** were trained as Peer Mentor Facilitators, creating four Peer Mentor Groups for our first call leaders to mutually support one another.
- The synod’s **Coaching Network** expanded, with a new cohort of coaches and further training options for existing coaches.
- Congregations and the synod were able to begin or expand **digital worship**, allowing us to proclaim the Gospel in a new way, and often reach new people.
- The synod is investing resources into Canvas, a **digital teaching platform** to help Christian Education be reformed in the midst of the pandemic.
- We started the **Justice Table**, a group of people committed to confronting racism in South Dakota, which will focus on Education, Advocacy, and Community Organizing.
- **Journeying Together in Christ**, the synod’s strategic vision plan, was created and rolled out after conversations with people across the synod.
- **A Worship Task Force** was created, which published guidelines and suggestions for worship during the pandemic.
- Despite cancelling Synod Assembly, we gathered digitally this Fall via the **Synod Day** event, and still celebrated our work together through speakers and worship.
- **A Faith Formation** task force was created to navigate options for congregations in different situations in the pandemic.
- We received numerous **grants** from our Lutheran partner organizations, including from the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit, Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA COVID Relief Fund, as well as numerous outside organizations.
- The **Storyteller Network** was launched as a group of people committed to telling ministry stories of what the Holy Spirit is up to in South Dakota through our ministries.

*In 2019, we listened to you and learned from you in order for us to care for you as the body of Christ in South Dakota. As we live into the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, many things that were said in 2019 are ever more present.*

Here's what we found out:

#### What gives you joy?

- Music
- Multi-generational ministry opportunities
- Purposeful gatherings
- Purposeful volunteering
- The Gospel

#### What keeps you up at night?

- Economic hardships
- Polarization in our society
- Mental Health
- Fear for the future of "the Church"

#### How do you envision your relationship with the synod staff?

- Resources
- Relationships
- Programs
- Communication
- Faith Formation



#### Why even be "synod?"

- We are synod, because we are called to journey together in Christ. – Luke 24:13-35

#### How will we journey together in Christ?

- Relating with intentionality
- Networking across the church
- Equipping leaders for ministry
- Sharing Leadership

With confidence in Christ's Love for All.

#### "Fitting who we are into pews made for who we were."

- Participant from 2019 Listen, Learn and Care Event."

#### What we plan to do:

- Intentionality in our presence (site visits, accompaniment, West River presence, Disaster response through grants and presence)
- Community building opportunities (peer ministry, coaching, zoom groups, task forces, Synod Day)
- Resources (Red River Leadership partnership, Canvas platform faith formation curriculum, network of intentional interim pastors, Justice Table, worship resources, task forces, synod staff sermons, constitutional resources)
- Educational Opportunities (Region 3 Lay School, Psychological First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Facebook Live Dwelling in the Word, Boundary workshops)

*We are no longer the people we were when we left our buildings in March 2020, nor is the world around us – and it won't ever be. New life and possibilities have emerged. Let's embrace our current situation and reimagine it as a classroom. How would that reshape our experience today?*

*Come on the road with us. The journey awaits. Let's journey together in Christ.*

[journeywithfaith.org](http://journeywithfaith.org)

## “Journeying Together in Christ.”

As a partner ministry of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, **Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota** (LPGSD) was created to join you on your journey to discover ways to create your **personal legacy plan**—one that expresses your faith in Christ with gratitude and generosity. LPGSD also walks alongside congregations hoping to create or revitalize their own legacy through an endowment fund, offering members the opportunity to share in the ministry and outreach of their Christian family. Walking and working together, we can create **greater impact** because of intentional plans and shared visions.



While the past year brought challenges and heartbreak, it also exposed genuine care and love for neighbor as many **shared from their abundance** to meet desperate needs created by the economics of a pandemic and the destruction of natural disasters.

Perhaps you are considering where your own **generosity journey** will lead in 2021. LPGSD would be honored to serve as your travel guide as you explore some of these destination options:

- ◆ **Income for You Now—Gifts to Ministry Later.** A charitable gift annuity provides you with fixed payments for life, with the remainder of the gift benefiting the ministries of your choice.
- ◆ **Gifts Beyond the Checkbook.** Grain, Cattle, Stocks, Mutual Funds, Real Estate—almost any appreciated asset can create a tax-efficient gift.
- ◆ **Qualified Charitable Distribution.** Use your IRA to make tax-free gifts and reduce your adjustable gross income, even if you no longer itemize deductions on your tax return.
- ◆ **Give It Twice Trust.** A tool to create income for you and/or your family **and** the ministries you care about, oftentimes doubling the impact of your assets because of the elimination of taxes.
- ◆ **Legacy Gifts.** Name your favorite ministries as beneficiaries on an insurance policy, a bank account or an IRA, or even your home via a life estate or TOD (transfer on death) designation.
- ◆ **Congregational Endowment and Gift Policies.**
  - ◆ *Newly updated* document templates
  - ◆ Workshops for individuals, church councils and endowment committees

### **Ready for the journey?**

Contact Kathy McHenry at **605.274.5030** or **kmchenry@sdsynod.org**.  
Visit our website at **www.lpgsd.org** or find us on Facebook.

Regardless of your personal or financial situation,

*your life can make a difference*



**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.

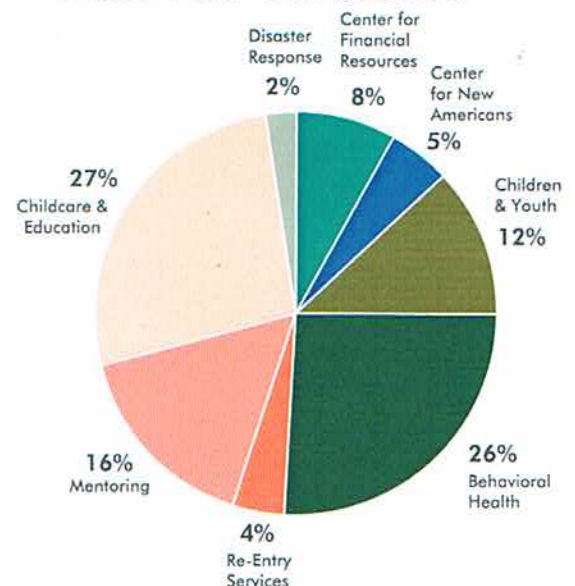
**100%** of the residents of the New Alternatives Intensive Independent Living Services improved their independent living skills and improved their overall wellness and health.

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



# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

## LITANY

- L. O God of all power and love ...
- C. ... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.
- L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...
- C. ... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
- L. O God of all power and love ...
- C. ... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask you ...
- C. ... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...
- C. ... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...
- C. ... wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Build Us Up, Lord

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in  
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your  
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.  
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we  
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the  
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.  
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

*Refrain*  
Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in  
faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your  
word to spread the news of your Son!

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952

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In the early verses of Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus, a city on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of a river and at the intersection of three trading routes. The letter was written about ten years after the church had started. During the early years of this congregation, Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities had come together to form "one body." Paul was aware that they had done well and commended them for their faith and love.

The word "one" appears more than seven times in the first four verses. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the "unity of Christ." He wanted to note that, although many of the church members came from far off, there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." This oneness reflects God's gift of reconciliation in Christ.

A second emphasis from Paul was that, as believers, they were to "bear with one another in love." This would require humility, gentleness and patience as each of them practiced their faith. It would require tolerance to "maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew in faith, each person contributed to building up the body of Christ.

The fourth and final emphasis was that by "speaking the truth in love," each person must grow into Christ. This means taking time to learn about one another and their gifts. Knowing these gifts, we can do God's work both within and beyond the faith community. When there are decisions to make or relationships to reconcile, we know to begin with prayer and reflection, always desiring to speak the truth in love — not for our own benefit but for God's glory, that we might become more complete.

As our members and friends gather today, whether face-to-face or online, we are reminded of our calling into "unity in Christ." We come from many places and work in many contexts, and yet we recognize "one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

Whether new to a worshiping community or further along the journey, we realize that humility, gentleness and patience are required both in the good times and especially in times of uncertainty and struggle. God wants us to be more complete through our work. Christ provides the way. The Holy Spirit is with us for guidance and courage. Each of us has been given the gifts to be complete, and through our faithfulness we will grow stronger and work together as one body.

**LET US PRAY: LORD, LET THE WORDS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL DWELL IN US DEEPLY. MAY WE EMBRACE THE RECONCILING POWER OF ONENESS WITH CHRIST. MAY THIS ONENESS GUIDE OUR CONGREGATION AS WE LIVE INTO THE NEW REALITIES OF THESE TIMES. AS WE MEET NEW PARTNERS IN MINISTRY, MAY WE TAKE TIME TO GET TO KNOW THEM WITH PATIENCE, HUMILITY AND LOVE. HELP US TO SEE HOW SHARING OUR GIFTS WILL MAKE YOUR WORK EASIER AND MORE FULFILLING WHILE BRINGING ALL OF US CLOSER TO CHRIST. MAY THE BLESSINGS YOU GIVE EACH DAY STRENGTHEN US TO A LIVING, DARING CONFIDENCE IN YOUR GRACE. AMEN.**